



FEATURES

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SPORTS

## Double trouble

Men's basketball team drops two games in a row. page 12



# THE UCSD GUARDIAN

UC SAN DIEGO

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## Study: Preuss School students do not outperform some peers

By **CHRISTINE CLARK**  
Contributing Writer

Preuss School students did not perform statistically better on standardized tests or post significant improvements in grades compared to those students who applied to the campus-run charter school but were not admitted, according to a comparison study done last year.

Last year, 90 percent of the school's first graduating class received offers of admission from four-year universities — the majority from UC campuses and prestigious private schools like Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. However, when contrasted with a group of students with similar socioeconomic backgrounds who applied to the school, the spring 2004 study indicated that there were few statistical differences between the groups.

"On the California standardized tests, students in the 10th grade at Preuss School and the comparison group recorded nearly identical scores," the study states.

Founded in 1999 as a UCSD-administered charter middle and high school, the Preuss School is designed to increase diversity in higher education. The school is made up of mostly underrepresented minorities.

The Preuss School mission is "to improve educational practices and provide an intensive college preparatory school for low-income student populations, which are historically underrepresented on the campuses of the University of California."

Students are admitted to Preuss School via lottery. To be eligible for the lottery, they must qualify for a school low-income meal-assistance program, come from a family with no college graduates and have good academic standing.

Conducted by the university's Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment and Teaching Excellence, the study compared Preuss' current students to other applicants who met the school's entrance criteria but were not selected to attend. The study found no significant differences between the two groups' performances on an annual state exam or high school grades.

"What the analysis shows so far is that Preuss students have about the same GPA as the control group, and test scores that are the same or, in a few subjects, significantly higher," said economics professor Julian Betts, who serves

on the Preuss School Board of Directors and helped to create the study.

The study noted that Preuss students performed markedly better on the history portion of the state exam and had completed more required college-preparatory courses by the 10th grade.

"The comparisons about course-taking reveals some significant differences, but the standardized course results are not significantly different," Preuss School Principal Doris Alvarez said.

Betts explained that the study compared Preuss students and applicants instead of doing a wider comparison to a random group of students within the same socioeconomic demographics. Therefore, the numbers may not reflect the achievement of average students, who may have different levels of motivation and enthusiasm from that of all Preuss applicants, no matter where they actually attended, according to Betts.

"If we randomly selected students enrolled in the regular schools who had the same, say, background regarding race and parental education, it might not be

See **PREUSS**, Page 3

## Celebrating civil rights



Anna MacMurdo/Guardian

In remembrance: Preuss School students marched with other UCSD community members in the Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in downtown San Diego.

## Medication deaths rise in start of month, new report finds

By **CHARLES NGUYEN**  
Staff Writer

In the first days of every month, mortality rates due to medication errors increase as much as 25 percent above normal, according to a new study by sociology professor David Phillips and a group of co-authors.

Published in the January issue of the medical journal *Pharmacotherapy*, Phillips' report used computerized death certificates from the National Center for Health Statistics as data.

He ascribed the early month death rate increase partly to pharmaceutical errors.

"Government assistance payments to the old, the sick and the

poor are typically received at the beginning of each month. Because of this, there is a beginning-of-the-month spike in purchases of prescription medicines," Phillips said in a university announcement. "Pharmacy workloads go up and — in line with both evidence and experience — error rates go up as well. Our data suggest that the mortality spike occurs at least partly because of this phenomenon."

From almost 132,000 cases of fatalities involving accidental poisoning by prescription drugs, the study's authors found that, while only 3.2 percent of the accidental deaths were

See **STUDY**, Page 6

## Rain may delay center construction

By **MARNETTE FEDERIS**  
Senior Staff Writer

Recent storms that pounded Southern California in December and January have also temporarily halted the first phase of construction of the Student Center expansion.

The construction, which is part of a growth plan for both Student Center and Price Center, was already approximately eight days behind by the end of December.

"No one was expecting this amount of rain," Project Manager and architect Pnina Goldberg stated in an e-mail. "As much as we need the rain, it is not good for construction. We are hoping that we will be able to gain some momentum and make up some of the lost days, but at this moment we don't know."

San Diego has seen as much as four more inches of rain than what has been recorded in the past few years, according to National Weather Service of San Diego forecaster Stan Wasowski.

The delays are not expected to drastically alter the schedule for the Student Center expansion as a whole, which is scheduled for completion in April 2006.

University Centers Advisory Board has not expressed great concern about a significant delay, according to UCAB Chair Jessica Kort.



Billy Wong/Guardian

**Stormy delay:** Recent and unexpected heavy storms in Southern California may cause further delays in the construction of new Student Center buildings.

"I don't believe that at this point we're in any position to tell if rain will significantly delay the project," Kort said. "We would have to adjust or re-adjust moving in, if, in the future, we can't catch up. But it hasn't been brought up as a specific concern."

The regular rainy season from January to March will likely bring more heavy rains, Wasowski stated.

"We're expecting a continuation of the pattern just like in the beginning of the month: heavy rains first and a dry spell for a week or so, but with more rain later," Wasowski said.

Even with clearer skies in the past week, Goldberg said that wet soil in the construction area will limit the progress of the work. During this time, Straub

Construction, the contractor for the project and the university, has been inspecting the ground for its safety.

"There is a limited amount of work we can do with heavy equipment when the ground is muddy and soaking wet, as it is when we have partial foundation," Goldberg stated. "The main activity you will see on the site now is pumping out the water, stabilizing any trenches cut or filled before the storm and preventing any mudslide."

The storms hit while the project was in a critical stage of establishing the foundation for the facility. Other stages to follow include working outside the foundation and construction of the interior, which will house the new Women's

See **RAIN**, Page 3

## State among leaders for public college spending

By **ANGELA YAO**  
Staff Writer

Despite the state's budget deficits and cuts to higher education, California placed among the leading states in public university spending for the 2004-05 fiscal year, ranking fifth in the nation, according to a new report published by an education think tank.

Based upon total tax appropriations, the report found that

California saw a 7.5-percent overall increase in higher public-education spending last year. The state trails only Florida, Virginia, New Jersey and New York in spending for public universities.

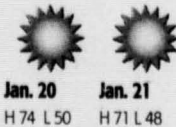
In all 50 states, state tax appropriations for higher education budgets rose by 3.8 percent from last year. The growth contrasted with a 2.1-percent cut in higher education

See **STATE**, Page 3

### WEATHER



Jan. 18 H 75 L 51  
Jan. 19 H 75 L 50



Jan. 20 H 74 L 50  
Jan. 21 H 71 L 48

### SPOKEN

"No one was expecting this amount of rain."

— Pnina Goldberg, Student Center expansion project manager

### SURF REPORT

1/18  
Wind: 5-10 kt.  
Height: 1-2 ft.  
Water Temp: 56-59 deg.

1/19  
Wind: 10 kt.  
Height: 2-3 ft.  
Water Temp: 56-58 deg.



## America's loss a gain for rest of world United States should ease requirements for international student visas

By MARYANN KIMOTO  
Contributing Writer

Consider the following scenario: A student is obliged to pay \$100 to have personal information stored in an electronic database for the purpose of government monitoring. Then that student earns the right to pay an additional \$120 for a three-month wait to apply for off-campus work — but only under the most extreme financial duress. Criminal? Hardly, unless having a certain major or place of birth is a crime. Such is the world of post-9/11 student-visa applicants.

International students who wish to study in the United States must not only undergo the inconvenience of personal interviews and various applications and fees, but have also become suspect on other issues, such as red-tagged majors. The U.S. State Department can put a "special hold" on visa applications from international students who take courses on nuclear engineering, lasers and electronic guidance systems.

Other fields on the "technology alert list" — created in 2000 by the U.S. government to prevent the illegal exchange of technological knowledge with military implications between nations — hit much closer to home. Chemical, biotechnology and biomedical engineering are all subjects screened by the U.S. government because they can be linked to biological weaponry and involve specialties such as virology, pharmacology and toxicology.

Sound familiar? With an ever-expanding list of subjects on the alert list, the tide of paranoia sweeping the country can almost be considered tangible.

While screening the student visa pool may initially seem like a good idea (given that one of the 9/11 hijackers held a student visa at the time of the attack), over-regulated visa procedures imposed

upon international students have served more as a deterrent to would-be learners than to killers. After all, how much respect can one expect from students from countries such as North Korea, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Libya and other nations labeled by the U.S. Department of State as "state sponsors of terrorism," when such students are made to fill out supplemental forms that ask "Do you have any specialized skills or training, including firearms, explosives, nuclear, biological or chemical experience?"

While the effort is sincere, is it reasonable to expect that a terrorist will calmly and truthfully recite arms experience to a weary administrator? On the flip side, how many resources can be funneled into constructive anti-terrorist measures when so much time and effort is already going toward the interviews and evaluations?



uations of almost all international students?

To take an example of a group of foreign students impacted by the rules, Middle Eastern undergraduate- and graduate-student rates at UCSD have dropped from 4.6 percent of the total international student body in 2000-01 to only 2.1 percent in 2001-02, and 3.6 percent in 2002-03. The international-student growth rate in the nation as a whole has slowed considerably, but not due to lack of interest. CNN reported last year that countries like the United Kingdom and Australia have benefited from averse U.S. student-visa policies and have seen their international student enrollment rates rise. And that loss is great indeed.

Besides the obvious void left in U.S. academia and research, international students also contribute to the American economy by spending upwards of \$12 billion annually in

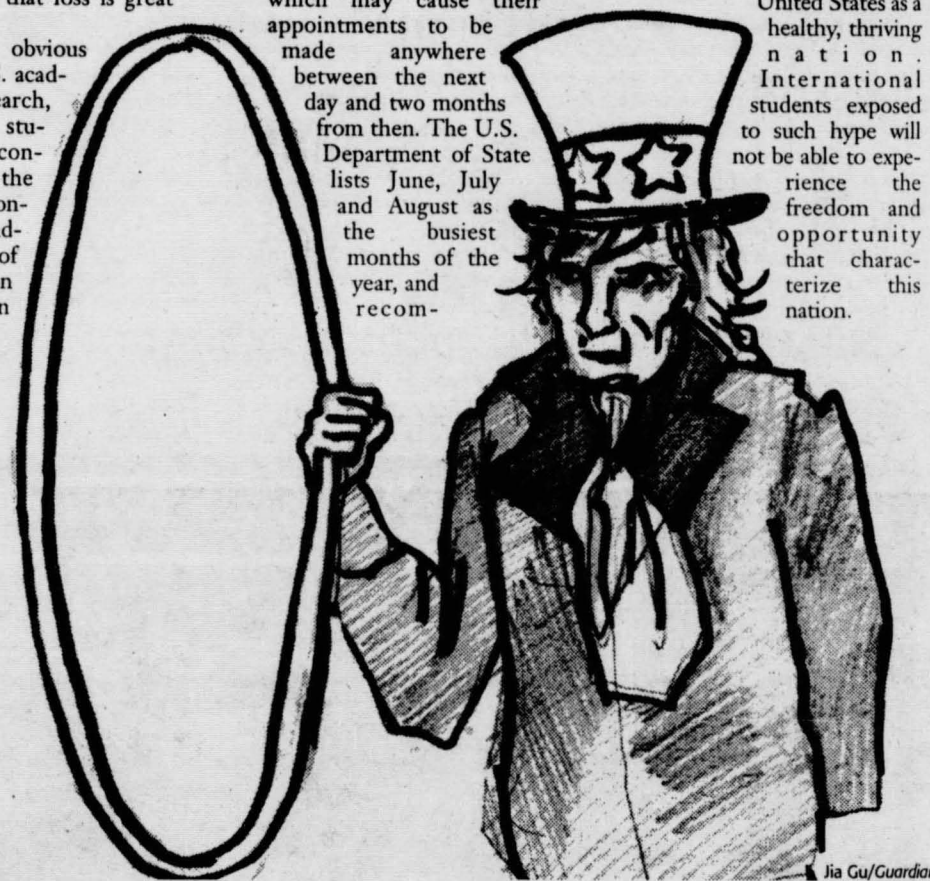
tuition and other expenses, according to the Institute of International Education. Those students who intend to brave the tense atmosphere now surrounding study in the United States must flock to their local U.S. embassy or consulate, despite their rarity and occasional nonexistence (in such countries as Tajikistan) abroad to do so.

Once there, they learn that while administrators advise students to submit their forms and schedule their interviews as soon as possible, students may apply for a visa only 90 days in advance of their registered start date. This causes problems for anyone who encounters a delay in the system, which may cause their appointments to be made anywhere

between the next day and two months from then. The U.S. Department of State lists June, July and August as the busiest months of the year, and recom-

mends that students "plan ahead." However, given the time stipulations, and taking into consideration that most school systems begin the academic year in August or September, is this even possible?

"The loss of even one qualified student to another nation is one too many," said Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Maura Hartly. "When a student goes elsewhere ... we have lost the chance for a student to see the wonders of America through his or her own eyes." The paranoia surrounding tightened student visa procedures has become so overblown that it threatens to damage the vision of the United States as a healthy, thriving nation. International students exposed to such hype will not be able to experience the freedom and opportunity that characterize this nation.



## Getting a car opens up brave new world

Tame Northern California lanes hardly match San Diego's anarchistic traffic

indecent exposure



Marianne Madden

Oh, what a difference a car makes. To think — for two years, I put up with the humiliation and horror of walking, riding the shuttle, and putting my life in the hands of the maniacal drivers who nudged their bumpers against my thighs as I traversed crosswalks at a trot. Now I'm the master of my fate and the captain of the road — a bona fide Southern California driver. Damn the pansy-ass rules of Northern California, where I toiled my way to a permit and license at 25 miles per hour, forced into submission by the vise grips of the law and common sense. Driving in Southern California is the real deal, and my initiation on San Diego's roads threw open the doors to a brave

new world — a world of refusing to let pesky obstacles like curbs and double-yellow lines stand between me and my destination; of passing people early and often; of taking speed limits only as vague suggestions. But that only scratches the surface of what I've learned over the past few months. There's much more:

### Changing Lanes

*NorCal:* Blink for at least five seconds, wait for an opening in traffic and change lanes.

*SoCal:* There will never be an opening in traffic, so create one by nosing into the desired lane while shooting dirty looks to the person you're cutting off. Turn signals are for wimps.

### Parking

*NorCal:* Park only in designated parking spots, and watch the parking brake and angle of your tires when parking on a hill.

*SoCal:* See a patch of pavement not already occupied by a car? Lucky you — you've found a parking spot. Does the spot happen to

be in the middle of the road? No problem — just flick on your hazard lights and walk away.

### Speeding

*NorCal:* Cops are everywhere, so you're busted if you drive more

“*Damn the pansy-ass rules of Northern California, where I toiled my way to a permit and license at 25 miles per hour ...*”

than 5 mph above the speed limit.

*SoCal:* Go 5 mph over the speed limit and the cops will run you over in their rush to bust their next "bad guy."

### Traffic lights

*NorCal:* Speed through the intersection if the light turns yellow.

low.

*SoCal:* Speed through the intersection if the light turns red.

### Residential streets

*NorCal:* Never drive over 25 mph, and watch out for children and other obstacles.

*SoCal:* Go at least 60 mph, knowing that no child with any sense of self-preservation will venture within 10 feet of the street.

### Driving in the rain

*NorCal:* Turn on wipers and proceed at a reduced speed. Be thankful it isn't snowing.

*SoCal:* Slow down to 15 mph, frantically try to remember how to operate windshield wipers and swerve madly.

### Dealing with heavy traffic

*NorCal:* Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you and violently slam on the brake if you catch any glimpse of brake lights in front of you.

*SoCal:* Ride the bumper of the person in front of you at 90 mph.

### Commuting to work

*NorCal:* Ride Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to work. It's the socially conscious method of transportation, and the urine smell really perks you up in the morning before you slurp down your latte.

*SoCal:* Spend at least two hours per day commuting to and from work. If your commute doesn't regularly feature gridlocked traffic and induce pounding on your wheel, swearing, and finally crying in frustration, find a route that does. Only then will you become a true Southern Californian.

### Pedestrians

*NorCal:* Pedestrians have the right-of-way and cars will yield for them.

*SoCal:* Crossing the street signifies a pedestrian's wish to die. Treat them accordingly by summarily running them over.

### Other drivers

*NorCal:* Drive with the speed

See COLUMN, Page 5

## Column: Cars mean more than transportation

continued from page 4  
of traffic and don't drive in anyone's blind spot.

*SoCal:* Other drivers exist solely as barriers to where you wish to go. Weave around them, angrily screaming and gesturing at them as you do so.

### In-car entertainment

*NorCal:* Entertain and educate yourself as you drive by listening to NPR.

*SoCal:* Entertain yourself as you drive by watching the 12-inch TV mounted on your dashboard.

### Family-mobiles

*NorCal:* Mommies run you over in Volvos while driving their daughters to soccer practice so they can be the next Mia Hamm.

*SoCal:* Mommies run you over in Suburbans and Expeditions while driving their daughters to acting lessons so they can be the next Hilary Duff.

### Status symbols

*NorCal:* Broadcast your success with a black Mercedes or BMW

with Stanford or UC Berkeley vanity plates.

*SoCal:* Broadcast your success with a mustard-yellow Hummer with five dead pedestrians artfully arranged on the hood.

### Washing your car

*NorCal:* Scrub away in your driveway on a Saturday, or just wait until the next rainstorm to rinse off the bird crap and drifts of pollen.

*SoCal:* This is La Jolla, so pay a crew of uniformed illegal immigrants to wash your car by hand. Refuse to tip because Pedro missed a spot when drying your bumper.

### Bumper stickers

*NorCal:* A Howard Dean sticker in the window is absolutely necessary. "Keep Santa Cruz Weird" stickers are allowed, but only if you're college-aged and drive a shitty Honda. If you're over 30, "Keep Tahoe Blue" is the trendy option, especially when on a hybrid vehicle.

*SoCal:* No car is complete

without a Bush/Cheney '04 sticker vying for attention amid your "We Will Never Forget" sticker, half-dozen yellow-ribbon stickers, and "My child is a marginally successful student at Whitman Elementary" bumper sticker.

### Vehicle mods

*NorCal:* Have some extra cash? Own a foreign-made car that's not nearly "sick" enough to "impress the bitches"? Think you're a badass? Go nuts with an obnoxious decal, a lowering kit and chrome rims. Your homies will give you extra props if the money you spend on mods exceeds the amount your parents paid for your car.

*SoCal:* Ditto, except 45-year-old women with PT Cruisers are fair game for mods also. Drive a car that looks like a raisin? Fantastic — add some flowery contrast detailing and blinding rims to make sure everyone within a five-mile radius knows you're an idiot with no taste.

*My other car is* mmadden@ucsd.edu.

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"The Discovery of Reason and the Defense of Faith in the 12th and 13th Centuries," **Stanley Chodorow**, Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Arts & Humanities

**Wednesday, January 26, 2005**  
"Slavery and the Abolition Movement," **Douglas McGetchin**, Lecturer

**Wednesday, February 2, 2005**  
"Faith and Science in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries," **Steven Cassidy**, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

**Wednesday, February 9, 2005**  
"Fascism, Communism, and the Crisis of Democracy in the Early 20th Century," **Pamela Radcliff**, Professor

**Wednesday, February 23, 2005**  
"Give Them Stuff!" — Material Well-Being, Consumer Desires, and the Making of a New World Order," **Patrick Patterson**, Lecturer

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## Study: Cause of monthly death spike undetermined

*continued from page 1*  
a result of harmful effects from incorrectly administered prescriptions, 96.8 percent of fatalities were due either to ingestion of the incorrect drug or unintentional overdose.

The results excluded suicide and homicide cases involving intentional poisoning.

Phillips and his co-authors also found that the monthly spike in deaths remained constant across age and socioeconomic groups, suggesting that it was not the result of increased consumption by people receiving government aid.

"People relying on government funds would purchase their medicines at the beginning of the month when they receive their payments," Phillips said. "Since the results did not show any different death rates for the government-aided patients, it makes it more likely pharmacists are involved in the error."

However, the lack of details in the report leads to questions over who exactly is to blame for medicinal errors, according to Stephen M. Setter, an assistant professor of pharmacotherapy at Washington State University and spokesperson for the American Pharmacists Association.

"The study is not detailed enough to make a direct correlation with medication errors and an increase in fatalities," Setter said. "For instance, the definition of medication error is quite broad and may include a patient unintentionally overdosing. That is not a pharmacy error but rather an error made after the prescription has left the pharmacy."

Other patient errors may also account for the fatalities, Setter said. Patients visiting the emergency room, where they may not have access to relevant information, may not know their own allergies or current medications, leading to reactions with emergency drugs.

Phillips said that while he agreed the source of the deaths is unknown, the study suggests that precaution should be taken in all areas of prescription drugs.

"We don't know who actually makes this error. It could be the pharmacist, it could be patient, it could be doctor or it could be nurse," he said. "Increasing pharmaceutical staff temporarily at the beginning of the month would help. Patients should also double-check their medications at the beginning of the month and know what and how much medication they are taking."

While the report is not detailed enough to pinpoint exact solutions, further research is needed on the intriguing results, Setter said.

"The problem is not defined enough to solve," he said. "Nonetheless the data are very interesting. More detailed studies need to be done to identify the factors associated with or causing the spike."

Health economist for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Laura Miller echoed Setter's opinion on the study.

"It's a lot of good raw data and a good start," she said. "But this is the beginning of something, rather than [anything] conclusory. Cause of death for patients is not a clear-cut thing, and whether it is an overdose, suicide or any type of death can be arbitrary depending on the person filling out the death certificate."

Phillips decided to conduct the study after reviewing initial numbers, showing the spike in deaths, he said.

"I wondered what kind of death spiked the largest, and I knew some poorer people cannot afford medicines except at these beginning times of the month, so I followed that lead," Phillips said.

Phillips and his co-authors, who included former UCSD undergraduate student Jason Jarvinen and executive director of Tufts Health Care Center Rosalie Phillips — his sister — previously published other studies together, including one showing that cardiac fatalities increase during Christmas time and New Year's.

Readers can contact Charles Nguyen at [charles.nguyen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charles.nguyen@sbcglobal.net).

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# FEATURES

## HIGH COURT TO DECIDE LEGALITY OF MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

In November 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a pivotal case that could protect patients who grow and use medicinal marijuana — in states where it's legal — from federal prosecution.

The California plaintiffs in *Ashcroft v. Raich* argued that the federal government does not have constitutional authority over their use of medicinal marijuana, or cannabis, as it is formally called.

The cultivation of cannabis is legal in the state of California under certain circumstances. Patients have argued that their use and cultivation of the drugs are not commercial in nature and do not involve interstate commerce.

The federal government, however, has argued that Congress' constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce allows it to limit medical use of pot.

The *Ashcroft v. Raich* case stems from four cannabis patients who, in October of 2002, filed a lawsuit against Attorney General John Ashcroft and Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator Karen Tandy for violating constitutional rights by forbidding the use of the drug in cases of medical necessity.

The patients believed that they were protected by Proposition 215, "The Compassionate Use of Marijuana Act," which passed in 1996 in California by a 56-percent majority vote. The state law allows seriously ill patients to obtain, cultivate and use cannabis, as long as it has been prescribed by a doctor.

However, because federal laws supersede state laws, the government was able to send the DEA to search certain California homes and gardens for cannabis. This outraged the patients, who felt that the DEA was jeopardizing their health and safety.

Angel McClary Raich, an Oakland, Calif., resident and one of the four plaintiffs in the case, suffers from an array of serious health problems, ranging from fibromyalgia to an inoperable brain tumor, and relies on cannabis for the stability of her health.

Her husband, lawyer Robert Raich, has seen the beneficial effects of cannabis for his wife and is therefore fighting for her right to use the drug that he believes is preserving her life.

"This case is about the rights of sick patients," Raich said. "Terrorism should be the priority of the federal government. Medical regulation should be left to the state government."

Regarding the drug and its effects on patients, Raich was very positive.

"Cannabis is inexpensive, has few side effects and relieves suffering with proven health benefits," Raich said.

In March 2003, the U.S. District Court in Northern California ruled

against Raich. However, the *Raich v. Ashcroft* case proceeded to the ninth Circuit Court of Appeals where the judge ruled in favor of Raich in December 2003. The Bush administration responded by appealing the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2004.

"This case is based to win in the Supreme Court," Raich said. "I am optimistic."

The Court is expected to give its verdict in the spring of 2005.

Attorneys and a spokesperson for the Justice Department, which represents the federal government, did not return calls for comment.

The Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at UCSD is quietly making its own contributions to medicinal studies of the drug.

Founded in 2000, the CMCR remains the only state-funded cannabis research center in the country. In cooperation with UC San

Francisco, UCSD provides the headquarters for the scientific research necessary to determine the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis in treating terminally ill patients.

The facility, which shares the office of UCSD's HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center in Hillcrest, sees patients diagnosed with serious illnesses, such as cancer, HIV and multiple sclerosis, and prescribes medicinal cannabis to test its efficacy for treatment.

Andrew Mattison, assistant director of the center, said the main priority at CMCR is safety and efficacy.

"[We want] to provide symptomatic relief for medical conditions that regular medications won't help," Mattison said.

There has been surprisingly little investigation of the effects of marijuana, and facilities such as the CMCR are working to uncover the effects of the drug.

Cannabis has been effective at relieving the symptoms of some patients. It can alleviate the pain, nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite caused by such serious illnesses as cancer and HIV.

However, there are hazards involved, such as lung damage from smoking and low birth weight in babies born to cannabis users who smoked while they were pregnant.

"It will be about 10 or 12 months before we disclose our [recent] findings," Mattison said.

Until then, the center plans to continue its outpatient program and research on the effects of medicinal cannabis on patients. UCSD students are eligible to work in administrative positions at CMCR, but doctors discourage direct student contact with patients because of confidentiality issues.

The facility is not involved in legal aspects of the debate over medicinal marijuana, and Mattison declined to offer an opinion on *Ashcroft v. Raich*.



Riley Salant-Pearce/Guardian

By Kate McElhinney, Staff Writer

## Looking for a career that radiates success?

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1867-1934

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## SISTER SISTER

Among the nameless crowds that wander the campus, identical twins Shemia and Sheme're Jones definitely stand out. While most students may not know them personally, many have noticed the twins at one point or another, or at least aware of their existence. The main reason that they are physically indistinguishable and always together.

Walking into their room is like walking into a room of mirrors. Their beds are made exactly the same way, each with an identical leopard-print comforter folded over at the same corner at the exact same angle. On the wall above each bed, there are two matching portraits of a young girl. In both portraits, the girl is wearing the same outfit, smiling with the same degree of contentment, and posed exactly the same way. While the portraits seem to be copies of one another, they are actually pictures of two different girls: Shemia and Sheme're.

Since birth, Shemia (Shah-MEE-ah) and Sheme're (Shah-MEER) have shared everything from clothing to secrets, friends to interests. Today, they are both Thurgood Marshall College sophomores at UCSD and are both psychology majors. They take all the same classes, have all the same friends and both have the same job. The most noticeable aspect about the twins, however, is the way they dress. Every day, the girls wear perfectly matching outfits, including their pants, shirts and hair accessories. For those who do not know them well, Shemia and Sheme're are impossible to tell apart.

The twins claim that their mother began dressing them alike when they were babies, and once they became old enough to dress themselves, it only seemed natural to continue dressing in the same way. They admitted that it is difficult and uncomfortable for them to dress differently from one another.

"I feel weird when we're not dressed alike," Shemia said. Due to the twins' resemblance, matching outfits and inseparability, they attract a great deal of attention every day, and are possibly the most recognizable women on campus. Although



Anna MacMurdo/Guardian

The Jones: Identical twins Shemia (left) and Sheme're (right) pose in identical clothing on either half of their identically organized room.

they are fully aware of their popularity, they claim that they do not dress alike for the attention it brings. "We do it because we want to. It's who we are," Sheme're said.

Being physically identical, however, is only a small part of the twins' likeness. They are also psychologically similar, sharing the same passions, favorites, struggles and aspirations.

Both love Whitney Houston, the color red and ice cream. They both dislike writing and struggle with the same concepts in mathematics. They both want to get married one day and have the same number of children of the same gender. They both hope to have a singing career in the future, or else go into psychology.

"Neither of us is going to be more successful than the other because we are going to do all the same things," Shemia said.

Listening to the twins talk is like listening to one person talking. Shemia will often make a statement that Sheme're will conclude by saying, "You know what I'm saying?" They seem to have an internal connection that allows them to

By Fabianne Furman, Contributing Writer

understand each other in the same way one understands his or herself. They say that the best thing about being twins is that "it's like having a built-in best friend."

"We never experienced loneliness until we started working different shifts," Shemia said.

While the women love being twins, their similarities have caused some problems in their lives. For example, because both have the same taste in men, they are often attracted to the same guy.

"Guys get really excited when we like them," Shemia said. "They're like, 'Wow! Twins!'"

"But then they calm down," Sheme're concluded with a laugh, as they have no intentions of fulfilling any man's twin fantasy.

Still, the twins never let men get in the way of their relationship. If a particular guy happens to prefer one twin over the other, she will not go on a date with him unless her sister has a date that night too.

"I'm not going to go out and just be like, 'See ya,' to my sister," Shemia said. Last quarter Shemia was sick and missed quite a bit of class. It was difficult for Sheme're to go to class without her because she was so worried and did not want her sister to fall behind.

"I did her homework for her, and I don't do that!" Sheme're exclaimed.

The twins say that they argue rarely and grow closer and closer as they get older. And the fact that many twins separate at some point in life is almost unfathomable to them. In the future, they plan to live very close to one another, possibly in different houses on the same estate. While Shemia and Sheme're are not one person, they are too connected to be considered two entirely different people.

"I don't think we ever were individuals," Shemia said, "but we're not one person."

"We're just two people very much alike," the girls said in unison.





EVENTS

LUNAFEST is coming to UCSD on Tues. Jan. 25th! Come support the Breast Cancer Fund and enjoy a series of films by, for, and about women.

Town Hall meeting with University of California President Robert C. Dynes, Monday, Jan. 24th, from 2-3:30pm @ PC Ballroom B.

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Don't miss LUNAFEST, a film festival for, by, and about women, Tues. Jan. 25th at 7pm in the PC Ballroom!

They'll see it in the Guardian Personals! Call 858-534-3466. (1/18)

According to the TV show "60 Minutes," some dogs can aid doctors with their ability to sense the presence of cancer in humans.

Prince Harry has written a new play entitled "Springtime for Hitler" (1/18)

Volleyball: UCSD still waiting for first season win

continued from page 12 assists on the night.

For the Matadors, Nils Nielsen and Brian Waite each had 14 kills and led their team to an easy victory.

Despite its two losses, UCSD has a squad of promising players and a favorable schedule that finds the team playing at home in two of their next three games.

it squares off against numerous MPSF foes. Although it is an extremely competitive conference, the Tritons will have plenty of shots at victory.

Following the game against the Gauchos, UCSD will play the Stanford Cardinals and the University of the Pacific Tigers at RIMAC Arena on consecutive days, Jan. 21 and Jan. 22.

Love to Write Apply today! email the Guardian at editor@ucsdguardian.org

Basketball: Tritons prep for two-game road trip

continued from page 12 Katie McGann completed eight field goals, and Gallagher-Bolton added six rebounds.

The Tritons also had an excellent free-throw average against the Coyotes, completing .810 of all free throws attempted.

The Tritons will challenge Cal State Dominguez Hills on Jan. 21 in Carson, Calif., and Cal Poly Pomona at Pomona on Jan. 22 in CCAA play.

Crossword Solutions

Crossword grid with solutions: 1. GOLF, 2. LINES, 3. ELISE, 4. YETI, 5. NYLON, 6. CRITIC, 7. SIBERIA, 8. TITANIC, 9. GUYANA, 10. BOSTON, 11. NEW, 12. SENIOR, 13. SYDNEY, 14. TUBS, 15. JOSEPH, 16. IRE, 17. WELSH, 18. DINI, 19. NOT, 20. LOW, 21. TIGER, 22. BEE, 23. ENDS, 24. BUNNY, 25. ORE, 26. GARDEN, 27. TOWY, 28. DWI, 29. TROUBLE, 30. EBBE, 31. LITTLE, 32. IN, 33. BATH, 34. BUBBLES, 35. BUBBLES, 36. BUBBLES, 37. BUBBLES, 38. BUBBLES, 39. BUBBLES, 40. BUBBLES.

Hoops: First-half turnovers cost Tritons the game

continued from page 12 in the last two minutes, but the rally came up short as Cal State Monterey Bay held on for the five-point victory.

Odiyeh, Toboni and Allard all scored in the double-digits again, with Toboni and Allard scoring 14 apiece and Odiyeh leading the team with a career-high 17.

The Otters were led by a game-high 18 points from forward Will Brown, and received 17 points off the bench from Darryl Anderson.

Forward Jared Jungwirth earned a double-double in the game with 16 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

Both teams pulled in 37 rebounds, but the Tritons recorded seven blocks to the Otters' one.

After 12 first-half turnovers, the Tritons were much more careful with the ball in the second, turning it over only three more times.

UCSD will look to end its three-game losing streak next week with a pair of road games. The Tritons will take to the court against Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson, Calif., on Jan. 21 before taking on Cal Poly Pomona at Kellogg Gym in Pomona the next night.

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## Tritons take hard hit from defending CCAA champs Men's basketball suffers losses to San Bernardino, Monterey Bay

By **JOE TEVELOWITZ**  
Staff Writer

The UCSD men's basketball team dropped back-to-back home games over the past week, falling 80-61 to defending California Collegiate Athletic Association champion Cal State San Bernardino on Jan. 12, and coming up short in an 87-82 loss to Cal State Monterey Bay on Jan. 14. The losses at RIMAC Arena drop UCSD to 5-7 overall, and 2-4 in CCAA play.

UCSD scored the first points of the game against the Coyotes, but never led after that. The Tritons closed to within seven points with just under three minutes left in the first half, but the Coyotes proved to be too much, pushing the lead to 13 at halftime and never looking back in the second half.

San Bernardino guard Trennel Eddings led all scorers with 22 points, going 6-for-8 from three-point range. James Perkins and Brian Pruitt contributed 14 and 10 points, respectively. Antoine Parker helped distribute the ball by dishing out a game-high six assists.

The Tritons got strong games from freshman guards Joey Toboni and Clint Allard, who tied for the team lead with 12 points apiece.

Another rookie member of the team, junior transfer guard Odioh Odiyeh, added 11 points, three assists and three rebounds. Toboni also led the team in rebounding with four boards in

17 minutes off the bench.

The Tritons shot over 50 percent from the field and 63.6 percent from long distance in the second half, compared to 33.3 percent and 20 percent in the first half.

However, the Coyotes, who had good ball movement with 23 assists to UCSD's 14, also heated up in the second half, shooting 65.5 percent from the field and maintaining their lead.

The Tritons played tough in the loss, narrowly forfeiting the rebounding battle, 30-27, but countering the effort with 22 turnovers.

The Tritons had another good second-half shooting performance against Cal State Monterey Bay, but a cold first half was too much to overcome.

The Otters, in their first year of CCAA play, improved to 7-5 overall, and 4-1 in conference action, despite the Tritons having better free-throw, field-goal and three-point shooting percentages in the game.

The Tritons struggled through the first half with a 25-percent field-goal percentage on 6-for-24 shooting, while turning the ball over 12 times.

The Otters took advantage of the opportunities to take a 14-point lead into halftime. The second half was more of the same, with Monterey Bay taking a 19-point lead at 48-29 with under 15 minutes left to play.

The Tritons weren't ready to lose in their first match-up with the Otters, but were able to come

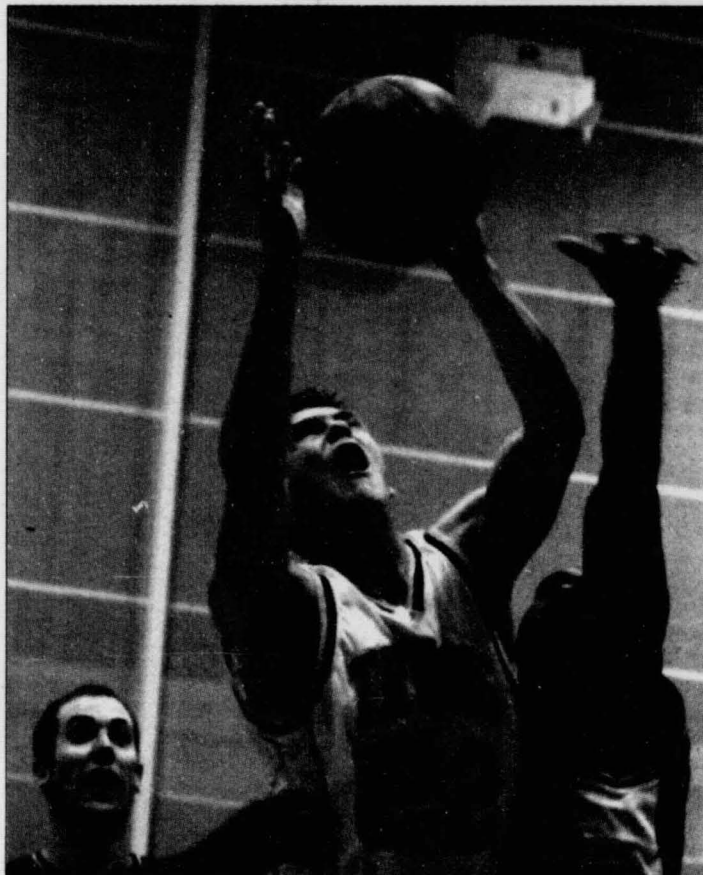
within 10 points at the 8:42 mark after a block, rebound and lay-up by sophomore forward Zackary Craddock.

UCSD worked itself to within four points of leading twice in the next two minutes, but the

Otters held off the charge and pushed the lead back to 15 with just under two minutes to play.

The Tritons refused to just lie down, exploding with 20 points

See **HOOPS**, Page 11



Anna MacMurdo/Guardian

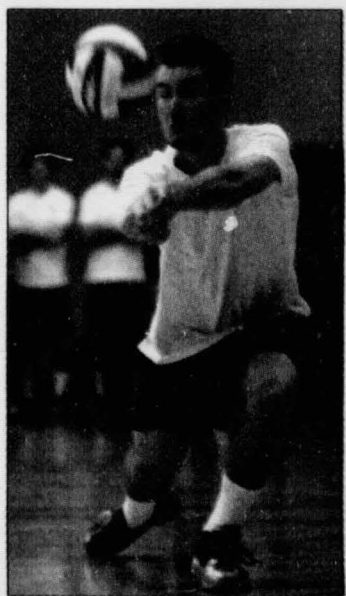
**Strugglin'**: Sophomore forward Parker Berling scored 12 points, pulled down four boards, and had one block in the Tritons' Jan. 14 loss to Monterey Bay.

## Men's volleyball loses in straight sets to Matadors Tritons drop MPSF season opener at Northridge

By **RAEL ENTEEN**  
Staff Writer

On the road for its first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match of the season, it was up to the UCSD men's volleyball team to step up its game and shut down Cal State Northridge. Instead, they lost on Jan. 14 in straight sets, 30-28, 30-25, 30-27.

The Tritons kept every game close, but for their second match in a row, they lost 3-0. In the first



Andrew Mo/Guardian file

**Bumpy road**: Sophomore outside hitter Mike Reuter and the Tritons are working toward their first league win.

game, UCSD showed many characteristics of a strong team, beating the Matadors in the team-attack percentage stat, .410 to .333. But the momentary advantage did not carry through, as Northridge pulled off the narrow victory in game one.

In game two, the Matador defense was far better, holding the Tritons to a .140 attack percentage. UCSD's defense improved as well, cutting its opponent's percentage to .256; however, Northridge pulled off its second victory and remained comfortably ahead, 2-0.

With the momentum in their favor, the Matadors charged ahead with a victory in the third game, ending the match and improving their record to 3-2 overall, 1-1 in the MPSF. The win in the final game was due to the Matadors' match-high .484 attack percentage, which overwhelmed the Tritons' percentage of .312. The loss drops the Tritons to 0-2 overall, 0-1 in league play.

There were some bright spots for UCSD, as senior outside hitter Luke Honnette racked up 15 kills and a .303 attack percentage. Honnette has led the Tritons in kills and will need to maintain his success if the Tritons want to win a match this year. Junior outside hitter Brendan Bowe and freshman John Mark Wendler also stood out for UCSD with 10 kills and seven kills, respectively. Sophomore setter Brooks Dierdorff contributed 30

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 11

## Tritons beat Monterey, lose to San Bernardino at home Coyotes narrowly hold off women's hoops' comeback

By **KELLI PRAKASH**  
Staff Writer

The UCSD women's basketball team went 1-1 in California Collegiate Athletic Association action last week with a win over Cal State Monterey and a loss to Cal State San Bernardino. The Tritons are now 8-5 overall and 4-2 in league.

The Tritons beat Monterey Bay on Jan. 14 at RIMAC Arena, 90-46. The squad saw remarkable performances by senior captains and centers Stacy Gallagher-Bolton, who managed 6 points and 15 rebounds in the match, and Margaret Johnson, who posted 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Junior guard Andrea Herold and sophomore guard Leora Juster each earned 14 points, while sophomore forward Hillary Hansen and sophomore guard Kim Buffum posted nine rebounds and nine field goals apiece.

The Tritons held a strong lead of 42-29 over the Otters at the half, and managed to maintain it throughout the match. UCSD proved stronger as a whole in every facet of scoring in the match, averaging a .443 completion of field goal attempts compared to Monterey's .292. The Tritons were stronger from long distance, managing to score .389 of all three-point attempts to the Otter's .273, who went 0-6

in the second half. Lastly, the Tritons completed .591 of all free throws granted, while the Otters only completed .385.

Earlier in the week, the Tritons were narrowly edged by the Cal State San Bernardino Coyotes on Jan. 12 at RIMAC Arena. Despite a tremendous second-half effort from the Tritons, the Coyotes beat the Tritons, 63-60.

The Coyotes scored 20 points between the last five minutes of the first half and the first five minutes of the second half, while the Tritons scored none.

The score was 49-31, with Cal State San Bernardino in the lead and 10:38 remaining on the clock, when UCSD had a scoring run of its own, going 15-0 until they were only three points behind the Coyotes with 6:28 to go.

The remainder of the game was an all-out brawl between the teams, both struggling to clinch the win. The Tritons led, 60-59, until the Coyotes' Sequoia Williams made a lay-up and Tamara Thomas got the follow-up shot to steal the win with 0.6 left on the clock.

Despite the loss, the Tritons showed great effort on the field. Johnson posted 18 points and had nine rebounds in the match. Juster contributed 12 points of her own and had three assists. Senior forward and team captain

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 11

## NCAA passes academic reform

By **CYNTHIA BLADE CHAVEZ**  
and **MATTHEW GRANT**  
Senior Staff Writers

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved an initial step to reform and improve academic standards regarding collegiate student-athletes on Jan. 10.

Had the measure been implemented in the 2004-05 academic year, about 30 percent of football teams at the Division I level would have forfeited scholarships instantly, according to the Associated Press.

The Division I Committee on Academic Performance will issue warnings prior to the conclusion of the 2004-05 academic year to colleges that do not meet the Academic Progress Rate, which is approximately a 50-percent graduation rate over a five year period for student-athletes. The APR is calculated by the number of athletes who attain academic eligibility, satisfy the full-time student status and graduate.

All men's and women's sports will be affected by the APR standards, and by the start of the 2005-06 academic year, all teams must be in compliance. These rules will affect over 5,000 teams at 325 Division I schools.

The most affected athletic programs will be football, baseball and men's basketball, where incompletion rates range from 20 to 30 percent, according to NCAA data.

In an NCAA report, only three of the eight teams in the 2004 Bowl Championship Series would have met the recently passed academic standard: Michigan, Virginia Tech and University of Southern California.

"This action today is a critical step in our journey to establishing much stronger and significant academic standards for NCAA student athletes," stated Robert Hemenway, chair of the Board of Directors and Chancellor of the University of Kansas, in an NCAA press release. "The ultimate goal is for our student-athletes to stay on track academically and graduate."

Teams that fail to meet APR standards will be issued a one-year suspension on scholarship benefits. If a student-athlete on scholarship who is academically ineligible drops out of school, the scholarship may not be transferred to a new student-athlete for a full year.

In addition, there is a 10-percent cap on the number of scholarships a team loses when they fail to meet the APR.

The Board of Directors is currently deciding on "historical penalties," which are determined by APR scores and the Graduation Success Rate (the number of scholarship student-athletes who graduate each year).

After three consecutive years of falling below the NCAA academic standards, preseason and postseason competition will be rescinded. A fourth consecutive year of disobedience mandates Division I status revocation. Historical penalties will go into effect in 2006.

Because of its Division II standing, UCSD is not affected by this measure. Furthermore, UCSD is the only Division II institution that does not offer athletic scholarships, choosing to financially prioritize academics over athletics.