

**CANYONVIEW
COULDN'T
HAVE SEEN
THIS
COMING.
PAGE 12**

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE XXIV

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

WWW.UCSDBGUARDIAN.ORG

Council Debates Funding for UC-Free Branch

Financially independent subsection would allow A.S. Council to build off-campus housing.

By Angela Chen
NEWS EDITOR

Funding is unsure for A.S. President Utsav Gupta's week-old proposal to create an auxiliary section of the A.S. Council independent from the university.

If councilmembers approve the proposal, it will be placed on the Spring Quarter election ballot. Gupta aims to create a 501(c)(3) group — an independent, tax-exempt, autonomous orga-

nization. This subsection, called A.S. Auxiliary, would be affiliated with the university's A.S. Council and governed by a majority of the same members, but would not be subject to UCSD's departmental restrictions, such as the prohibition against building off-campus housing.

"Off-campus housing and building a Greek row are the key pillars of this plan," Gupta said. "Over a period of 50 years, we can buy La Jolla real estate and build student housing with rates we can control."

According to VP Finance Peter Benesch, the plan ensures that the council will retain its university funding and services. He also stressed that the A.S. operating budget could not fund Gupta's proposed subsection.

"We looked at the budget and decided we can't fund A.S. money into it," Benesch said. "It will be a separate entity both in that it won't affect council at all and that it will need to raise its own money."

OPINION

A 50-year attention span is too long for the council.

Page 4

CalPIRG, may be unfeasible.

"With these times and students strapped for cash and so many groups reaching for a cause, people will see this as just another hand extending out for



JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN

The A.S. Council will next discuss the 501(c)(3) proposal at their meeting in Week Four.

See **COUNCIL**, page 2

ZANZIBAR NONE



Zanzibar Cafe, UCSD's newest Price Center East eatery, held its grand opening from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Jan. 13. Having just opened inside campus art-and-music venue the Loft, the cafe will cater to students attending performances across the room. Zanzibar bills itself as a "gourmet market" and sells lunch Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as "bites and beverages" from 4 p.m. to midnight.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL CADDELL/GUARDIAN

HAITIAN CAPITAL HIT HARD BY QUAKE

By Kelsey Wong
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the capital of Port-au-Prince Tuesday afternoon, devastating the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

In a CNN article, Haitian President Rene Preval said that, less than 48 hours following the quake, the death rate has been estimated at anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000.

"You have to see it to believe it," Preval told CNN. "Lots of houses destroyed, hospitals, schools, personal homes - a lot of people in the street, dead."

Representatives from the UCSD Community Law Project and the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship told the A.S. Council at last night's meeting that they will spread awareness for the American Red Cross' relief effort by tabling on Library Walk on Jan. 14 and 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, A.S. Campuswide Senator Wafa Ben-Hassine drafted a proposal asking the council to allocate \$5,000 in funds to non-profit health organization Partner in Health.

The proposal was rejected after a check of the standing rules revealed that A.S. Council cannot use student fees and funding to donate to outside sources. The pro-

See **HAITI**, page 3

CA BUDGET CRISIS

UCOP: PRISON FUNDING SWAP NOT LIKELY

By Hayley Bisceglia-Martin
NEWS EDITOR

In the week following Gov. Schwarzenegger's Jan. 6 speech — which advocated a mandatory increase in funding for higher education — prison guards and legislators have been pointing out flaws in the governor's midnight proposal.

OPINION
Too little, too late.
Page 4

If passed, the amendment would begin slowly

See **AMENDMENT**, page 9

Federal Aid Application Simplified

By Victoria Bañuelos
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The U.S. Department of Education has revised and simplified the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application for the 2010-11 academic year, making it easier for students to apply for financial aid.

Among the changes to the newer FAFSA application is the implementation of "skip logic," a mechanism that recognizes which questions a particular student needs to answer, and eliminates all unnecessary questions.

In addition, low-income students will no longer be required to answer questions about assets,

since these questions do not affect their aid. Different sections of the application will also be separated by color, making it easier for users to navigate.

Over 34,000 students applied for federal financial aid using FAFSA in the 2008-2009 school year. According to Jake Stillwell, communications director for the United States Student Association, the new application should boost the number of students applying for federal aid.

"Studies have concluded that reducing the number of questions will encourage more students to apply, because the sheer number of questions have previously deterred students from

completing the form," Stillwell said.

The UCSD Financial Aid Office is also optimistic about the new application. According to associate director Vonda Garcia, the streamlined application process will encourage students to apply for grants and loans.

"I'm happy to see the 2010-11 FAFSA has been simplified from over 20 screens down to nine," Garcia said. "Students will find it easier to complete."

The deadline to fill out the FAFSA is March 2.

Readers can contact Victoria Bañuelos at vbanuelos@ucsd.edu

SPOKEN

“You found a sweater on the ocean floor/ They're gonna find it if you didn't close the door.”

VAMPIRE WEEKEND
"COUSINS"
PAGE 7

FORECAST

THURSDAY H 69 L 45	FRIDAY H 73 L 47
SATURDAY H 70 L 45	SUNDAY H 67 L 49

NIGHT WATCH

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY

SURF REPORT

THURSDAY Height: 10-13 ft. Wind: 5-9 mph Water Temp: 59 F	FRIDAY Height: 7-10 ft. Wind: 3-8 mph Water Temp: 59 F
SATURDAY Height: 6-8 ft. Wind: 2-5 mph Water Temp: 59 F	SUNDAY Height: 6 ft. Wind: 2-4 mph Water Temp: 59 F

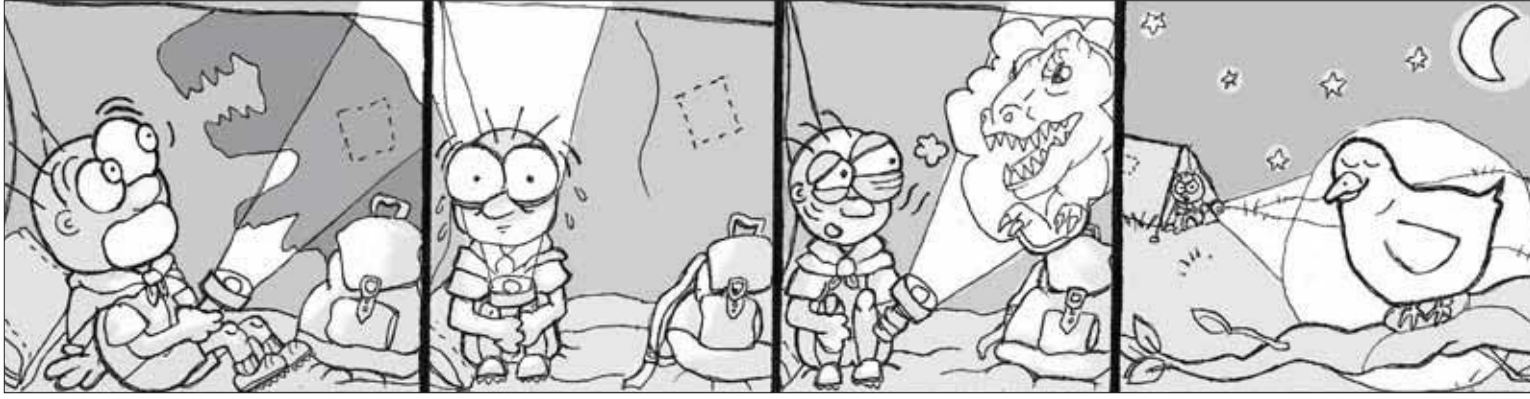
GAS PER GALLON

LOW \$2.85 Dion and Sons, Santee 11427 Woodside Ave
HIGH \$3.65 76, Point Loma 1704 Rosecrans St & Nimitz Blvd

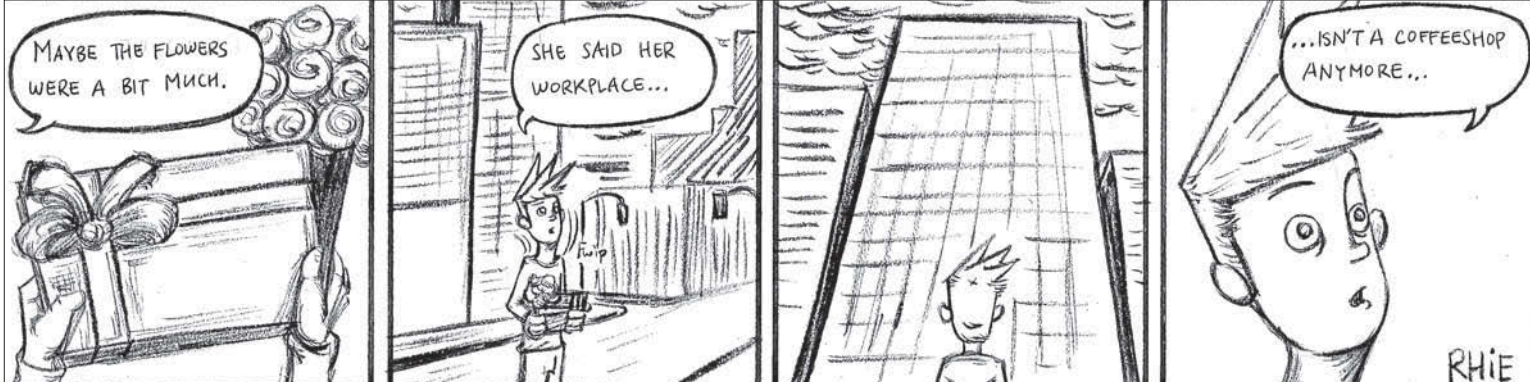
INSIDE

Comics	2
New Business.....	3
Head Meets Ground.....	4
Letter to the Editor	5
Concert Preview.....	6
Classifieds.....	10
Sudoku.....	10

BOY SCOUT BILLY By Kim Cyprian



SUNNY-SIDE UP By Philip Rhie



Other Possible Sources of Funding Include Private Donations, Alumni Outreach

► **COUNCIL**, from page 1 money," Benesch said. He said it would be difficult to receive enough donations to fund the organization.

"Some organizations, such as CalPIRG, have 10 percent of the student body donating, but it's not feasible for us to reach that 10-percent threshold," Benesch said.

One alternate method of funding the 501(c)(3) would be to ask for voluntary donations from outside sources.

"Interested people could donate to the campus," Benesch said. "For example, the local community could contribute to this organization, or Greek alumni could donate to the cause of building a Greek row."

This model of business has previously been implemented on campus. According to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Alumni Affairs Armin Afsahi, there is a university department of Alumni Affairs that has a separate 501(c)(3) organization called the Alumni Association, created in 1974.

"Alumni Affairs is a department

which is funded by the university," Afsahi said. "The Alumni Association is a membership-based organization that has the same goals but is essentially separate from Alumni Affairs."

Afsahi said that the two organizations work very closely together and are integrated in most of their actions. The association has a separate board of directors, although members from the department usually serve on this board; in fact, Afsahi himself is its executive director.

"The association is a member-based legal vehicle to facilitate tax-exempt donations from alumni," Afsahi said. "Our annual and life dues, if donated through the association, are tax-deductible."

In contrast to the fiscal separation of A.S. Council and the proposed A.S. Auxiliary, Afsahi said there is one comprehensive Alumni Affairs revenue to which the Alumni Association contributes.

Director of Associated Students Lauren Weiner said the proposal is in the preliminary stages — a formalized draft has not been presented to the council.

Before a proposal is presented to the A.S. Council, various requirements need to be cleared. Director of Policy Initiatives Mac Zilber requested an advisory opinion from the Internal Revenue Services to decide whether the council's lobbying efforts will prevent it from creating this auxiliary. One stipulation of the creation of a 501(c)(3) is that the organization must be free from direct political lobbying.

According to Zilber, the A.S. Council participates in two activities that could be labeled as lobbying.

The council currently pays \$2.24 per quarter per student to the University of California Student Association, which Zilber calls the "lobbying arm for all of A.S." In addition, the council has previously arranged external events, such as Fall Quarter's bus trip to UCLA during the UC Regents meeting on Nov. 19, which could be considered lobbying because of the implied request for students to influence the Regents' decision.

AVP External Affairs Gracelynn West said she doubts these activities

will affect the likelihood of the A.S. Council being able to create a 501(c)(3) organization.

"Our campaigns are not necessarily about telling the students how to vote," West said. "They're about issue awareness, not lobbying."

If this proposal is placed on the Spring Quarter election ballot and passed by student vote, the implementation of the organization and elections for the board of directors would begin in the 2010-11 academic year.

According to Gupta, the board of directors would be fiscally accountable for the actions of A.S. Auxiliary and would review the auxiliary's fund usage. Appointed members of A.S. Council may be guaranteed a position on the board, although another proposal is to open positions for local community members.

A special committee to discuss the logistics and feasibility of the proposal has been created, and will meet for the first time this weekend.

Readers can contact Angela Chen at shchen@ucsd.edu.



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Council Looks Overseas to Haiti, Intl. Studies Curriculum

In light of the massive 7.0-magnitude earthquake that wreaked destruction on Haiti on Tuesday, the second A.S. Council meeting of the quarter revolved heavily around possible funding and relief efforts to support and aid Haiti in finding survivors and rebuilding their country.

Kenny Pettersen, a student who feels passionately about Haiti and has traveled there seven times, addressed the council in hopes they would allocate \$5,000 to nonprofit organization Partners in Health to help fund relief efforts.

After nearly an hour of debate, the council decided the standing rules would not allow them to allocate \$5,000 to an outside organization.

President **Utsav Gupta** reminded councilmembers to spread the word about the A.S. Council survey, in the hopes that it would help make the UCSD football team more than a far-fetched dream.

Parminder Sandhu introduced himself as the new A.S. Advocate General, and addressed the growing issue of councilmember absences.

"I'm working on impeachment," Sandhu said, though his facetious tone belied any real threat.

Social Sciences Senator **Irfan Ahmed** briefed the council on a plan to reduce the international-studies major tracks. Ahmed said the plan would solidify major and minor requirements, but marginalize much-needed diversity within the major. A career-services fair for social-science majors is also in the works.

A confrontation at last Friday's New Booz concert — in which a friend of an A.S. councilmember who was promised entrance was denied when the concert reached capac-

ity — proved to be a source of stress for AVP Concerts and Events **Alex Bramwell**.

"Some were guaranteed by A.S. councilmembers that they would get into the [sold-out] event, but this reflects badly on council and makes my job miserable for the night," Bramwell said.

VP Student Life **Riscie Hernandez** updated councilmembers on the services offered by the Office of Student Wellness.

She announced that the previously vacant space between Price Center Theater and Jamba Juice finally has a new occupant: the new student wellness center.

It will be used as a small space for meetings, programming, yoga and meditation, set to open Spring Quarter 2010, she said.

Muir senators **Ryan O'Rear** and **Lynne Swerhone** talked about their first Muirworld radio show on KSDT last Tuesday. A total of nine people tuned in — a number that elicited cheers from councilmembers. They discussed adding a "Konstituent Korner" segment for next week's show, during which students can call in and ask questions about Muir College or A.S. Council. The senators thought the 'K's gave the idea an extra edge.

As the meeting drew to a close, Campuswide Senator **Bryant Pena** voiced his frustrations with both the standing rules and councilmembers' reluctance to act outside them.

"We tend to shut off ideas that have great potential...it is our A.S. and our university," Pena said. "We represent the students. If we need to amend the rules to do whatever it is, then let's make it happen."

New Business

KELSEY WONG
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Scientists Find Ratio of Female Beauty

By Xue Mao
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

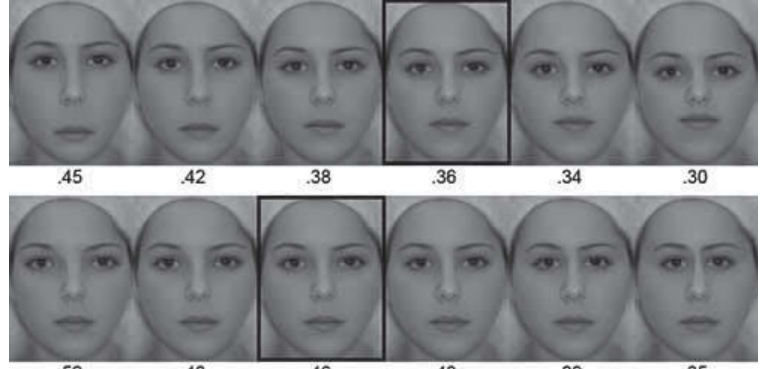
Researchers from UCSD and the University of Toronto have found the exact formula for facial beauty — down to the millimeter.

UCSD psychology professors Pamela Pallett and Stephen Link, along with University of Toronto professor Kang Lee, surveyed hundreds of students to discover a ratio of the most attractive female face. They recently published their findings in Vision Research magazine.

Previous research found that the most appealing face could be determined by digitally and mathematically averaging the facial features of any given group of people. To test this hypothesis, Link, Pallett and Lee gathered groups of roughly 20 to 40 UCSD students to conduct a new experiment.

The subjects were shown pictures of the same white female, with altered facial ratios — different proportions between features — and asked to choose the most appealing face.

"In Experiment One, for example, there were 10 alterations to an original face, resulting in 11 faces," Link said. "These were each paired against each other, and subjects were asked to judge which face appeared more attractive."



COURTESY OF STEPHEN LINK

The researchers established that the most attractive face was formed when the vertical distance between the eyes and the mouth is approximately 36 percent of its length, and the horizontal distance between the eyes is approximately 46 percent of the face's width. About 63,000 images were used to determine the two measurements — one for eye width and one for the distance between eye and mouth — with extreme accuracy.

Link said the findings showed that most people have an intuitive idea of facial beauty.

"People have an ideal for beauty in their own mind," Link said. "You can ask them about it, and even if they think they don't know what their ideal

is, from comparative judgments, we can discover what their ideal is."

According to Link, the purpose of the project was not simply to find an equation for beauty, but to gain an understanding of how people decide what is attractive and what is not.

While Pallett and Link only analyzed the facial features of white females, they said they plan to diversify their studies.

"We have done a lot of research with Chinese subjects," Link said. "I absolutely expect the results to be different. Beauty is a cultural and genetic sort of thing."

Readers can contact Xue Mao at xymao@ucsd.edu.

Council 'Stands in Solidarity' With Earthquake Victims

► HAITI, from page 1

posals was instead amended to read, "ASUCSD stands in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake and will support the student-led initiatives to benefit Haiti." The resolution was approved by councilmembers.

The council then moved to allo-

cate \$370 — or the remainder of InterVarsity's \$400 annual student-organization operating fund — to support tabling efforts and provide funding for glowsticks at a Thursday night vigil outside Geisel.

Donations for the American Red Cross and the Wyclef Jean Organization are currently being

accepted via text message. Those interested can text "HAITI" to 90999 — which will donate \$10 to the Red Cross — or "YELE" to 501501, which will donate \$5 for the Wyclef Jean Organization.

Readers can contact Kelsey Wong at klw009@ucsd.edu.

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MUIR: MOM
MARSHALL: Student Affairs Office
WARREN: Student Affairs Office, Res Life & the Student Activities Center
ROOSEVELT: Student Affairs Office & Res Life Office
SIXTH: Pepper Canyon Hall 2nd Floor Front Desk

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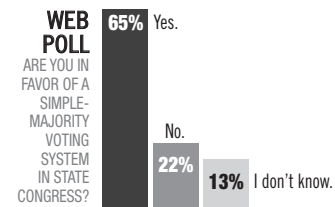
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OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR: opinion@ucsdguardian.org



Props to Mukul Asaduzzaman, a New York City taxi driver who drove 50 miles out of his way to return a purse containing \$21,000 in cash to an Italian tourist who had left it in his car.

Flops to former Federal Emergency Management Agency employee Lashonda Booker for committing mail fraud and stealing more than \$721,000 in Hurricane Katrina relief money.



EDITORIALS

It's a Nice Gesture, But Won't Rewind the Past

Looks like those picket signs didn't go unnoticed in Sacramento after all.

In his final State of the State address on Jan. 6, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) made a monumental announcement: Not only does he want to restore \$305 million in lost UC funding for the 2010-11 academic year, he also wants to make sure state-prison funding never exceeds that of higher education.

It's refreshing to know that all students' efforts to protest fee increases and budget cuts weren't for naught. The governor's aids even said the tipping point for Schwarzenegger was all the angry mobs across UC campuses this year.

But let's not break out the celebratory bottles of Andre just yet.

First, we can't forget these promises are coming from a leader who has enacted persistent slashes to higher-education funding every year in office (save 2006 — his re-election year).

Naturally, Schwarzenegger doesn't want to go down in history as the man who ruined the best public university in the world. But pressing the "rewind" button on six years' worth of compromises to education will be no easy task — especially not for a lame duck.

And in reality, the governor's promise is light-years from becoming realized. Democrats in the state congress oppose his proposed cuts to welfare programs, and his fellow GOP members aren't too fond of increasing university funding.

And although Schwarzenegger insists that this \$20 billion-lighter budget won't involve raising taxes, he's also counting on a \$6.9 billion increase in federal funding to balance it all out, which — with the national economy barely treading the first steps of its rebound — is anything but a safe bet.

In the speech, he expressed con-



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEFANY CHEN/GUARDIAN

tempt at the fact that, in the last 30 years, funding for higher education shrank from 10 percent of the state general fund to 7.5 percent, and prison funding has swelled from 3 percent to nearly 11 — an imbalance of priorities if we ever saw one.

Yet he predictably failed to recognize how much of that happened on his watch. Since Schwarzenegger's term began six years ago, university funding has dropped 9 percent, while prison spending is up 32 percent.

Now, to reverse the damage that's been done, the governor has also called to privatize a portion of our prisons — freeing up money in the budget for higher education.

While passing part of the prison system off to corporations might seem a good way to lighten the state's load, it's not nearly so simple. Private prisons contract corporations to watch over inmates. Like any other business, they're in it for the money; the more beds filled, the more money

in their pockets. What's more, studies from other states that have tried privatization have shown that they don't always save the state money. In fact, in Tennessee, the state legislature estimated in 1998 that operating a private facility was as pricey as running two public prisons.

The real reason our prisons have become such an expensive burden is that they're so overcrowded. If Schwarzenegger wants to make our prisons cheaper for the state, he should start by reconsidering the three-strikes and drug laws that have bloated prisons past maximum capacity.

As much as we'd like to top off our plastic champagne flutes and toast to our new friend in high places, this board also recognizes the governor's promises are riding on a long shot. We appreciate Schwarzenegger's effort to reprioritize UC funding, but his plan to privatize prisons is hardly a sure-fire path to savings.

So until we see a proposal that both drums up legislative support and responsibly addresses the prison-system issue, we'll remain grateful — and skeptically optimistic.

THE GUARDIAN

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A Stranded New Colony's Not Worth the Burden

A.S. president Utsav Gupta's dream to create a UCSD football team may be untimely and superfluous, but at least a motley blue-and-gold fleet is something that students can wrap their heads around.

The latest brainchild of our over-ambitious leader, on the other hand, is a mystery and a mouthful. Gupta wants to set up a 501(3)(c) organization — a financially independent branch of student government called A.S. Auxiliary — run by a yet-to-be-appointed board of students and community members.

Sound boring? It is. And while we endlessly admire UCSD's mast-head poli-nerd for his enthused devotion to taming budgets and committees and evil administrators (and for answering our phone calls at 2 a.m.), it's dangerous to open up more fee pools and accountable seats — especially when all those expected to pay and govern aren't particularly interested.

Especially dangerous considering Gupta only has two quarters — and shrinking — to make a sovereign A.S. subsector something his successors care about, let alone understand.

It does sound pretty sweet to bust from university ties like a pack of tax-exempt renegades. Under the auxiliary branch, A.S. Council would be able to provide services the university currently prohibits it to offer, like off-campus housing.

Thing is, land purchase in La Jolla is the only example Gupta and Co. can seem to muster. Particularly,



upon which to raise a frat row. (Come on — if we wanted to be San Diego State, we would have just elected Adam Teitelbaum last spring.)

Not that affordable student housing isn't practical. And it's nice to see Gupta making good on another of his campaign promises, which hasn't exactly been a trend in council history.

But funded solely by a voluntary \$5 quarterly fee Gupta is proposing, he says this auxiliary branch wouldn't be able to purchase the land until maybe 50 years from now. Yet that's only if a full 10 percent of the student body — clueless to its proposed purpose — agrees to pay. And

who's to say appointees in 25 years won't decide there's something more pressing on hand — say, a giant meteor hurtling toward Earth — and apply student fees toward that?

This would be one of those fees that hoards of students end up paying while very few reap the benefits, and very far in the future. A.S. Vice President of Finances Peter Benesch agrees it will be almost impossible to raise the amount of money needed to accomplish much anytime soon, and thinks it more feasible to hit up fraternity and sorority alumni to help us realize any dreams of Greek housing.

A 501(3)(c) organization is not inherently a bad idea; it would avoid

taxes on whichever fees or donations did end up there, and could serve as a nifty middle finger to counter the administrative iron fist. But even if Gupta can convince the student body to vote it into existence on the A.S. ballot next quarter, the auxiliary branch will ultimately open up one more avenue for A.S. negligence.

There are already mountains of perfectly good abandoned committees and fish-netted proposals waiting in the wings of Price Center East for someone to take responsibility. Creating a brand-new mini A.S. council — even a lean, mean budgetary bad boy like this one — may be less important than maximizing the capabilities of the old.

Plug Your Nose: Trash Don't Stink in 3-D

Rotting mounds of garbage don't typically capture my attention for too long. They tend to smell bad, they attract shifty-looking sanitation workers and I happen to be terrified of raccoons. It's not that I don't appreciate the large-scale impact of garbage or the importance of how it affects our planet's ecosystem — I just don't think it's anything particularly remarkable to look at.

Head Meets Ground

REZA FARAZMAND
rfarazma@ucsd.edu



"Avatar" was the exception. Billed as the next generation of filmmaking, "Avatar" was in fact one of the most monumental heaps of garbage ever to appear in theaters. It was shallow. It was repetitive. It had a storyline that blended the worst elements of "Pocahontas" with the best elements of "Captain Planet".

But god damn if it wasn't the prettiest piece of garbage I've ever seen. I was captivated. I'll even go so far as to say that I liked it. And that scares me.

While I'm not usually one to play up the cultural significance of over-hyped, big-name blockbusters, it's impossible to ignore the impact that "Avatar" is likely to have on the film industry, and on the development of our Internet-fed collective consciousness. "Avatar" is much more than just a bad movie with good special effects; as the second highest-grossing film in history, it's a sign of the times — a poorly scripted testament to the rapidly evolving nature of what intrigues us. And, by the looks of it, what intrigues us is a whole lot of crap. Glossy, digitally enhanced, multimillion-dollar crap.

To be fair, that's pretty much always been the case. Never before, however, has so mindless a film gained so much critical acclaim. Scene for scene, the plot of "Avatar" is roughly on par with that of a lesser-known Disney movie. But we all liked it. A lot. Mainly because it was the coolest-looking thing any of us has ever seen. It was a rollercoaster, a spaceship, a dramatic warping of our immediate surroundings. The theater ceased to exist. We were in another world.

Unfortunately, that world was plagued by idiotic dialogue, shamelessly employed stereotypes and heroes we secretly hoped would die. And that's why "Avatar" — with its exceedingly superficial plot line, its stunning lack of character development and its near-unparalleled box-office success — is a perfect example of how our young, Web-minded generation — perpetually grafted to smart phones and jacked into social-media networks — likes to get its kicks.

It's becoming more and more evident that what we want is instant gratification, pretty pictures and non-stop visual stimulation. We don't want to think. We don't want to read. We don't want to be challenged, nor made to question what's before us. Instead of lengthy newspaper articles, we want quick one-line summaries. Instead of complex back-stories, subtle character traits and thought-

ANIMAL INSTINCTS By Kim Cyprian



'Avatar' Heralds the Official Age of Digital Idiocy

► **GROUND**, from page 4
 provoking narratives, we crave a relentless barrage of 3-D bullshit. We want the immediacy of Twitter, the pornographic thrill of YouTube. We want color. We want action. We want it now. And it's making us stupid. There's not much we can do about it, though. At this point, our unyielding drive toward complete digital idiocy has gained far too much momentum for any sort of effective reversal. We're bound to grow ever more infatuated with technology, ever more impressed by mind-numbing feats of artificial visualization, ever more dependent on our computer-generated intellectual crutches. Hearing my peers — the

majority of whom I had assumed to be at least partially capable of intelligent thought — praise the film for its brilliance is heartbreaking. The worst part is that I pretty much agree with them. But why? Why have I fallen prey to this epic piece of crap? Must I now commit hara-kiri, the ancient Japanese suicide ritual? Will the act of slashing open my abdomen and repeatedly stabbing myself in the throat be enough to cleanse my tarnished soul of this "Avatar"-induced stupidity? And how long will it take my roommate to get the blood stains out of the carpet? These aren't the sorts of questions I like to ponder following a

Monday-afternoon matinee, but ultimately, that's what we're all faced with. "Avatar" has forced us to come to terms with the extent of our social decay. We don't need it to make sense, we don't need it to make us think — it just needs to look good. Maybe the DVD release will help break our trance. Without its kick-ass visual facade, after all, "Avatar" is going to look a lot like a bottom-rung Pixar flick. It'll be like seeing an average-looking girl without makeup for the first time, or like walking onto the set of "Sesame Street" and realizing that Elmo is just a sweaty nerd with his hand up a puppet's ass. For now, though, we're stuck — hopelessly fixated, relentlessly entertained.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community-College Aid Key to State Recovery

Dear Editor,
 Last week, in his annual State of State address, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stated: "Because our future economic well-being is so dependent on education ... we can no longer afford to cut higher education." Overall, in the context of deep and painful cuts to so many valuable programs, the governor's budget proposal was a win for higher education.

In the current economic climate, it would be comforting to still have affordable, high-quality education, but unfortunately, our competitive advantage is vanishing. Think tanks estimate that California needs about 55 to 60 percent of our population to be college-educated to compete economies with other states and nations in 2025. We expect that about 45 percent of California's population will complete a higher education — millions of degrees less than we need to even meet our own requirements for skilled workers.

Graduates from our 110 community colleges could be a big part of the solution, using their skills and knowledge to repower our economy. However, only 24 percent of community-college students who intend to earn an associate's degree or transfer to a four-year school are successful in doing so within six years. This is very troubling; we simply can't afford for so many community-college students to fall through the cracks.

It's well-known that community-college fees are low — but less well-known is the fact that fees comprise only about 5 percent of the total attendance cost. So to make ends meet, most community-college students work. A recent CalPIRG survey

found that students worked an average of 23 hours per week, leaving themselves too little time to focus on academics. This is no small problem when three out of five community college students are underprepared for college and need remediation. They have to focus on academics if they are to succeed.

To buy back some of those work hours for study, community-college students need more financial aid. Part of the solution is to make sure that all students understand the basics of financial aid and have the help they need to navigate the process.

In this respect, Schwarzenegger's budget, which suspends all new competitive Cal Grants, was troubling. These grants are already limited in number: Last year, 245,400 qualified applicants competed for 22,500 grants.

Of course, community-college students face many challenges in getting to graduation, but working so hard that they can't make the grade academically should not be one of them. We need to make sure that students know how to apply for the aid that is available and continue to fund the programs that enable low-income students to earn degrees. Why set students up for failure when so much is riding on their success?

— **Saffron Zomer**
 Campus Program Director, CalPIRG

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Are you looking for a challenging and exciting leadership opportunity?

Each of the six colleges are seeking applicants for **Resident/House Advisor** and **Orientation Leader** positions. Gain valuable leadership and work experience while making new friends and having fun. See the information below for specific deadlines and locations for both Resident/House Advisor and Orientation Leader applications.



Revelle

Resident Advisor: Available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apps due on January 18.
Orientation Leader: Available at tinyurl.com/revellcolapp. Apps due on January 29.



Muir

Resident Advisor: Available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apps due on January 18.
Freshman Orientation Leader: Available at Port Triton on January 8. Apps due on January 29.
Transfer Orientation Leader: Available at Port Triton on February 1. Apps due on February 20.



Marshall

Resident Advisor: Available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apps due on January 18.
Orientation Leader: Apps due on February 5 by 4:30pm to TMC Dean's Office



Warren

Resident Advisor: Available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apps due on January 18.
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Orientation Leader: Available on February 1. Apps due on February 12.



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Orientation Leader: Apps due on January 27 to ERC Provost's Office, 3rd floor.



Sixth

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The Village
 at Torrey Pines

Resident Advisor: Available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apps due on January 18.

TONIGHT

Craving some alternative head-bobbing with folksy flare? Come see State Radio at House of Blues on Saturday at 7 p.m. Never heard of 'em? Check out "Indian Moon" on YouTube to change your life. \$20

HIATUS

CONTACT THE EDITOR: hiatus@ucsdguardian.org

boss ditties
THE BEST SONGS
IN HIATUS THIS WEEK

Vampire Weekend "Cousins"

Vampire Weekend "Run"

OK Go "White Knuckles"

Asobi Seksu "Familiar Light"

Asobi Seksu "Walk on the Moon"

CONCERTPREVIEW

Tearing Down The Wall

When Asobi Seksu strip years of dreamy shoegaze for their acoustic set, the word of the lady takes centerstage.

BY ANGELA CHEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Arural voyeurs of the world, rejoice: Wall-of-sound aficionados Asobi Seksu are stripping down in every sense of the word. After six years performing in a trippy haze of heavy distortion, thick reverb and guitar layered upon guitar layered upon guitar, Asobi released an acoustic album this December, reinterpreting the sonic collages that gave them their fame. And come Friday, they'll bare it all for the Loft.

This is perhaps appropriate for a band whose name translates to "playful sex," and whose lead singer coos such suggestive oddities as "put your tongue to my battery" (that is, when she's not cooing her unimaginables in Japanese). Asobi has pared themselves down from four members to two: The only survivors

are pixie-like lead singer Yuki Chikudate — whose otherworldly siren's pipes make it hard to believe she hails from SoCal — and instrumentalist James Hanna.

The removal of excess baggage is starkly apparent on new studio album *Hush* — released last February — and *Rewolf*, December's full-length of acoustic self-covers. The title of the former seems a direct order for those who pigeonholed Asobi as shoegaze band the second their 2007 breakout *Citrus* blew up. And indeed, the stereotype was on point: *Citrus* oozes in charged wall-of-sound sweetness, more than just a little My Bloody Valentine running through its veins.

But now we have *Hush*, on

See **ASOBI**, page 8



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHILIP RHIE

East or West, or Whatever Your Fetish

It's not too far-fetched to say I'm maniacal about comics. I grew up with them, and at the moment I pretty much live and die by them.

So when I explain my passion to curious onlookers, I'm always a little surprised when they tell me they've never read a comic book before. The reasons are always diverse: For some, it's that comics are daunting — the moment they read a page, they're overwhelmed by visuals and don't know where to begin. Others find the content immature, or the emotional conflict within superheroes silly and unrelatable.

Whatever the reason, I feel it's a big misunderstanding. Since I am of the

Critical Hit!

PHILIP RHIE
prhie@ucsd.edu



opinion that comics can be just as fulfilling as any other storytelling medium, I want to use this opportunity to discuss the fulfilling ways one can approach and interact with comics.

Assuming you're reading from a physical *Guardian* instead of the online version, I encourage you to walk to the nearest bookstore (UCSD's included) and cozy up to the comics/graphic-novels section. If this is your first time 'round these parts, there's a good chance your eye will immediately fall on the shelves of Marvel and DC compilations — or a large body of books with numbers on their spines.

Say 'Hello' to the two biggest entities in comics: Western superheroes and Japanese manga. Take a moment to get acquainted. Now, grab a comic that catches your eye and continue reading this column before glancing back at said comic. Are you ready?

At first impression, the comic page is indeed daunting. There are lots of images and words, both large and small — trust me when I say I understand your pain. But if you're still with me, I'm here to help. First thing to note is that a comic page is a lot like a poster, only a fourth or eighth of the size. Accordingly, you should read the page as you would read a poster: from top to bottom.

Now, depending on if you picked up a Western or Japanese comic, you're either going to be reading from top left to bottom right, or top right to bottom left, respectively. But it's OK — the method of reading rarely changes.

The way you interpret a comic, however, depends entirely on the way it's presented. Comics, like every other medium, come in a variety of genres. For example, Dave Gibbon and Alan Moore's groundbreaking *Watchmen* mostly used a 9x9-panel page layout — reflective of the familiar yet objective tone of the comic. It's not hyper-stylized nor glamorized; the grotesque nature of the comic is presented in the most informational manner as possible.

In a popular Japanese manga like *Naruto* — which, unlike *Watchmen*, is highly fantastical — the comic is presented playfully, as is typical of other, similarly lighthearted mangas. There are even comics like *Scott Pilgrim*, which contain young-adult subjects like work and dating, yet are presented in fantastic styles so as to make the reading accessible and fun.

There are, of course, more left-field comics like *Prison Pit* — wherein the content and presentation both reflect the chaotic, psychotic and disturbed nature of the comic. If you've picked up some-

See **HIT**, page 7

FILMREVIEW

PREACHY WILD WESTERN SHOOTS BLANKS

The Book of Eli

STARRING DENZEL WASHINGTON, GARY OLDMAN & MILA KUNIS
DIRECTED BY ALBERT & ALLEN HUGHES
RATED R
01:58 ★



By Jenna Brogan
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

After a nine-year hibernation, twin directors Albert and Allen Hughes ("From Hell") are back to make their mark on Hollywood.

Too bad that mark is an unpleasant stain. Known for films laced with social critique, the brothers make no exception with this year's postapocalyptic western: a righteous slap on the wrist for 21st-century consumers.

To start, we meet Eli (Denzel

Washington), a man who — much like Cillian Murphy in "28 Days Later" and Will Smith in "I Am Legend" — appears to be the only person left on the planet.

Rather than making his way through the unscathed streets of London or Manhattan, however, Eli is trekking across what's left of middle America, reduced to rubble by a war of human self-destruction and the subsequent obliteration of the ozone layer.

But Eli is not nearly as helpless as you would think. Upon his first

encounter with pillagers — yes, there are in fact many other people surviving in this dust bowl — we discover that not only does he possess superhuman senses, but he can wield a chainsaw-resistant samurai sword like nobody's business.

With untouchable ninja skills that would make Neo bow down, Eli creams any and all vigilantes who stand in the way of him reaching the West.

While anyone from California knows that the West Coast is where it's at, you may be wondering why

this particular iPod-toting anti-hero has his heart set on the Pacific Ocean. Drumroll please: In Eli's possession is a sacred book that holds the secrets to mankind's salvation.

Which book, you ask? I'd tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

The only other person on the ravaged frontier who recognizes the power Eli carries — and is determined to obtain it by any means — goes by the name Carnegie (Gary

See **ELI**, page 8

ALBUMREVIEW

Vampire Weekend

Contra
XL RECORDINGS

Sonic Anthropologists Pen Upper-Crust Thesis

The last thing Vampire Weekend's sophomore album *Contra* could be criticized for is a lack of ambition. The Ivy League foursome busted out its encyclopedia of instruments and genres and created 10 crossbred, expertly culled songs.

These twacked-out hybrids range from dancehall to "fourth-wave" ska, African tribal drumming to Auto-Tune, indie-pop to deep-house synth. With so much overlap, the whirlwind of jumbled tastes could prove catastrophic — yet somehow the boys of VW manage to create a completely peerless, rhythmic masterpiece.

After their preppy, bright-eyed debut, which included predictable college cuts like "Campus" and "Oxford Comma," one wouldn't expect the new album to reference right-wing Nicaraguan rebels, '80s Nintendo games, a frothy Mexican rice drink or the text font Futura. But oh, it does.

Whether sampling M.I.A.'s "Hussel" on "Diplomat's Son" or taking tips from T-Pain on "California English," these unabashed dorks don't conform to iron-starched polos and cardigans no more — instead, they get cultured. "Run" is a flavorful, fast-paced dance number that explodes in African bass drumming, Miami Sound Machine trumpeting and moments of electronic New Wave, even reaching Disney "Circle of Life" sonics at one point.

"Cousins" begins with classic '50s guitars, continues with a thrashy punk baseline and — somewhere in the middle — includes a snippet of "Wipeout" surf rock.

VW's instrumental spectrum may range from marimbas to thumb pianos, harpsichords to synthesizers and Mariachi trumpets to jittery guitars — but the heartbeat of *Contra* is its percussion. Every track has an essence of rapid-fire snare, a deep thudding bass, tribal claps, congas and shakers or a dancehall dub — keeping this LP faster and fancier.

Rostam Batmanglij's production skills are leagues ahead of the first release, with riffs that jump and bump where "Oxford Comma" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" sailed by unadorned. And the electronic tinge on every cut lends a sense of new weirdness

that the boys must have always been working towards. It portends a rich career ahead with overt pretension, a scholar's eye inspiring the work and genuinely peculiar results. One imagines singer Ezra Koenig donning a monocle in his study as he pores over academic papers in one hand, underground mixtapes in the other. It's a haughty and privileged image, but intelligence and chops go a long way.

Uncovering meaning from the dense, obscure lyrics after one listen is challenging, if not impossible. Even after Googling the correct words (and searching "balaclava" on Wikipedia), grasping what the hell VW are getting at is no easy task. But *Contra* is worth the time and patience — in a generation of one-click-away information, everyone can access a page of answers. So what happens when



8
10

four Columbia grads get greedy and want to do it all? Gorgeous sophomore sprawl.

— Amanda Martinek & Chris Kokiouis
SENIOR STAFF WRITERS



RONNIE STEINITZ/GUARDIAN

Step One: Right to Left, You Racist Fool

► **HIT**, from page 6
thing this wacky, then — for the purposes of this walk-through — I encourage you to put it back on the shelf and pick up something a little easier to follow.

Once you're finished, sit back and take a moment to reflect. Whether or not you realize it, you've actually gone through a bit of work. See, in a comic, you invest a certain portion of your own imagination — as opposed to, say, a film, where you simply receive and interpret what's being handed to you. A comic is interactive and subtly different for everyone, despite the fact that we see the same images and read the same texts. This is because images, by their nature, are emotional stimuli. They evoke visceral responses. And words, by nature, are logical stimuli, interacting with your sense of reason. The combination creates both harmony and conflict, because emotion and reason — though intrinsically linked — rarely go hand in hand.

Let's say that, in one panel, a woman is slowly brushing her hair, and immediately in the next panel exists a single bubble that says, "Hi..." Given these two panels, we could say that the woman is seducing someone with the brush of her hair and the trail of her word.

Or, we could say that she's just woken up and is brushing away her ruffled hair to say hello sleepily to a friend. Or, maybe these panels mean absolutely nothing, and are provided merely to place context of a given situation. Point being: Image of the woman provides context by invoking a particular emotional reaction, and the text will provide a translation for said reaction. Because everyone's experiences differ, the reaction to the comic will be different for each reader. Assuming you've read the comic properly and its actually somewhat decent, you should be feeling *something*.

Now that you're familiar with the comic, notice that comics, like every other medium, come a variety of genres. Everything from noir to indie, to musical to social and political — it's all there. You can find a comic on anything, so long as you look properly. Some are easier to read, some more difficult. It really depends on the artist. But in general, a worthwhile comic book should feel natural. It should be grand or intimate, or even both. A good comic book should leave you feeling fulfilled. If you haven't experienced any of this, you're reading a crappy comic. Pick another. Enjoy.

druthers

HIATUS PICKS THE WEEK'S BEST BETS

"WILLIAM KUNSTLER: DISTURBING THE UNIVERSE"

KEN CINEMA / JAN. 15. / \$10

When the "Chicago 8" Vietnam War activists, the inmates that took over Attica prison and the American-Indian movement needed representation during the '60s and '70s, they looked to William Kunstler for help. One of the most controversial lawyers of the 20th century, he represented some of the most reviled members of society — from rapists to assassins to terrorists. Today, his filmmaker daughters Emily and Sarah Kunstler bring his story to the silver screen with a biopic about a man — however unpopular — who believed in justice for all. (JB)

exit strategy

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

"THE GAMER"

PRICE CENTER THEATER
JAN. 14 & 16, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.
\$3

DJ SUNPIN

ROUND TABLE PIZZA
JAN. 15, 1 P.M.
FREE

DEAD PANIC

CHE CAFE
JAN. 15, 7:30 P.M.
\$6

CASTANETS

CHE CAFE
JAN. 16, TBA
TBA

MOUNT RIGHTEOUS

CHE CAFE
JAN. 17, 8 P.M.
TBA

"INVENTION OF LYING"

PRICE CENTER THEATER
JAN. 19, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.
\$3

HABANOT NECHAMA

CHE CAFE
JAN. 20, 9 P.M.
\$10

AUTOMATIC CITIES

MCASD LA JOLLA
THROUGH JAN. 31
FREE

FILMREVIEW

Lesson Learned: Don't Trust Creepy Men in Corn Fields

By Amanda Martinek
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

He's scarier than the love child of Freddy Krueger and Hannibal Lector; he's the most unassuming villain in existence; he's your next-door neighbor. The normal guy that prunes his roses in the front yard and lives alone — a million times more threatening than any of Rob Zombie's twisted nightmares, simply because he's a real-life testament to what happens when a creepy old man catches the scent of a young blossoming girl, and can't control his perverted desires.

Based on the novel by Alice Sebold, "The

Lovely Bones" is the haunting tale of one such creeper and the 14-year-old after whom he pines. Susie Salmon (Saoirse Roman) is young, happy and healthy. She spends her days joking with her best buds, snapping photos of her fam and daydreaming about the class hottie.

But that happy bubble is burst when Susie herself informs the audience via voiceover that she will soon be murdered. Immediately after her admission, the film takes a dark turn — and every scene that follows will cause an anxious nausea to creep further up your throat.

Child molester and murderer Mr. Harvey

See **BONES**, page 8

The Lovely Bones

STARRING MARK WAHLBERG, SAOIRSE ROMAN, RACHEL WEISZ & SUSAN SARANDON
DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON

RATED PG-13
02:15



MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Starting the week of Friday, January 15th

The Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus [PG-13, 122min]
Fri 15, Tue 19 – Thu 21: (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, 9:45
Sat 16 – Mon 18: (10:45), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

The Young Victoria [PG, 104min]
Fri 15, Tue 19 – Thu 21: (1:40), (4:25), 7:10, 9:55
Sat 16 – Mon 18: (10:55), 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

A Single Man [PG-13, 99min]
Fri 15, Tue 19 – Thu 21: (1:50), 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
Sat 16 – Mon 18: (11:05), 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05

Broken Embraces [R, 128min]
Fri 15, Tue 19 – Thu 21: (2:10), 5:05, 8:00
Sat 16 – Mon 18: (11:15), 2:10, 5:05, 8:00

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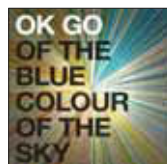
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ALBUMREVIEW

OK Go
Of the Blue Colour of the Sky
CAPITOL



5
10

Druggo YouTube Phenoms Snag the Emmy

With a five-year gap between 2005's *Oh No* and *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky*, Chicago natives OK Go — famous for that YouTube-hyped treadmill dance routine — left fans eagerly awaiting their latest release.

And they disappoint.

Paisley-clad lead singer Damian Kulash is the too-sweet anomaly child of the Shins and the Strokes, if Uncle Garfunkel used to read him disturbing fairy tales by candlelight. Needless to say, the band isn't afraid to get weird — but weird doesn't always mean awesome.

First single "WTF??" sees Kulash break through the track as if he's wandered into the studio after a day of communing with hippies and snapping his fingers in a coffee shop — surprised by the fancy equipment but deciding just to go with it. His satisfyingly smooth lyrics are layered over a mixture of electro-beats and guitar, chanting, "Are you some kind of dark sorcerer/ Am I under some kind of spell?"

The opening cut, however, is not a harbinger of things to come. Blowing sexy oddities to the wind, the band veers into over-sentimental territory, stating the obvious — "You don't get much dumber than/ Trying to forget a girl when you love her" — and comparing the fall of the sky to the end of a relationship. Gush. Barf.

It's a mediocre ride all the way through — and even though gems like "White Knuckles" lend some funky drums and hand-claps, *Of the Blue* differs leaves behind the catchy tenacity of fame-makers like "Here It Goes Again" and finds itself in a Michael Bolton disco-holiday phase.

Change is inevitable, but we can't help wishing OK Go could zap back to that glorious age when their indie-pop inspired treadmill jazzercise sessions across the nation.

— Neelaab Nasratty
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

FILMREVIEWS

The End of the World As We Know It

► ELI, from page 6

Oldman), self-appointed ruler of a small town of ruffians, straight out Clint Eastwood's "A Fistful of Dollars."

A testament to history repeating itself — according to freshman screenwriter Gary Whitta — post-apocalyptic America will look like one big Wild West showdown. Just substitute tumbleweeds with empty soda cans.

So it's up to Eli and his newly recruited accomplice, Carnegie's rebellious stepdaughter Solara (Mila Kunis), to protect the precious book from the enemy and hand-deliver it to safety. Along the way, Eli teaches Solara about the world before her

A testament to history repeating itself — according to freshman screenwriter Gary Whitta — post-apocalyptic America will look like one big Wild West showdown. Just substitute tumbleweeds with empty soda cans.

a thin line between action flick, Sunday-school parable and just plain stupid.

True, the final twist will throw even Miss Cleo for a loop. And "Eli" is rather striking in terms of atmospheric cinematography and computer-generated hues in the vein of "300." But with several distracting nods to companies that sponsored our consumer-driven past — Busch Beer, KFC, Apple, General Motors Corp., Kmart and Motorola, to name a few — the film is little more than one expensive advertisement.

An Afterschool Nightmare in Disguise



► BONES, from page 7

(Stanley Tucci) lurks in the shadows of Susie's carefree life, setting up each moment as potentially Susie's last. It is during these instants of paranoia that director Peter Jackson shows off his mastery of deep screen-to-audience tension.

As much as we wish it wouldn't, Susie's fated murder finally occurs one evening after school, when she's walking home through a cornfield and meets her evidently kind neighbor. He then lures her into a self-built clubhouse out of sight and sound, where he rapes and kills her.

Kids: don't talk to strangers.

Cleverly juxtaposing reality and fantasy as Susie's life slips out of her grasp, Jackson chooses to replace what would be a gruesome act of violence with a journey through "the in-between" — a not-quite-heaven magical world of vivid color and psychedelic imaginatives.

It is in this limbo that Jackson showcases the same outrageous special effects and supernatural elements that made "Lord of the Rings" a household name: Fields melt into oceans, seasons change when you turn the corner and ice sculptures the size of skyscrapers survey you from above.

Young Shoegazers Give Way to Dreams of Pop

► ASOBI, from page 6

which Asobi more lightly treads the reverb-free clouds of dream-pop than immerse themselves in the special effects of shoegaze — giving Chikudate new power behind the mic. The objective has switched to unfolding an epic, where before they focused on creating the woozy ambience in which an epic story could unfold.

On *Hush*'s "In the Sky," background sound is almost minimalistic — a simple beat, a keening guitar chord — far from the churning feedback of albums past. By tearing down the wall, everything still here becomes more: the lyrics more meaningful, the sparse instruments more consequential by sheer dint of rarity.

It's *Rewolf*, however — a direct preview of Friday's acoustic show — that unveils the grandest evolutions. Their best songs stripped to the core, Asobi stay beautiful and reveal themselves as more than some exotic warbles hiding beneath noise pop.

Of course, Chikudate's lilting voice and psychedelic lyrics remain — she still yowls about acidic attic bees on "Familiar Light" — but interpretation shifts radically between the two incarnations. In its original grungy shell, the song is a delirious anthem to hallucinations of apathy; whittled down, it is haunting and melancholic — like the tune from a music box belonging to a sad girl.

So it goes with *Rewolf*, and their new live show. Studio tricks and complex textures in the past, Asobi becomes nothing more than Chikudate's airy vocals set to guitar and drums. All tracks are slowed and sweetened, every word entirely discernable — unlike the glosolalia of albums past — rising to the surface as forgettably pretty guitars swirl down the glass.

Experts Concerned Over Budgetary Amendment: Privatized Prisons Would Allow for Profiteering

► **AMENDMENT**, from page 1

decreasing funding for prisons by outsourcing aspects of jail maintenance to private companies. Instead, that money would be funneled into higher education, and public universities like the UC system would receive a minimum of 10 percent of the General Fund by 2014.

Schwarzenegger's plan is a departure from the current budget, under which higher education receives 7.5 percent of total state funds and prisons receive 11 percent. Ten years ago, universities received closer to 10 percent, compared to the penitentiary system's 3 percent.

"[Back then,] the state's investment in a UC student was twice as much as it is today," UC Vice President for Budget Patrick Lenz said. "In 1990, the state provided around \$15,000 per student. And today, it's about \$7,500 per student."

According to Lance Corocan, chief communications officer for the California Correctional Police Officers Association, the governor's plan is not without flaws.

For one thing, he said, it introduces market forces and profit as motivational factors in running a prison. He added that privatization would probably increase spending in the long run.

"It's been proven throughout the

experiment of privatization that cost savings are illusory," Corocan said. "[The Governor] is trying to present a very simple solution to a very complex problem — one that people have been trying to figure out for the last 300 to 400 years."

According to UC Berkeley professor of public policy John Ellwood, privatizing prisons would mean contracting out to cheaper, non-unionized prison guards, in order to circumvent the pricier CCPOA guards. In addition, the policy might force the state to grant parolees more leeway in meeting with officers — reducing the number of individuals put back in jail after being released.

"In California, if you miss one appointment with your parole officer, you're automatically sent back to prison," Ellwood said. "In other states, you have two or three chances if you miss something. So, another way to cut costs is to take people [who have committed] less violent crimes and essentially get them on the street, assuming they won't hurt people ... If you have fewer prisoners, you'll spend less money."

By reducing prison costs, Schwarzenegger said he hopes to free up money for the UC and CSU systems without creating any additional taxes.

As it stands, the UC system received only 13 percent — or \$2.6 billion — of its funding from the state in the 2009-10 academic year. The rest came from sources like federal research grants, private donations and student fees.

The governor's proposed 2010-2011 budget, released on Jan. 8, would increase the amount the state gives to university by \$370 million, to about \$3 billion.

According to Lenz, the amendment would provide an additional \$1.6 billion in annual state funding, to be shared between the UC and CSU systems.

"It depends on the growth in the General Fund budget, so it's hard to estimate," Lenz said. "The point that we want to hold onto is at least the recognition that more money needs to be provided for higher education."

According to UC spokesperson Leslie Sepuka, it is too early to say whether this additional state funding would allow for a decrease in student fees.

Schwarzenegger's amendment, while at the forefront of budgetary discussion at the moment, is not the only recent government action aimed at increasing funding for higher education. Assembly Leader Alberto Torrico (D-Fremont) recently drafted a bill that would

STATE BUDGET		
	HIGHER EDUCATION	PRISONS
2000	10%	3%
2010	7.5%	11%
UNDER SCHWARZENEGGER'S PROPOSAL		
2014	NO LESS THAN 10%	NO MORE THAN 7%

create an excise tax on gas produced in California, then give the revenue exclusively to universities.

"If you think that higher education needs more money, there's one of two ways to do it," Ellwood said. "One way is to increase taxation, and the other way is to essentially get money from other parts of the budget."

Such systems already exist in states like Texas, which uses 25 percent of the revenue accumulated by a similar excise tax on gas to fund its university system. The Torrico Initiative — also known as Bill AB 656 — passed in the state assembly on Jan. 12, and is currently under debate in the Senate.

UCOP Academic Senator Henry Powell said that even if Schwarzenegger's amendment never reaches fruition, it is nonetheless encouraging to see educational funding being discussed as a priority by the state.

"When the state stops investing in education, it stops investing in its future," Powell said. "In 2025, we are going to need a million more degrees than we are ready to deliver ... There's an asymmetry there, between the needs of the state and the direction things are going. It's a huge crisis."

Readers can contact Hayley Bisceglia-Martin at hbiscegl@ucsd.edu.

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	8					5	7	3
	6	7						
1								

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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Tritons To Open Conference Play on Road Against CSU Northridge

► **M. VOLLEYBALL**, from page 12

The win marked UCSD's third straight five-set victory over the Gauchos.

Senior Erik Sierks played as setter for UCSD and facilitated a .368 team hitting average by delivering 68 assists. Junior Joel Davidson had nine kills and five digs off the bench.

After downing 53 kills at the competition, Fritsch has passed the 1,000-kills mark in his career with the Tritons.

"My goal is to do better than last year and take my team further and into

the playoffs," Fritsch said. "We've never made it into the playoffs. We got close last season, so that's our goal."

The Tritons will open the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Jan. 13 when they travel to Northridge to face No. 2 Cal State Northridge (3-0). UCSD then travels back to Santa Barbara to face No. 14 UCSB (0-3).

The team has lost in its last four MPSF openers. The last conference-opener victory was in 2004 against USC.

Readers can contact Jessy Jahangir at fjahangi@ucsd.edu.

Post-Wins, Tritons Set Sights on Cross-Town Rivals



TIMOTHY WONG/GUARDIAN

UCSD claimed 20 victories in 28 events against Grand Canyon University and the University of the Incarnate Word on Jan. 10. The meet was the women's second in two days while the first for the men since Jan. 2. Next, the Tritons will face the University of San Diego, a match-up that was close last year.

► **SWIVE**, from page 12

Many of the day's races were contested down to the final stroke, but none more so than the men's 50-yard freestyle. Senior Daniel Perdew, former Male Swimmer of the NCAA Champions Meet, set a season best in the race, but lost by two-hundredths of a second.

"The [50-yard freestyle] is always kind of an interesting race," McGihon said. "It's whoever hits their start and turn [who] is usually going to be the one who comes out winning the 50, and Perdew was a little slow off the blocks today."

However, more often than not, the Tritons came out on top in close races. Senior Jereme Barnett-Woods won the 500-yard freestyle by six-tenths of a second with a time of 4:41.13; sophomore Natasha Nguyen

won the 200-yard freestyle (1:57.35) by less than a second; senior Todd Langland won the 100-yard freestyle (46.71) by one-tenth of a second and freshman Jon Masehi-Lano won the 200-yard breaststroke (2:07.65) by three seconds — despite being behind after the first 100 yards.

Even with a strew of terrific finishes, junior captain Kyle Begovich said the Tritons know they still have areas to improve on before season-ending conference and NCAA championships roll around.

"We have to be mentally strong," he said. "Sometimes we race teams that are not as good, so we have to be mentally strong and compete at our level, even if it means we're racing our own teammates and not the other team."

The Tritons face off against

cross-town rival the University of San Diego on Jan. 16 at Canyonview Pool in a showdown for San Diego superiority.

"Last year was a really close meet and we just barely won," junior captain Anju Shimura said. "I know it's going to be a good meet again, but hopefully we just work out hard this week and get through the workouts."

Despite its home victories, the team has to move on to mentally preparing for USD according to senior captain Cari Cunningham.

"USD is another one of our big rivals," she said. "So just like our meet yesterday, we have to focus on the day and forget about all the meets we've had in the past."

Readers can contact Tyler Nelson at tcnelson@ucsd.edu.

South Africa Takes Center Stage As Host of 2010 Soccer Extravaganza

► **KICKS**, from page 12

celebratory atmosphere in the stadium I witnessed that day was unlike any I've ever experienced — it's completely unique to the World Cup.

The latest installment, hosted by Germany in 2006, was especially unforgettable. The tournament was run with a measure of efficiency that typified its German hosts, and reflected the modern state of the sport. The footballing community was welcomed into Germany to watch the matches in state-of-the-art stadiums in well-organized cities.

The players on the pitch did not disappoint. We came away from the 2006 World Cup with images that are now indelibly ingrained into the hearts and minds of all soccer fans. The image of French footballing icon Zinedine Zidane — arguably the greatest player in the modern game — being sent off for his infamous "head-butt heard 'round the world" on the Italian central defender Marco Materazzi will forever live on in the

folklore of the sport.

This year, the world's gaze will turn to South Africa for its once-in-every-four year footballing feast, and the tournament has made history before the first ball has even been kicked. The 2010 World Cup marks the first time that an African country will host the competition, and FIFA's decision to bestow the honor upon South Africa to host its prestigious tournament sends a greater message. The decision recognizes the progress the country has made, and provides it an opportunity to showcase itself to the world as an emerging, developing beacon of hope in Africa. Additionally, it demonstrates FIFA's intention of expanding the sport in the continent, and recognizing Africa as an emerging footballing region.

The 2010 World Cup is effectively South Africa's coming-out party on the world stage. So dawn your favorite team's jersey, hit the pub and bask in the glory that June and July will provide.

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

With a 99-90 victory over the Washington Wizards, the Detroit Pistons snapped a 13-game losing streak — the longest since the team's 1993-94 season. During the stretch, the Pistons lost by 20 or more points four times.



HOT CORNER

FRANK FRITSCH | VOLLEYBALL

The senior opposite hitter led the Tritons in kills at last weekend's tournament. Fritsch smashed 53 kills, pushing his career total to 1,044 and making him the fourth most prolific hitter in UCSD history.

World Cup: The Real Midsummer Classic

In this tumultuous life, the only constant is change. Everything in the modern world — from political theater to vacuum-cleaning technology — is ever-transforming. However, without fail, every four years, life grants the global community one single month of reprieve — an opportunity to rid ourselves of daily preoccupations and join together for the single greatest sporting spectacle known to man: the FIFA World Cup.



For the last three-and-a-half years, fans worldwide have been forced to lay dormant their eager anticipation for the global showdown. However, now that 2010 is officially half a month old and the World Cup year is finally here, football fanatics worldwide — myself included — can hardly restrain their excitement for the impending pinnacle of the best game on Earth.

However, in this country, due to soccer's lack of media attention, I can't help but feel like I am one of a small population who view the sport for the great athletic contests it is — not a sport for cheats and play-actors.

My affinity for the sport of soccer began when I, like almost every kid in this country, joined a team in my local youth leagues. But, unlike most of my friends — so quick to abandon soccer for the likes of more mainstream sports — my interest persevered. Since then it's grown to be a very important part of my life.

The 1994 World Cup, hosted in the U.S., was the first time I could consciously follow the competition. From there on out, I've been completely entranced by everything soccer. When Germany played the U.S. in Palo Alto, Calif., at Stanford University that summer, I was there before the marvel. Even at eight years old, it was impossible not to goggle at the euphoric atmosphere that the World Cup spectacle created. An amalgamation of colors painted the stands of the stadium. Drunk German fans exchanged playful verbal jabs with Americans, while a fervent nationalistic pride pulsed like electricity through the stands. The

See **KICKS**, page 11

SANTA BARBARA INVITATIONAL



JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN

TRITONS COME OUT WITH A KILL

Jessy Jahangir
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL — After completing their most successful season in school history last year, the Tritons returned to action on Jan. 7 and Jan. 8 at the 46th Annual Santa Barbara Invitational at UC Santa Barbara, where they placed seventh and picked up their first win of the 2009-10 season.

This year's team is stacked with accomplished players like senior Frank Fritsch, who led the 2009 Triton team with 366 kills. Fritsch's 1,044 career kills rank him fourth in school history. Senior Jason Spangler, who has totaled 1,171 kills in his career, is on his way to becoming the all-time career kills leader. He has only to best former Tritons Tom Black

(1,268 kills) and Jim Waller (1,301 kills).

One more player on the career-kills chart is junior Will Ehrman, whose 633 place him at 14th. Junior Phil Bannan has raked up 2,229 career assists, placing him at fourth on the list of all-time career assists at UCSD.

Prior to his injury, junior Adrian Guthals set the single-season record for hitting percentage with a .442 clip.

Going into the Santa Barbara Invitational as a major underdog, No. 11 UCSD started with a 2-1 lead against No. 10 UCLA in its first match. However, the team ultimately lost to UCLA 30-24, 24-30, 26-30, 31-29, 15-8.

Over the course of the match, Ehrman collected 17 kills and five digs. Fritsch had 15 kills and freshman Cyrus Kiani had 11; sophomore Andrew Kaban was right behind with 10 digs,

and Guthals tallied four blocks. Bannan lent 49 assists.

Despite jumping out to the quick lead, UCSD couldn't capitalize in a tight fourth game and didn't have an answer for the Bruins' offense in the deciding game.

In their second match-up of the day, the Tritons lost to No. 3 UC Irvine 30-28, 22-30, 30-26, 30-21. Spangler led the way with 16 kills.

On the second day of the tournament, UCSD won its first two sets against No. 14 hosts UCSB and held on for a 30-22, 30-27, 29-31, 26-30, 15-11 victory. Fritsch led the way with 27 kills on .347 hitting. Ehrman had 17 kills on .519 hitting and Kiani had 14 kills without an error on .667 hitting.

See **M. VOLLEYBALL**, page 11

MATCH #1	UCSD	UCLA
SETS	2	3
KILLS	59	65
ASSISTS	59	65
BLOCKS	10	11
HIT %	.199	.282
ACES	7	7

MATCH #2	UCSD	UCI
SETS	1	3
KILLS	61	72
ASSISTS	61	72
BLOCKS	7	9
HIT %	.319	.372
ACES	5	7

MATCH #3	UCSD	UCSB
SETS	3	2
KILLS	83	66
ASSISTS	78	63
BLOCKS	11	8.5
HIT %	.368	.287
ACES	4	10

SWIMMERS RACE PAST GCU AND UIW IN SUNDAY SMASH



TIMOTHY WONG/GUARDIAN

In the Jan. 10 meet against Grand Canyon University and the University of the Incarnate Word, the UCSD swimming and diving team placed at least two swimmers in the top three spots over 16 events.

Sophomores Alex Henley and Patrick Cohen earned automatic bids to nationals this Sunday.

Tyler Nelson
STAFF WRITER

SWIMMING & DIVING — Building off a smashing start to their season, the UCSD men's and women's swim and dive teams came out with confidence on Jan. 10 at Canyonview Pool, claiming victories over Grand Canyon University and the University of the Incarnate Word. The men's team defeated GCU 197-84 and UIW 189-109; the women defeated GCU 229-54 and

UIW 220-74.

Despite their victories, head coach Scott McGihon said he still sees room for improvement in the teams' mental preparedness.

"One thing we need to work on — and we showed that today — is our mental focus," head coach Scott McGihon said. "It's not where it needs to be. The athletes are going to have to figure [out] that only they can make themselves focus mentally. That's the missing component."

Despite their coach's critique, the Tritons still pulled away with two solid victories over teams they may be facing again in the NCAA meet.

"It feels good to get the win," senior captain Andy Islip said. "We're charging up for conference championship, and so every meet is just more practice. We're fine-tuning

our strokes and techniques and getting out all the kinks."

At the meet, the Tritons placed at least two swimmers in the top three spots over 16 races, winning 20 races overall. The victors included sophomore Alex Henley, who earned a NCAA-qualifying time of 2:05.77 in the 200-yard butterfly event.

Sophomore diver Patrick Cohen qualified for the NCAA tournament in the one-meter diving event with his performance.

"Getting to nationals feels amazing," Cohen said. "This is everything I've been working toward. I feel like this year I was more focused. I just wanted to make nationals even more because I didn't make nationals last year."

See **SWIVE**, page 11