

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN

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Workers Press on in Wage Battle



PHOTOS BY ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN

“It’s not about what we want; it’s about what we need.”
— Jorge Olvera, UCSD groundskeeper



UCSD service workers and their supporters rallied on Library Walk Jan. 21 as part of a systemwide wage-increase movement that began in October 2007.

SUN GOD 2009 Revamped Sun God Planning in Full Swing

By Reza Farazmand
NEWS EDITOR

Preparation for the 2009 Sun God Festival began earlier this month with the release of the A.S. programming department’s comprehensive festival-planning report. The 23-page document outlines plans for a festival identical in format to the event’s safety-oriented 2008 incarnation, though programming officials have indicated the possibility of decreased security, a new Internet-based wristband retrieval system and unrestricted re-entry.

Throughout preliminary planning stages for this year’s festival, A.S. Associate Vice President of Programming and chief Sun God organizer Garrett Berg has stressed the goal of reinventing the event within its new, safer format. Berg’s department faced widespread criticism after last year’s festival, which many students claimed violated the traditional Sun God spirit by restricting the day’s events to an enclosed RIMAC Field and eliminating the no-boundaries, campuswide format that had characterized the festival for the previous 10 years.

“In the 2008 planning report, our

goals were all about security, because we really wanted to revamp the festival in order to be able to continue to have it,” Berg said, referring to threats by campus administrators in 2007 to dramatically curtail the event if security concerns were not addressed. “This year, it’s much more about having this new format and deciding how to make it better for the students.”

John Muir College senior Daniel Dadon — who, after last year’s festival, started a Facebook group encouraging students to voice their concerns over the new format — said that he was most discouraged by the lack of mobility and absence of independently administered attractions throughout campus at Sun God last year.

“I really didn’t like how they corralled the students and didn’t let us have our whole-campus Sun God like we used to,” Dadon said. “We weren’t able to be on Library Walk. We weren’t able to be in Price Center. The festival just wasn’t happening there.”

Although this year’s main attractions will still be staged entirely on RIMAC Field, Berg hinted at plans to expand the event into other areas

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REGENTS MAY INCREASE OUT-OF-STATE ADMISSIONS

By Kimberly Cheng
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In anticipation of further cuts in state funding, University of California officials are debating the possibility of increasing out-of-state and international student enrollment to help fill the gap in revenue.

Less than 10 percent of the 220,000 undergraduates and graduates currently enrolled in the UC system are from out of state. However, according to the U.S. Department of Education, roughly 16 percent of students enrolled in public four-year colleges and universities nationwide are from other states and countries.

Tuition for in-state students at UC campuses falls at an estimated \$8,100 per student, while out-of-state students pay more than \$28,000. Only about half the extra \$20,000 is used to cover the university’s costs, UC officials said in a statement.

“It might generate some revenue,”

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Campus Welcomes Obama into Presidency

Students express renewed pride in country, excitement over historical significance of 2008 election.

By Jesse Alm
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UCSD erupted in applause, screams and tears Tuesday morning as a fresh generation of political participants gathered with faculty and staff to observe the nation’s 44th presidential inauguration.

Screening events at the Loft, International House and the Sixth College Commuter Lounge offered coffee, pancakes and hors d’oeuvres to hundreds of viewers eager to watch President Barack H. Obama’s resounding call for a new approach to American politics.

By 8:30 a.m., a crowd of over 200 — including reporters from San Diego’s Channel 6 and Channel 8 news networks — had pushed the Loft well above capacity to witness the swearing-in ceremony and presidential speech.

Eleanor Roosevelt College senior Kari McNickle, who helped organize the Loft’s event, said she was impressed by the amount of excitement, attentiveness and unity.

“Everyone was really unified in that moment,” she said. “No matter who



JOSEPH HO/GUARDIAN

Members of the campus community gathered at the Loft on the morning of Jan. 20 to witness a live broadcast of President Barack Obama’s inauguration ceremony. Similar viewing parties took place across campus, and the Stuart Collection’s “Trees” exhibit streamed live audio from the ceremony to passersby.

you voted for, it seems like everyone is coming together now.”

She said she has confidence in Obama’s ability to redefine the United States’ reputation abroad and inspire greater solidarity among citizens at home.

“For most of my politically aware life, Bush has been president,” she said. “[Tuesday], you could really feel proud to be an American, and it’s been hard to feel that way for a long time.”

Revelle College sophomore Wafa Ben Hassine, who celebrated the inauguration at International House’s Great

Hall, emphasized the day’s historical significance for black citizens.

“What affected me the most wasn’t only how inspirational Obama is as a person, but a realization that we have an African-American family in the White House,” she said. “In my mind, this is the prevailing of good over evil. Our country suffered with slavery for a long time, and this is a sign of deliverance.”

While fellow UCSD students crowded around monitors campuswide, Sixth College junior Angela Buck attended the ceremony in Washington,

D.C., as part of the national University Presidential Inauguration Conference. She said this year’s presidential campaign marks the first time in her life that she has been excited about politics.

“When [Obama] was speaking, I felt like he was speaking to me as a student and as a citizen,” Buck said. “I came out of the experience feeling hopeful and inspired to do what I can in my own way, which is what struck me the most about the campaign in general — the

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HIATUS **Hugging Big Apple Trees**
The Loft kicks cans with Norcal shoegazers the Morning Benders and Berkeley treasures the Honorary Title.
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SPORTS **Pre-Spirit Night Showcase**
Students met and interacted with the UCSD basketball teams at the Triton Jam in RIMAC Arena on Jan. 20.
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ANIMAL STYLE

BY CHRISTINA AUSHANA



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CURRENTS

Campus Places Second in Recycling Among UCs

UCSD surpassed the campus-wide recycling goal for 2008 — set by the UC Board of Regents at 50 percent — by diverting 67 percent of trash, construction debris and solid waste from landfills.

“We’re very proud of breaking through to 67 percent,” Campus Sustainability Coordinator Maggie Souder said. “It shows how serious our students, faculty and staff are about sustainability solutions.”

UCSD came in second behind UC Davis, which reached a 69 percent diversion.

The achievement marks significant progress toward future campus recycling goals of 75 percent by 2012 and 100 percent by 2020, which would require a considerable increase in dedication to recycling and sustainability by the entire campus community.

“To get to the point where we’re sending zero waste to landfills in 11 years, though, every person on campus will have to help,” Souder

said. “We can provide the tools and knowledge, but we’ll need a total recycling mindset throughout the university.”

According to assistant superintendent for Landscape Services and Refuse and Recycling in Facilities Management Alonso Noble, the university was able to recycle a significant portion of the 19,000 tons of solid waste produced this year, putting to practice aggressive recycling efforts in the area of construction and debris.

“At three major construction projects — Price Center expansion, Prebys Music Center and North Campus Housing — we achieved about an 80 percent diversion rate through working with our construction partners,” Noble said. “Those are very big numbers.”

Materials ranging from scrap wood to concrete and asphalt are either recycled or reused, and contractors are required to track and record exactly how much is diverted.

The housing, dining and hospitality department has also significantly increased recycling initiatives in recent years.

Graduating Seniors: Difficult Times Still Ahead for Nation

INAUGURATION, from page 1

motto of enacting change through not only what [Obama] can do, but what we all can do in our own way.”

Despite their overwhelmingly optimistic attitudes about the next presidential term, students acknowledged the sobering list of challenges that the country’s new leader will face. The current economic recession has led to the highest national unemployment rate in 16 years, and prospects for post-graduate jobs are limited.

John Muir College senior Amanda Ripley, who plans to pursue a career in writing after graduation, said she hopes Obama will immediately begin to address the nation’s

ailing economy and mend its broken health-care system.

“Health care makes all the difference,” she said. “It’s such a basic human need, and having it solves so many other problems.”

A.S. All-Campus Senator Garron Engstrom added that the economy in particular cannot be revived overnight. However, he said he remains in awe of the American democratic process.

“We peacefully turned everything around,” he said. “We were discussing how cool it is that we can do that in the U.S.”

Additional reporting by Yelena Akopian, Associate News Editor.

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We peacefully turned everything around. We were discussing how cool it is that we can do that in the U.S.”

— Garron Engstrom, A.S. All-Campus Senator

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Council Rejects Gaza Resolution After Five-Hour Discussion

The A.S. Council was under pressure last night to come to a conclusion on the hotly contested Gaza resolution, with hundreds of students filing into the meeting to offer pro- and anti-resolution statements. A week after being instructed to draft a joint resolution by the A.S. Council, students from both sides of the debate gathered at last night's meeting to voice support and concerns over the newly-amended document.

Due to the Monday's ceasefire in Gaza, the scheduled meeting to draft a joint resolution was cancelled, but the Students for Justice in Palestine remained confident that the amended resolution was fair, citing supporters among UCSD student groups and faculty.

"This is a resolution sponsored by a coalition of students and the ethnic studies department at UCSD," Arab Student Union President **Rena Zuabi** said. "It is your responsibility as educated members of society to call upon your government to address the grievances of a people. I implore you to stand for this diverse community, to stand alongside your fellow UC schools."

UCLA student **Randa Wahbe** and co-author of UCLA's own resolution on the matter, which was recently approved, spoke on behalf of a UC-wide coalition of various humanitarian student groups in support of passing the resolution at UCSD, calling the situation in Gaza a "humanitarian crisis, not a political issue." She continued by reading an open letter written by Michael Provence, UCSD associate professor of history, in support of the resolution.

"I write to endorse the statement of the undergraduate students of the ASUCSD who have called for an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza," Provence wrote. "As the resolution eloquently concludes, only by ending the humanitarian blockade can

the healing process begin for both Palestinians and Israelis."

Those opposed to the resolution, however, described the document as an attack on Israelis and many requested the council to remain neutral in the Gaza situation to eliminate the inevitable alienation of one group.

"I am asking you to remain neutral on this issue to avoid an extreme hit to the feelings of value and belonging of the pro-Israel members of our community," former A.S. member

Adi Singer said. "A.S. Council, please respect our desire to work on negotiating inner-community peace before tackling international con-

flict."

The public input portion ended abruptly despite a long line before the podium. Revelle College Senator **Katie Hall** motioned to allow members of the public to be placed on the speaker's list and the council agreed.

Councilmembers expressed grief over the situation in Gaza, but were divided over the council's authority to take a stance, hesitant to make any hasty decisions.

"I still don't agree that this is what A.S. does," Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Lana Blank** said. "We're here to talk about two communities that don't agree and we're not going to be the group that says you're right, we're wrong. If this is what A.S. does, I don't want to be a part of it."

After nearly four hours of discussion, the council voted not to pass the resolution. Vice President of Student Life **Darryl Nousom** motioned to create a special committee instructed to draft a new resolution to be presented to the council Feb. 4. The committee will consist of Associate Vice President of Diversity **Ricsie Hernandez** and Revelle College Council Chair **John Lintern** as moderators, two other councilmembers and four members each from both the pro- and anti-resolution constituencies.



New Business
Joyce Yeh
jyeh@ucsd.edu

Festival to Feature Unrestricted Re-Entry

► **SUN GOD**, from page 1 of campus.

"We feel there are ways to make it feel like Sun God across campus," Berg said. "Last year it definitely didn't feel like Sun God. We realize that. Even if every single student had gone to the festival, it still wouldn't have felt like Sun God. So what we're looking into are ways we can create the Sun God atmosphere across campus."

Berg described preliminary suggestions for achieving this goal, including holding individual Sun God kickoff events within each of the six colleges and staging a student-organization fair on the day of the festival.

Changes to the festival's primary events will include the elimination of the north stage, which last year hosted a number of local music acts, and will be replaced by an enormous tent featuring continuous deejay sets throughout the day.

Berg also discussed the adoption of a new wristband retrieval system that will require students to register online for entrance to the event. Wristbands will then be distributed upon entry into RIMAC Field, and attendees will be allowed to enter

and exit the venue freely.

Though precise security logistics for the 2009 festival remain undetermined, Berg said he hopes that the success of last year's dramatically increased safety measures in deterring arrests will convince campus administrators to consider looser security for this year's event. The insistence of campus administrators on heightened security in 2008 resulted in a \$35,000 police bill for the programming department — an increase of \$20,000 from 2007. Accordingly, last year's festival yielded 55 percent fewer arrests than were reported at the 2007 event.

"Ideally I would love to see that [price of security] go back to \$15,000," Berg said. "I think that, for me, the most difficult thing is that we moved to an undeniably safer festival, so why we're spending \$20,000 more is my question. At the end of the day, we spent \$15,000 at what was a very problematic festival, so why are we spending \$35,000 at what was unanimously decided to be a successful festival?"

UCSD Police Chief Orville King said he believes the 2008 festival was a relative success when compared to the event's prior incarnations,

though he said he is unsure in such early stages of planning as to what sort of security levels may be present at this year's event.

"I think last year's festival was certainly an improvement over previous years," King said. "The event was well-organized, and we had fewer problems as a result of the way the event was set up. But we really don't know where the event is going or how the event is being planned. We really need to see what the plan is before we can make [a plan for security]."

Berg said his department has already confirmed two of the festival's headlining acts, and while verifying that the primary headliner will be a hip-hop act, Berg plans to withhold the names of all acts until Spring Quarter. Though working with a budget similar to that of 2008, Berg said that Sun God 2009's musical selections will dramatically improve upon last year's.

"Our headliners for this year so far, both of them, are so much better than our headliner last year," Berg said.

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Proposal Would Yield Increased Funding for UC

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UC spokesman Ricardo Vazquez said. "But I wouldn't call it profit, and I don't know the amount."

Though boosting out-of-state and international admission rates may help the public university system cushion funding cuts, officials opposed to the idea argue that it could filter out qualified local applicants.

"When we start chasing that money as a substitute for state money, that's bad public policy," UC Regent and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said in a statement.

Vazquez said California-resident enrollment is unaffected by out-of-state admissions because enrollment targets and local-applicant admission

are based on state funding. He added that the university has no established quotas regarding out-of-state and international student acceptance rates.

UC Regent Judith Hopkinson recently asked the university's governing board to consider increasing out-of-state and international enrollment, citing not only its financial benefits but also the social advantages of creating a more geographically diverse student body.

Hopkinson said enrolling between 15 percent to 20 percent of nonresident undergraduates will benefit the university financially in the long run.

The UC system has a revenue target equivalent to about 17,800 students — including those from out of state and country — for both under-

graduate and graduate programs, and although the university will come close to meeting its goal this year, it has fallen short of that target by over 1,000 students for the past four years, according to Vazquez.

Additionally, out-of-state applicants are held to higher admission standards, such as greater GPA and SAT score requirements, which can help raise the university's national rankings.

"Our main mission has always been serving California high school graduates," Vazquez said. "We have a guarantee for California residents that we don't have for out-of-state students."

Readers can contact Kimberly Cheng at k2cheng@ucsd.edu.

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Flops to "Koala TV" for a mediocre comeback premiere, which was filled with unattractive nudity and tired humor.



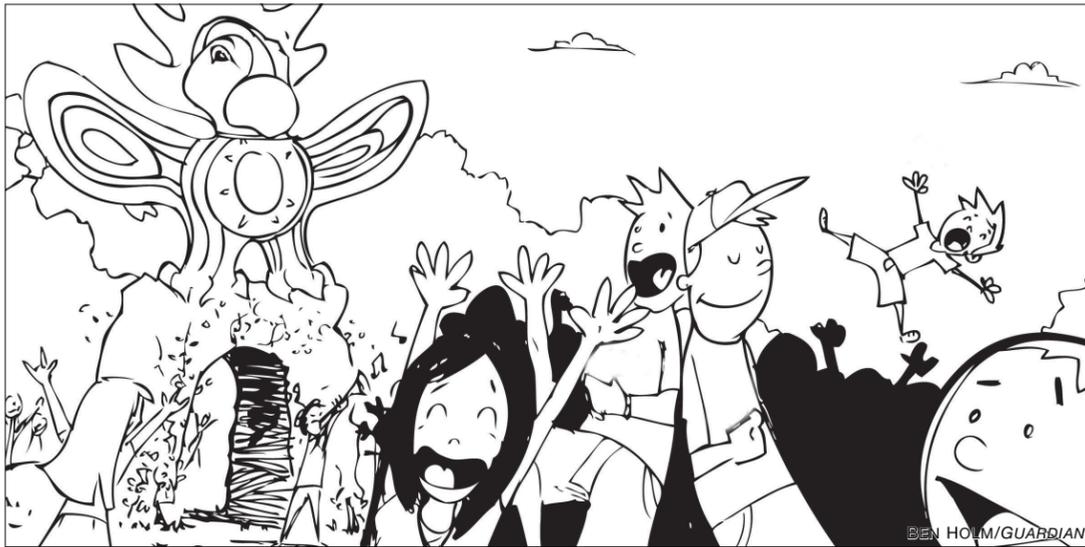
EDITORIALS

The Best Sun God Ever, With Our Powers Combined

It doesn't matter how many bouncey houses and overpriced grease-stands they pack onto RIMAC Field — that doesn't make getting penned in for five hours of Coheed and Cambria and the "Beautiful Girls" dude any less painful. Especially when washed in memories of the glorious Sun God Festival past, that annual cross-campus Judgment Day on which even the most respectable biology major was reduced to a poster child for complete and total debauchery. When the day stages were nixed and the festivities quarantined to discourage all unregulated pre-RIMAC celebration (seeming to account for the main chunk of arrests and near deaths), it did seem that the heart of Sun God had finally ceased to beat.

The details of this year's festival are still being kneaded out, but the verdict is clear: We're sticking to the new format. The infamous Sun God on which we've so long thrived — technically the only reason half of us haven't yet dropped out — has been structurally curbed to officially ruin the one day a year that makes up for all the miserable others.

But things aren't as bad as they seem. A.S. Associate Vice President of Programming Garrett Berg, though forced to comply with the administration's updated security regulations and other evils that largely prevent us from holding a soap fight in the Price Center fountain, has expressed his desire for



every student at UCSD to wake up and know it's Sun God. And honestly — paired with newly lifted regulations on re-entry to RIMAC Field, which will allow us to roll in and out as we please — that could solve everything.

Because in the end, the students are the ones responsible for making Sun God awesome. Think about it: The daytime booths, underattended Price Center stage (easily replaced by a boom box) and random student-org activities have always served as placeholders anyway; anyone who lived the festival's glory days knows that it's all about slathering on the war paint, breaking

out whatever portions of that pirate costume you can find lying around and parading through campus like you own the place. The University Events Office has rented out Sun God lawn to deter any shenanigans, but that didn't stop the Koala staff from borrowing the water key and setting up their legendary slip 'n' slide last year, and it shouldn't stop the rest of us from getting creative this time around.

All we have to do is remember that what happens at Sun God stays at Sun God, wake up at the crack of dawn for a head-clearing refreshment and do our part in bringing back the glory.


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We All Must Clean Up Our Acts to Fix This Mess

Unless you were severely intoxicated for the past couple days, you are surely aware that our great nation inaugurated a new president on Tuesday — one Barack Hussein Obama. As expected, the event brought out masses of cheering people who watched him become the official leader of the free world. Unfortunately, the nanosecond immediately after Obama spoke the words "so help me God," the endless list of problems that are currently plaguing the United States were not magically fixed. Apparently, Obama



State of Disunion

Brent Westcott

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is not the supernatural political deity that we all hoped he was. He may well follow through on many of the promises he has made, but it is unwise to think that simply electing him will fix this country. In fact, if you listen closely, the change that Obama has preached since he began his presidential campaign has very little to do with him. In his inauguration speech, he continued to underline this point — if we, as a nation, want to improve our quality of life and solve our problems, we shouldn't kick up our shoes and expect a super-politician to do all the dirty work. Rather, we should bear the responsibilities of change.

At this point you may be asking the following: "Brent, I hear what you are saying and I really want to help, but how can I fix the economy, clean the environment and rehabilitate our image abroad?" Simply put, nobody — not even Barack the Great — can weather this poop storm alone. But we can personally embrace the change our Chosen One has been talking about this entire time.

Take the economy for example. I think it's safe to assume that no students at UCSD were the heads of banks and mortgage companies who decided to make irresponsible loans to unqualified applicants. Nor were any Tritons involved in globalized Ponzi schemes that subsequently bankrupted innocent investors. Although we must now deal with the reality of these corrupt decisions, they can teach us an important lesson of fiscal responsibility and hopefully change the way we operate when it comes to the bankroll.

But it's not just the head honchos who are contributing to the problem. For many of us, the credit card is our best friend. We see something we like and before we can say "foreclosure," we swipe it without realizing that we are spending money we probably don't have. This much is clear: unless you are earning an annual six-figure salary, you probably don't need a Louis Vuitton bag or sweet new rims for your Honda Civic. Growing up as a Southern California native, I have witnessed obscene sums of money that young people spend on designer sunglasses and clothing, and I will readily admit that I have been guilty of this myself. But this latest financial collapse has certainly opened my eyes to Obama's message

Reliance on Out-of-State Pocketbooks Compromises UC Mission

On the surface, a recent proposal by University of California officials to increase the number of out-of-state applicants seems like a quick and harmless method for raising revenue. Not only would half of each student's average \$28,000 annual tuition be used as profit for the system, but campuses, according to UC Regent Judith Hopkinson, would also benefit from more "geographically diverse" student bodies.

But as cash-strapped officials consider recruiting well-off students to solve the university's financial woes, there's just one tiny detail

they're forgetting: According to university statistics, our system has already enrolled 11,000 students too many. To make matters worse, the Board of Regents plans to increase resident tuition fees and cut next year's number of admitted freshmen by 6 percent.

If the university is actively limiting California residents' access to their own public education, how can it justify a proposal to offer more spots to out-of-state applicants? Even if the state isn't technically subsidizing their tuition, that doesn't change the fact that, once admitted, these students will be filling already-

crammed classrooms and utilizing scant student resources. After all, no matter where a student's tuition money comes from, one more lecture hall seat for an out-of-stater is one fewer for a California resident.

Even disregarding the limited access this decision might cause for state residents, looking for private financial support contradicts the university's commitment to stand independently as a public institution. According to UC system spokesman Ricardo Vazquez, there are no official requirements regarding out-of-state enrollee percentages. So as officials face more and more

pressure to find quick-fix financial solutions, what's not to stop them from increasing the current 6 percent of nonresident undergraduates to something like University of Michigan's 30 percent nonresident population? Why not lose the public-access facade all together and charge a couple thousand dollars more in tuition? If university officials don't keep California residents' best interests in mind, the university's goal to provide higher education to all of the state's qualified applicants will be at the mercy of a collection of geographically diverse private pocketbooks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vegetarian Lifestyle Supports Sustainability

Dear Editor,

With threats of global warming and environmental degradation, it is important to consider the effects of our eating habits on the environment. To produce a single pound of beef requires 5,214 gallons of water; compare this to 23 gallons per pound of lettuce and 25 gallons per pound of wheat. The National Institute of Livestock and Grassland Science found that the production of 2.2 pounds of beef generates more carbon dioxide than an average car does after traveling 160 miles. Though a good start, with sources of water dwindling and the greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide, we must try to do more than buy fuel-efficient cars and reusable grocery bags. When we consider the amount of resources used to produce meat compared with that of fruits and vegetables, and that all

of the essential amino acids can be found in such combinations as rice and beans, a peanut butter sandwich and many additional alternatives to meat, making a conscious decision to protect our environment becomes less threatening to the convenience of a meat-eating lifestyle. In order to live in a sustainable manner, we must consider how our actions impact the environment. A significant part of such sustainability includes adopting a vegetarian lifestyle.

— Jennifer Hull

Thurgood Marshall College freshman

UC Pres. Ignores Workers' Request for Contract Talks

Dear Editor,

Last Friday, 60 of the University of California's lowest-wage workers went to the San Francisco office of UC Regent Richard Blum. The purpose of their visit was to talk with him directly regarding their

contract. During their visit, the workers asked to meet and/or talk with Regent Blum in person or by telephone. When Regent Blum denied their request, 20 of these low-wage service workers sat down and refused to leave.

Currently, 96 percent of the university's 8,500 service workers receive such low wages that they qualify for at least one form of public assistance. Service workers felt that after over a year and a half of little action at the bargaining table by the leadership of the UC system, it was necessary to deal directly with the leadership themselves.

Unfortunately, UC President Mark G. Yudof's response to the plight of these workers was business as usual. Instead of moving to immediately solve this contract and meet the university's moral responsibility to provide workers a wage that will not keep them and their families in poverty, President Yudof wrote a letter to AFSCME Local 3299's president expressing his strong feelings

that worker actions such as these must stop.

This clearly shows that once again the current leadership of the UC system only cares about those few individuals at the top and that they continue to turn their backs on the real pressing needs of 8,500 of their employees who they pay a poverty wage.

In answer to this misguided letter, AFSCME Local 3299 President Lakesha Harrison has responded today to President Yudof.

— William Schlitz

Political & Communications Director, AFSCME Local 3299

► The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than 500 words, typed, double-spaced and signed with a name and applicable title. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the Guardian office on the second floor of the Student Center or e-mailed. Send all letters to:

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Opinion Editor
9500 Gilman Dr. 0316
La Jolla, CA 92093-0316

See **DISUNION**, page 5

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

By Niven Wilson



Credit, Natural Resources Not Unlimited

► **DISUNION**, from page 4
of self-responsibility. Our president can surround himself with all the Ivy League economists he wants, but if we as a population don't take the time to save and spend our money wisely, these problems are not going to disappear. I prefer to learn about the Great Depression in history class, not witness it firsthand.

The way we treat the environment and handle our natural resources is another trouble area that government policy alone will not solve. I, for one, am certainly tired of being berated by tree huggers who want me to wear compostable underpants, but a toned-down version of their message

is important for everyone to hear. We don't all have to become smelly hippies to be more environmentally friendly. And although Obama proposes the creation of an entire new green industry that will focus on energy innovation and provide thousands of new American jobs, if individual citizens don't start doing basic things like conserving electricity and water, it may all be for naught. If we all took the time to recycle our post-rager beer bottles and open windows rather than run the air conditioning, that would be a solid start. I know fixing the environment is something that necessitates a global undertaking, but this is America dammit, and

we are supposed to be leaders.

Throughout history, a politician who comes to power based on a platform of change can prove to be dangerous. There is no doubt that Obama's words have inspired a large portion of our population to expect more from its government. However, we must not fall into the trap that has been set for us. We must not let ourselves be quietly lulled into believing a shiny new president will instantly solve our problems. Remember what our iconic, 35th President John F. Kennedy said at his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

Unprecedented Costs Call for an Admission-Standards Adjustment

By Gabriella Capisani
STAFF WRITER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — Most undergraduates reminisce about applying to college — back when the whole admissions process was a laborious, painful practice of laying brick upon brick, until a thick wall of varied SAT scores and extracurricular regrets stood tall between you and your lifelong dreams — but those days are long gone.

As the recent economic crisis uproots the foundations of so many middle-class students, their concerns shift from meeting admission requirements to simply making ends meet. According to Collegewise.com, a professional college-admissions blog, high school seniors will be applying to fewer schools to avoid excessive application fees, and private schools will see a significant decrease in applications as their tuition is just not affordable.

Meanwhile, students will select safety schools based on financial security, rather than ease of admission, which is traditionally the case.

As families struggle to factor academia into their tight budgets, universities are, for a change, examining ways to make the process less taxing. Along with independent help and information that applicants can procure from sites like Collegewise, the UC Board of Regents is considering a major change in testing requirements by possibly eliminating the SAT II. And because high school seniors can expect fewer acceptance letters now that schools like those in the UC system are dramatically scaling down their admissions to deal with the fiscal downturn, changes

such as these are necessary to give hard-working high school students an break.

It may be frustrating for current college students to watch changes that will ease the process. Those admitted in 2006 saw another fat brick added to the blockade before them, being the first to deal with an additional SAT essay and the test's new 2,400 point value; those who applied this past fall experienced possibly the most difficult economic year, and may largely be forced to settle with lower-standard safety schools.

These undergrads might feel that changes discount their own admission, as less-rigorous demands could result in less qualified future students. But this is hardly the case. University of California officials have proposed a 6 percent cut to freshman enrollment due to insufficient state funding — now more than ever admissions officers will be selecting only the most talented applicants. However, the leniencies being discussed for 2009 applicants will help lighten the unnecessary burdens within the process and make college more attainable despite the times. Amid a dying economy, the cost of merely taking the SAT may be prohibitively high for middle-class students, and affording test preparation is unrealistic.

College students' concerns about easing the process are petty when set against the financial struggles applicants and their families are facing. In this time of hardship, the University of California is right to ameliorate the weighty admission requirements.

Readers can contact Gabriella Capisani at gcapisani@ucsd.edu.

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FEEL-GOOD CITY KIDS & CAL GOLD CRASH THE LOFT

Campus Venue Unplugs for Squeaky-Clean Boy Wonders

The Honorary Title

The Honorary Title are a bit of an oddity in the college music scene. Wailing adolescent love songs over undistorted guitar chords, the Brooklyn-based musicians' flippant hair cuts and good-boy looks only further the impression that they belong on your 14-year-old sister's iPod. The thrift-store chic of guitarist/vocalist Josh Gorbel and drummer/vocalist Adam Boyd suit them better for a guest appearance on "One Tree Hill" than they do than at the Loft — full sleeves with an indie-Ken aesthetic.

But to superficially dismiss the duo is a disservice to their musical acuity. It's not quite arena rock — no soaring refrains, nothing that'll make you scream nonsensical lyrics along with your speakers — but Gorbel's range, complemented by unshakable sincerity, is compelling enough to command Price Center East for a few short sweet ones. There are moments on their sophomore album, *Scream and Light Up the Sky*, that recall the Killers, but despite Gorbel's strained and stately cries about suburbia and teenage love, the Title never quite reach the grandeur or production value demanded by an egomaniac like Brandon Flowers. There are even a few riffs that seem, unexpectedly, inspired by Johnny Cash — if Cash penned empty threats about breaking up with his unresponsive girlfriend ("If you don't pick up the phone/ You will regret it/ I've said it before/ But this time I mean it") instead of, well, shooting men in Reno just to watch them die.

The band's youth lends an eager anticipation to their music, an upbeat optimism that you might have been missing since your Spice Girls days. Flushed with hope and idealism, lost in a music scene constantly pushing electro-experimentalism, it's a welcome (if unexpected) reminder of feel-good guitar pop's many virtues. The Honorary Title aren't edgy or trendy, and they certainly won't be showing up on the pages of Pitchfork or the Hype Machine anytime soon. But what they do attempt — unashamed indie rock guided by achingly earnest vocals — they clearly achieve, with the simple acoustic strings of a songwriter undistracted by the world-weary posturing of outside music buffs. If nothing else, their honesty is worth a detour from Burger King.

The Honorary Title will play at the Loft on Saturday, Jan. 24. Doors open at 8 p.m.

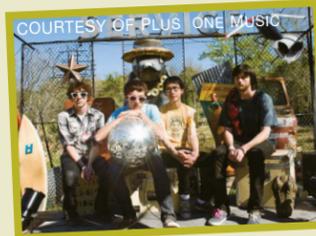
BY MICHAEL BARRUS — CONTRIBUTING WRITER



The Morning Benders

There's the Golden State, the Golden Poppy, and of course, the Gold Rush; ever since the first screams of "Eureka!" trembled down the Sacramento Valley back in 1848, California's legacy has been defined by its relationship to that little nugget of truth found up in the nether reaches of NorCal. Likewise, ever since the Morning Benders released their debut album *Talking Through Tin Cans* — whether you take advice from the guy behind the desk at Lou's Records in Encinitas or the critics over at iTunes — all ends of the spectrum seem to agree: The Morning Benders have struck gold.

Their liberation-rock revolt voraciously bobs its sea of grinning heads to a hand-clappable procession of steel wheels, churning out bohemian fantasy as if beneath an open-air freight, cruising across the Pacific countryside. Berkeley virtuosos play an acoustic-guitar laden, piano-pounding drive to wrap us in an earthen core of redwood — the exact aural remedy for stress-ridden muscles and dramatic winter tussles.



And how could one snag their ears a piece of such fantastically golden musical sensation? Well, like any chunk of precious metal, we've simply had to wait for the goods to sift through the silt and make their way down south. The morning contortionists will be kicking off their tour from a perch within the glittering glass walls of UCSD's newest performance space: the Loft.

Accompanied by the new-age folk duo of Los Angeles duo the Submarines — more often than not caught in the cathartic blades of a genre blender — the Morning Benders will bring your ears to their toes, your toes into rhythmical throes and your face to a state that would make any mirror exclaim, "Wow, it glows!"

The Morning Benders will play at the Loft on Thursday, Jan. 29. Doors open at 8 p.m.

BY WILLIAM RENAULD — CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Two Tired Thumbs
Down for the Loss of
EGM, Gaming Great

Like an inferno cutting through forest bristles, the news that Hearst Corporation had acquired the popular site 1UP.com set the gaming community ablaze two weeks ago. No one could believe it — or, more aptly put, no one wanted to. If the feat had been a simple baton pass from one owner to the next, there probably wouldn't have been anything to worry about, but the repercussions have been far-reaching.



Critical Hit!

PHILIP RHIE
prhie@ucsd.edu

The Jan. 6 transaction revealed that not only had 1UP and its various sister sites fallen under Hearst and its UGO.com brand, but that Ziff Davis Media had effectively shut down Electronic Gaming Monthly — arguably the most popular, respected, and longest-running gaming publication in the nation — abruptly firing the vast majority of its editorial staff a month before its 20th anniversary.

I suppose all good things must come to an end; however, I didn't think I, or anyone else, could've anticipated just how much the end actually seethes.

Truthfully, the acquisition shouldn't have come as much of a surprise, especially since Ziff Davis had filed for Chapter 11 last summer. I'm sure we were all shocked. But surprised? Not likely.

Ever since key staff members started disappearing, subtle hints of the company's mismanagement were obvious. Well-known personalities like Luke Smith, Bryan Intahar and Kathleen Sanders may have gone on to bigger and better things, but when influential figures like Mark MacDonald and then EGM Editor in Chief Dan Hsu became freelance writers, it stopped making any sense.

Having lost a majority of the site's leading names,

See EGM, page 9

DUST OFF YOUR BOOKSHELVES: THIS YEAR'S
FANTASY IS BETTER LEFT ON THE PAGE

Inkheart
★★★
Starring Eliza Bennet, Brendan Fraser & Helen Mirren
Directed by Ian Softley
Rated PG

By Amanda Martinek
STAFF WRITER

Most recent in a long line of fantasy paperbacks turned sprawling epic blockbusters, "Inkheart" doesn't do the genre — or its literary counterpart — much justice. Then again, it's fitting that a movie extolling the imaginative powers of literature degrade the pages from which it sprung.

Reading the tale "Inkheart" as a bedtime story to his young daughter, Mo Folchart (Brendan Fraser) accidentally frees the novel's characters from their parchments and — with his undiscovered gift of "Silvertongue" — gives them life. But, as Folchart soon realizes, his gift comes with a price: As part of the bargain, someone from the real world must be taken into the book. After accidentally sending his wife Resa (Sienna Guillory) deep into the ink, Folchart is then forced to raise his daughter Meggie (Eliza Bennett) as a single parent for a long and lonely nine years. He spends all his spare time desperately searching for

another copy of "Inkheart," hoping to read the fictional characters back into the pages and summon his wife in the process.

During their library-crawling quest, the father and daughter meet a fictional fire juggler — sporting a surfer's shag and hip five o'clock shadow — seeking to reunite with his book-lover family. But Mo refuses to help him, and Dustfinger (Paul Bethany) turns them over to Capricorn (played by a bald, Dr. Evil-looking Andy Serkis), a fictional, freshly animated villain living lavishly in our world. Though Mo tries to keep Meggie out of the fairytale drama — leaving her in the care of crazy bibliophile Aunt Elinor (Helen Mirren) — they all end up at Capricorn's castle, where the real journey of saving Resa and restoring reality (sans literary incarnations) begins.

Not only have books coming to life become a worn trope in recent years, but "Inkheart" follows closely on the heels of "Bedtime Stories," a just-released film boasting similar plot lines (and that wasn't

See INK, page 9



COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

recordings

Crying Light
Antony and the Johnsons

SECRETLY CANADIAN

★★★★

We all know the world is crying. But it's never been quite so clear as when caught in the throat of the weepy, towering Antony Hegarty, burdened at English-Irish birth with the androgynous hugeness of Mother Nature's own voice, now heaving that entire pain in each moment of song: No matter where you splice it, it's as if someone had, all at once, sounded every rung in a grand, falling forest of organ pipes.

"Mama in the afterglow/ When the grass is green with grow/ And my tears have turned to snow," hollows the wheezy-beautiful she-man into album climax "Kiss My Name," finally finding enough peace in his own naturalness to step back and realize — too late, it would appear — that he and we, the rest of humanity, have officially failed the nature that composed us.

Gone are the queeny, art-folk contributors and self-conscious operahouse theatrics that beautified 2005's sophomore *I Am a Bird Now*, on which its headmaster grasped at the day when all would fall into place, when he could finally osmosis out the woman inside. But the poise and fearlessness Hegarty has found in so many artistic partners — the combative Bjork, the defiant disco

at DFA, those unashamed CocoRosie lez-dolls — has helped to shed years of scar tissue. On the revelatory *Crying Light*, Hegarty rolls around in the sheets of both deathbed and cradle, mother and father, love and solitude, accepting life in all its awkwardness and no longer bleeding for change. Meek, swishy lounge drums and an understated score of organic keys and strings (and the occasional reed) by composer Nico Muhly leave no curtain to hide behind, and still, Hegarty doesn't overcompensate for the added spotlight to his one-woman show. Choruses are never more than monologous refrains, and themes are lolled out with such impeccable cool as to feign improvisation.

Without Hegarty's hermit shell, the voice that always stole our breath is now almost blinding. "I'm gonna miss the sea/ I'm gonna miss the snow," he spreads across the "Another World" piano with impossible softness, fully exposed to the harsh air outside his inner turmoil but finally ready to bear that greater weight.

— Simone Wilson
 SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Noble Beast

Andrew Bird

FAT POSSUM

★★★★

If 2007's *Armchair Apocrypha* was Andrew Bird's attempt to flock masses with lip-smacking pop appeal, *Noble Beast* is clearly the stuff that keeps them coming back, filled to the teary brim with classic Bird tenderness. His overlay of hand-clapping on an impressively whistled melody recalls a spray of wildflowers, each puposeful beat barely traceable from the melodic swarm but always merging seamlessly with the next, threading a carefully woven sonic plush.

Beast charts an idyllic springtime landscape, where barely a quiet pessimism dares to linger. "Squint your eyes/ And no one dies," croons our generation's Pied Piper in "Oh No."

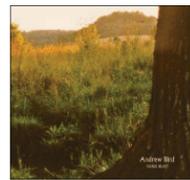
But "Anonanimal" shakes the Bambi pleasantries with anxious violin pizzicatos and harplike swells. At any moment, in these waves of moody string surges, it seems as though all might give way to

thundering storm. But just in time, Bird expertly reigns in the waves of tension without catharsis for a full five minutes, never letting us tip too far over the edge. Besides, "Anonanimal" is phenomenal for its multisyllabic wordplay: "See a sea anemone the enemy will see the sea anemone/ And that will be the enemy," Bird effortlessly rattles atop a heavily crashing string quartet. Here, the internal rhythm of language overwhelms its dribbling meaning.

There are no obvious hits on *Beast*, which would suffer if not for the sheer dexterity and wisdom of Bird, more than enough to keep us patient. The album is a masterpiece of subtle complexity — emotional, not sentimental; smart, not smarmy.

Andrew Bird will perform live at SOMA on Feb. 15.

— Hannah Kang
 STAFF WRITER



druthers

HIATUS PICKS
 THE WEEK'S
 BEST BETS

Tapes 'n Tapes

CASBAH / JAN. 25 / 8:30 P.M. / \$15

The ear-muffled, plaid-clad boys of Tapes 'n Tapes have moved from the log-cabin creaks of their earliest endeavors to the more refined charm of latest album, *Walk It Off*. Funny — it seems like they don't have much to walk off, with highbrow Pitchfork praise and a legion of indie blogophants skipping in their wake. Still, the Tapes have managed to retain their dorky humility, singing sugary blues with polka-kicked urgency to rival the Pixies. Sure, they're just four pretty little fish in a big indie pond — but it suits 'em just fine. (SM)

"Burn After Reading"

PRICE CENTER THEATER / JAN. 20 & 26 / 9 P.M. / \$3

Battered in a distinct "As I Lay Dying" sense of dark idiocy, eccentric characters profiled by nuanced actors are the hallmark of any Coen comedy. Once again mixing oft-casted actors (George Clooney, Frances McDormand) with new hires (Brad Pitt, John Malkovich) in "Burn After Reading," Joel and Ethan look to repeat the formula of their comedic schema with another misanthropic spin on a marginal genre.

It might not look like a spy thriller — "Miller's Crossing" doesn't resemble a jidaigeki and "The Big Lebowski" is certainly not film noir — but the tale of scheming, cartoonish opportunists in "Burn After Reading" takes many a cue from CIA capers, exaggerating and embellishing moronic plotlines wherever it sees fit. (EG)

exit strategy →

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 EVENTS

TEEN ANGST

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 Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
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THE JUMP OFF

Round Table Patio
 Jan. 23, 1 p.m.
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"HAPPY GO LUCKY"

Price Center Theater
 Jan. 27, 6 p.m.
 \$3

KARAOKE

WEDNESDAY
 Porter's Pub
 Jan. 28, 8 p.m.
 FREE

CAMPUS RAIL TOUR

Matthew's Quad
 Jan. 23, 12 p.m.
 FREE

ROB LO

Espresso Roma
 Jan. 26, 8 p.m.
 FREE

SPILLJOY ENSEMBLE

The Loft
 Jan. 27, 8 p.m.
 FREE

COLLEGE BOWL

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lil WAYNE



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2/2	MESHUGGAH	2/19	THE GAME
2/3 & 4	NOFX	2/23	DANZIG
2/7	BADFISH	2/28	THE BURN INSTITUTE WELCOMES RAPHAEL SAADIQ
2/8	A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME	3/2	BUSTA RHYMES
	SKA IS DEAD TOUR	3/4	LES CLAYPOOL
	FEAT: THE TOASTERS/	3/5	THE PRETENDERS
	VOODOO SKULLS	3/8	G.LOVE AND SPECIAL SAUCE
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Cranes

• Cranes

DADAPHONIC

★★★★

Comparing Cranes' lead singer Alison Shaw with the infamous Dadaist rocker Don Van Vliet — better known to most fans as Captain Beefheart — may seem a relatively strange proposition. Although both musicians possess voices of the sui generis variety (which, in this age of manufactured carbon copies, already makes them both cool) their pitches will nonetheless draw inevitable repulsion from many a listener. Shaw's childlike vocals recall a mythical siren, emerging from an infinitely placid lake at the center of some nebulous forest, goading and drawing the weary traveler through an impenetrable haze — exactly the sort of thing that (understandably) pisses off a lot of people.

The Cranes' sound has done some heavy evolving over nine studio albums, emerging from a more riff-heavy shoe-gaze to a subtler, softer and more ethereal place. Over 20 years after their debut, Shaw's stark vocals are still in complete command, met halfway with the ubiquitous acoustic stylings of brother and bandmate Jim and a comforting set of electronic blips and pulses, all backed by a quiet thumping.

"Wonderful Things" is the self-titled album's standout track, showcasing not only marvelously seductive, insidious guitar work, but some of she-Shaw's most powerful vocals — proving that, despite her breathiness, she is still a capable of a good belt — and poetic lyrics possess a genuine tenderness and mystery to the saga.

"Worlds" serves as the album's radio-worthy single, opening with those familiar pulsating strings and accompanied by a genial electro-blip, but waxing catchy one-third of the way in as the Cranes slyly segue into a friendly, upbeat promenade that demands instant replay.

The remaining tracks sparkle with the same thorough contemplation, allowing a band that's more than been around the block to reach a young, tangible beauty and evoke a richly sensual universe often lost on tired vets to the business. Unfortunately, nothing about *Cranes* transcends pretty to grapple with the unexpected. All that the band attempts to do, the Cocteau Twins and Slowdive could do just a little better (and already have). The track list also tends to slip into a sort of repetition, causing us to unwillingly enter a struggle with relatively sustained bouts of boredom — something that could never happen while experiencing superior dreampop like Slowdive's *Pygmalion*.

Of course, this should not relegate *Cranes* to the used bin — far from it. The music therein is so reflectively unpretentious that it completely flies about the new set of mediocre shoegazers; in fact, there's a good chance that — seeing how well time has treated them thus far — we'll see these birds take flight. But for now, we're happy to let them preen.

— Steven Ren
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



UNBIASED GAMER PUBLICATION HUMANIZED WRITERS, SET STANDARDS FOR HONEST CRITIQUE

► EGM, from page 7

many questions have been raised regarding 1Up's future. What'll happen to all the talented editors, writers and producers who were let go? What'll be made of popular podcasts "The 1Up Show" and "1Up Yours"? And what'll become of the community that 1Up helped foster for an entire decade? But of all the questions to ask, I think the most important has yet to be approached: Why is it that we care? Companies fold. People get fired. So what makes the departure of EGM and its staff so painful?

At a time when most gaming publications acted as vehicles for commercial hype, purporting the popularity of a given console (read: Nintendo Power), EGM's coverage was admittedly a big fucking deal. Upon its inception, the publication made a point of staying unbiased and covering almost any significant game for every available system, anywhere in the world.

The impartiality of gaming journalism may be a standard today, but

it's only because EGM blazed frontiers. And while the most obvious benefits of the magazine's objectivity were the honest previews and reviews of both upcoming and existing games, EGM's greatest success spawned from its ability to take its readers seriously. As both video games and gamers became more sophisticated over the years, so did the magazine.

Remaining true to its impartiality, EGM began addressing the perception of gaming within the general public with topics ranging from video violence and narrative structures to video games as fine art. And once EGM combined with 1Up's online publication, its writers themselves became household names — well, maybe not in every neighborhood.

Due in large part to the brilliant success of the site's numerous podcasts, 1Up did what EGM never could: destroy the unconscious barrier between writers and readers. Podcasts gave the staff real human qualities, experts could finally relate. In conjunction with editor blogs and message boards, 1Up built an expan-

sive community for gamers from the toil of the older gamer generations. EGM's editorial staff became our voice, expressing our opinions and asking our questions to those in and outside of the industry. They became as much a part of us as we became of them.

It's with great sadness that we say farewell to a legendary publication and the imagined community we once called home. Though there'll never be a magazine that could possibly fill the void that EGM has left (and 1Up.com will inevitably continue to exist), we all know it'll never be quite the same.

But even still, EGM's story does have a silicon lining. The talented individuals who made the 1Up podcasts such a resounding success have recently gone on to make podcasts of their own — one of which, Rebel FM, currently sits pretty in the No. 2 slot on iTunes. So while it's a sad time for gamers everywhere, at least we can know that the ghost of a great will continue to make its well-deserved presence known.



COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

PRETTY FIREWORKS AND PRETEEN WONDER DON'T COMPENSATE FOR A FLAT FRASER

► INK, from page 7

very good to begin with). But at least Adam Sandler has personality; what has Fraser done in recent memory to make us crave a copycat?

Though audiences might be expecting a goofy, warm-hearted "George of the Jungle," what they get instead is a somber, know-it-all father figure that comes off as two-dimensional, boring and somewhat whiny. Though the young Bennett's acting prowess comes as a pleasant surprise, her character is written as a tad too mature for a prepubescent 12-year-old. Fortunately, Helen Mirren (who

seems above something of this sort) anchors the film, providing confectionary comic relief and a reason for anyone over 50 to watch the movie.

Surprisingly, the only character to spark a flicker of emotional response is Dustfinger, who provides an expressive range that effectively drives the rather wimpy plotline. Despite playing a fictional character, Bethany exudes more selfish sincerity and complexity than anyone else on cast.

To its credit, "Inkheart" is still decently crafted at the peripheries: It boasts a superb score that captures climate and mood with preci-

sion and keen cinematography that recalls a luscious vista in the European countryside, spiced up by moderately applied pyrotechnics and over-the-top special effects.

Kids that have grown up on Grand Theft Auto and Reese's Pieces for breakfast know a thing or two about what's exciting and what's lame. Fortunately, "Inkheart" falls further into the latter category — its flashy 106 minutes barely merit a \$3 Blockbuster fee — but if you're looking for somewhere to deposit your grandparents while on babysitting duty, they'll be thrilled for the in-theater nap.

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The Guardian Green Card is available at EDNA in the Price Center and Student Center, Soft Reserves, and the Guardian office, upstairs in the Old Student Center. (3/12)

EVENTS

Don't forget you can post your UCSD campus events on the Guardian online Campus Calendar. Go to www.ucsdguardian.org and link at the top to "Calendar." (3/12)

SUPERBOWL FARE—We're kicking off the Superbowl with some healthy fare at Whole Foods Market La Jolla! Join "The Kitchen Shrink" – syndicated columnist Catherine Kaufman, for a fun and funky cooking class, just in time for your Superbowl shindig! Saturday January 31st at 11AM – you'll learn how

to make some tasty healthy dishes and dips that'll score big at your party! Go for the extra Superbowl "pointers" form Whole Foods Market! (1/29)

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PERSONALS

President Carter, I would like to introduce you to the Clintons. (1/22)

GUARDIAN SUDOKU

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

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

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

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Find the SUDOKU solution on next Monday's Classified page.

A Phoenix man who ran away from a traffic stop last week chose the wrong place to hide when he slipped under a parked moving truck — and then was run over when the driver pulled away. Wile E.Coyote is suing on the grounds of intellectual property. (1/22)

TUESDAY JAN. 20 Crossword Solution

E	V	E	S	L	A	U	D	E	T	H	A	N
M	E	S	H	A	R	G	O	A	R	E	N	A
O	R	C	A	V	A	L	E	S	A	L	T	Y
T	O	O	K	B	A	B	Y	S	T	E	P	S
E	N	R	O	L	N	I	L	I	K	E		
S	A	T	E	V	E	R	T	S	O	N	E	S
S	E	I	N	E	C	A	K	E	S			
J	U	M	P	E	D	R	I	G	H	T	I	N
M	E	N	U	S	A	R	E	A	S			
B	E	R	G	T	E	N	E	T	S	R	A	E
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S	A	I	L	E	D	T	H	R	O	U	G	H
L	O	T	U	S	R	A	R	E	I	S	L	E
I	N	E	R	T	G	N	A	W	L	E	E	R
T	O	D	A	Y	Y	A	M	S	A	D	D	S

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Tritons Can't Hold Lead, Fall in Fifth Set

► **VOLLEYBALL**, from page 12

After losing its first set 30-28, the men's volleyball team bounced back against Cal Baptist. Throwing down five aces, UCSD dominated the second set 30-27. With a lead as big as 24-18 in the third set, UCSD only saw the lead close gaps as the Lancers came back to win it 32-30.

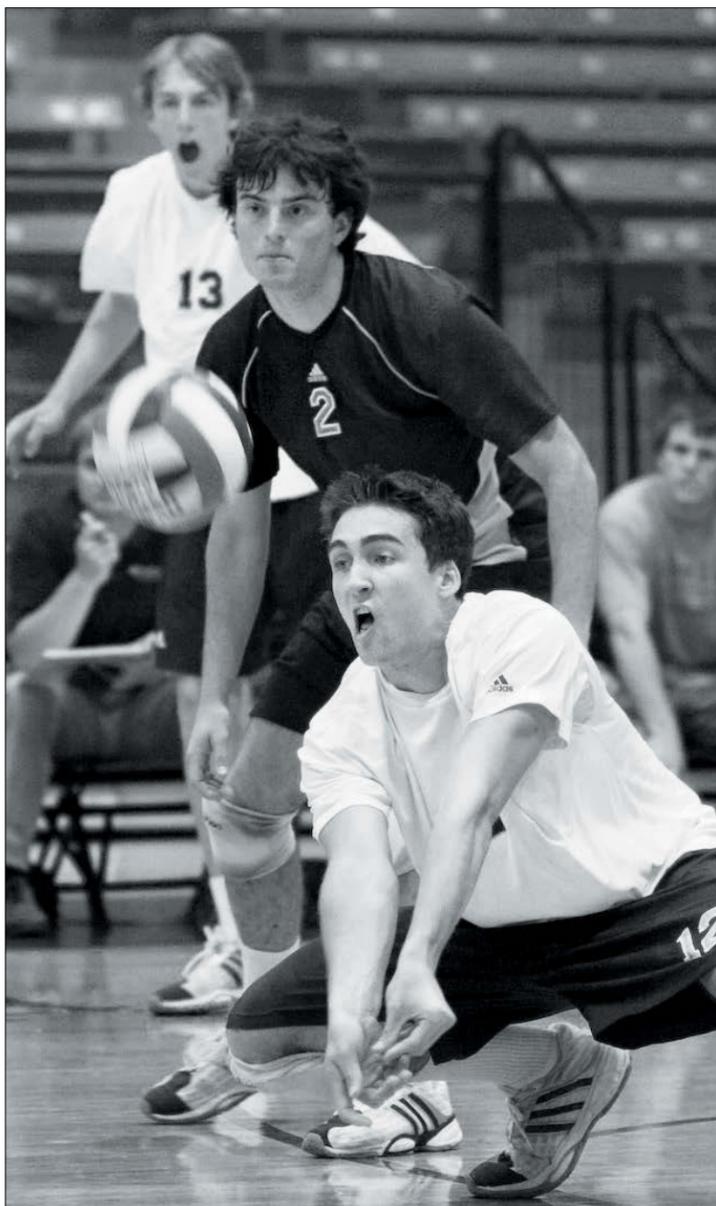
The highlight of the match for the Tritons came in the fourth set, where UCSD appeared defeated and chased a five-point deficit. Thanks to three errors by Cal Baptist and Sprangler's three kills, the Tritons grinded to tie it up at 26, eventually rallying ahead to win the fourth set 30-27.

In the decisive fifth set, UCSD came out strong, scoring the first five points. The Tritons were led by Spangler and sophomore outside hitter Joel Davidson who recorded kills early on. In a tug-of-war set, Cal Baptist sealed up its victory and ended on top with a fifth match point.

"We need to maintain overall consistency in order to be successful," Leserman said. "I thought we played well throughout the game, but a couple of mistakes cost us a win."

Junior outside hitter Jason Spangler led the Triton attack with 21 kills on .327 hitting, while junior opposite Frank Fritsch added 15 kills. Guthals added 14 kills on .458 hitting, while sophomore setter Phil Bannan had 56 assists. Leserman also had a strong match for the Tritons, recording 11 digs.

The Tritons also faced No. 5 UC Irvine on the road on Jan. 21, but scores were not available at press time. UCSD will face another top-10 team — No. 8 UCLA — on the road on Jan. 23.



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN FILE
Junior outside hitter Jason Spangler recorded two digs during a five-set loss to Cal Baptist on Jan. 13. Spangler is fourth on the team with 26 kills, despite only playing in seven of the team's 11 games.

Readers can contact Cameron Tillisch at ctillisc@ucsd.edu.

UCSD Hosts CCAA Games This Weekend

► **JAM**, from page 12

to come out to games, the foremost being the Tritons' current undefeated record in the California Collegiate Athletic Association. Riding an eight-game winning streak, the women's team returns home to face Cal State Stanislaus on Jan. 23 and Chico State University on Jan. 24, two teams that have seen slow starts to their seasons thus far.

Cal State Stanislaus comes into its game against UCSD tied for seventh place with a 3-5 conference record, and last year's CCAA champion Wildcats currently stand at 4-4 in the conference, good for fourth place. The Tritons are currently in first place and on a quest to become the first team in conference history to post an undefeated CCAA record for a full season.

"We don't want to get complacent," Martin said. "We're taking it one game at a time and continue to progress and get better as a team."

On the men's side, UCSD currently owns a 5-3 CCAA record and has won its last two games. The Tritons, defending CCAA champions, will host the conference's cellar dwellers in Cal State Stanislaus and Chico State. UCSD won its last two games after losing three games in a row — a rough stretch that accounts for all of the team's conference losses. The Triton men will try to stay on the winning track at its home games this weekend.

"Hopefully more people will come out to support us and help us win more games," Stuckey said.

Readers can contact Janani Sridharan at jsridhar@ucsd.edu.

ON DECK

Men's Volleyball

at UCLA
Jan. 23

After dropping two consecutive matches, the Tritons will be searching for their first win in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play as they travel to face the eighth-ranked Bruins (2-3, 1-1 MPSF), who have struggled to meet their lofty preseason expectations. This showdown will mark the third straight game against a top-10 team for the Tritons, searching for a statement win early on. One season ago, UCSD recorded its first win in 34 tries against UCLA, winning a five-set epic at RIMAC Arena.

Swimming & Diving

at UC Irvine, Cal Baptist
Jan. 24

After taking down cross-town rival San Diego for the eighth consecutive year, the Triton women hope to keep the momentum going as they prepare for a dual meet this weekend. Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams will hit the pool as UCSD travels north for its meet with UC Irvine and Cal Baptist. Since coming together for the winter season at the start of this month, the Tritons have won all three of their meets. UCSD will compete in one more meet during the last week of January before the postseason.

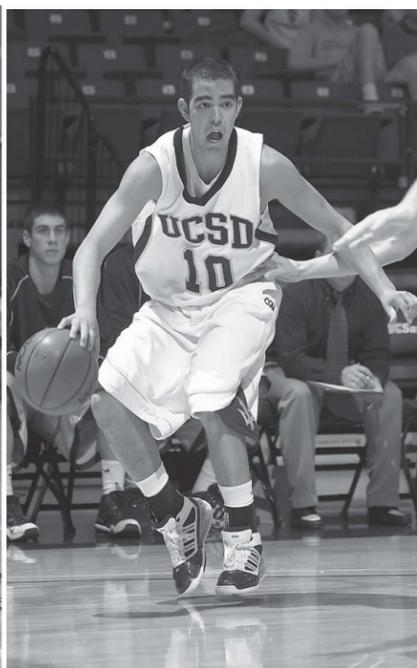
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The junior outside hitter led the Tritons with 21 kills during a five-set loss to California Baptist on Jan. 13.



TRITON JAM TIPS OFF HOMESTAND



DANIEL CADDELL/GUARDIAN

By Janani Sridharan
SPORTS EDITOR

Nearly 1,500 students piled into RIMAC Arena on Jan. 20 ready to meet the UCSD basketball teams at the eighth annual Triton Jam. With free food, contests and prizes, the Triton Jam served as a precursor to Spirit Night, UCSD's annual showcase of school spirit that takes place this year on Feb. 20.

"The Triton Jam is roughly patterned after Midnight Madness, but instead of doing it in the fall before the first day of practice, we do it before the first home game after the holiday break to reintroduce the basketball teams who haven't played at home in a while," Senior Associate Athletic Director Ken Grosse said.

The spirit rally consisted of shooting contests for students — as well as a few professors — and included prizes ranging from free Spring Quarter textbooks to a new iPod Touch.

Despite the enticing prizes, the real highlight of the event was the introduction of the Triton basketball teams. Members of each team introduced their fellow teammates, revealing personal and sometimes embarrassing quirks and characteristics.

"It's pretty funny when we get to talk about each other," junior guard Leilani Martin said. "It lets the student body know that we have a personality."

The men's team did more than just talk about themselves: Senior guard Shane Poppen performed a daring jig upon introduction and freshman guard Kirby Ruiz showed off his air saxophone skills, earning considerable applause from the mainly student audience.

"It's fun to see other people on campus," redshirt senior forward Brett Stuckey said. "Most of the time, I just see people walking to class, so it's nice to get a chance to meet and talk to them."

While the Triton Jam was a good opportunity for students to interact with UCSD's basketball squads, the Tritons hope that the fans will come out in larger numbers to the games this season. On average, 899 spectators attended men's basketball games and 438 attended women's games at RIMAC last season.

Women's head coach Charity Elliott and men's head coach Chris Carlson also addressed the crowd, emphasizing the importance of student support. Carlson spoke in particular about a group of 18 students that supported both teams throughout their 2007-08 campaigns.

"Eighteen doesn't sound like a lot, but it matters," said Carlson in his address. "This weekend I hope to see not 18, but 1,800 students."

The No. 21 women's basketball team has given fans plenty of reasons

See JAM, page 11

Tritons Suffer Dual Losses on the Road

By Cameron Tillisch
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL—The Tritons were outdueled twice last week in tough road losses at Cal Baptist University and Long Beach State. UCSD was handed its first loss on Jan. 13 at Cal Baptist in a classic back-and-forth grudge match, ultimately falling in five sets — 28-30, 30-27, 30-32, 30-27 and 20-22.

On Jan. 16, UCSD walked into a difficult matchup with No. 7 Long Beach State University at the Walter Pyramid in Long Beach. The Tritons were unable to stay competitive in what was the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation opener for both squads, falling to the 49ers in three sets — 26-30, 26-30 and 30-32. The 49ers were tough to block from beginning to end, living up to their top-10 ranking.

The Tritons were led by redshirt sophomore outside hitter Will Ehrman, who had 18 kills on the game on .333 hitting. Junior opposite Frank Fritsch added eight kills, while sophomore middle blocker Calvin Ross and sophomore outside hitter Joel Davidson added seven kills each. Senior libero Eric Leserman also recorded eight digs for the Tritons, while redshirt sophomore Adrian Guthals managed a team-high six blocks to balance out his five kills. Bannan recorded 37 assists overall for the Tritons.

The loss drops UCSD to 1-2, 0-1 MPSF while the 49ers improve to 2-2, 1-0 MPSF.

"I thought we competed well with Long Beach State," Leserman said. "There was nothing in particular we did wrong, one of their players just had an amazing game, and he made the difference. We have been playing well, and if we just play together, we will find success. So far, we've looked strong up and down. Our coach has just preached to play our game and maintain confidence throughout the season."

See VOLLEYBALL, page 11



JIMMY KAN/GUARDIAN

Top: Members of the crowd cheered on their fellow students in various competitions including knockout, free-throw shooting and 30-second shooting contests at the Triton Jam in RIMAC Arena on Jan. 20.
Above: Junior guard Tyler Acevedo introduced his teammate to mostly student onlookers. Both the men's and women's teams will host Cal State Stanislaus and Chico State University this weekend.

UCSD Fencers Battle International Foes at North American Cup

By Neil Joshi
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

FENCING — The UCSD fencing team spent the extra-long weekend taking part in the biggest competition of the year: the North American Cup, a four-day tournament in Louisville, Ky. The prestigious international spectacle featured the most talented group of fencers that the Tritons will face this season, including some of the best fencers from around the United States as well participants from Canada, Bulgaria, Ireland, Sweden, Israel and Ukraine.

Head coach Heidi Runyan said she believes the North American Cup was an important stepping stone in preparing the Tritons for the stretch run.

"Our team really got acquainted with some higher caliber fencers over in Louisville, and it will help us in some future competitions, especially the one in Notre Dame," Runyan said. "Our team is much better prepared for the rest of the season, thanks to this experience."

All told, the competition consisted of six events, a men's and women's tournament for the sabre, epee and foil.

The men's epee hosted a total of 245 competitors, making it the biggest event of the weekend. Jon Normile of Metro New York was the champion, and four of his teammates joining him in the top 10 overall. Junior Nick McGuinness was the top Triton finisher in the event, filling the 154th spot. Fellow junior Jed Bassein also took part, finishing 190th. Freshman Casey Gillcrist was the only Triton to take part in the women's epee which featured a field of 112. She stumbled into a 107th-place finish, while Courtney Hurley of Texas took home the title.

Two UCSD fencers battled in the men's sabre among 145 participants. Luther Clement of Metro New York took home another championship for his school as senior Bryan Kim led the way for the Tritons with a 77th-place finish. Triton junior Karl Chodakiewitz ended the competition in 134th place. Monica Aksamit from New Jersey won the women's sabre, a competition in which no UCSD women took part.

The Tritons did their best work in the men's foil, with freshman Michael Fong placing 44th in the event, the highest ranking of any UCSD fencer in

any event. Runyan was impressed with Fong's solid freshman campaign, calling him "a real talent" who has "legs like springs." She added that Fong is "a big reason why foil has become our strongest event as a team." Gerek Meinhardt finished first overall, beating out his teammate David Willette in the finals. Triton freshman Armin Chan was also part of the 188-man field, and finished 79th. In the women's foil, Doris Willette of Penn State University took home the title, beating out 103 other competitors, including two Triton fencers. Senior Zitin Kachru ended the tournament with a 76th-place finish, while freshman Pilar Alicea finished in 84th.

Its biggest hurdle completed, the fencing team can now look ahead to an upcoming team competition against UC Irvine and Cal Tech, which will take place at Main Gym on Jan. 31. That match will mark the final home date for UCSD, after which it will hit the road for two meets in February before the NCAA West Regional commences on March 7.

Readers can contact Neil Joshi at nejoshi@ucsd.edu



JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN

The Tritons faced some of the world's best fencers at the North American Cup in Louisville, Ky. on Jan. 16-19, including several fencers that were part of the Beijing Olympic Games last summer.