

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN

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Report: Over One Million Students Miss Out On Aid

Low-income students eligible for Pell Grants but who do not turn in required forms a growing problem.

By Matthew McArdle
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Almost 1.5 million students eligible for financial aid in the form of federal Pell Grants did not receive aid during the 2003-04 academic year because they did not apply for it, adding to a growing trend, according to a new report by the American Council on Education.

The number of eligible students who do not apply for financial aid has risen steadily since the 1999-2000 academic year, when 850,000 eligible students did not fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, required by the federal government to determine aid eligibility.

Despite an overall increase in FAFSA submissions since then, the number of low- and middle-income students that met requirements to receive aid but who neglected to submit a FAFSA has grown substantially, the report said.

UCSD Financial Aid Director Vincent De Anda said that while national figures have demonstrated a dip in financial aid requests, UCSD continues to receive more and more FAFSAs each year. Last year, the university processed nearly 24,000 applications for aid, and about 13,000 of those requests were approved, bringing the total amount of money awarded to UCSD students to about \$227 million, according to De Anda.

"The total amount [of aid] has steadily increased each year," he stated in an e-mail.

The A.C.E. report examined the rates at which undergraduates did not complete a FAFSA and analyzed characteristics of those students in terms of dependency status, income, attendance status and institution type. It also estimated the share of nonfilers who may have been eligible for a Pell Grant.

"While we are pleased to see more students from the general population apply for aid, it is disappointing that students who could benefit the most from financial aid are not making progress and are actually losing ground," Jacqueline E. King, the director of A.C.E.'s Center for Policy Analysis, stated in the report. "This

is the time of year when financial aid applications are due and we want to encourage students and their families to complete the FAFSA."

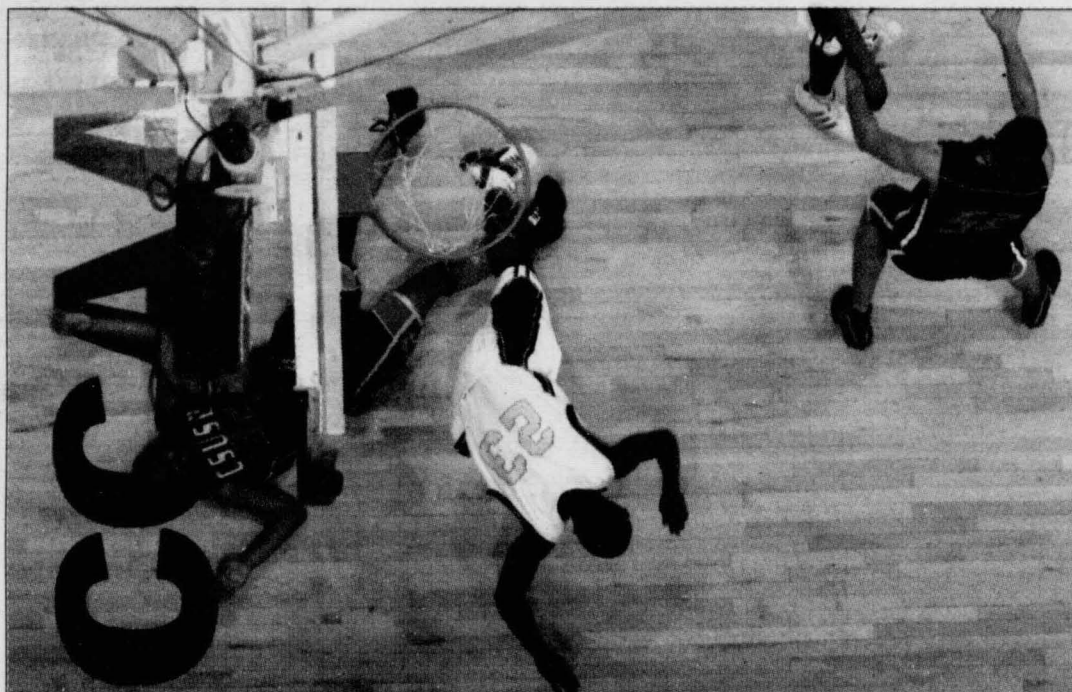
The report also found a 4-percent decrease since 1999-2000 in the number of low-income independent students who did not file a FAFSA, and found that more than one-third of those who did not apply were full-time students.

Results from the report also show that 55 percent of students at community colleges did not apply for aid, compared to 37 percent of students attending public four-year institutions, 27 percent of students at private nonprofit four-year colleges and 13 percent of students at private for-profit institutions.

The number of nonapplicants who seem to be Pell Grant-eligible grew because both college enrollments and the overall number of students submitting a FAFSA increased, and because an \$800 increase in the maximum Pell Grant allowed more students to qualify for the program, according to the report.

[AID, page 3]

Athletic Funds Fall Into the Red



GREG DALE/GUARDIAN

The UCSD athletics department is nearly \$275,000 in debt since moving from NCAA Division III to Division II as a result of additional NCAA requirements, increased schedule and travel costs, budget reductions and a lack of revenue.

Budget now includes 'severe' level of debt after increased expenses and slow revenue growth.

By Serena Renner
STAFF WRITER

After battling against an accumulating debt, the athletics department has hit a breaking point, reporting that it is several hundred thousands

in debt. The deficit in the department's operating budget is now considered severe after the department reported falling approximately \$275,000 in the red during the 2004-05 fiscal year, according to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Joseph W. Watson.

The gap between revenues and expenses can be linked to many factors, including the increased expenses the department faced after moving from NCAA Division III to Division II, according to Watson.

"At the national level, the differ-

ence [between the costs] is about \$2 million," Watson said. "Of course the cost for a particular program varies with a number of factors ... schedule and travel costs, size of the program, mix of teams, local cost of living, etc."

Watson also said that additional financial strains lie in NCAA and California Collegiate Athletic Association requirements, budget reductions, lack of inflation adjustments and slower-than-anticipated growth in revenues.

[ATHLETICS, page 3]

PELL GRANTS STUDY

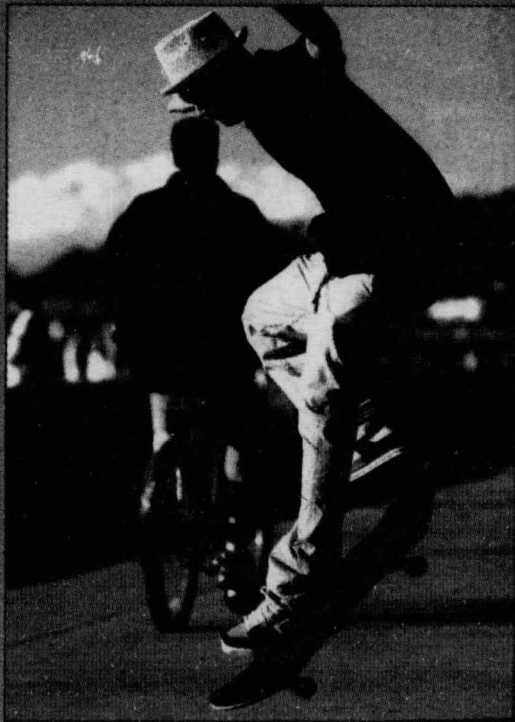
► 1.5 million eligible students did not apply for financial aid last year

► 4-percent decrease in the number of low-income independent students not submitting aid forms since 1999-2000 academic year

► 37 percent of students at public universities and 55 percent of community college students have not applied for aid since 1999-2000

SOURCE: AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

It's Your Backyard



BILLY WONG/GUARDIAN

Just miles away from La Jolla is another buzzing, beachy hood, so take a look at your early Pacific Beach weekend. ► See Photo Essay, page 6

WinterFest Attendance Hits Lowest Point In Three Years

Attendees leave early because of long delay before rapper Redman's act. Low numbers add to growing trend.

By Jaclyn Snow
STAFF WRITER

The A.S. programming office has seen years of decline in WinterFest attendance, with the latest concert — featuring rapper Redman and indie artist Jack's Mannequin — hitting its lowest number in three years.

The concert had a turnout of about 2,400 students, according to A.S. Commissioner of Programming Eric Morris. Last year, with performers Social Distortion, Backyard Babies and KRS-One, the programming office, which is funded by student activity fees, saw only a slightly better turnout, Morris said. WinterFest in 2004, with Switchfoot, Talib Kweli and Louis XIV had more than 6,000 in attendance.

"[Last year] was slightly higher probably by 300 or 400 people," Morris said.

"WinterFest is generally lower attended than all the festivals; for whatever reason, winter quarter just doesn't draw as well."

The main draw for the programming office has been the Sun God Festival, which usually features mainstream and well-known artists. But the musical acts at this year's WinterFest, especially Redman, left much to be desired, according to Earn Warren College sophomore Nick Norton.

"Redman is seriously terrible and everyone knows that," he said. "With 20,000 people, there's no way you're going to find a band everyone likes."

A long delay between acts encouraged many concert attendees to leave. Although Revelle College sophomore John Wu enjoyed the first part of the concert, he said he left, along with over half the crowd, before Redman's set because of the wait.

"We were tired and bored because it took so long for [Redman] to come out," Wu said. "I would have stayed if it didn't take forever."

Delays have long been a tradition for hip-hop acts at the programming office's

[CONCERT, page 3]

OPINION

Start Early to Win Gold

How young is too young? When you're talking Olympics, there's a low floor.

page 4



SPORTS

Familiar Faces

Four-straight games against Pomona leave the Tritons with a 3-1 record in the series.

page 12



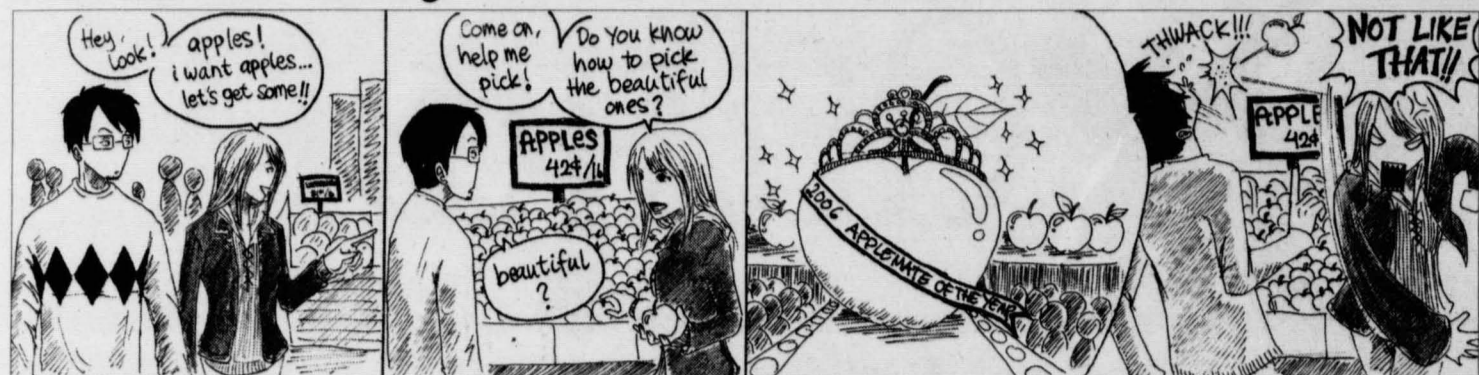
INSIDE

Currents	2
Column	4
InFocus	7
Campus Calendar	8
Classifieds	10
Crossword	10

WEATHER

Feb. 21	Feb. 22
H 59 L 41	H 63 L 41
Feb. 23	Feb. 24
H 66 L 42	H 66 L 45

We're All in This Together



BY BEN JUWONO

CURRENTS

Campus Launches Alzheimer's Study

A new landmark Alzheimer's disease study that will allow UCSD researchers to examine brain and other biological changes associated with memory decline has been authorized by the National Institute on Aging.

The five-year, \$60 million study will give researchers the opportunity to speed up the search for treatments and cures for Alzheimer's disease by seeing whether imaging of the brain can help predict and monitor the onset and progression of the degenerative memory disease.

The study, spearheaded by Leon Thal, chair of the UCSD neurosciences department and director of UCSD's Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, will also collect and test patient blood samples and cerebral spinal fluid to determine if they can help predict and monitor the onset of the disease.

Researchers hope that imaging techniques will prove useful in testing the effectiveness of new therapies that try to slow the progression of Alzheimer's or prevent it altogether.

Clerical Employees Sign New Contract

The UC Clerical Employees' Union agreed to a new multiyear contract with the university last week, which gives clerical employees a 12-percent wage increase over the next three years.

The agreement, valid through September 2008, also allows UC clerical employees to continue to receive the same health benefits given to all UC employees and leaves in place the university's salary-based approach to health care premiums that lets those who earn less pay less for the same health coverage. The new contract also prohibits the union from conducting any strikes, including sympathy walkouts, for the duration of the agreement.

Mousie Model Helps Drug Production

Researchers from the UCSD School of Medicine have developed a mouse model that could help scientists develop better drugs for autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

UCSD professor of medicine Mark H. Ginsburg served as team leader of the study. His team identified a mechanism in mice to selectively disrupt signaling cells called lymphocytes sent by the body to fight infection at sites of inflammation, while also maintaining the body's other essential immune system functions.

The researchers suggest that mice are valuable tools to test models of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases of humans, and that a new class of pharmaceutical agents that target the interaction of surface molecules found on the exterior of cells could be important in finding future treatments for inflammatory disease.

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More Tongues Means Better Security
A report finds that critical languages such as Farsi and Chinese could be key to maintaining national security.

Students Could Turn to Private Loans
President George W. Bush's new budget proposal could force students to search for private lenders.

AROUND THE UC

- Students Stay Despite Rising Fees
- Law School Sees Fewer Apps
- Billions of UCLA Surprises
- Putting College to the Test

STATEWIDE NEWS

- To Ban Alcohol, Raise Fees?
- Profs Weigh in on Cartoons
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Lack of Research Dooms Low-Income Students

AID, from page 1
According to the report, however, little new information is available on the reasons why students do not apply for aid.

Twenty-nine percent of students who did not file a FAFSA received aid from programs that did not require the application — such as employer assistance (13 percent), institutional non-need-based aid (6 percent) and private grants and loans (5 percent). For some students, this aid may have eliminated the need for further assistance, the report suggested.

De Anda indicated that although there is no estimate on the number of eligible UCSD students who do not submit a FAFSA, the problem lies in the fact that most low-income

students do not spend enough time researching aid possibilities.

"Low-income people sometimes disqualify themselves before doing

I feel we don't do enough pure financial-aid outreach."

— Vincent De Anda, Director, UCSD Financial Aid

the research," he stated in an e-mail. "They just don't believe it is possible."

De Anda also said that UCSD

tries to help students apply for financial-aid through numerous programs, including trips to high schools and community colleges, college nights, special financial-aid workshops and counselor conferences. He also said that UCSD participates in every financial-aid program for which it is eligible, including Cal Grants and federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants. However, he said that more financial aid outreach programs are needed.

"During peak periods, like right now, we cannot meet all the requests for financial aid workshops," De Anda stated. "I feel we don't do enough pure financial-aid outreach."

Readers can contact Matthew McArdle at matt.mcardle@gmail.com.

Delays Common With Hip-Hop Artists

CONCERT, from page 1
concerts, specifically with Ludacris' and Busta Rhymes' performances at the past two Sun Gods, according to Morris.

"Notoriously with hip-hop artists, they are a little slow getting on stage — we have seen [this] with just about every hip-hop act we've had," he said.

The need to change musical sets usually calls for a 20-minute wait, but Redman extended the delay at this year's WinterFest, Morris said.

The programming office would not comment on the reason why the wait between acts was longer

than usual. With only approximately 10 percent of UCSD's undergraduates attending WinterFest, Morris said he is still pleased with the outcome.

"I believe the all the performers played very well," he said. "I think we put on the best show we could given the circumstances. I think it was money well spent."

This year, WinterFest cost each undergraduate about \$2.50, according to Morris. The A.S. programming office is in position to receive more funding with a referendum that would increase activity fees by

\$8 per quarter.

"Money is obviously a big thing in putting on concerts," Morris said. "The more you have, the bigger and better things can get. We could do some great things with that."

John Muir College junior Grace Wang hopes that the increase can get students more excited about events and bring in better bands.

But as for this WinterFest: "I don't know who Redman or Jack's Mannequin is," Wang said.

Readers can contact Jaclyn Snow at jrsnow@ucsd.edu.

Watson to Bolster Dept. With Temporary Funds

ATHLETICS, from page 1

The NCAA and CCAA charge regular and postseason travel costs, conference dues, regulatory compliance and reporting costs, along with the recent requirement mandating athletic scholarships — the motivation behind Watson's grant-in-aid proposal, which would give each student athlete a \$500 scholarship. The proposal is currently under Academic Senate review.

Both the student affairs and athletics departments also admit that UCSD intercollegiate athletics began as an underfunded Division-III program and, in spite of budget increases, the challenge is still very evident at the Division-II level. Due to initially inadequate revenues for the size and nature of UCSD's program, the cost adjustments for inflation did not keep up with the increased expenses the department faced, according to Watson.

The athletics department has a \$2.6 million budget for 23 sports, whereas other Division-II schools average \$2.3 million for 13 sports, according to Director of Athletics Earl W. Edwards.

While athletic programs have been functioning minimally within financial constraints, budget cuts have caused even more problems for the department. In the 2003-04 fiscal year, state funding of registration-fee supported services — such as athletics — dropped by 20 percent.

"Several offices with the potential to raise gift funds, including [athletics], were assigned 30-percent budget reductions in order to minimize budget [cuts] on other student services," Watson said.

That year brought a one-time cut of \$200,000 to the department, on top of the \$300,000 in required annual NCAA fees.

"It obviously impacted us quite a

bit in the negative way in terms of what we could and could not do," Edwards said.

Insufficient funds also mean less competitive sports teams, according to Edwards.

"We don't have the funding to play all the teams in the conference," Edwards said. "UCSD teams have to raise their own money to play the top-ranked teams. If they don't play those teams, there is a stronger possibility not to be selected [for] postseason."

The athletic department's debt also results in lower staff and coaching salaries compared to UCSD's Division-II counterparts, according to Associate Director of Athletics Ken Grosse.

"University staff [members] are your best salespeople," Grosse said. "The people that should be your best salespeople are becoming negatives instead of positives and that lack of passion among the staff permeates to students."

Along with the impact to university staff, the debt also affects students, funneling funds away from other student-life activities, which are also funded by the student affairs office, according to A.S. President Christopher Sweeten. Nevertheless, Watson said that the student affairs department has committed to providing athletics with temporary funds for the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years in order to avoid budget reductions that would adversely affect athletes or program competitiveness.

In addition, a program review will be conducted this year that will provide several options for a long-term solution to the deficit.

Readers can contact Serena Renner at srenner@ucsd.edu.

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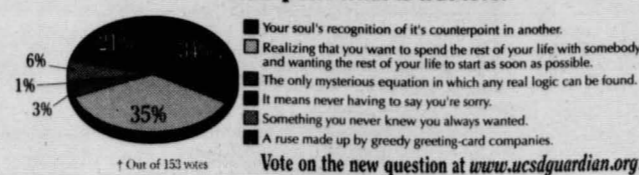
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

Web poll | What is true love?



How UCSD's Own 'Bridge to Nowhere' Went Unnoticed

After Hurricane Katrina hit last fall, the "bridge to nowhere" — a special pork project inserted into a federal bill that would have paid hundreds of millions for a bridge connecting two unpopulated areas in Alaska — became the focus of national ridicule. A year earlier, though, no one gave a damn about UCSD's own bridge to nowhere, a project that became a black hole for millions of dollars of taxpayers' money.



Hats Off

Vladimir Kogan
vkogan@ucsd.edu

In early August 2004, the university sent out a little-noticed press release, "UCSD To Discontinue Campus Bridge Project," explaining that it was scrapping the construction of a bridge connecting east and west campus because of rising construction costs and budget shortfalls. In the previous six years, UCSD blew \$7.4 million — \$3.3 million of its own money, and the rest from the state and federal government — on the bridge that never came to be.

But the story of the I-5 Advanced Technology Bridge Project is not simply an amusing anecdote in the annals of UCSD history; it shows how self-interested lawmakers use so-called "earmarks" to waste billions on pet projects at their favorite universities, even as they cut billions from student loans and financial aid.

Every year, Congress approves bills with thousands of special provisions that provide funding for local programs — projects too inefficient or useless to qualify for federal funding under normal allocation processes. Alaska's bridge was one such project, funded by a special provision attached by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Ala.) to a 2005 federal highway bill. And so was UCSD's bridge, funded by a special provision attached by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) to a 1998 federal highway bill.

The difference, though, is that Stevens became the subject of jokes on late-night talk shows, while Boxer was seen as a local hero.

In 1998, shortly after "bringing home the pork," Boxer staged a press conference on campus, announcing proudly, "We are entering a new era of bridge building. This project will be a national model."

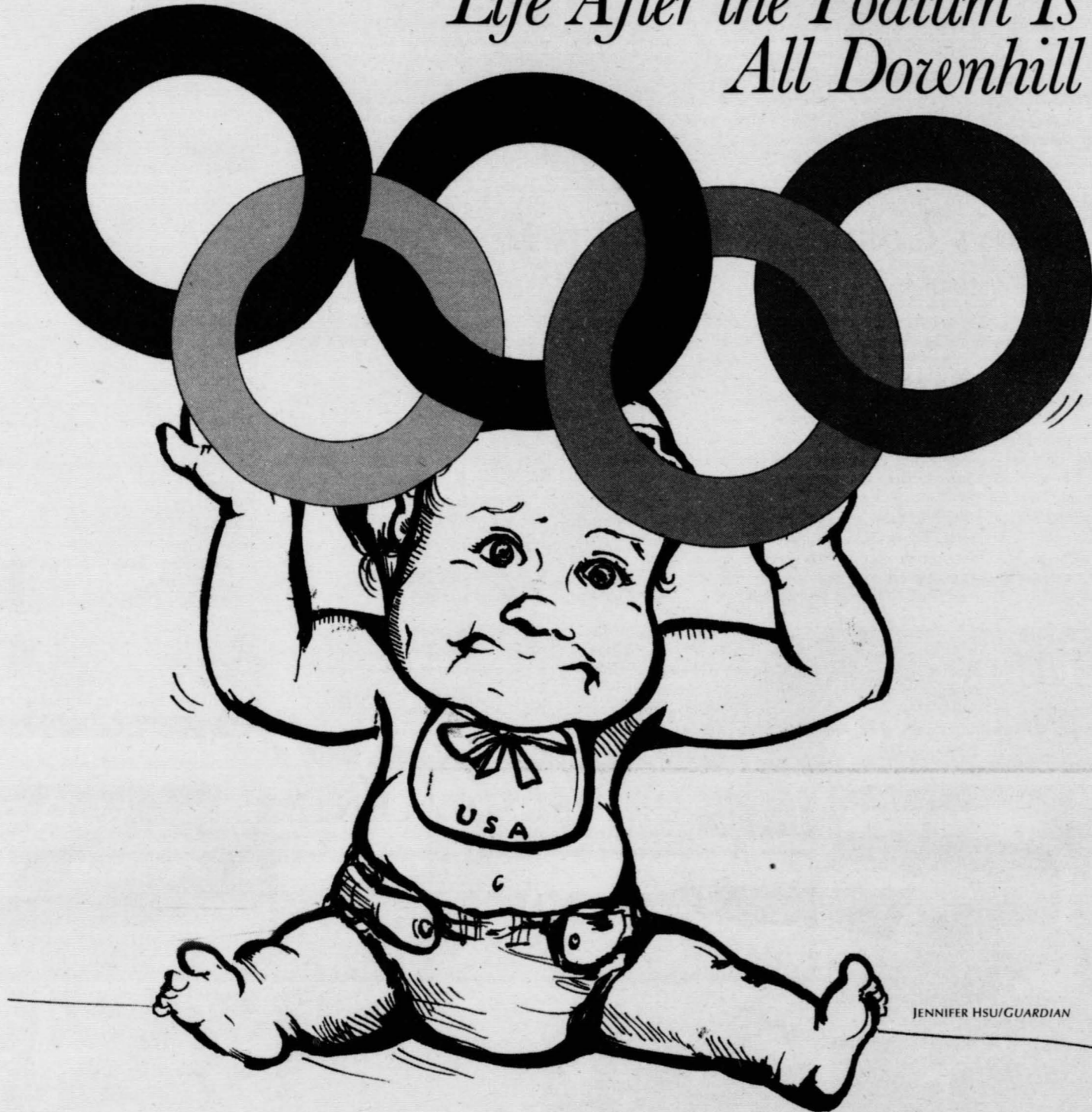
Nor was Boxer shy about her role in getting the \$6 million in federal funds, as a press release put out by her office proudly explained that "Boxer was instrumental in ensuring both authorization and funding for this bridge."

Whatever the virtues of a bridge to connect two sides of a university campus — I would argue the government has better uses for the \$6 million, like feeding the hungry and providing health insurance for the poor — it was never built, even as the university spent millions on the project.

UCSD, of course, argues that the bridge program was surely worthwhile, since it provided groundbreaking new research on construction with carbon-composite materi-

Disposable Athletes

Life After the Podium Is All Downhill



JENNIFER HSU/GUARDIAN

Competition-minded countries push young athletes to peak early, stunting crucial development in other areas of their lives.

By Megan Durham
STAFF WRITER

Children as young as five waking up at six and taking part in grueling training exercises in elementary schools across the country measuring children to see how they will develop and sending the most likely prospects into athletic schools, whether or not they show interest. A state determined to win Olympic medals, so much so that they disregard the education and emotional health of their elite athletes. Four-time rowing gold medalist Matthew Pinsent's recent visit to, and subsequent condemnation of, China's elite sport school Shi Cha Hai alerted many to the presence of these scenarios in the Chinese sport system.

His remarks to the BBC have sparked a debate about China's winning bid for the 2008 Olympics, but this debate raises issues that resound across the world of sports,

issues that concern how children become athletes, how athletes are trained, and whether they ignore their future in order to excel at their chosen sports.

It does seem atrocious to force children into a sport, but that habit is not limited to the Chinese. It occurs in the United States all too often, only instead of through a government program, it is overzealous parents determined to have their children become Olympians.

Just look at how speed skating gold medalist Shani Davis got started, with his mother, Cherie, taking him to skating rinks at two-and-a-half years old and giving him quarters for skating as fast as he could, waking him up before school every day to run a mile, and signing him up for intensive classes when he was only six.

"It's easy for him because I do the work," she told the *Denver Post*. Athletes start just as early here as they do in China, especially in sports that have young peak ages such as gymnastics or figure skating, two of the most popular Olympic events. Of the eight women who

have won Olympic gold in all-around rhythmic gymnastics since 1976, two were 15, one was 16, one was 17 and two were 19. As Istvan Balvi of the National Coaching Institute of British Columbia insists, if it takes 10 years to produce an elite athlete, and the Olympic peak age is in late adolescence, then in order to be competitive athletes are forced to start early in life.

This means that athletes enter the sporting world before they have had a chance to experience life outside of it. Add to this the fact that the American sports establishment barely prepares athletes for life after their sport, and you've got a recipe for misery. Even if an athlete is lucky enough to win large sponsorships, one day the fans will stop screaming, and the dream will end."

enough to win large sponsorships, one day the fans will stop screaming, the cameras will stop flashing, and the dream will end. Psychology Today reports that "those at greatest risk of post-retirement letdown are the athletes who dominate their profession, who know nothing of failure and everything of success." These are the athletes who are least prepared to cope with the day-to-day clutter and

problems of the real world. This is especially true in sports, like gymnastics, that start at a very early age. Children that have been sport-focused their entire lives have never really learned to interact with others. Instead they have been incubated in a world of adults — coaches, trainers and nutritionists — or at best, other children who are as goal-oriented as they are. And without the usual interaction with their peers, their emotional development falters, leaving them less able to deal with life after their sport ends.

"Because they've been so focused on sports from an early age, many athletes never develop necessary parts of the self," observes Cristina Versari, head of sports psychology at San Diego University for Integrative Studies, in Psychology Today. "There's a developmental arrest."

But it's more than just dealing with the real world — once someone leaves a sport they have spent their entire life training for, they rarely are qualified to do anything else. For every gold medalist, there are silver and bronze medalists, athletes almost as good but who seldom receive the lucrative sponsorships or rewards that come with the gold. It is the lucky ones who plan ahead and work at their educations at the same time they work on their hand-

[ATHLETES, page 5]

Athletic Competition Leaves Many Without Life Skills



ROY PAKI/GUARDIAN

ATHLETES, from page 4

Only recently has the athletic community started to grasp this problem. A forum of the International Olympic Commission recently issued a recommendation that athletes seriously consider life after their sports. It suggested that athletes not only use the opportunities given to them to network and manage their money, but that they should also consider getting an education while in pursuit of the gold.

These seem like very common-sense ideas, but when one is caught up in the fast-paced world of sports it is easy to forget about anything but your athletic career and fritter your earnings away. Look at former baseball star J.R. Richard, found living under a bridge or world-class sprinter Huston McTear, homeless in Sweden.

But it isn't enough to simply make recommendations. The athletic community, especially the Olympic commission and the

nations that devote so much money to building champion teams, should make sure that their athletes are prepared for life after retirement. Some of those multimillion-dollar contracts should be funneled into a program that allows for job training. Olympic teams should be affiliated with universities that will accept them after their peak ages have passed. But more importantly, the Olympic Commission needs to take a long hard look at raising the ages for their athletes, allowing them to have a better, safer childhood.

So in the midst of all the hype of the Winter Olympics, take a second to look at those hopefuls who don't make it to the podium, those who have trained just as hard but who, for whatever reason, didn't cut it. Imagine now, that this is their retirement, their entrance into the real world. Imagine how they'll survive, without much of an education, without proper emotional development, without the money and glory of the gold.

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For more information call 858.822.2068 or visit <http://theuniversitycenters.ucsd.edu>

A.S. Elections 2006
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iVote

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“Few ethnic or racial groups have had so indelible an impact on American cultural tastes and habits than African-American culture.”

— Cecil Lytle, Professor,
Music Department

PACIFIC BEACH

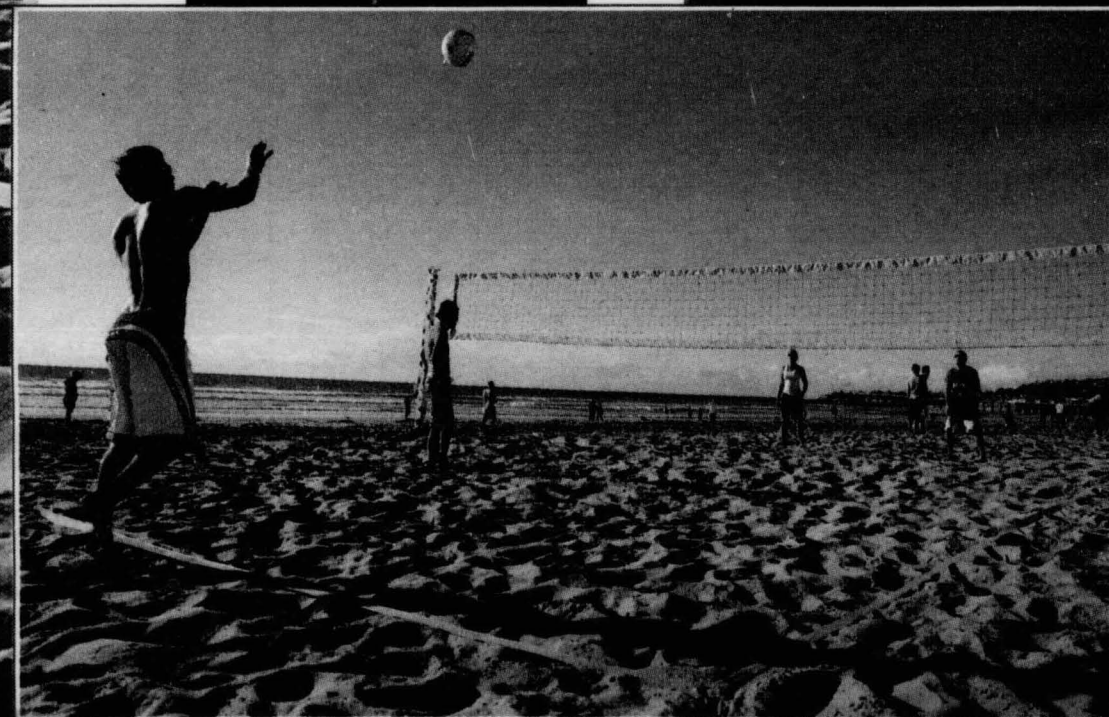
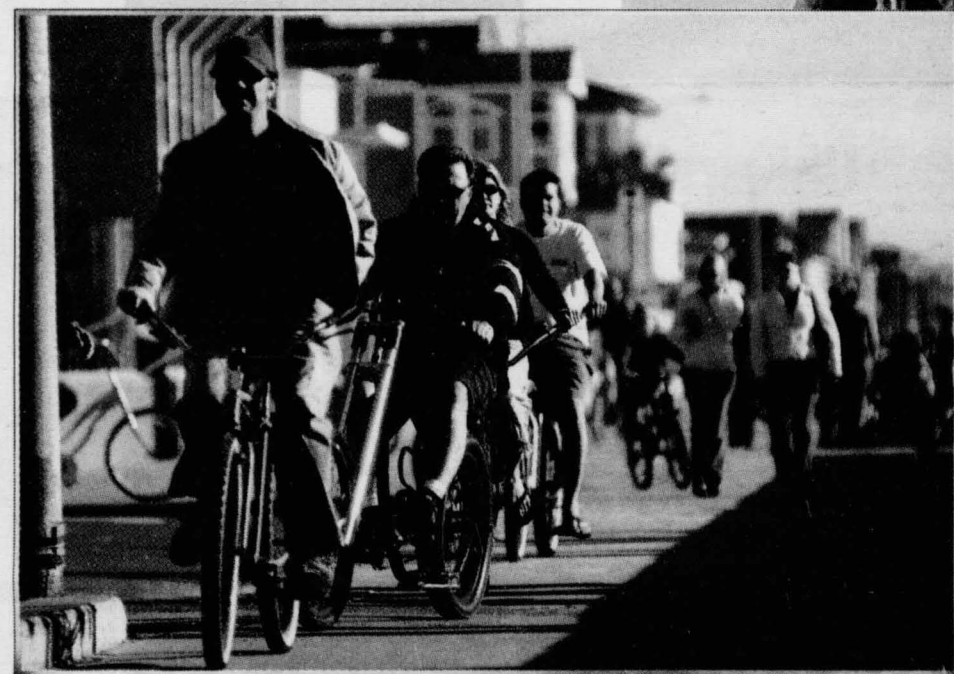
Night & Day



The lurid, magenta-green glow of Moondoggies' neon sign and the heavy drone of the music that beats against its walls aren't the only thing that attracts the young (and perhaps not-so-young) crowd that faithfully flocks the kickback town by the sea every weekend. Blame it on the cheap Thursday night drink specials at Pacific Beach Bar and Grill or the reckless 20-somethings who carry a thoughtless thirst for alcohol: PB's energetic charm is a magnet for those seeking a distinctly beach town experience. As Thursday slowly turns into the new Friday, PB nightlife continues to attract San Diego's youth, from the 21-year-old-to-be initiation to action-hungry college students who look to unwind after a midterm burn-out.

During the day, throw back a few at the beach — because you can, it being one of the few beaches that allows alcohol consumption on the shore. Enjoy a breezy ride on your bike or take advantage of the volleyball nets. Night or day, our photos hope to capture the pale sunshine, the mellow lights of the street and the attractive energy that is PB, proving its inviting versatility.

— By Christine Pae
FOCUS EDITOR



Photos By
Canna Weber
Billy Wong

Marshall Introduces African-American Studies Minor

By Christine Kwon
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Over 30 years ago, Thurgood Marshall College was founded to provide more opportunities in higher education for underrepresented groups. Starting in fall 2006, a new African-American studies minor will be offered through the college to provide a deeper insight into the black experience.

Marshall College has been employing the talents and expertise of a small group of faculty in the fine arts department under UCSD's contemporary black arts minor, according to music professor Cecil Lytle. Recently, however, Lytle and other faculty members thought it was time to revise the program. The new African-American studies minor will expand the former minor beyond the arts.

Some faculty members have described the minor as academically

rigorous and could be a way to possibly attract more black students to UCSD in the future.

"The African-American studies minor will help guide undergraduates to a fuller understanding of the unique attitudes, circumstances and experiences of African Americans," ethnic studies professor David Pellow said in an e-mail.

The newborn minor is especially interesting in light of this year's Black History Month. In a recent interview with "60 Minutes," actor Morgan Freeman expressed his dissatisfaction with the idea of Black History Month, calling it "ridiculous" and arguing that "black history is American history" and should not be relegated to a month.

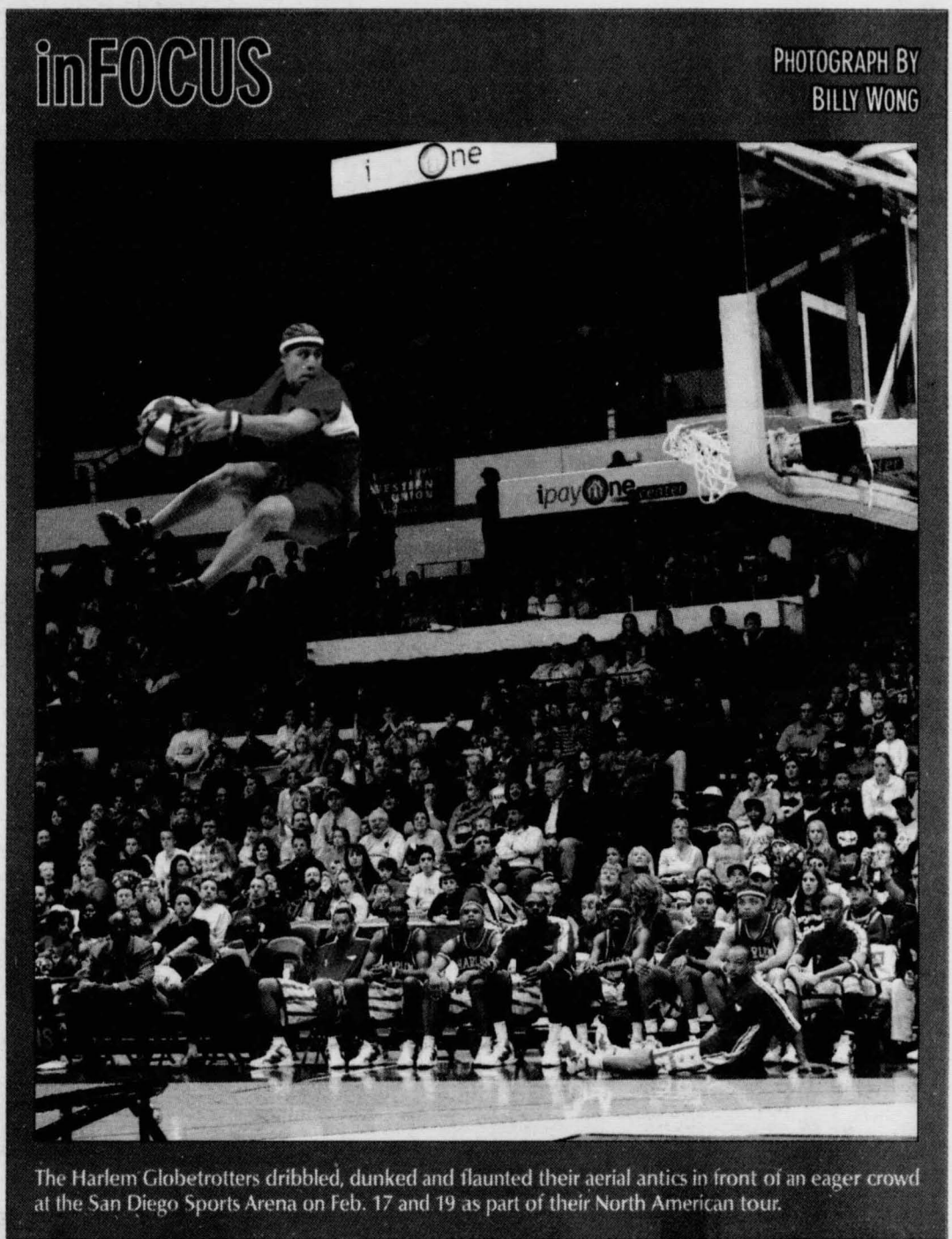
Is the African-American studies minor similarly separating "black history" from the general curriculum? Literature professor Robert

[MINOR, page 9]



BILLY WONG/GUARDIAN

Revelle College hosted a live musical performance from black artists and served up helpings of soul food on Feb. 15 at Plaza Cafe as part of UCSD's Black History Month events.



PHOTOGRAPH BY
BILLY WONG

The Harlem Globetrotters dribbled, dunked and flaunted their aerial antics in front of an eager crowd at the San Diego Sports Arena on Feb. 17 and 19 as part of their North American tour.

ViaSat

ViaSat will be at DECAF on
Friday, February 24,
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
in Price Center
Ballrooms A & B

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**Medical School: What Applicants for
Admission in 2007 Need to Know**
Wednesday • 2/22 • 3p.m.-4p.m.

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Professional & Graduate School Library
Research programs, browse thousands of brochures, watch a video, or sign up for an advising appointment!

8

THE GUARDIAN

calendar@ucsd

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

TUES FEB 21

ARTS
PC Film Series: 'Chicken Little' - 7pm and 10pm screenings of the animated film, \$3 in the Price Center Theater.
I-House Foreign Film Festival - presents 'Yeelen' (African) 8 pm in the Great Hall.

CAREER
Resume Writing for Internships and Part-Time Jobs - Workshop on the steps to developing an eye-catching cover letter and resume that includes all of the essential elements.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Consuming Citizenship: Children of Asian Immigrant Entrepreneurs - Lisa Sun-Hee Park, professor in Ethnic Studies and Urban Studies, will discuss her new book at 4:00pm in the Geisel Library Seuss Room.

Winter Olympics at International House - Stop by the Great Hall at 11am to watch LIVE Ice Hockey: U.S. vs. Russia. Refreshments, large screen T.V. and comfy couches will be provided.

WED FEB 22

ARTS
I-House Foreign Film Festival - presents 'Good-Bye, Lenin!' (German) 7 pm in Asante Classroom B. All are welcome.

CAREER
Medical School: What Applicants for Admission in 2007 Need to Know - Get a head start on the admissions process. Pick up strategies for selecting schools as well as the fundamentals of preparing your application.

Peace Corps Info - Explore job opportunities, benefits, the application process, and network with previous volunteers. 5-6:30pm in the Career Services Center Horizon Room.

Edwards Life Sciences Recruiting Presentation - Learn about the goals, current projects, corporate culture, and job opportunities of this featured employer! Get your questions answered, listen in as current employees give you the inside scoop, and do some all-important networking. 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Career Services Center, Horizon Room.

SPORTS
Softball vs. University of San Diego, 4pm and 6pm.

STUDENT ORGS
I-House Info Session - Apply to live in International House for 06-07 and explore the world from the comfort of your on-campus community! Applications due Fri. 2/24. Info session at 8:30pm at Middle Earth Lounge in ERC.

ACADEMIC SERVICES
ISA Study Abroad - 900 -200 pm table on Library Walk. Spend your summer surfing in Costa Rica or a semester scuba diving in Australia! Earn academic credit while living abroad! Come check out the study abroad opportunities that International Studies Abroad (ISA) offers!

Latin America EAP/OAP Info Session - 2:30 - 4:00pm @ the Int'l Center Lounge. Travel through Peru or work in Mexico! Study biology in Costa Rica or intern in Argentina! Come and learn more about study, work, and intern opportunities in Latin America!

SPECIAL EVENTS
Making of the Modern World - a "short version" of the ER College's world civilization sequence. Join us on a tour of global trends and events from the ancient and medieval world. Final lecture at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall 'The Medieval Church as Congregation and State' Stanley Chodorow, UCSD Professor Emeritus of History and former Dean of Arts and Humanities. FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

UEFA Champions League at International House - Any soccer/football fanatics out there? Champions League is back and starting off with a bang with Chelsea vs. Barcelona. Come watch the match at 11:30am in the Great Hall. Refreshments provided

THURS FEB 23

ARTS
PC Film Series: 'The Aristocrats' - 7pm and 10pm screenings of the film about stand up comedy, \$3 in the Price Center Theater.

Peace Corps Info - Explore job opportunities, benefits, the application process, and network with previous volunteers. 5-6:30pm in the Career Services Center Horizon Room.

I-House Foreign Film Festival - presents 'Farmingville' 7 pm in Asante Classroom B. 'Farmingville' meticulously reveals the underlying forces, and the human impact, of what has become the largest influx of Mexican workers in U.S. history. Discussion to follow. All are welcome.

CAREER
'We're Listening': A Counseling and

Psychology Career Panel - Panel of practitioners will share their experiences along with helpful insights into the field. 2-3:30pm in the Career Services Center.
Non-Profit Career Panel - Representatives from State Pirgs, Peace Corps, and more. Find out more about job and career opportunities in the non-profit sector. 5pm in the North Conference Room (1st floor of the Old Student Center).

LECTURES
Central Bank of Chile and Brazil: A Comparative Study 1973-2005 - CLAS visiting scholar Claudia Ponte De Albuquerque, 3:30-5pm in Weaver Center, IOA Complex.

SPORTS
Baseball vs. Cal State San Bernardino, 2pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Watch the Winter Olympics at International House, Great Hall, 8pm. Scheduled: Ice Skating, Women's Long Program.

UCSD Philosophy Colloquium: Steven Nadler, Professor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, will give a talk based on his book 'Rembrandt's Jews,' finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction at 7:30pm Pepper Canyon Hall, Room 106 FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

FRI FEB 24

ARTS
Moliere: The Cabal of Hypocrites, 8pm at Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre, \$10 for students.

I-House International Foreign Festival - presents 'Road Home' (Chinese) 7 pm in the Great Hall. All are welcome.

CAREER
UCDC Program Info Session - The UCDC program sends students from all majors to intern and study in Washington, DC every quarter. Come find out about requirements, deadlines, and the application process. 11am-12pm in the Career Services Center.

SPORTS
Softball vs. San Francisco State, 1pm and 3pm.
Women's Tennis vs. Sonoma State, 2pm.
Baseball vs. Cal State San Bernardino, 2pm.
Men's Volleyball vs. UCLA, 7pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Celebrate Fat Tuesday on a Friday! - Viejas Casino is providing fun with roulette, craps

Texas hold'em and blackjack. Start the evening with 200 chips. Appetizers drink ticket, and opportunity ticket included. Opportunity drawing at the end of the evening with great prizes, benefits La Jolla Symphony & Chorus programs. \$20 per person, 5-9pm in the Institute of the Americas.
Warren LIVE - 8 p.m. Pepper Canyon Hall. Sponsored by: AS, MCC, SCSC, TMCSC, ICRA, MCC, RCC, and SCERC.

SAT FEB 25

ACADEMIC
Michel de Certeau in the Americas - A conference in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Michel de Certeau's death. 9am-6pm in Literature Building, Room 3155 (De Certeau Room).

ARTS
PC Film Series: 'Just Friends' - 6pm and 9pm screenings of the film starring Ryan Reynolds and Amy Smart, \$3 in the Price Center Theater.

Moliere: The Cabal of Hypocrites, 2pm and 8pm at Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre, \$10 for students.

SPORTS
Softball vs. Sonoma State, 12pm and 2pm.
Men's Volleyball vs. UC Irvine, 7pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS
An Intimate Evening with Peru Negro - Meet the performers of Peru Negro and get a sneak preview of the concert with the Elimu Band. Free. reception with refreshments. 6:30-10pm in the Faculty Club. More info: 858-822-0265.

STUDENT ORGS
DJs & Vinylphyles DJ Battle - DJ Showcase of cub talent hosted by the DJs & Vinylphyles. Come and listen to UCSD's best DJs. 10pm at The Stage in the Old Student Center.

SUN FEB 26

ARTS
Peru Negro - a percussive backbone, joined by melodic guitar and passionate vocals, forms the high-energy sounds of Afro-Peruvian musicians and dancers. 8pm, Mandeville Auditorium. \$15 students, \$30 GA.

SPORTS
Men's Tennis vs. Cal Poly Pomona, 12pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Watch the Winter Olympics at International House, Great Hall. Gold Medal game in Ice

Hockey scheduled for 8am.

WEEKLY

CAREER
On-Campus Interviewing - Each quarter, top employers host special interviews and presentations at the Career Services Center for internships, part-time jobs, and full-time jobs. By appointment only, through March 10.

HEALTH
Check Your Cholesterol. Immediate results, \$15 fee, sign up online - http://studenthealth.ucsd.edu.
FITstop at RIMAC. Free service, walk in to RIMAC Wellness Room any Mon or Wed 7-9pm.

RELIGIOUS
EXPERIENCE CHURCH DIFFERENTLY - Services Sundays 11am in the International Center. www.ExperienceChurchDifferently.com

STUDENT ORGS
UCSD Language Conversation Tables - I-House brings together native speakers and language learners for informal conversation in a foreign language. Meetings at Cafe Ventanas. For more info and for specific times, dates, and languages visit http://ihouse.ucsd.edu or email ihouse@ucsd.edu.

Tutor Program: American-English-in-Action - The International Center is currently seeking volunteers to help international students, scholars, and their families improve conversational English skills and become more familiar with our culture. For info please contact Nikki at ngee@ucsd.edu.

International House Interns for 06-07 - Compensation is room (a single) and board at I-House, applications due March 1. Apps available at http://ihouse.ucsd.edu.

CALPIRG Weekly Meeting: Mondays at 6pm in the CALPIRG Office (2nd floor of the Old Student Center).

CrosswordSolutions

ACROSS
1. ABBY
2. BERT
3. WENDY
4. SARA
5. QIEM
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Minor Offers More Than a History Lesson

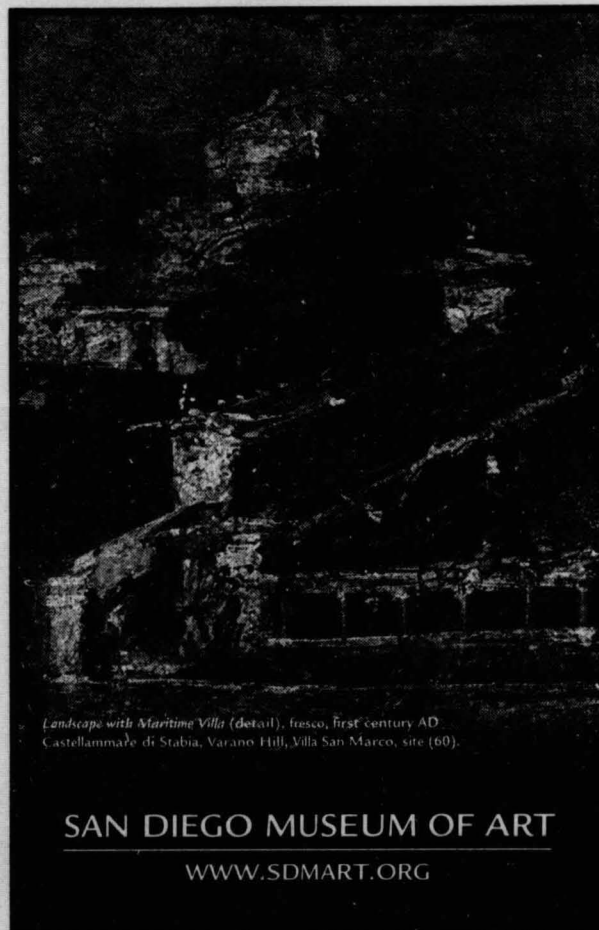
MINOR, from page 7
Cancel and other board members of the minor do not think so.
'It [black history] should be dispersed into the general curriculum. But the way we do classes here, there's only so much room. Every department has specialized classes. African-American culture is so large it can't be encapsulated into a survey course,' Cancel said. 'I think it's a study in its own right.'
So why an African-American studies minor now? 'The study of African-American culture is a defining element of a modern university,' Lytle stated in an e-mail. UCSD lags behind many universities in implementing such studies and in recruiting a diverse student body representative of the general population.
'Even though history books have sort of been modernized, they're still pretty far behind,' Cancel said. 'It's important that everyone knows about things like the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights struggle.'
One of the main objectives of the new minor is to educate students about what has remained largely a misunderstood, even neglected subject.

'Few ethnic or racial groups have had so indelible an impact on American cultural tastes and habits as African-American culture,' Lytle said. 'However, few groups have been so misunderstood.'
LaCandice McCray of UCSD's Black Student Union reiterated that the minor would be 'a great way to raise consciousness. People will learn the contributions that African Americans have made to literature and art and history.'
The minor aims to raise such consciousness among black students but also for the many other ethnic groups at UCSD. 'The minor isn't intended for only African Americans but all segments of the UCSD population,' Marshall Interim Provost Robert Kluender said.
Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education Mark Appelbaum added that the fundamental idea of the minor was for students 'no matter what their background' to take a series of courses that would enable them to understand some aspects of the African-American community.'
This sort of knowledge is, Lytle explained, immediately important and applicable at a time when 'most knowledge young people have today about the lives and contributions of African Americans comes through fashion, music and politics.'
'The minor hopes to show that the descendants of the Africans brought to these shores in chains combined with many other elements of the broader African diaspora to create an identifiable cultural idiom,' Lytle stated. 'African-American identity is uniquely an American phenomena and could not have been created anywhere else in the world.'

The other main objective of the minor is to help attract and recruit more black students to UCSD, because, Kluender said, 'the campus hasn't done the best job it can do in attracting people of color.'
Cancel added that qualified black students turn down UCSD at a higher rate than other ethnic groups. Part of that, Cancel said, is due to a feeling that there is no black community at UCSD after Californian outlawed affirmative action.
With the introduction of the minor, however, Lytle expects that 'African-American students, in particular, would find some comfort in knowing that UCSD, a modern public research university, puts forward a study relevant to their lives and experiences.'
Kluender explained that even for nonhumanities majors, an African-American studies minor would aid students in finding jobs as it suggests knowledge in dealing with diverse peoples and serving minority populations.

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MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD: The Short Version
The Center for the Humanities and Eleanor Roosevelt College present the 2006 "short version" of the College's world civilization sequence.
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Landscape with Maritime Villa (detail), fresco, first century AD. Castellammare di Stabia, Varano Hill, Villa San Marco, site 60.

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Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elite
February 18 - May 14, 2006
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To list a UCSD event on the Guardian Campus Calendar, go to www.ucsdguardian.org and link to "Calendar"
Deadline: Wednesday, 4pm

Cogsci 10: Cognitive Consequences of Technology
Spring Quarter 2006
An exciting new course exploring the relationships between mind and technology will be offered this quarter. In the course, Professors Hollan and Hutchins will address questions of crucial importance for our increasingly technological society:
1 How does technology shape our minds?
2 How should what we know about our minds shape technology?
Example topics include the cognitive and cultural factors involved with the web, cell phones, social networks, computer viruses, privacy, interruptions, ubiquitous computing, augmented reality, and cyborgs.
Day: TuTh | Time: 12:30-1:50p | Location: Center Hall 216
More information: http://hci.ucsd.edu/10

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THE GUARDIAN CLASSIFIEDS

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CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS - Children's sleep-away camp, Northeast Pennsylvania (6/17-8/13/06). If you love children and want a caring, fun environment we need Directors and Instructors for: Tennis, Swimming (W.S.I. preferred), Golf, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Drama, High & Low Ropes, Team Sports, Waterskiing, Sailing, Painting/Drawing, Ceramics, Silkscreen, Printmaking, Batik, Jewelry, Calligraphy, Photography, Sculpture, Guitar, Aerobics, Self-Defense, Video, Piano. Other staff: Administrative/Driver (21+), Nurses (RN's and Nursing Students), Bookkeeper, Mothers' Helper. On campus interviews February 25th. Call 1-800-279-3019 or apply online at www.campwaynegirls.com (2/21)

Gymnastics instructors wanted - Solana Beach, elementary-aged children. Pays \$8-14/hr., experience/productivity/personality matter. Hours available Mon-

THE GUARDIAN CLASSIFIEDS

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Copy should be reviewed by the advertiser for errors. In order to be corrected in the next regular issue, all errors must be reported by the corresponding deadline. Credit will only be given for the incorrect portion of the advertisement. There are no refunds for cancellations.

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email: adsucsdguardian@yahoo.com • Classifieds online at www.ucsdguardian.org

Thurs. afternoons, Sat. mornings. 858-481-4966 or www.trcgymnastics.com (4/20)

ATTENTION FUTURE TEACHERS: Teach fun science classes for elementary age students weekday afternoons. \$20-\$30 per one hour class. Apply online www.madsclences.org/sandiego (2/27)

Summer Day Camps

San Fernando / Conejo Valleys Counselors, Lifeguards & Instructors for horses, crafts, gym, nature, music, fishing, canoeing, rock climbing, animals and more.

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Tutors Wanted. High-level math and science. Part-time. Tutoring Club of Poway. Call/send resume to tutoringclub@sbcglobal.net, 858-748-8867 (2/21)

Summer Counselors Wanted: Counselors needed for our student travel and pre-college enrichment programs, middle school enrichment, and college admissions prep. Applicants must be 21

Campus Blow Out advertisement for Professional Ceramic Ion Flat Iron. Includes image of the iron and text: 'This Week's Blow Out Sale! Professional Ceramic Ion Flat Iron. Only \$49.99! Salon price \$69.99. Visit Us Today! www.CampusBlowOut.com'

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909-286-5986. If necessary to keep camera, please turn in the memory card to UCSD Lost and Found (no questions asked) because it contains very memorable/irreplaceable pictures. (2/21)

CAN DO SERVICES WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. THE GUARDIAN CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS

Movie Quote: First, congrats to Joe for being the first to nail "Wedding Crashers" last week. He googled it to confirm but CLAIMS he knew it anyway! Here's another way to do movie trivia, ready? Derek Zoolander first knew he loved Matil when she was sandwiched between the Maori tribesmen and...who? Be the first to email mfoulks@ucsd.edu or barge into the Guardian offices above the General Store. Cash, prizes, fame. Derek Zoolander: "There was a moment last night, when she was sandwiched between the two Finnish dwarves and the Maori tribesmen, where I thought, 'Wow, I could really spend the rest of my life with this woman.'" (2/21)

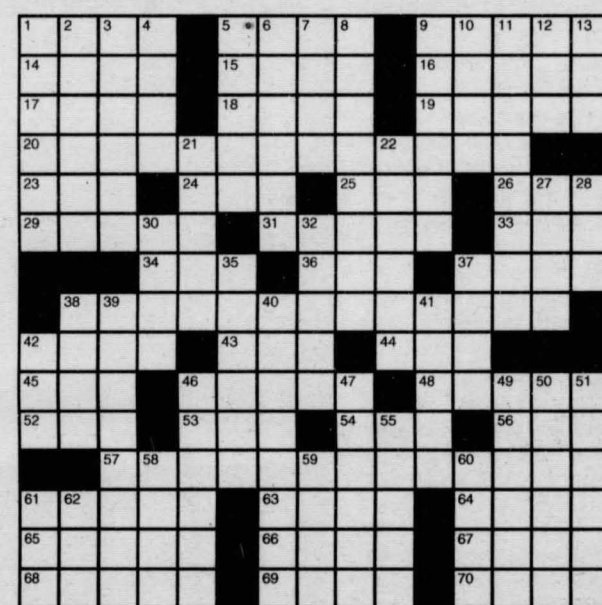
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See SOLUTIONS on page 8

Tritons Pull Off Two Narrow Victories

BASKETBALL, from page 12
two... I just try to make something happen," said Bull, who accumulated the total in only 13 minutes of play off the bench.

On Feb. 15 against Cal State San Bernardino, the Tritons fell behind early, down 9-2 three minutes into the game. With head coach Bill Carr using a number of substitutions and the Tritons running their patient offensive set, the team climbed back into it, erasing the deficit and taking their first lead of the game, 14-13, at the 11:45 mark. From there, the lead would change five more times in the half. Bull hit a jumper with three seconds left in the half to give the Tritons a one-point advantage going into the break.

The second half proved much more of a defensive battle than the first, which seemed to bode well for the Tritons and their top-ranked defense. The Coyotes, despite having four of

their players suspended by coach Jeff Oliver, remained persistent. Though they would never lead in the half, they prevented the Tritons from pushing their lead to double digits. While UCSD was successful in holding off the Coyotes for nearly 18-and-a-half minutes in the second half, Cal State San Bernardino mustered enough energy for a 6-0 run that tied the game, 55-55, with 1:37 left to play.

"In that situation every possession is critical," Poppen said. After a foul by the Coyotes' Jason Davis, Poppen came off a cross-screen at the free-throw line, catching his defender off guard, and driving into the lane for a layup and a 57-55 UCSD lead with 1:13 left to play.

"I knew that I had to go to the hoop strong and make sure we get those two points," Poppen said. "Then we have to just play hard defense." With both teams still in the game

with a minute to play, the Tritons and Coyotes played stingy defense and, as a result, neither team scored the rest of the way. Cal State San Bernardino would have three possessions to try to tie or win the game, the final resulting in a three-point attempt by Curtis Williams with six seconds left. The shot was long and Odiye again caught the rebound, holding onto the ball as time expired.

Patterson again led the way to victory with a game-high 21 points and team-high six rebounds, while Poppen added 12 points, two rebounds and two steals in 27 minutes off the bench. Allard had a great all-around game with five points, five rebounds and a game-high six assists, the final dish leading to Poppen's game-winning layup.

UCSD returns to the road for the final time this season, traveling to play Cal Poly Pomona on Feb. 24 and San Francisco State on Feb. 25.

Baseball Ready to Begin CCAA Schedule

POMONA, from page 12
"I think that [the rally] was a great opportunity for our pitching staff to learn that we can't let their momentum put us in a hole," O'Brien said.

The Tritons would go on to score three more runs in their half of the fifth inning, but it was to no avail, as the Broncos held on and added another two runs to their total, eventually winning the game 11-6.

After blowing their lead in game one, the Tritons returned to their home diamond in game two to avenge their earlier loss. In a game that saw four lead changes, UCSD went ahead for good in the fifth inning with a five-run rally.

"I thought we did a good job staying mentally strong after giving up the lead," Kearney said. "We're a real

scrappy team and every inning we try and beat our opponents."

The Tritons, despite taking an early lead, found themselves down by a run after Cal Poly Pomona took advantage of sloppy defense to go ahead 4-3. However, UCSD's three errors did not prove disastrous, as the Triton bats made up for their iron gloves with a five-run fifth inning. The Tritons took a 5-4 lead on a sacrifice fly before freshman pinch-hitter Matt Cantele homered to deep right field to give UCSD a comfortable 8-4 advantage.

"Matt is just one of many players in a great freshman class," O'Brien said. "And that is exactly what we need after losing 13 players from last season."

Senior right-hander Ryan Leake took to the mound after the rally and pitched three scoreless innings to keep the Broncos from regaining the lead. Leake was credited with the win, his first of the season, in UCSD's sixth overall victory.

"I think our bullpen has done really well at shutting teams down and maintaining our leads," Kearney said. The Tritons currently stand at 6-3 going into the beginning of California Collegiate Athletic Association play, which starts this week with the Tritons facing Cal State San Bernardino at home on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24.

"I think we're good enough to win our league," O'Brien said. "But we have a lot of maturing to do as a team and a lot of areas to work on. But if we play like I know we can, we can win the CCAA and go on to Regionals."

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Women's Basketball

The No. 24 Tritons averaged 93.3 points per game during the last week of action, going 3-0 against Grand Canyon University, Cal State San Bernardino and Cal State Monterey Bay to improve to 19-4 overall and 13-3 in the CCAA.

Tritons Top Coyotes for First Time In D-II History

Wins over CSUSB and CSUMB give men's basketball team a program-best 13th Division-II win.

By Joe Tevelowitz
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Now we just have our focus on making the playoffs."

That statement by freshman guard Shane Poppen comes after his team reached many new heights last week, including defeating six-time defending California Collegiate Athletic Association champion Cal State San Bernardino 57-55 on Feb. 15 and outlasted Cal State Monterey Bay 70-67 on Feb. 17. The Tritons, 13-12 overall and 10-6 in conference action, lost a lot of close games early in the season and had not beaten San Bernardino since the move to NCAA Division II. The team also has never finished .500 or better in CCAA play, which it is now guaranteed to do. And the 13 wins? Already a two-game improvement over their Division-II best 11 wins last season.

"We're playing really well as a team, and it just feels good to be on a winning streak," sophomore guard Jason Bull said.

That winning streak is now up to four games, their longest streak in eight years and another D-II first. The growing list of achievements, the continued improvement of the team and the fact that it is currently tied for third place in CCAA, three games behind the top two seeds with four games left to play, are definitely reason enough for the Tritons to focus on a playoff appearance, another Triton first.

On Feb. 17, the stingy Triton defense held Cal State Monterey Bay to 14 points in the first 15 and a half minutes of the game, leading 22-14

with four minutes to play in the half. Unfortunately, that eight-point lead was the most UCSD could manage in the period despite holding Cal State Monterey Bay below 40 percent shooting and forcing six first-half turnovers. The Otters exploded for 11 points in the last four minutes, cutting the Triton lead to four, 29-25, at intermission.

Though the Tritons were able to capitalize on an early outburst and push their lead to seven, UCSD and the fans in attendance got a scare when freshman forward Henry Patterson went to the bench with an injury just one minute into the second half. As tempers began to flare, the two teams battled harder. The Otters closed to within three before the Tritons pushed the lead up to a game-best nine. Patterson would return with 13:10 left to play and the Tritons holding a seven-point advantage.

At the 2:29 mark, the Otters completed a 13-3 run and took their first lead of the game, 65-64. The Tritons, burned early in the season by close losses, remained poised. Freshman forward Darryl Lawlor responded with a three-pointer and after Otters center Devoughn Lamont tied the game at 67, Bull drove the lane, dished it to Patterson, and the CCAA field-goal percentage leader helped regain the lead. Patterson continued his tremendous effort, drawing a charge on the defensive end. After holding the Otters scoreless in the final two minutes, senior guard Odioh Odiye and sophomore guard Clint Allard each grabbed a crucial rebound to preserve the 70-67 victory.

Odiye and Allard each had a game-high seven rebounds, while Patterson and Bull had career-high nights with 24 and 17 points, respectively.

"I get in there and sometimes it's for one minute, sometimes it's for

[BASKETBALL, page 11]

Baseball Goes 3-for-4 Against Pomona



BILLY WONG/GUARDIAN

Senior designated hitter Matt Lawson inches off third base in UCSD's 11-6 loss to Cal Poly Pomona on Feb. 19. Although the Tritons could not come back in this game, they beat the Broncos in the three other meetings between the two teams on Feb. 18 and 19.

Tritons head into league play after four-game series against the Broncos puts them at 6-3 overall.

By Rael Enteen
SPORTS EDITOR

While the rest of the student body relaxed on the holiday weekend after a tough week of tests, the UCSD baseball team spent its break playing four games against the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos, sweeping the first doubleheader on Feb. 18 and splitting the second set of games on Feb. 19.

In the first doubleheader, played in Pomona, Calif., the Tritons reeled off two wins to sweep the Broncos at home before traveling to San Diego

for the second doubleheader.

Coming off the two-straight wins, UCSD couldn't keep the sweep going, allowing the Broncos to steal game three away thanks to a seven-run fifth inning.

The Tritons came out strong early in the loss, scoring three runs in the first two innings, while holding the Broncos scoreless. However, the Broncos bucked free from a shutout in the fourth as Marc Evans crushed a Byron Grubman pitch over the right-field fence for a two-run homer that put Cal Poly Pomona within a run.

Grubman managed to end the fourth inning with the UCSD lead barely intact, but he would not see the end of the fifth inning, as the Broncos rallied for seven runs. Cal Poly Pomona batted around in the inning and scored all seven runs with two outs, with the big blow

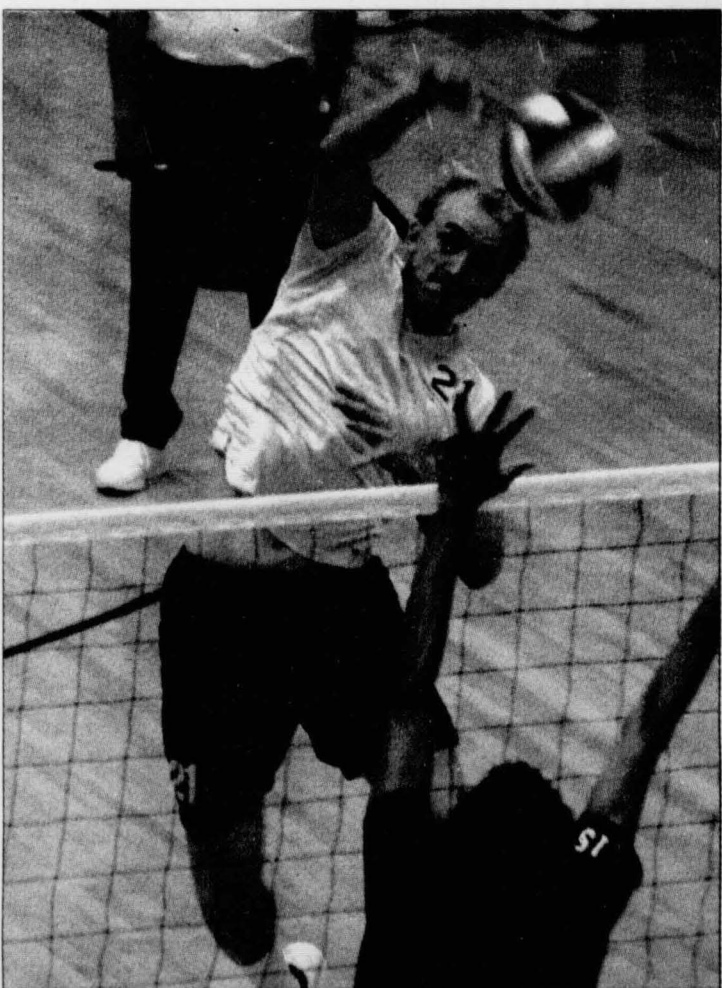
coming on Ben Lebovitz's three-run homer. After witnessing his starter suddenly unable to set down any Bronco batters, UCSD head coach Dan O'Brien relieved Grubman with freshman Derek Barham. Barham was coming off the worst outing of his career — giving up a walk-off home run to Cal State Dominguez Hills in the bottom of the ninth. His confidence did not seem affected, however, as he tallied the final out of the inning to send the Tritons back to the dugout suddenly trailing 9-3.

"We always try to stay away from a big inning," junior reliever Michael Kearney said. "But this time, [Pomona] just came out strong."

Despite giving up the lead, O'Brien found a positive outlook on Pomona's rally.

[POMONA, page 11]

Men's Volleyball Falls Twice In Straight Sets to No. 1 Brigham Young



CARINA WEBER/GUARDIAN

Sophomore middle blocker John Mark Wendler's attack did not faze the top-ranked Cougars, who beat the Tritons in straight sets on two occasions, dropping UCSD to 1-12 for the season.

UCSD's anemic attack percentages in both matches cost Tritons a chance at upsetting top-ranked Cougars.

By Paul Choi
STAFF WRITER

Whether it was nerves or a lack of focus, the UCSD men's volleyball team was just out-matched and out-played, losing back-to-back matches in straight sets to top-ranked Brigham Young University on Feb. 16 and 18.

On Feb. 18, the Tritons fell 27-30, 21-30, and 26-30, dropping to 1-12 for the season and 0-9 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, while the Cougars improved to 12-2 overall and 10-2 in MPSF play.

"Playing the No. 1 team in the nation, you would think we would come out more fired up than ever, but there's definitely a little intimidation," senior outside hitter Jon Daze said. "We need to take it upon ourselves to not let that affect us."

Both teams struggled to maintain long runs due to the combined 43 service errors, 19 of which were committed by the Tritons.

"One of our goals was to play better on the second night, improve more than they improved," UCSD coach Kevin Ring said. "It's not too often in our season [that we get] to play the same team back to back."

The Cougars couldn't pull away

in game one as the Tritons took the lead 21-20 on senior opposite Brenden Bowe's kill, then again at 26-25 on another Bowe kill.

Only four points away from winning the first game and sending a shock to the top-ranked Cougars, the Tritons could not find a way to score. BYU, on the other hand, had no trouble and came back from the one-point deficit to take a 26-27 lead. The Cougars did not look back and closed the game with a kill, 27-30.

After coming so close to a win, Ring said that the Tritons' problems at the end of game one were all mental.

"We just have to remain disciplined and focus on each play and ball contact," Ring said. "We can't get ahead of ourselves. We made all the plays early in the game so there's no doubt in my mind that we're able to make the same plays to close out the games."

In game two, the Tritons always played from behind, and were never able to catch up. After pulling to within two at 7-9, the Cougars extended the margin to 15-20. UCSD once again struggled to get on the board as BYU won the second game 21-30 on an error by the Tritons.

UCSD had several chances to win game three, committing 17 errors but losing only by four points. The Cougars pulled ahead 21-28 before the Tritons cut the lead down to three at 26-29 on a kill by senior outside hitter Mike Reuter, his fifth of the match. But ultimately, BYU sophomore middle blocker Trent Sorensen put the match away with the final kill at 26-30.

The close loss was a surprise considering the Tritons' .211 attack percentage in game three.

"Despite the fact that we hit negative on game three, we were still kind of in the game," Ring said. "We actually won many of the long rallies and it's just a matter of cutting down on a few of our errors and keeping those balls in play."

On Feb. 16, it was the same story, different chapter for the two teams, with BYU sweeping UCSD 16-30, 23-30, 19-30.

In game one, BYU did not commit a single error and as a team hit at a .760 clip to run away with a 16-30 victory in game one.

Daze attributed the blowout to UCSD's poor hitting.

"Our hitting group was struggling a bit, our setters had a difficult night and our passers were hanging in there, but we need to get our middles going more," Daze said.

After falling behind in game two, UCSD could not pull any closer than six points, dropping game two 23-30.

In the final game, UCSD used some of its younger players, such as freshman setter Adam Covington and freshman libero Eric Lesserman. Even with less experience on the court, the Tritons kept it close, trailing 12-15, but the Cougars started to pull away slowly to lead 19-27. Eventually, a Triton attack error would end the game 19-30.

The Tritons will trek through their challenging schedule against ranked teams, hosting No. 7 UCLA on Feb. 24 and No. 3 UC Irvine on Feb. 25.