

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN

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Thursday, May 15, 2008

The Student Voice Since 1967

NEW FEE INCREASES MET WITH PROTEST

Rejecting a proposed fee freeze, the UC regents justify their decision by redirecting revenue to financial aid.

By Yelena Akopian
STAFF WRITER

The UC Board of Regents voted yesterday to increase student fees for the 2008-09 school year, prompting an immediate outcry from the UC Students Association and other students attending the meeting.

Discussion on the proposal began with the UCSA presenting testimonials from UC students who demonstrated how increased student fees would negatively impact their education. They asked the regents to take student concerns into consideration when making their decision, and also proposed putting a permanent freeze on student fees.

After the presentations, the regents approved the increases with a 7-2 vote and rejected the proposed fee freeze.

Mandatory systemwide fees will increase by 7 percent, nonresident undergraduate tuition will increase by 5 percent and a temporary \$60 surcharge approved by the regents in July 2005 will be applied to all enrolled students.

The regents cited Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2008-09 budget proposal — which includes a 10-percent reduction in funding for the university's base budget — the increased costs of maintaining university operation, an increase in mental-health services and the need to maintain and hire competitive faculty and staff as reasons for authorizing the fee increases.

"It is regrettable that fee increases are necessary to address the university's needs, but I want to reassure students that the university has an exceptional financial aid program, which along with an increase in Cal Grant awards, will mitigate the impact of higher fees on financially needy low- and middle-income students," UC President Robert C. Dynes said in a statement.

He added that 43 percent of undergraduates will have their full fee increase covered by grant funds.

The UC governing body defended the increases by emphasizing that they would not affect the students

See **FEES**, page 6

With the Stage Set, Students Ready for Fest



Workers with MSI Production Services set up a light display on RIMAC Field yesterday. The display will serve as part of the main stage during tomorrow's Sun God Festival.

By Charles Nguyen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

This week, the oft-empty green of RIMAC Field was conspicuously filled with scattered stage, light and sound equipment, errant wires and burly workers hoisting machinery. Come Friday, A.S. programmers are hoping that students fill the area, drawn to the site by a freshly conceived festival garnished with all-new attractions.

"The Sun God Festival has been

reborn as an event that ties together every part of the UCSD community," said Festivals Coordinator Garrett Berg, who has spent the year rethinking and redoing the campus' largest event with other programming staff.

This year's festival will mark many firsts for the annual event: it will permit re-entry, host over 40 entertainment acts and feature a full range of activities exclusive to

See **FESTIVAL**, page 8

CONCERT PREVIEW

'Heed This: Big-Haired Rock Tries a Comeback

By Thom Crowle
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While met with resistance, choosing Coheed and Cambria to headline this year's Sun God Festival is actually a brilliant move. The band embodies the unifying traits of all attending Sun God: lots of dramatic screaming mingled with poor use of the English language. Coheed and Cambria's music impresses in the sense that, as each car wreck of a song progresses, one begins to miss the slightly less shitty section that preceded it. For instance, that guitar, which sounds something like a cat screaming through a megaphone, pierces the ears only to give way to obnoxiously loud over-the-top percussion. In the midst of all this chaos, a prepubescent voice from hell (the whiny hell, not the badass one) begins a shrieking,

See **COHEED**, page 9



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD CHOI/GUARDIAN

Fanfare Greet New Price Center

By Vanessa Do
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Price Center East launch party took place May 12, unveiling most of the newly completed campus hub and offering student performances, prizes, self-guided tours and free food.

Price Center was originally designed for a population of 15,000 students and staff members, but UCSD's growing population required the space to double in size. UCSD currently enrolls about 28,000 students and is expected to reach 30,000 within two years.

University Centers Director Paul Terzino said the purpose of the expansion launch party was to celebrate Price Center as a new "downtown" for UCSD and unite students and community members by increasing programming space and activities.

The celebration took place in the new atrium and included a dedication ceremony with speeches from Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Steve W. Relyea and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Penny Rue. Additional speakers included A.S. President Donna Bean



Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Gary R. Ratcliff grabs some photo opportunities during the confetti-laden celebration of Price Center East's opening. The space houses eateries, study lounges and lockers.

and University Centers Advisory Board Chair Matthew Bright.

The event also featured live music, student performances, complimentary food and drinks from current and new Price Center eateries and raffle prizes that included airline tickets, cameras and a laptop.

"In terms of attendance, [the party] was very successful," Terzino said. "We

had at least 4,000 people attend the event."

Most of the new Price Center is now open, including general indoor seating for dining, lounge seating, computer labs, study rooms and lockers, student organization offices and a Stuart Art Collection piece by renowned col-

See **OPENING**, page 7

ARRESTS CONTINUE IN SDSU DRUG CASE

LOCAL NEWS

By Reza Farazmand
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

More San Diego State University students were arrested last week in connection with recently exposed drug distribution activities, according to a report released by the San Diego County District Attorney's office.

The DA reported that an additional 20 students were arrested after the initial May 6 crackdown, bringing the total number of drug-related arrests to 130, including 95 students.

Of the arrests linked to students, 54 were conducted by agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency as part of

See **DRUGS**, page 3

HIATUS A Phantom Without Menace

Interview: A chat with "California" rockers Phantom Planet about Bin Laden, Amsterdam and post-O.C. life.



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SPORTS Another Shot at Glory

Baseball: UCSD was eliminated from the league tourney, but earned a No. 2 seed in the West Regional.



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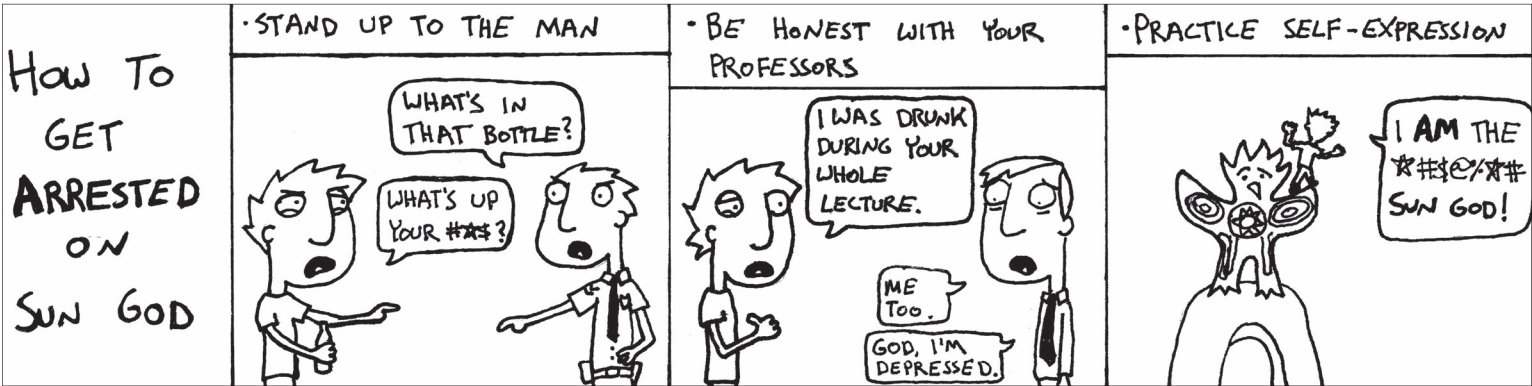
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The Hiatus Podcast: This week, editors get a birthday gift from Stan Lee and drool over Woody Allen's newest set of starlets.

An Inside Look: Photo Editor Will Parson takes his audio slideshow to the Earth Day Trash Sort Extravaganza.



POORLY DRAWN LINES



CURRENTS

Campus Eye Center
Receives Award for Study

UCSD's Shiley Eye Center has been honored for its studies and treatment of age-related eye diseases, including macular degeneration. At the Age-Related Eye Disease Study II conference in Houston last month, Shiley's Division of Community Ophthalmology was chosen out of 82 centers to receive an award for exemplary overall performance efforts and was one of seven institutions to be recognized for Exemplary Data Quality.

The AREDS2 is a multi-center randomized trial, funded by the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health, designed to determine the effects of vitamins, minerals and fish oil on macular degeneration, which is a leading cause of vision loss among Americans 60 years of age and older.

UCSD Shiley team leader Barbara L. Brody, a clinical professor of ophthalmology and family and preventive medicine and director of the Community Ophthalmology Division at Shiley, called the recognition a great honor, considering the high level of national competition.

"We are honored to be among such prestigious competition," Brody said in a statement. "This recognition is a reaffirmation of our everyday standard of excellence."

For its five-year study, the Shiley team recruited individuals between the ages of 50 and 85 with drusen — yellow deposits under the retina — in both eyes or

large drusen in one eye and age-related macular degeneration in the other eye.

The original trial found that anti-oxidant supplements lowered the risk of advanced AMD for patients with intermediate stage AMD. In addition, patients with high consumption of omega-3 fatty acids and lutein were at lower risk.

Ecology Professor Offers
Free Lecture at Scripps

Richard E. Lenski, distinguished professor of microbial ecology at Michigan State University, will present the annual Rosenblatt Lectureship, entitled "Evolution in Action: Bugs and Bytes," May 15 in Sumner Auditorium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Lenski, a MacArthur Foundation Fellow and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, has been recognized for his experiments with bacteria that replicate, mutate and evolve quickly, which have allowed him to observe the genetic mechanisms and ecological processes of evolution.

In one experiment that began 20 years ago, Lenski and his team have watched populations of the harmful bacteria Escherichia coli — commonly known as E-coli — evolve in their laboratory to investigate the dynamics of the bacteria's adaptation and diversification. More recently, Lenski has extended his evolutionary experiments to computer programs that replicate, mutate and evolve.

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FOCUS

Audio Slideshow:

An Inside Look

Photo Editor Will Parson documents the Earth Day Trash Sort Extravaganza.

OPINION

Web Poll:

Do you support the systemwide proposed changes to free speech and assembly policies?

HIATUS

Blog:

The Mixtape

Hot tracks reviewed weekly. This week: indie hip-hop cuts from Bilal, Jay Electronica and Quelle.

The Hiatus Podcast:

Episode VI

This week's talk includes Woody Allen, Indiana Jones and a semi-good gift from comic god Stan Lee.

WEATHER

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Low: 60

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High: 87
Low: 60

May 17
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High: 85
Low: 61

May 18
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Low: 62

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Council Elects New Speaker, Discusses Potential of Darfur Scholarship

Councilmembers new and old were in attendance last night for the first regular meeting of the 2008-09 A.S. Council. With no time to waste, the council considered two important matters: the ongoing genocide in Darfur and the election of a new council speaker.

Thurgood Marshall College sophomore **Daniel Nguyen** was on hand to speak to the council about a scholarship program for UCSD that educates Sudanese students at American universities. Nguyen, who was representing Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, described the decades-long conflict within Sudan, which he said has killed 400,000 and displaced millions, to frame the necessity of providing Sudanese students with access to American higher education. The goal of the scholarship program is to inform participants about resource management and infrastructure development so that they can apply it in the public sector when they return to Sudan.

"We can't just focus on privileged students," said Nguyen, urging the council to expand the scope of its concern beyond La Jolla.

The relative lack of discussion following his presentation revealed a degree of reticence in the new council. Despite the numerous considerations surrounding a new university-backed stipend to host abroad students, the councilmembers saved most of their opinions for the election of a new council speaker after the presentation.

Former Biological Sciences Senator and outgoing speaker **Emma Sandoe** described the salient responsibilities of the position, from compiling orders of business and monitoring attendance to moderating debates at meetings and

enforcing the oft-abused Robert's Rules of Order.

Sixth College Senator **John Cressey** and Engineering Senator **Jordan Taylor** accepted nominations from their fellow councilmembers for the position. To compete for the position, each candidate was asked to speak for a few minutes about their qualifications and field questions from councilmembers about how they would meet their obligations as speakers. Each candidate was addressed individually while the other waited outside of the meeting room (presumably in an intimidating sound-proof isolation chamber).

Cressey emphasized his three years of experience with the council and his willingness to surrender his voting power in order to serve as speaker.

"This is my fourth year being an A.S. senator and I don't mind stepping back and being a facilitator instead of a debater since I've been here awhile," he said.

Taylor, on the other hand, leveraged his recent experiences throughout the last year as a first-time councilmember to show that he would be "a good resource for new members who have questions."

Councilmembers, including the newest ones, asked the candidates questions about Robert's Rules, speaker objectivity and the potential to interfere with responsibilities to constituents since the speaker can't vote. Cressey and Taylor had similar responses, and both said they believed their constituents could be served through other council positions.

But it was Taylor who won in the secret-ballot vote, securing his seat behind the all-powerful microphone until this day rolls around again next May.



New Business

Michael Bowlus
mbowlus@ucsd.edu

SDSU Group Decries Sting Operation

► **DRUGS**, from page 1

Operation Sudden Fall, the undercover sting operation initiated a year ago in response to a student's death on campus from a cocaine overdose, under suspicion of connection to the university's alleged drug ring.


The remaining 41 arrests were conducted by campus police officers for minor drug offenses uncovered over the last five months. Officials said these 41 individuals were not necessarily connected to the exposed drug operations, but were placed under arrest as a result of the zero-tolerance drug policy enforced by campus officials during the course of the investigation.

In the week since the yearlong undercover investigation came to a close, some campus groups have raised concerns over the impact that the bust might have on the university. Although SDSU President Stephen Weber hailed the arrests as a victory for the campus, others have called the investigation unnecessary and ultimately ineffective.

Members of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, an organization committed to spreading awareness about the impacts of drugs on college campuses, spoke out against the drug busts at a rally on the campus last week. President of the organization's SDSU chapter Randy Hencken said the busts will likely have little impact on student drug use in the long run.

"So long as students have the desire to use illegal drugs, and so long as the prohibition of drugs sustains a lucrative black market, drug stings will do little more than create openings for others to step in and supply these drugs," Hencken said at the rally.

Readers can contact Reza Farazmand at rfarazma@ucsd.edu.



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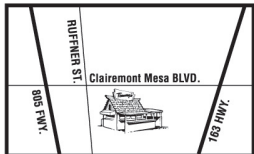
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Hendrickson: Financial Aid Insufficient for All College Expenses

► **FEES**, from page 1
who would have the most trouble paying them due to increases in financial aid that would be generated by fee revenue. The university will return about 33 percent of revenues from the undergraduate fee increase to financial aid. As a result, additional grants will be provided covering all of the fee increase to on-time applicants whose family incomes are lower than approximately \$60,000 per year. In addition, the governor's budget proposes a \$16-million increase in Cal Grant awards for undergraduates to offset the fee increases for UC Cal

Grant recipients.
UCSA President Louise Hendrickson argued that such a large amount of financial aid wouldn't be necessary if fees weren't so high in the first place.
"We also have the cost of living, which is a problem," she said. "It's never enough because students are still struggling to make ends meet. The true cost of attending a university is not covered by financial aid."
Several regents also said that an increase in student fees should only be used as a last resort, and excess spending should be completely eliminated before fee increases are passed.

Other regents made comparisons with public institutions such as the University of Michigan and University of Illinois show that, when taking scholarships and grant assistance into account, the University of California's total cost of attendance is below that of these comparable institutions for financial aid recipients.
However, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said the stresses of increased student fees are placed heavily on middle-class students, who oftentimes are not eligible to receive aid. Garamendi also said students at several comparable

universities have a large percentage of out-of-state students who can afford to pay higher fees, and warned against putting the UC system on the same path of privatization as these universities.
"The long successful tradition of California that built this economy is being pushed aside, and the federal government is getting off free," he said. "The more we raise fees, the less the state spends. It is a very vicious cycle."
Hendrickson sees the decision as a partial victory for students since it was originally proposed that the fees would be increased by 10 percent.
"We don't support any fee

increases, but over previous options that were much higher, 7.4 [percent] is \$30 million in extra fees that are going back into students' pockets," Hendrickson said. "This was a partial victory but of course no fee increase is a full win."
According to Hendrickson, the UCSA, along with community colleges and the CSU system, "will be demanding that the state Legislature buy out our fee increase and restore the rest of the money that has been cut out" from the university on May 19.

Readers can contact Yelena Akopian at yakopian@ucsd.edu.

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

SUN GOD FESTIVAL

Guardian Web exclusives explore the event's newest inner workings:

- Interactive map of RIMAC Field
- Lineup information
- Access our archived articles on the new Sun God Festival
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THE HIATUS PODCAST

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Episode I: Verdicts on Guitar Hero vs. Rock Band

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Episode III: Opinions on the Sun God Festival lineup

Episode IV: Reader e-mails about Sun God

Episode V: Talk on Iron Man and superhero blockbusters

Episode IV: Choices of this week's best movie trailers

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This week in the paper:
The *Guardian* begins its coverage of the new Sun God Festival.
May 12: News follows A.S. programmers as they enter high gear
May 15: Hiatus' music critics write on the lineup and pick your best bets for the concert

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Price Center Nightclub to Open Fall '08

► **OPENING**, from page 1
lage-artist Barbara Kruger. Meetings have already taken place in the new conference rooms. On the fourth level, the Associated Students, Alumni Association and other student organizations have already moved into their new offices.

Terzino said that the East Ballroom — which currently has only limited use — the west side of the Grand Stairs and the Cross-Cultural Center will be complete by mid-June, and the Triton Statue to be located at the base of the Grand Stairs will be unveiled during Fall Quarter 2008.

The Loft, a nightclub performance space and social lounge, will be finished during the summer and officially open on the first day of classes in September, according to University Events Office Director Martin Wollesen.

“[The Loft] will be rented out for use during the summer to the campus and community departments and organizations for their events,” Wollesen said in an e-mail. “The restaurant will not be in place by that point; however, we are hopeful that it will be in place for the fall.”

Some of the most highly anticipated sections of the new Price Center are the eight new restaurants that will be located in the atrium in the fall. So far, planned restaurants include Burger King, Mediterranean/Greek restaurant Santorini Island Grill, Indian food eatery Bombay Coast and Asian tea shop Tapioca Express. According to Terzino, the university is still in the process of selecting four more eateries — a coffee shop, a creperie, a pasta restaurant and the Loft restaurant.

Although the new restaurants will not be completed until fall, students have already started to use the indoor seating — designated for about 375 people — which was designed to alleviate weekday traffic.

Terzino said student fees funded most of the areas that have been opened so far, including the atrium



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN
Top: Thurgood Marshall College junior Rob Corea emcees the Price Center East grand opening party May 12. **Bottom:** Students attending the opening enjoy one of the expansion's new lounge areas.

food court, computer lab and group study rooms.

“Because three-fourths of the student fee that is supporting the expansion was assessed in Spring Quarter, it was important to get the fee-funded areas opened early in the quarter,” he said.

The Price Center expansion is the third and final stage of the University Centers’ on-campus construction. The first stage was the renovation of Student Center and the restoration

of the General Store Co-op, A.S. Soft Reserves, the UCSD Bike Shop, KSDT Radio, the Food Co-op, two unisex bathrooms on the second floor and Student-Run Television. The second stage involved the creation of a central plaza and additional indoor seating at the Grove Caffe. The Price Center expansion is expected to be fully complete by fall 2008.

Readers can contact Vanessa Do at v3do@ucsd.edu.

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Street Fair Will Feature Booths, Vendors

► **FESTIVAL**, from page 1
RIMAC Field.

Berg said he hopes that the wide selection of attractions brings attendees in droves, but acknowledged that students may be jarred by the festival's new layout. A.S. Vice President Programming Kevin Highland and Berg enlisted handfuls of volunteers to publicize and distribute informative pamphlets familiarizing students with the event's overhauled structure.

Earl Warren College sophomore Eric Mendoza coordinates Sun God Avenue, one of the new festival's most student-involved locations, and said that many students he's encountered have been confused with the festival's new procedures, which include hand stamps for re-entry to RIMAC Field and wristband types for students and nonaffiliates. He added that those initial reactions were often smoothed over when the festival procedure was fully explained.

"A lot of students are put off when we mention that everything will be on north campus," said Mendoza, who spent the week distributing wristbands to students for entry. "But the event is pretty simple to enjoy once it's fully explained. It will still be the same great Sun God, but instead everything sponsored by A.S. programming will be on RIMAC Field."

Sun God Avenue will stretch the entirety of Hopkins Drive, which will be closed all of Friday to make way for over 60 spaces for food vendors, street-fair attractions and student groups ranging from fraternities to cultural organizations. Mendoza said that he encountered a strong desire from student organizations to participate in the reformed festival.

Concert stages will be located on RIMAC Field, flanked by a number of other sites such as the

WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN

Top: Part of the A.S. programming staff distributes wristbands at John Muir College for entry to the Sun God Festival. **Bottom:** The main stage is constructed on RIMAC Field, the central location for festival.

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EDITORIALS

How This Bird Came to Be, and Why You Should Enjoy It

It is a stalwart annual *Guardian* tradition to hold a prefestival celebration within its editorial pages. This year's brand-new Sun God Festival offers this board the first stab at evaluating the event's yearlong development, offer insight into each stage of its headline-making progress and predict its long-term impact on the campus.

Given the scope of changes to the festival, our opinion of the festival has been admittedly impulsive. The initial release of the Sun God Planning Report was met with trepidation. The full-scale 22-page report was a full-fledged attack on Sun God. Administrators called for an event that was safer (too many drunkards!), more organized (too many long, messy lines!) and warmer in spirit (too many drunkards, not enough community!). At that point, our beloved bird seemed inevitably headed to a rocky landing that this board predicted would be an unwelcome, toned-down makeover.

When A.S. programmers first revealed their festival blueprints, trepidation gave way to excitement. A.S. Vice President of Programming Kevin Highland, Festivals Coordinator Garrett Berg and their staff smartly

conceptualized the most student-related points of the report, and used them as the cornerstone of the new festival. The end product was a festival UCSD has never seen, one that finally institutionalizes student involvement and community ideals through student-run booths, artwork displays and countless other attractions. Tritons have always been a part of the Sun God Festival; in their new festival, programmers have evolved the event's participatory aspects and finally carved out physical spaces for students.

Then, the bubble popped. The new festival, with its countless add-ons, was too good to be true and too expensive to pay for. Following the firm logic of the campus administrators and departments that initially demanded changes to the festival, programmers and A.S. councilmembers found only empty pockets when courting potential supporters, which included Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Penny Rue and the Alumni Association. Scrounging together funds from small-business sponsorships and the A.S. Council — the latter to a generous tune of \$30,000 — programmers were able to still host their new festival as planned, but with a glaring caveat:



at: If the festival's wavering financial health continues, programmers will not be able to sustain such an expansive operation. The solutions include major corporate sponsorship or the intensely distasteful option of a student referendum.

This board is still holding its collective breath, as is much of UCSD. But no amount of tension should mar the day itself. Judgment comes after partying, folks, so let's enjoy our festival's long road to stardom safely, before we have to pay for it ourselves.

THE  GUARDIAN
Charles Nguyen
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew McArdle
Hadley Mendoza
MANAGING EDITORS

The UCSD Guardian is published twice a week at the University of California at San Diego. Contents © 2007. Views expressed herein represent the majority vote of the editorial board and are not necessarily those of the UC Board of Regents, the ASUCSD or the members of the Guardian staff.

Everybody Hurts with Regents' Fee Hike

By Charles Nguyen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — It was a scene ripped from a novel, film or any other meaty piece of drama. After an extended scrap that solves nothing, two characters with divergent agendas go head-to-head in a heated standoff.

And nothing was more heated than the UC Regents meeting on May 14, where students jockeying to lower their fees angrily interrupted regents with loud chants and protest. Representatives from nearly every major student advocacy group had attended the meeting, hoping to stave off yet another fee hike. Affordability and accessibility to public colleges like the University of California, they argue, is irreversibly damaged by the seemingly unstoppable rising tide of fees.

Regents and UC administrators, on the other hand, were pushing their own agenda. For a university system rooted in its prestige — specifically in fields of research and scientific advancement — the state's faltering budget, and subsequent UC financial problems, fees and tuition would need to rise to sustain quality outside the classroom. Students need to at least acknowledge that a university's mission has more to do with grants and research funds than they would prefer.

But that doesn't negate the fact that students are being slowly suffocated by fees that unabatedly rise. Students have seldomly seen fees decrease in the past decade, save for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's fee freeze in 2006-07. That reprieve was short-lived and ultimately ineffective: students were spared a year of fee increases only to see the level doubled the next year.

And now, students face a 7-percent increase in systemwide fees, costing the common student hundreds of dollars more. Outgoing UC President Robert C. Dynes has commented that the existence of several state-sponsored grants and scholarships help blunt the blow of the hike, no amount of grants will plug the gaping hole burned into UC affordability. Regents reasoned that the most needy of students would be covered by need-based grants, which will

See **FEES**, page 5

Ears Open Tritons, Even if You Don't Like What Is Said

If adopted, a sweeping new UC Office of President proposal barring nonaffiliates from unapproved activities across the 10-campus system would be a sad blow to one of the cornerstones of our democracy: freedom of speech.

Hailed by the university as a security blanket for students, faculty and staff, the policy was designed in part to keep nonaffiliates from disrupting university affairs. But the University of California is a public institution, funded by taxpayer dollars, so attempting to prevent nonaffiliates from speaking on campus is roughly equivalent to banning students from gathering at public parks. It's ludicrous.

Sure, assembly areas such as Library Walk tend to be frequented by outrageous fanatics who unabashedly spew hate speech, and annoying canvassers who want your money for one reason or another, but banning all nonaffiliates from campus is a complete overreaction. While some members of the campus community may disagree with, or even be offended by, the words of bombastic religious zealots, others may agree

with their messages and instead be put off by liberal Bush-bashers.

Regardless of what their messages are, nonaffiliates should only be labeled disruptive on a case-by-case basis, like with campus affiliates or citizens in a public space, and not be all but banned from on-campus activities as outlined in the proposal.

Supporters of the policy like it for instance-specific reasons, ignoring its ridiculously vast scope and the extremely negative consequences it will bring to the university.

But it is inappropriate and paternalistic for administrators to set the standard for what students should and should not hear. And the minor inconveniences — such as being disturbed at lunchtime — cited by proponents as reasons for the policy change certainly do not warrant such an extremely reactionary restriction of precious First Amendment rights.

Truly free speech is not dependent on the speaker's message. And for a public university — a place of learning and free exchange of ideas — to discriminate against something because it merely sounds unpleasant



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ADAM PELTIER/GUARDIAN

undermines everything that we, as young thinkers and leaders, should hold dear.

Moreover, the UCOP proposal would set a frightening precedent that extends far beyond the realm of nonaffiliates. Students, staff or faculty conducting impromptu protests might be jeopardized if they don't have proof of their UC affiliation. And even if the former isn't an issue, their causes would still

be severely weakened by the limits on support from nonaffiliates. (One notable example where this might occur is within UC Nuclear Free, an organization that often includes nonaffiliates in its protests against UC nuclear-research policies.)

If the university really wants to act in the best interests of students, staff and faculty, it needs to scrap this hazardous violation of freedom — and fast.

With Festival Nearing, Here's One Triton Who's Unconvinced

Many of you have without a doubt heard something about the upcoming party that is set to overtake this campus. What I'm referencing in a roundabout way is, of course, the Sun God Festival. Much of what you have heard is correct: nationally recognized acts are going to perform, curious occurrences begin to take a hold around campus and many don't even show up to class during UCSD's unofficial ditch day.

Yet it troubles me to say that it has become popular to correlate the Sun God Festival with rampant drinking, wanton disregard for normal behavior and even foolish attempts to outdo everybody with the effort to steer a popularity streak toward oneself.

Nonetheless, I pose a worthy question not as a critic and not even as a high-minded golden-ager. A pragmatist such as myself would ask: Why risk trouble with the law for a one-time stab at debauchery? What could make it so that this relatively short occasion brings about the dulllest in a person, respectively? Why also does the prospect of times given to individuals to let loose curtail the basic faculties needed for rational existence?

During a recent discussion section that I attended, the class happened to shed light on the upcoming celebrations. Do not ask me why we were encouraged to keep up the conversation about this topic in class — I readily have no answer. Perhaps it was because

the spirit of the Sun God Festival, whatever that is, found its way into our drab classroom.

[T]he Sun God Festival really is nothing more than UCSD's boldest step in attempting to ameliorate an already disaffected student body."


In any case, the class went a buzz with talk of more police presence being made available, thus inhibiting our chances of experiencing

maximum celebration. There were other items discussed during class time, but I think it is safe to say that I learned more about drunken bicyclists than about priorities requiring the most heed.

Yet what it all really centers around is the fact that the Sun God Festival really is nothing more than UCSD's boldest step in attempting to ameliorate an already disaffected student body.

But I can't help but to think that there may have been better ways to shore up some pride on this campus than to put on a spectacle where a collection of science nerds presumptuously attempts to loosen up.

It is up to you, of course, in regard to whether you opt to go to this event or not. I cannot claim to

 **The Perplexed Pragmatist**
Aleks Savovic
asavovic@ucsd.edu

know who is playing this year but I would hope, for the sake of visitors, that the music sounds better live than it does portably. And unless you look forward to not having to pay for your prospective attendance, know that those kooky activity fees you pay every quarter more than make up for your lack of money at the gate.


But, to be honest, I don't know if anybody who attends this scene really cares for the bands anyway. Getting drunk, it's overrated.

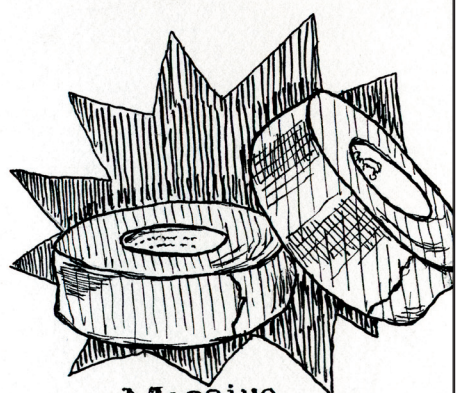
A DROP FROM THE INKWELL

By Priscilla Lazaro

Alternatives to new UCOP policy:

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Students Need Strong Presence to Push Fee Agenda

► **FEES**, from page 4

receive 33 percent of revenue generated from the fee increase.

That, of course, leaves the rest of us students, the ones whose middle-class family incomes disqualify them from the maximum amount of grant allowance — or from some grants all together. It is a point rightly accented by Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who called the regents' move the impetus for a "vicious cycle" of increased spending and fee hikes.

As the system's official student advocacy group, members of UC Student Association are leading a losing fight against UC administration.

Their stab at the regents was summed up in a lackluster fashion by UCSA President Louise Hendrickson, who found the thinnest silver lining possible on this fat, stormy cloud: At least students weren't charged the original 10-percent hike.

Seeing students accept the lesser of two evils evokes a sad commentary on this state's state of affairs. With financial worries sending Sacramento into disarray, there seems to be a shrinking amount of political and financial attention on higher education.

UCSA may find its most powerful and effective friend in new UC President Mark G. Yudof, who brings with him a history of wrangling with officials for student interests. It is a far cry from Dynes, whose background is grounded in research.

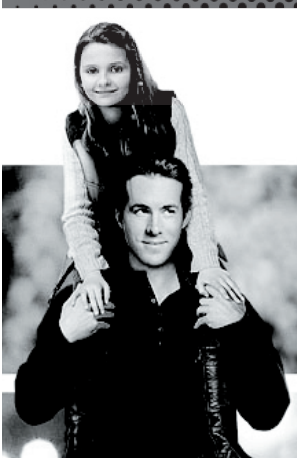
Yudof has publicly spoken out in support of lower tuition and fees, emphasizing the importance of higher education's affordability. He has also talked of his uneasy approach to the state's deeply rooted financial problems. It may take more than a UC president or regents to make the drastic shift needed for student fees — it may take all of the students themselves.

Readers can contact Charles Nguyen at charles_nguyen@sbcglobal.net.

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2008

SUN GOD

sean kingston

By Sonia Minden
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

Just 'cause Sean Kingston can't legally drink doesn't mean he hasn't experienced his fair share of tragedy. His mom and sister were incarcerated by the time Kingston turned 15, leaving him homeless and desperately stranded at a Fort Lauderdale bus station. But more importantly, the six-foot-three Biggie look-alike has experienced heartbreak — just listen to his 2007 single, "Beautiful Girls," on which he croons (in faux-reggae falsetto) about the "suicidal" symptoms of young love.

The buttery, autotuned vocals over Ben E. King's "Stand By Me" samplings propelled the pudgy Kingston to stardom, complete with diamond-encrusted Crayola necklaces and Bentley Continentals. In a matter of three weeks, he climbed the ranks from starry-eyed kid to ringtone royalty, all while holding to a squeaky clean, no-swearing dogma that keeps his Nickelodeon fans mouthing along.

But despite the obnoxious pervasiveness of his first single, you've gotta give the kid his credit — since "Girls," he's refused to laze on his laurels. The baby-faced Jamaican (whose authentically reggae pedigree includes Marley-producer grandfather, Jack Ruby) has slammed the charts with trademark tracks like the infectiously smooth "Take You There" and Zeppelin-squeezing "Me Love." Not to mention his recent collab with Londoner goddess Natasha Bedingfield on "Love Like This" (please, please let there be a surprise Sun God cameo). So, who cares if he sounds like "Alvin & the Chipmunks Travel the West Indies"? Everyone needs a little pop tonic water to chase their Sun God exploits.



coheed
from page 1

for something unintelligible. At this point one begins to miss the megaphone cat, or maybe the silence that preceded all of the nonsense in the first place.

As for the lyrics, imagine a mix of the most grandiose pronouncements about God and civilization adrift among the most predictable love clichés ever penned. Now take that and make sure no one can understand a goddamn word the guy is singing. Perfect. What makes the lyrical mastery even better is that it's all supposed to be part of some epic "Science Fiction Space Opera in the Future." While the emo-galactic themes make absolutely no rhyme or reason when taken at face value, they make perfect sense considering how seriously these clowns take themselves. We can assume that they got high watching "Star Wars" one night and the trip hasn't ended yet (sincere apologies to "Star Wars" for likening the film to the band).

Devoted fans of Coheed are particularly fanatical and will defend the band to the death; that said, there is a good chance that they will need to do just that come Sun God.

By Jenna Brogan
STAFF WRITER

Sorry to disappoint the ladies, but the James Blunt look-alike who sits atop Jack Johnson's Brushfire label and claims to be deeply inspired by '80s pop and '60s folk oldies isn't British at all. Despite his mysteriously quaint English accent, Matt Costa hails from none other than Huntington Beach, Calif. A SoCal native and former competitive skateboarder, Costa rocks the same soothing Johnson melodies with a little less ukulele and a little more circus — his rock is more like a patio rocking chair than Johnson's palm-tree beach hammock. With two CDs out (*Songs We Sing*, *Unfamiliar Faces*), it's clear Costa is still compiling his image from Teen Vogue cut-outs of popular bands, and currently the collage blends Mungo Jerry, the Decemberists and the Format ... if that's even possible.

Often criticized for imitating his influences (Morrissey, the Cure, the Beatles), the troubadour man isn't the most original musician (compare Jerry's "In the Summertime" to Costa's "Miss Magnolia" to get a taste of the uncanny similarities), but enjoyable nonetheless. Seeking to mimic the ambiance of the decade that stamped folk as an American genre, the van-driving minstrel sings of love won and lost — even turning a bitter breakup into a fun skip-to-my-loo jig. His newly popular "Mr. Pitiful" is a bouncy and clap-encouraging piano march sure to get stuck in anyone's head. While "Sunshine" and "Miss Magnolia" are the folksy toe-tappers that set him apart from other artists currently on the scene, when he slows things down to demonstrate his variety with melancholy ballads like "Never Looking Back," he simply mirrors the brooding sound of Jack's Mannequin.

"Cold December" is one of his more memorable hip-shakers that can be separated from watery attempts at peaceful reflection — like the sleepy "Lilacs," whose chorus, "You were right I was up all night, thinking about you," requires the listener to desperately search for a window to look out of. A veteran Coachella and Lollapalooza performer, Costa has played alongside some of the most well-known names in music, even helping out his bubble-toed mentor whenever he can. His eclectic blend of acoustic guitar, harmonica, piano, drums and the occasional banjo will undoubtedly fit quite nicely into the daytime festival lineup, keeping spirits high (if that's not already taken care of) and the drunkards giddy.

matt costa



COURTESY OF BRUSHFIRE RECORDS

spotlight on

PHANTOM PLANET

As told to Julie Oh

Phantom Planet released their first album, Phantom Planet Is Missing, a decade ago in 1998. That's a little known fact, considering most of their fans — myself included — were introduced to the group through the hit television show "The O.C."s theme song, "California." But after a four-year hiatus, Phantom Planet returns with Raise the Dead — an appropriately titled, much darker release. Currently, the band is opening for Panic at the Disco, Motion City Soundtrack and the Hush Sound on the Honda Civic Tour.

The Guardian: Where are you now?

Alex Greenwald: Tulsa, Oklahoma. There's definitely a lot of grass!

TG: So, you ended Saturday's performance by jumping off the stage into the



crowd. Weren't you terrified?

AG: I lost my fear when, well ... Amsterdam is notorious for recreational and legal drug use.

I think everybody in the audience was a little intoxicated and it was a really high stage. We were the opening band and nobody had ever heard of us [there]. I jumped into the audience and they got out of the way. I broke a rib.

TG: Do you ever lose track of where you are when you're on tour?

AG: On this one, yeah. The last month and a half we've been touring in a van and doing most of the driving. So we were familiar with freeway changes and

See PHANTOM, page 13

Grinders, Socialites and Casuals

While I appreciate the fact that so many gamers are now noticing this column, I'm a bit concerned that the non-gamers who frequent the articles will find themselves disconnected from their content. For the most part, that's alright with me — the purpose of the column is to reach out to the gamer subculture on campus and touch upon issues that may resonate with UCSD's nerdier side (so, almost everyone). For whatever impact the column may have had so far, there are still many students (that I can only imagine are of elite intelligence) who don't quite understand the validity of such a culture. Or, if they understand that the culture exists, they see the community as immature. Rather than immediately chastising the obvious ignorance and naivete of such an argument, I find that this conception only exists because most people don't understand video games or gam-

ers in general. And I don't blame them; to be honest, it can be difficult even for gamers to understand other people who share their pastime. This should not be the case. As gamers, we should be aware of not only the community at large but also what kind of gamer we are.

Which brings me to the purpose of today's article. In an attempt to better explain the types of gamers that exist, I find that there are a number of behavioral patterns that can, to a degree, characterize specific

players. While it becomes difficult to examine every subcategory that specific gamers fall under, I find that there are essentially three distinct types.

The first type is the perfectionist, or better known to many as "the grinder." The gamers who fall under this category go to



Critical Hit!

PHILIP RHIE
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See HIT, page 14

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► **PHANTOM**, from page 9

where our final destination was. It's easier. On this tour, we're on the bus, travel at night and then we wake up.

TG: Do you think that's the hardest part of being on tour?

AG: Well, the hardest part of the tour for us as a band is that the van drives are really long. When we were on tour with Paramore and the Bravery, they were on buses — the driver sleeps all day, so it's okay. They'd just perform and then get on a bus. We'd drive after a show, sleep for four hours and then drive to another.

TG: Do you have any preshow rituals? Do you get stage fright?

AG: I get stage fright all the time. As for the rituals, we'll do a football huddle, say one or two things about what we want from the show and then, I guess, go "Go Team!" You know the game Street Fighter II? When one of them throws a fireball, they go "Hadoken!" So we've been saying "Hadoken!" before every show on this tour.

TG: What is your favorite tour memory?

AG: There's one time when Darren [Robinson, Phantom Planet's guitarist] and I got really drunk and we got into a fight. Throwing punches. I pushed him into the bathroom of our bus and locked him in. I wouldn't let him get out and he got really pissed and actually knocked the door down onto me. The door literally came down like he was surfing. We've never fought since.

TG: I was introduced to Phantom Planet at age 13 when I watched "The O.C." for the first time. Do you think that your fan base changed after the premiere of the show?

AG: No, I didn't really notice any difference in fan base. Though we were in Tokyo once and I met a grandmother who liked us, so I think it just

expanded our listener base.

TG: I read in your previous interviews that your split with Jason Schwartzman was friendly? What happened?

AG: He's a good guy and I think what happened was our ambitions got in the way. His acting career and the band couldn't coexist and the split was amiable. It was necessary to survive — to record and go on tour on a new level. So, we just split.

TG: Do you think you'll ever record a collaboration with Jason and Coconut Records?

AG: I wouldn't leave that out of the realm of possibility. I know that a lot of the songs that are on Jason's records are ones that I had heard for Phantom Planet, but didn't make the cut. I think it's great and really fun. If anything, I wouldn't cross off a collaboration between him and us in the future. Yeah, I'm just going to say that — for people who have their hopes up? Keep them up!

TG: If you could run naked through a field with any celebrity, who would it be?

AG: [Osama] Bin Laden. I saw a picture of Bin Laden when he was a child — it was all over the Internet yesterday. And he looked so innocent. I think when people are naked, when they take off their clothes, it puts us all on the same level. So, I wouldn't mind bringing Osama down to my level for just one run through a field.



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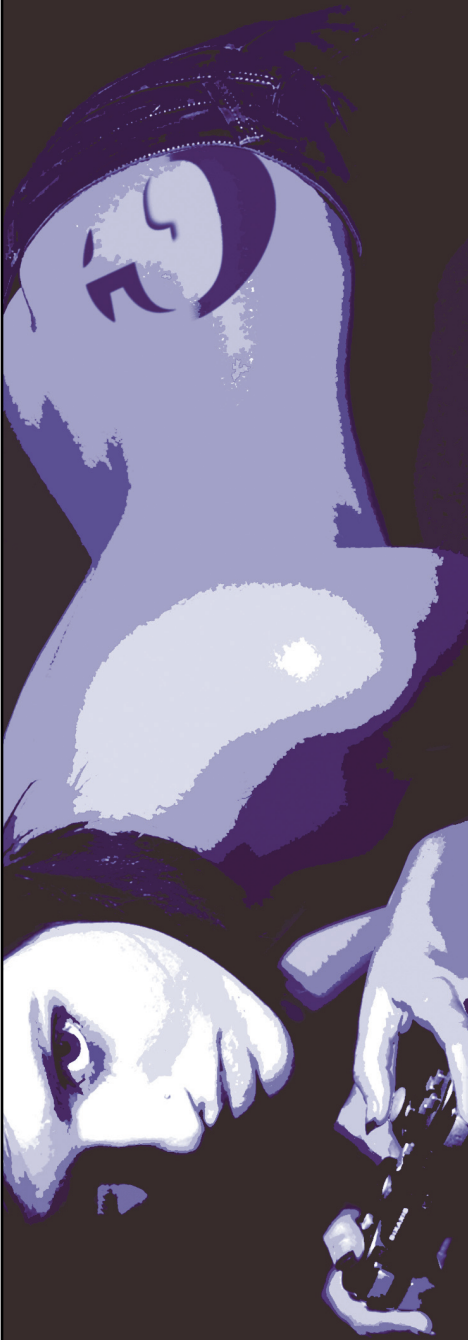
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► **HIT**, from page 9

no end to essentially rape a specific game. I can't stress enough the importance of the word "rape," as these gamers don't just beat a game in a normal fashion (i.e. until the credits roll). They go above and beyond to complete each and every achievement that a title throws at them. For example, in a given RPG these gamers will max out the stats for any and all characters, finish every single side-quest, gather every single rare item, raise a farm of golden chocobos and search for every single ending, among other ridiculous pursuits. A gamer with this obsessive tic won't rest until they've drained every bit of juice from a game.

The other type of player personality that I've noticed is the "social gamer." These are the types who would prefer to play games with friends or healthy human compe-

tion and rarely find enjoyment in a singular experience. While in previous generations of consoles, the social experience was found mostly in proximity (see Contra, Goldeneye) and was hard to popularize especially since multiplayer is now a gaming standard, the number of social gamers has increased with the advent of robust online services and recent broadband saturation. These are the gamers you'll find in a server at any time of the day, the regulars. These players find pleasure not in the games themselves, but in the community they foster.

And I like to call the final gamer type the "casually hardcore." These are the gamers that can't really commit themselves to any one game; they're up to date on all the blockbuster titles and current trends, yet can't quite finish, play, or even buy them. Perhaps they don't have the time, or perhaps they don't have


the money. Whatever the reason, these gamers typically find joy by sampling a large number of games rather than one singular experience.

This isn't to say that these three caricatures are the be-all-end-all of gamer types. What makes the average hardcore gamer so complex is that it becomes difficult to pin him/her to a distinct label; as with anything, a bit of cross-breeding occurs. For example, a gamer who's obsessed with World of Warcraft could either be playing for the grind or to socialize with other people. The same could be said for Halo players, who range from the teabagging griever with a sense of humor to the immature kid from Kentucky who calls you a faggot and then snipes your head off. The moral of the story: it's never easy to tell who's on the other end of the headset (unless they call you a faggot).

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IN THEATRES JUNE 6

recordings

Islands
■ Arm’s Way

ANTI

★★★★

Nick Thorburn (formerly Nick Diamonds) and his motley crew of Canadian music men and Asian string savants (aka the illustrious Chow brothers) return to the fore with the semi-concept album *Arm’s Way*, a sophomore release rife with clever details but lacking in pop substance. Islands have always played like a vaudevillian version of the Arcade Fire, their mature orchestration starkly contrasting Thorburn’s morbid-chic lyrics and jittery compositions. It seems here that the collective has plotted out a cookie-cutter house in the guise of an ambitious prog-rock epic, taking the charming and forgivable faults of the lo-fi Unicorns and magnifying them for Islands’ brand of arena indie.

The madness fades in with “The Arm,” a full-bodied overview of the extended suites to come, hitting every conceivable emotion and tempo within the song’s five-and-a-half minutes. There’s bouncy kitsch, a short space-rock breakdown, an indie-western soundtrack — everything! With all these rapid dynamics, you’ll either be totally impressed or feel worn out like you do after an album’s worth of Yes wankery. Thankfully, the immeasurably catchy Unicorns-extra “Abominable Snow”



and album standout “Creeper” salvage the record from being a total misstep. The former rocks every instrument in a rhythmic ballet, wrapping violin jabs and bass murmurs around Thorburn’s vocal melody like a symphonic apocalypse; the latter’s chugging techno bump and memorable lines about neighborhood intruders might be a healthy direction for the band to follow next round.

Thorburn’s songwriting methods show their seams on much of *Way*’s second half, most notably with the predictable yawner “To a Bond” and the sludge-lite of bloated closer “Vertigo (If it’s a Crime).” The mastermind behind “Jellybones” and “Rough Gem” has sadly muffled his talent for odd popcraft by trying too hard to grow up, instead just giving us hollow, distanced lyrics and a dense pastiche of dull musical snippets. Maybe he should change his last name back to Diamonds and embrace his inner Unicorn before getting the house band back in the studio.

— Chris Kokiousis
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

Santogold
■ Santogold

DOWNTOWN

★★★★

Hailed as the American incarnation of critically acclaimed hip-hop artist M.I.A., Santogold’s self-titled debut introduces her strength as a solo artist. *Santogold* boasts a series of highly eclectic and experimental beats, a blend of guitar riffs, electronica and synthesizer supplemented by Santi White’s sharp, high-pitched lyrics.

Though reminiscent of the “Paper Planes” agit-diva M.I.A., Santogold separates herself by replacing M.I.A.’s Bollywood and bhangra influences with elements of reggae and African drumming. The beats are often amplified over inconsistent vocals, reflecting the unfortunate fact that Santogold can’t sing with the same seamless flow and furious pacing of M.I.A. This beat affinity often gets her into trouble, when it fails to mesh with her vocals. Furthermore, Santogold’s relaxed pacing is less conducive to dancing than M.I.A.’s highly frenetic and bombastic style.



Santogold has attempted to downplay her similarity with M.I.A., asserting that the well-received singles off of *Santogold*, “Creator” and “L.E.S. Artistes,” don’t reflect the album as a whole, with the majority of its tracks incorporating generous doses of New Age and pop that separate her from M.I.A. without classifying her solely as a pop artist. Unfortunately, her originality is often surprisingly detrimental to the basic sound of her music. Some of the tracks, chiefly “Anne” and “My Superman,” lack both the energy of hip-hop and the crystal-clear rhythm of pop, resulting in a grating and lackluster listening experience.

But while Santogold isn’t yet up to M.I.A.’s more refined level, her debut album remains solid enough to foretell a long and promising musical career.

— Imran Manji
STAFF WRITER

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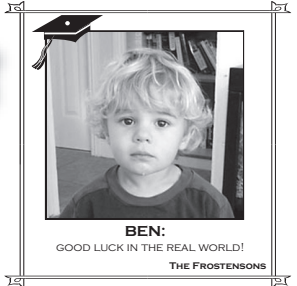
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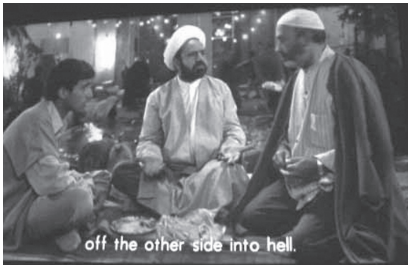
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recordings

Flight of the Conchords

▪ Flight of the Conchords

SUB POP

★★★★

Flight of the Conchords label themselves as New Zealand's fourth most popular folk-parody duo, coming in right behind Like of the Conchords, a Flight of the Conchords tribute band. If that didn't tickle you in some way, you probably won't get this album. Flight of the Conchords' self-titled debut is more like a greatest hits collection, making them probably the only band in history to debut with such an album. Nonetheless, the 15 songs here are so ridiculously well crafted that legit music junkies will be prompted to take the guys more seriously.

On their eponymous HBO series, the Kiwis, comprised of Bret "Pretty-Boy Elf Extra in 'Lord of the Rings'" McKenzie and Jemaine "The Maori's Answer to Barry White" Clement, play themselves as musicians struggling to make it big stateside in a humorless world oblivious to their dry witticisms. Unlike "Spinal Tap," the songs aren't just an extension of their comedy act — for the Conchords, the music comes first.

With each song, the bearded McKenzie and bespectacled Clement pay homage to others, incorporating details sometimes obvious and other times esoteric. The boys receive



"transmissions from Bowie's nipple antennae" as they're "jammin' out with the Mick Jaggernauts" in their best "Ashes to Ashes"/Ziggy Stardust-era impersonations on "Bowie." "Think About It" is a song that Bono is probably kicking his own ass for not writing, with the boys whining about world problems like "people with diseases from monkeys" while backed by Marvin Gaye-esque instrumentation. And the cult-fave "Business Time" takes listeners on a four-minute erotic journey as Clement coos about integral parts of foreplay: taking out the recyclables and brushing your teeth.

The lyrics are good on their own, chock-full of one-liners, but the legitimate music backing them sets the Conchords apart from other parody acts. The rap beats in "Hiphopotamus vs. Rhymenoceros" are just the rapid strumming of acoustic guitars and the synths in "Inner City Pressure" capture the essence of Pet Shop Boys' "West End Girls." Also, where else can you hear a binary code solo? If you take Flight of the Conchords as just another joke band, the joke's on you.

— Josephine Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

Jamie Lidell

▪ Jim

WARP

★★★★

Quirky composition-chameleon Jamie Lidell shifts shape on his latest release, dropping his electro-powdered past to serve up a sugary spoonful of '60s soul. It's as if Lidell — fed up with the packed-sweaty club scene and lonely on his subsequent solo space odyssey — took this album as an opportunity to come home and tell family, friends and fans "Hey guys, I was joking before, just call me Jim."

We start the record sitting on his back porch clapping along to smooth piano as birds sing, but then our folksy Motown ditty picks up and the camera pans, zooming out to reveal the rolling credits of any flavor-of-the-week, feel-good throwback — Jim tricked us! But as the theme-song gospel cooing fades into second track, "Wait for Me," ooh



dear lord do we forgive him. And that's how *Jim* goes. It's a mellow Motown mishmash; a little taste of all the soul-R&B-funk hallmarks you wish Detroit was still churning out, with the flare of overproduction and a heavy sprinkling of chimes. But just as he gets your hips groovin' Lidell can't escape sounding like the techno-loving white boy he is, with mediocre mid tracks like "Figured Me Out." And the spotty album eventually fizzles with weak closer "Rope of Sand," that might as well be off the last Maroon 5 record.

It's a shame — he started so sweet — but this uneven offering leaves us asking: Oh why do you build us up but-tercup Jamie, just to let us down?

— Hadley Mendoza
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

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UCSD Picks Up Medals at WIRA Championships

► **M. CREW**, from page 20

“It felt really great because we’ve done a lot of work recently to row better together and it seemed like everything came together right when we needed it to,” he said.

The men’s crew season ends with a string of medals to add to the team’s history. While the Tritons executed solid performances to close out their season in Massachusetts, the medals were acquired last week during the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships held in Rancho Cordova, Calif., on May 4. During day two of the regatta, the second varsity eight took first place of their final with a time of 6:22.6, soundly ahead of the second-place UC Davis Aggies, who came in four seconds later.

UCSD’s novice-eight boat also came through with admirable results, as it claimed bronze in the race, falling behind Orange Coast College and

Gonzaga University but beating the University of San Diego. The second novice-eight race saw UCSD take silver after crossing the finish line right behind OCC. With medal finishes from the second varsity eight, and both novice eights, the Tritons brought home a third-place overall team points trophy. Additionally, UCSD secured third place in the championships’ efficiency rankings, an assessment of how well each program does based on the number of boats it has competing.

With a tightly knit group of experienced members returning next season, the future looks bright for UCSD.

“I’m really looking forward to next year, and whole bunch of great guys are coming back,” Gordon said. “Hopefully we can learn a lot from this year.”

Readers can contact Brianna Lee at bmlee@ucsd.edu.

Tritons to Face Western Oregon in First Round

► **BASEBALL**, from page 20

after UCSD failed to score in the top half of the 10th and allowed a single then a double, as CSUS walked-off the field with an extra-inning win.

Although the Tritons were obviously hoping for a better showing at their conference tournament, the team’s strong regular season was good enough to earn UCSD a No. 2 seed for the West Regional. In their first round game today, the Tritons will face the Western Oregon Wolves, who split a four-game series with UCSD to open the season.

“I think we’re very confident,” Knudson said. “When we played them the first time, we weren’t playing great baseball. But we’ve figured a lot of things

out over the past couple months and I think the energy’s really high because we know we have a great chance at regionals. Everyone’s just stoked.”

Part of the team’s confidence lies in the fact that St. John will take the mound in the opener, looking to bounce back after taking a loss.

“I’m not preparing any different for this start than for any of the other ones other than hydrating a little more for the heat,” St. John said. “I feel really good; I feel ready to go and I’m excited for the opportunity to pitch. I’m going to do my best to try and get us a win.”

Readers can contact Rael Enten at renteen@ucsd.edu.



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Physicality Makes Extra Games Unwise

► **BLITZ**, from page 20
erhouse University of Southern California, which also finished the season undefeated. Auburn's head coach, Tommy Tuberville, created controversy as he had championship rings made for the players on his team. While the purpose of creating a playoff system is to prevent an outcome like the 2004 season, the fact of the matter is a playoff system would destroy the tradition and lore of the Saturday entertainment that so many fans, including myself, follow and cherish.

A critique often heard from those opposed to the BCS system is that there is a playoff system in almost every Division-I sport and, logically, college football should also have one. The people with the mindset of needing to crown a champion every year have been living in agony when it comes to college football, as bowl games have been in place since the 1920s. It might be cliché to say, but it is important to point out that all sports aren't created equal. Football, in its very essence, is a physical game and can't be played like a double-header in baseball. Saying that college football should hold playoffs just because other sports do the same ignores the basic fact that different sports have fundamental needs unique to themselves.

Football's physicality, which limits players to one game a week, dictates the number of games that can be played. Already, most teams in college football play a 12-game season plus a bowl game. In general it takes every game of the season to even get close to determining an order of teams from best to worst, and even after 12 games there still can be controversy. It was for this reason that the BCS ranking system was created in 1998, and though I must admit that it is far from perfect, the system adapts every year to include new improvements, such as

including the Associated Press poll in the rankings formula to get rankings as accurately as possible.

The proposed four-team playoff would not produce a true champion like a March Madness tournament would because, let's face it, the top four ranked teams aren't always the best teams in the nation. Just look at the result of the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl, where the third-ranked Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Hokies faced the supposed lesser opponent, eighth-ranked University of Kansas. The 24-21 Jayhawk victory cements the idea that having the top four ranked teams in a playoff will not be fully representative of the best teams of the season (see: No. 3 University of Michigan's loss to No. 5 USC in 2006).

The next point that playoff mongers will often argue is that we should expand the field to eight, 16 or even 32 teams. The obvious problem here is that you will never be able to please everyone, no matter the playoff scenario and no matter how many teams it includes. The reality is that the teams left out will bleat and moan and throw hissyfits about being excluded. Besides that, there lies the dilemma that a playoff would mean an additional three, four or five games to the season. In a sport that already has a regular season of 12 games in 15 weeks, any additional games would create a mess of problems ranging from extending one of the already longer collegiate seasons to having teams have to deal with an even greater numbers of injuries. I may be a sucker for fair competition, but I for one like watching my teams compete with all of their players, seeing them compete against teams also at their full strength and not throwing out a starting lineup made up of third-stringers and towel boys.

As I stated before, changing to a

football playoff system really comes down to alienating a traditional system. It may be my Oregonian roots, but I grew up in a place and time where fall meant football season — playing under the bright lights on Friday night, cheering on my favorite colleges on Saturday, being an armchair quarterback on Sunday and repeating the cycle over again until the days grow shorter and colder. I came to understand that bowl season was the perfect interlude between the end of my high-school football year and the time before the professional football playoffs started. This was that amazing time of the year when school was out and you could turn on a bowl game at any time and watch the culmination of two different teams' achievements, see rivalries created and experience the tradition of an almost century-old system.

As the general trend continues to push for playoffs that will crown one team champion, my question to you is whether you really want to see college football go in that direction. I know that I personally cherish the memories of my hometown Oregon State University Beavers pulling off a 9-4 season this year and ending it with a victory in the Emerald Bowl. Sure, it's a far cry from the Fiesta Bowl finish of 2001 (and an 11-1 record), but it is another season where my Beavs aren't at the bottom of the Pac-10 Conference and a win at the end of the season leaves me in high hopes for this fall. The bowl system may not be what the Texas or Ohio State Universities of the world are looking for, but for me, it feels great to finish seasons on a high note. Again, I will concede that the BCS system is not perfect, but I am content in knowing that the bowl system will be in place at least until 2014 and will allow small teams like my OSU to take part in a time-honored tradition.

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The senior led UCSD into the round of 16 at the NCAA D-II National Championships after defeating his opponents from BYU Hawaii in both singles and doubles play on May 9.

UCSD Can't Capture CCAA Crown

By Rael Enteen
SPORTS EDITOR

BASEBALL — After losing their first two games of the double-elimination California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament in Chico on May 8 and 9, the No. 11 Tritons' season will continue with an invitation to the NCAA Division-II Championship West Regional, where they will be a second seed and play No. 25 Western Oregon today.

"I think we were all thoroughly disappointed with our showing at the conference tournament," sophomore starter Kirby St. John said. "I don't think any of us really felt like we played at all up to our potential. We were all pretty down, but that's the thing: you have to rebound and let it go and start focusing on the next team. And I think we did a good job of that: we had three really solid practices this week and we refocused and I think we're all in a better place now, ready to go."

In the first-round game on May 8, the Tritons faced the tournament hosting Wildcats and fell by a 7-4 final score, forcing them to play in a pressure-packed elimination game the next day.

The two conference rivals were knotted up in a scoreless tie for the first three innings before the Wildcats scored a run in the top of the fourth and the Tritons responded with one of their own in the bottom half. After a scoreless fifth inning, Chico State put up three runs to take a 4-1 lead but UCSD cut the deficit to two with a run in the bottom of the sixth. Each squad scored one in the seventh inning and UCSD added another run in the bottom of the eighth to make the score 5-4 heading into the ninth inning. The



The Triton bats kept UCSD within striking distance in both of the team's games in the CCAA tournament, but never could muster enough to pull off a win.

Wildcats pushed two insurance runs across the plate in the top of the ninth and the Tritons could not rally in their last licks at the plate to fall 7-4.

St. John worked into the ninth but took his first loss after a perfect 8-0 regular season, going 8.2 innings and allowing five earned runs.

"I knew [my offense] was battling hard for me and I can't complain; they don't ever give up and that's one thing that our team's been great at all year," St. John said. "I just knew that I had to try to go out there and put up zeroes. I had full faith in them and I still do, it just didn't work out for us because a lot of things just didn't go our way that game,

but that's baseball for sure."

After trailing for most of their first game and never completing their comeback, the Tritons jumped out to a 4-0 lead after four innings in their second-round matchup with Cal State Stanislaus. The Warriors scored a run in the fourth and fifth innings to cut the Triton lead to 4-2 and then took the lead with three runs in their half of the seventh inning.

Facing another deficit in the ninth, this time UCSD scored on senior pinch-hitter Chris Hom's RBI single to tie the game at 5 heading into the bottom of the ninth. Freshman reliever Tim Shibuya came back out in the bot-

tom of the ninth after already working 2.2 innings in relief of freshman Guido Knudson and allowed one hit, while striking out two to force extras.

"We were excited [headed into extra innings]," Knudson said. "We got a clutch hit from Chris Hom with two outs in the ninth. That hit just showed us that the game was ours to take and everyone was just excited, the energy was good and we just didn't have a great 10th inning. But everyone was really into the game and so it was pretty disappointing losing that game."

Shibuya came back to work the 10th

See **BASEBALL**, page 18

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS A BAD IDEA

The sunny beaches of Hollywood, Fla., were the recent gathering place for esteemed commissioners of the college football system to determine the future of the sport. At the heart of the meeting was the topic of a plus-one format playoff system pitting the top four Bowl Championship Series-ranked teams in a duel for col-



Safety Blitz

Robert Ingle
ringle@ucsd.edu

lege football supremacy. The purpose of the proposition was to alleviate any doubt about the best team in the nation by the end of the season, granting one team yearlong gloating and taunting privileges.

Perhaps the biggest argument for this playoff idea came during the 2004 season when the undefeated Auburn University Tigers were left out of the national game. Auburn finished the year with a perfect 13-0, but placed second behind pow-

See **BLITZ**, page 19

W. Crew Misses First by Less Than a Second

By Brianna Lee
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOMEN'S CREW — While the men's season drew to a close in Massachusetts, the women's crew team continues its season this weekend at the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships held in Rancho Cordova, Calif. on May 17. The Tritons, who recently returned from the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Championships, held on May 3 and 4 at Sacramento State's Aquatic Center, bring to the regatta seasoned experience and elite competition.

Last season, UCSD claimed two second-place grand finishes at the NCAA Division-II Rowing Championships in Tennessee. Earlier this month at Rancho Cordova, the team had the same success when the varsity-eight boat took second place in the grand finals during the second day of the regatta. The Tritons, who led the pack until the last five meters, eventually dipped into second place behind Seattle Pacific University's boat, which charged across the finish line at 7:13.1, just 0.7 seconds ahead of UCSD's boat. Jen Myers, who is a senior co-captain along with senior Kali Webb, was named to the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association's All-WIRA First Team for her stellar racing.

The second varsity-eight squad also put in solid performances on May 4, clinching fourth in the Petite Final to capture 10th overall. The nine Tritons competing were freshman coxswain Sneha Somasekar, sophomore Jesi Bennett (stroke), sophomore Laurel Copenbarger (seven-seat), junior Lauren Menzies (six), freshman Kristen Hayashi (five), sophomore Jaime Bigwood (four), sophomore Summer Austin (three), junior

Caryn Urbanczyk (2) and sophomore Suzanne Chang (bow).

Bursting toward the finish with a time of 7:40.1, UCSD trumped Humboldt State University and Santa Clara University, which trailed the Tritons with times of 7:43.2 and 7:44.0, respectively. Leading the racing field was the University of San Diego with a time of 7:17.6.

Varsity-eight member Bennett said the squad's success derived from its strength of mind and preparation.

"I think a lot had to do with us realizing that we were actual varsity," she said. "Because of the hard practices we've been having and all the training for the national regattas, we were ready and able to walk through these boats — to step up and race through them without a problem."

The Pacific Coast Rowing Championships give UCSD the chance to return to the NCAA Rowing Championships held during the end of the month. Even with such seemingly large stakes this weekend, the Tritons meet this occasion with the matching confidence and alacrity that have fueled them throughout their racing season. The rowers know they couldn't be more ready.

"I think everyone on the team is really excited to see how we are going to do," Bennett said. "We've been training all year to see how we will perform. It's just a matter of having the confidence to row hard. We know what to expect this weekend because we've raced these teams before. I think we're more than ready because we've been working really hard. As a team we're really excited — excited and nervous."

Readers can contact Brianna Lee at bmlee@ucsd.edu.

Novice-Eight Wins Petite Final



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

Besides the success of the novice-eight boat, the Tritons also had their varsity-eight finish in second place at the National Invitational Collegiate Regatta.

By Brianna Lee
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MEN'S CREW — The Tritons saw their season come to an end on May 11 after a tight competition in the National Invitational Collegiate Regatta held last weekend in Worcester, Mass. The men's varsity-eight boat surged into second place during the first day of the regatta, earning the Tritons a spot in Sunday's semifinal. The varsity-eight team crossed the finish line at 6:11.59, five seconds short of first place Trinity College, which came in at 6:06.67.

The Triton lineup included senior coxswain Shanti Tharayil, senior Derek Huffman (stroke), senior Shawn Hay (seven-seat), senior Ryan Andre (six), senior Jeff Collett (five), sophomore Zachary Hearn (four), sophomore Jay Dee Morgan (three), senior Gilbert Collins (two) and junior Jonathan Lynch (bow).

Hearn credited Saturday's success to the team's hard work.

"Everything came together for us and we had a great race," he said.

In spite of such a commanding heat performance, the Tritons faced a tougher racing field during Sunday morning's semifinal, eventually falling into sixth place. The team, which later in the day competed in the Petite Final, took another sixth-place standing with

a time of 6:14.76.

According to Collins, the variance between Saturday and Sunday's heat performances is something the team finds difficult to explain, and was not due to lack of preparation.

"Obviously the competition gets stiffer on day two," Collins said. "We had everything we needed to perform at that level; it just didn't happen."

Also competing in the racing action on May 11 were two additional UCSD boats: the second varsity eight and the novice eight. For the Tritons, the regatta marked the first time a varsity or junior varsity boat made it to a Grand Final. The second varsity-eight boat battled into second place of their heat with a time of 6:07.57, placing them sixth out of 18 squads competing. Chasing the Tritons were Rochester Institute of Technology at 6:08.81 and University of Massachusetts at 6:33.13 chased the Tritons. Leading the pack during their heat was Wesleyan University, which beat UCSD by three seconds with a time of 6:04.48.

The nine Tritons competing were sophomore coxswain Cameran Biltucci, sophomore Michael Sullivan (stroke), senior Dave Payne (seven-seat), junior Richard Lund (six), senior Nathaniel Taylor (five), senior Anthony Rubino (four), sophomore Brodie Kaster (three), junior Mark Melikian (two)

and junior Dominic Shiosaki (bow).

The novice eight contended in a fierce neck-and-neck pursuit against Hobart College and Williams College in the effort to secure a position in the Grand Final later that day on May 11. The Tritons faced some tough luck as they crossed the finish line with a time of 6:00.35, only a hairsbreadth away from both schools with Hobart claiming a time of 5:59.85 and Williams with 6:00.11. Because only the two best times from each heat are allowed to qualify for the Grand Final, UCSD got bumped into the Petite Final pack by a matter of two-tenths of a second.

UCSD came in first in the open-water race, finishing in 6:22.41 and cruising ahead of second-place finisher Marist College, which crossed the finish line seven seconds later. The winning group included freshman coxswain Shawn Kuo, freshman Justin Gordon (stroke), freshman Taylor McClanahan (seven-seat), junior David Segal (six), freshman Kris Grey (five), senior Erik Matson (four), freshman Nerel Winter (three), sophomore Dallas Sybrowsky (two) and freshman Tim Powers (bow).

When asked about the boat's victory, Sybrowsky pointed to the extensive teamwork and diligent preparation.

See **M. CREW**, page 18

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Find SUDOKU solutions on next Mondays Classified Section