

THE GUARDIAN

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Thursday, November 29, 2007

The Student Voice Since 1967

Council Group Pushes 'Yes' on Warren Fee Hike

By Sharon Yi
STAFF WRITER

Nearly two months ago, the Earl Warren College Student Council approved a referendum to increase the college's activity fee by \$3. With the referendum election taking place next week, an advocacy group created by WCSC councilmembers is upping publicity in an attempt to encourage the student body to vote — more specifically, to vote yes.

Since the inception of its \$4 activity fee in 2004, Warren College has maintained a constant fee without a built-in mechanism to automatically adjust for inflation. Warren councilmembers proposed increasing the fee to \$7 to both recoup the financial loss of previous years and move toward self-sufficiency in the event that the A.S. Council eliminates all college council funding, WCSC Parliamentarian Dan Palay said.

If approved, the referendum would release an additional \$26,199 to WCSC, which will use the funds for groups and events such as the Warren Transfer Commuter Commission, Warren Live! and the WCSC Events Board.

Though election bylaws require the council to impartially inform the student body of the upcoming election, individual councilmembers are free to act in accordance with their

See **REFERENDUM**, page 2

Local Law School Aims to Expand Campus Ties



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN
California Western School of Law students Erin Minelli (left) and August Miller study in the school's library. A proposed partnership between CWSL and UCSD could lead to the creation of a joint law program.

By Matthew L'Heureux
NEWS EDITOR

A UCSD work group is currently analyzing a tentative proposal that could eventually result in the formation of a law program partnership with downtown's California Western School of Law.

CWSL Dean Steven R. Smith confirmed that the law school is seeking ways to expand its academic links to UCSD, which he said date back more than 25 years.

"The question is always, 'What should we be looking at next?'" Smith said. "This process is exactly that."

Associate Vice Chancellor of University Communications Stacie A. Spector said the proposal, sent to UCSD Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Paul Drake, is one of many that the campus regularly receives.

Drake assembled an informal work group composed of administrators and Academic Senate members, who are currently considering whether the suggestion merits more in-depth consideration, Spector said.

"Chancellor Fox likes to have inclusive discussions where her management team can have a lively discussion and a variety of perspectives are presented," Spector said in an e-mail. "There has been no overall decision or voice of support for or against this proposal at this point."

Smith also declined to comment on the proposal's specifics, but acknowledged that the formation of a law program is among the options to unite the two institutions.

"It's the one that comes to my

mind as a viable option," he said. "The ultimate goals for me, and I think for UCSD, [are] finding ways to cooperate and improve both programs."

Currently, CWSL and UCSD collaborate on two degree programs: a joint juris doctorate/Ph.D. in political science or history and a new health law master's degree, designed to assist lawyers and medical professionals with legal issues relating to health care. The two schools entered into a formal agreement of association in 2002.

The possibility of a law school at UCSD is an exciting prospect for a campus that lacks a program targeted at legal study, said Pre-Law Society co-President Hovik Nalbandyan.

"In my opinion, this would be a great thing because Cal Western is an ABA-accredited school, and this would give more incentive for those students interested in law school to come to UCSD," he said. "With UCSD's reputation, I think Cal Western would definitely grow in the rankings as well."

However, Smith stressed that no formal decision has been made, as both groups are still carefully examining all options to determine how the two programs can best complement each other.

"What kind of combination is what we're trying to figure out," he said. "I guarantee that my ideas will change as we discuss this further."

Spector said the work group will make a recommendation within the next few months.

Readers can contact Matthew L'Heureux at mlheureu@ucsd.edu.

UCSD Dodges Systemwide Criticism of Study-Abroad Program

Report urges overhaul of UC Education Abroad Office following problems with budgeting and participation levels.

By Justin Gutierrez
STAFF WRITER

The UC Academic Senate released a report earlier this month recommending changes to improve the administration and financing of the University of California's Education Abroad Program, though the committee cited UCSD as an exception to issues plaguing the other UC campuses.

Compared to the country's other leading research universities, the UC system falls behind the national average in the number of undergraduates who study abroad, the report said. For example, the University of Virginia — a public institution similar to the UC system — sends 37 percent of its undergraduates abroad each year. About 21 percent of students at the 10 UC campuses pursue study at foreign universities.

In 2005, UC Provost Wyatt R. Hume and then-Academic Senate Chair Clifford Brunk appointed senate members to the Ad Hoc Committee on International Education, designed to investigate the current status of EAP. The committee ultimately decided to revamp the program, citing a lengthy time interval without review as well as the university's responsibility to be internationally conscious.

The original committee composed a mission statement along with a list of goals and recommendations that were released spring of this year. However, the University Committee of Planning and Budget subsequently asked the committee to further broaden its approach to address "budgetary and integration" issues within the Universitywide Office of the Education Abroad Program, EAP's center of operations.

Each campus was given five years to double the number of students studying abroad, the report said.

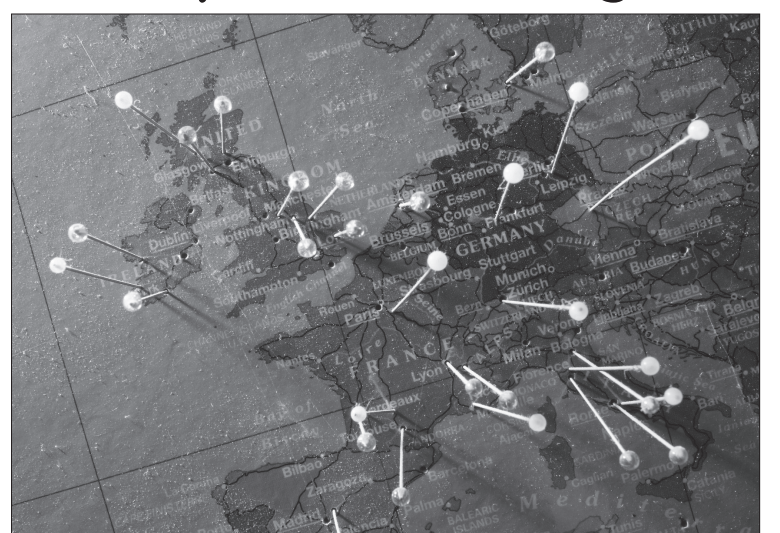
"To send approximately 40 to 50 percent of all undergraduates for study is well within the norms of higher education nationally and constitutes a clear statement regarding the educational priority of global

knowledge and experience," the committee wrote in the report.

The committee said that one of its primary concerns is the lack of coherency within the network of university study-abroad programs. Since its inception 40 years ago, EAP has witnessed the emergence of numerous third-party organizations that provide long- and short-term study programs. Many of these programs enroll UC students who choose them "without expert advice," the report said, which forces students to find their way through the process without enough information.

Additionally, the committee found that demanding major requirements, the cost of a UC education and time constraints were cited as reasons for decreased interest in year-long programs. Committee members proposed that EAP create and identify programs to match student demand, along with the creation of a more centralized systemwide administration.

Though the coherency of the systemwide program is an issue, UCSD's Programs Abroad Office differs from many of the other UC campuses, and was cited by the committee as a



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN
A map in the UCSD Programs Abroad Office illustrates with pins the places students have visited through its multiple study-abroad organizations. Twenty-seven percent of UCSD students spent last year abroad.

model for other campuses to follow.

"The difference between our method and the methods of other campuses is that we centralize our operations," Programs Abroad Office Director Kim Burton said.

The campus created the Opportunities Abroad Program in 1985, which serves as a hub for exter-

nal programs in addition to EAP. Students can earn academic credit for studying abroad outside of EAP and receive additional guidance if necessary.

"UCSD realized that we could be sending more of our students abroad

See **EAP**, page 3

HIATUS

It Ain't Him, Babe

Bob Dylan biopic employs six different actors to re-enact various aspects of the musician's life.

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SPORTS

A Stumbling Start

Men's basketball starts quickly, but can't keep the lead in a game that keeps its season winless.





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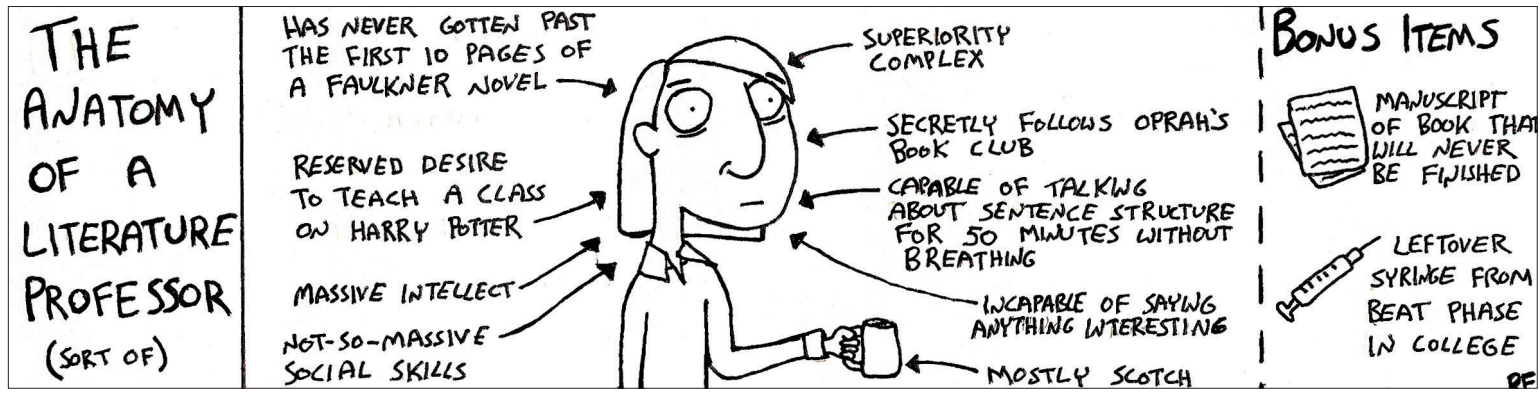
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POORLY DRAWN LINES

BY REZA FARAZMAND



Elections Manager: Advocacy Group Has No Conflict of Interest

► **REFERENDUM**, from page 1
individual opinions rather than those of their council constituencies.

"We can't as councilmembers say 'vote for this,' but as individuals we're allowed to say whatever we want," said Palay, who both proposed the fee referendum and organized the advocacy group pushing for its passage. "The election is sponsored by the council and the council's official position on this is to vote, but we are allowed to have personal opinions. As a councilmember I can advocate, no longer speaking on behalf of the council, but on behalf of the advocacy group."

Palay's group is staffed by fellow councilmembers and others actively involved in Warren affairs. The advocacy group has distributed pro-referendum posters, encouraged resident advisers and orientation leaders to discuss the advantages of the referendum with students and asked freshmen to network within their social circles about voting to approve the item, Palay said.

Elections Manager Aaron Horning denied that the councilmembers' role in forming the advocacy group constitutes a conflict of interest. Both he and Palay said that if an opposition group is formed, it will be given the same funding as the current pro-referendum group, which is mandated by the council's bylaws.

"I don't think it's unfair to not have a negative group," Horning said. "I mean, the opportunity is there for them to make it. My responsibility is to let people know that there is an election on the referendum and to give them the facts. I can put the opinions up alongside the facts. If the advocacy group wants to give me the pros and

the negative group wants to give me the cons, that's great. But I will not make them up myself."

Currently, neither the weekly council meeting minutes nor its bylaws are available on the WCSC Web site, a violation of Chapter 2, Section 2 of the bylaws. The Web site coordinator is required to post all WCSC meeting agendas and minutes on the student-accessible college Web site, along with its constitution and bylaws.

Among the mediums currently available for students to receive election information are the pro-referendum posters made by the advocates and a Facebook elections group created by Horning. The group contains the pros, cons, bylaws and other relevant election documents on the Web site, and as of press time had 139 members. Warren enrolls approximately 4,300 students.

The "pro" argument listed on the Facebook group is currently 108 words long. The "con" argument is currently eight words long. The ballot will print both "pro" and "con" statements for the fee referendum, both of which are currently being written by Palay.

"I'll consolidate the pros and expand upon the cons for the ballot, but it's really not that important I think," Horning said. "I think that by reading the referendum, the student body will be able to determine on their own how they feel about it."

Warren students can vote on the fee referendum from Dec. 3 through Dec. 7 at various locations throughout Earl Warren College and on Library Walk.

Readers can contact Sharon Yi at sharondipityi@sbcglobal.net.

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Constitutional Ambiguities Open Time Warp to Days When Colleges Dueled

Last night's council meeting began with a healthy dose of social awareness but later gave way to an hour-long debate about the appropriateness of using A.S. Council funds for college-specific matters.

A presentation by members from the Student Affirmative Action Committee alleged that UC management is not negotiating fairly with representatives from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which represents more than 20,000 service and patient care workers throughout the university system.

The speakers stressed the long hours and low wages that AFSCME service workers endure at UCSD, saying that UC negotiators made student observers wait for three hours before ultimately refusing to begin talks with AFSCME while students were present.

After the presentation, the council approved a resolution expressing support of the 2007-08 contract campaign.

Next up was a resolution criticizing the county's response to last month's wildfires. It was motivated in part by the plight of a family of undocumented immigrants that was detained, and later deported, after being accused of stealing supplies from the evacuation center at Qualcomm Stadium.

The resolution advocated the suspension of immigration enforcement during crisis relief and the dissemination of emergency information in multiple languages.

The council approved the resolution and was met with rounds of applause from the audience.

Later in the meeting, Earl Warren

College Senator Peter Benesch took the floor to school the council on UCSD's impending parking crunch.

"Over the next five years, there's going to be a steady decrease in the number of parking spots [for undergraduates], but the university is growing," he said. "It's going to get bad."

In exploring ways to alleviate the parking problem, the council considered increasing bus services, promoting bicycling and carpooling and restricting freshman parking.

The night's most contentious event, however, originated with a \$63 funding bill sponsored by Sixth College Senator John Cressey, who requested the funds for Sixth College pride buttons.

Though financially insignificant on its own, the bill came to symbolize an unresolved question from last year's A.S. constitution overhaul.

The bill's most vocal opponents, A.S. President Marco Murillo and Vice President of Student Life Donna Bean, argued that the limited budget and council's campuswide scope essentially deferred funding of college-specific matters to individual college councils.

However, Thurgood Marshall College Senator Kyle Samia supported Cressey: "The college experience is irrevocably linked to the university experience ... I'm really disappointed in some of the officers for excising the colleges."

The funding measure passed with applause, but Samia observed that the cause of the dispute remained unresolved.

"Bring your soapboxes next week because it's going to get settled," Samia said.

UCSD More Than Quadruples National Average

► EAP, from page 1

if we could just provide information and advising about these non-UC options, as well as a formal process for students to receive academic credit for such experiences, and to use financial aid," Burton said.

However, even with UCSD's centralized administrative model, some believe there is room for improvement.

"The Programs Abroad Office needs to create stronger connections between itself and the other departments on campus," said Thurgood Marshall College senior Shannon Dulaney, who studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland. "It was a hassle trying to figure out whose approval I needed; it was a slight bureaucratic mess."

Though UCSD provides advising to students planning to study abroad, some students assumed the responsibilities themselves.

"I went to a general meeting, but it didn't take me long to choose a program," said Maureen Ravelo, an Eleanor Roosevelt College junior who is currently studying in Paris. "The EAP Web site is pretty helpful."

Twenty-seven percent of UCSD students who studied abroad last year participated in yearlong programs, compared to 6 percent nationally, Burton said.

In total, the committee made 14 recommendations to consolidate EAP's administration, make advising an integral part of the process and ensure enough program financing to promote its development as the number of students studying abroad increases.

Readers can contact Justin Gutierrez at j3gutier@ucsd.edu.



New Business

Michael Bowlus
mbowlus@ucsd.edu

sponsored by Sixth College Senator John Cressey, who requested the funds for Sixth College pride buttons.

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Props to the men's and women's cross country teams for their stellar performances at the NCAA Division II National Championships earlier this month.

Flops to American Education Services, a student loan provider, for billing over \$30 million in undeserved funds to the U.S. government through a legislative loophole.



EDITORIALS

Ballot Neutrality Should Trump Desire to Politick

It's really not that important I think." That is Aaron Horning's stand on equalizing the "pro" and "con" statements to be published in Earl Warren College's upcoming referendum ballot. It's a disturbingly obtuse statement, especially from the Warren College Student Council's elections manager.

Election bylaws require bipartisan presentation on the ballot, and much of the current hoopla hangs around WCSC's campaign tactics before the vote. There will be much said about conflicts of interest, underhanded promotion and devious politicking within WCSC, where a sizeable number of pro-referendum councilmembers have formed an advocacy group to promote the \$3 fee hike.

And though this crossed-wire mess is a disappointing instance of political neutrality, there is no rule being broken here. Dissenting groups have been afforded ample chances to form their own campaign.

Councilmembers should be allowed the space to hype the agendas they like and down the ones they don't — the election bylaws reflect that flexibility. However, the bylaws *do* prohibit councilmembers from forcefeeding blatant subjective information to voters.

That was the lesson learned last year, when the all-campus elections

committee slapped a penalty onto supporters of the athletics referendum who were flagrantly campaigning too close to voting machines.

This is not the same situation. Before the election, WCSC Parliamentarian Dan Palay and Horning can plug and peddle the referendum all they want, through posters, Facebook groups or word of mouth — it's called pre-planning.

The advocacy group has done exactly that, and even more. Group members have targeted resident advisers and orientation leaders to pass the pro-referendum stance onto freshmen; it's a deft move for supporters, who are smartly aiming at the demographic most closely connected to campus politics.

But there's the rub. Once those pro-referendum ripples touch the words of the voting ballot, there's a need for concern. The ballot possesses a sacredness; it's an assumed impartiality that voters expect, one that is vitally important to the elections process and should be preserved. That requirement is stated simply in the bylaws of this university's election game, so simply that there's no room to conjure a backdoor excuse.

While Horning has decided to balance the lengths of the ballot's "pro" and "con" testimonies, his begrudging response does a disservice to any fair



election. If a "con" side is not easily composed — which in this instance is most likely due to that side's lack of organization — Horning should seek it out.

How could the operator of elections not see the importance of an informed vote? How could he not feel the responsibility of seeking out differing opinions to ensure an informed vote?

The very bare minimum should be to publicly *demonstrate* neutrality. So save face by stretching the rules, councilmembers, but without breaking them.

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Football: The Cure-All for UCSD's Spirit Drought

Along with homemade stuffing, pumpkin pie and painfully awkward family moments, college football has truly become a staple part of the Blunski holidays. Unfortunately, I always feel a bit left out, seeing as how my dear college is a bit lacking in the football team department. With an uncle who graduated from Ohio State University and two proud

**Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Marissa Blunski

mblunsch@ucsd.edu

Trojan siblings, family members often belittle my beloved university when they rhetorically ask: "Why doesn't UCSD just get a football team already?"

I never really gave this idea much thought. UCSD has long been considered a world-renowned research institution. We rival some of the nation's finest universities with our competitive programs and scientific breakthroughs. I guess I've always assumed that UCSD should simply focus on what it does best, instead of trying to hype up our lowly Division-II athletics program.

I can't say that I'm a huge sports fanatic — in all honesty, I know next to nothing about football despite my siblings' constant efforts to edify me. However, after attending a few USC games over the years, I must admit that I do feel envious of USC's football team and all that it brings to their college atmosphere. It's enough to make me wonder if UCSD might be able to sport a football team of its own one day.

Granted, a football team would be expensive. Taking into account the cost of constructing a stadium, hiring and paying a coach and eventually providing scholarships for athletes, the Triton football team has quite a beefy price tag.

Additionally, money won't ensure that our football team would be any good. Because UCSD has never been big on athletics, it's easy to understand why these factors alone would keep the campus focused on

See **SATISFACTION**, page 5

Road Extension Vital to Abate Traffic Congestion

For years, University City residents have been accustomed to the long line of cars clogging Genesee Avenue every weekday during rush hour.

But despite the San Diego City Council's promising efforts to bring needed relief to the local gridlock by constructing an alternative route, community members may still have to endure these dismal conditions for a few more years.

The city council recently set plans to construct a bridge that would lengthen Regents Road by connecting it to the community's southern region through Rose Canyon Park.

Because environmentalists have raised short-sighted concerns over the new bridge's impact on the park, traffic alleviation efforts have unfortunately again been postponed, leaving residents to bear the burden of roadway delays.

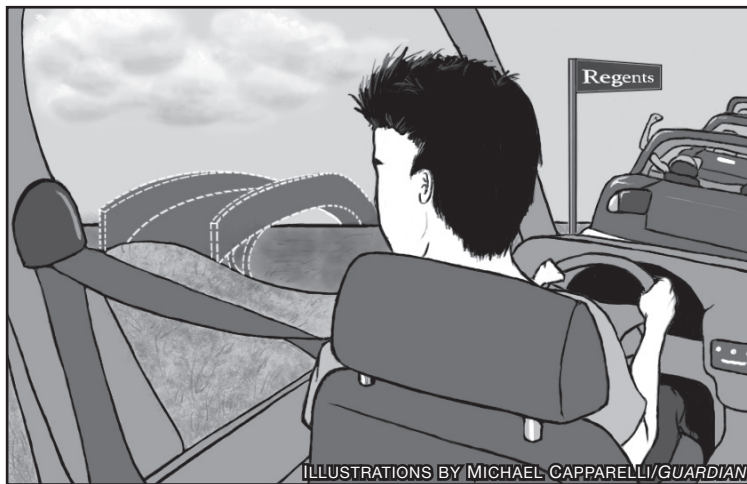
In reality, the bridge would not harm the area at all; it would only pass through land that has already been disturbed by railroad tracks,

Interstate 5 and another bridge above the region on Genesee Avenue. Furthermore, it is unrealistic for the environmentalists to expect areas to go completely untouched in this buzzing suburbia, especially in the middle of a highly developed city with a growing population.

Despite the few environmental costs associated with the project, the extension of Regents Road would bring an essential alternative route to Genesee Avenue that would free up the city's roadways for local motorists.

The move is particularly vital to ensure that emergency vehicles and personnel can best respond to crises — currently an almost impossible feat when the only roadway connecting the northern and southern corridors of the city is bumper-to-bumper for miles during late afternoon hours.

These safety concerns have been the major justification behind the push, and a primary reason for the mayor's support of the council's plans.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL CAPPARELLI/GUARDIAN

The benefits of mitigating congestion — especially better emergency response time — far outweigh the environmental concerns posed by the venture.

With a limited number of roadway options and a finite amount of funds to complete the traffic project, environmentalists must recognize the safety issues associated

with construction and support the measure despite their qualms — or, at the very least, move aside so city officials can complete the desperately needed development.

Without such a roadway addition, Genesee Avenue will continue to be the eyesore of University City, much to the dismay of local commuters.

Prop. 92 Slights UC Students, but Awards Community Colleges Dizzying Sum

Proposal's promising goals for community colleges would drastically reduce already meager college funding pot.

By Natasha Naraghi
OPINION EDITOR

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — The routine tug-of-war between state educators and legislators over funding blues has sprouted yet another tiff between California colleges. Where there was once a united front among college officials for statewide education funding, there is now competition for a shrinking pot.

The conflict came to a head during a meeting earlier this month

when the UC Board of Regents voted to oppose Proposition 92 — a measure that would reduce student fees, initiate a fixed funding amount and curb tuition hikes for the state's 110 community colleges.

While Proposition 92 supporters took offense to the board's decision, the regents uncharacteristically acted with UC students in mind.

Despite the proposal's plan to lower costs by \$5 per unit for community college students, it would have transferred a large portion of the fiscal burden to UC and CSU students because officials of all three systems pull state funding from the same pool.

According to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's revised 2007-08 budget proposal, discretionary funds — money spent by legislators on an as-needed basis — amount to only 8 percent of the total state bud-

get. Currently, the 10-campus UC system, 23-campus CSU system and community colleges procure money

“Where there was once a united front among college officials for statewide education funding, there is now competition.”

from this portion of the budget.

Proposition 92, however, would further reduce this already dismal funding pot by redirecting almost

\$1 billion in the next three years, all set aside specifically for community colleges. Under these financially restrictive conditions, UC and CSU students would again receive a raw deal.

With UC mandatory student fees ballooning, community college students are not the only ones that deserve lower prices. Community college costs far less than a UC or CSU education — at \$20 a unit for Miramar Community College classes, for example, the maximum load of 20 units a semester would cost only \$400, a far cry from UC education fees that soar close to \$2,000 per quarter.

If there are any students who need assistance paying for college, it surely isn't the ones paying the least.

However, the proposition's narrow aim to bring fiscal relief to only

a select group of college students is not its only flaw; there is another equally serious problem with the proposed legislation.

Whereas the current system requires that the need for additional funding be assessed by observing attendance at K-12 schools and the first two years of community college, the proposed policy would do so by measuring the number of California residents between the ages of 17 and 25.

The change would seriously disrupt the system's efficiency because these figures would not accurately represent the number of students actually attending the various community colleges.

This could in turn produce an excessive allotment of funds to the community colleges that could have

See **PROPOSITION**, page 5

Regents Correct to Strike Down Narrow Prop.

► **PROPOSITION**, from page 4 otherwise been directed to the UC and CSU campuses.

The regents' resolution also hinted at more dire consequences that could result from such unbalanced funding.

"Passage of Proposition 92 could result in a reduction in the university's state-funded budget, which in turn could result in an erosion of university programs and services," the regents said in their decision to oppose to measure.

This is not to say that community colleges don't deserve more state funding. In fact, they are just as deserving as the state's other universities, but there is no reason why they should be guaranteed finances while their sister schools remain at the mercy of state legislators.

The regents — along with CSU officials who followed a similar course of action last week — were therefore right to deny the proposition's legitimacy.

Despite any possible good intentions behind the creation of Proposition 92, its proposed solutions would prove too weak and too narrowly effective to significantly improve the quality of higher education in California as a whole.

Readers can contact *Natasha Naraghi* at nnaraghi@ucsd.edu.

Triton Football Just What the Pre-Med Ordered to Liven Campus Community

► **SATISFACTION**, from page 4 research and deter anyone from the very idea of throwing away money on a second-rate football team.

On the other hand, a football team, in time, might be exactly what UCSD needs to transform into the well-rounded university for which students long. It could mean creating a better sense of community and school spirit, a greater degree of interest, involvement and contributions from alumni, and the possibility of building UCSD's national profile.

Along with stronger name recognition, we could expect an increase in the quantity and diversity of UCSD applicants as well if we successfully accomplish this project. These benefits should make our institution think twice before it scraps the idea entirely.

There's no doubt that UCSD comes up short in terms of social activities and school spirit. The efforts of Triton Tide don't go completely unseen, but unfortunately for them, UCSD students put academics before everything else — school is our number-one priority (and it sometimes spills over to our number-two and number-three slots as well).

Students aren't out at basketball tournaments or water polo games rooting for the home team; in fact, they're all right here in Geisel (with me as I'm writing this article (it took me a good 10 minutes to find an empty outlet for my laptop). Though the fact that most of us

study in the library during our free time probably thrills our parents, it's probably not what's best for students in the long run.

Students need a balanced college experience. Studying and doing well in school is important, but it shouldn't overpower our physical and social well-being.

Even Harvard and Princeton seem to find the time to enjoy college football, and they're some of the most competitive and prestigious schools in the country. USC is another example of a fine academic institution where sports enhance the college experience without affecting the educational aspects of student life. Why can't UCSD do the same?

Our hypothetical football team doesn't have to be in the Rose Bowl during its inaugural years in order to have an effect on school spirit and a sense of community — its mere existence could have a tremendous effect on the student body.

Plenty of other schools have terrible football teams, but still enjoy college team rivalries and the experience of staying up late to come up with witty signs or plans of decorating their bodies in their school

colors. Yeah, it's a bit ridiculous, but it's something that alumni will remember and look back on fondly for years to come. I can't necessarily say the same is true for my late-night study sessions on the sixth floor of the library.

Aside from forcing UCSD students to interact with each other and get a wholesome college experience, creating a football team could

The idea of creating a UCSD football team could definitely help reduce the current alumni apathy and help our university to engage alumni in our campus community. Their potentially generous donations wouldn't hurt UCSD either — but those donations won't be coming in any time soon if we continue the status quo.

Another important advantage of a football team is the name recognition and strength of UCSD's national profile.

College football games are one of the primary ways that people hear more about universities across the country. Chances are, a great deal of the East Coast's high school students have never heard of UCSD. And if they have, it's likely that they have us confused for one of our other neighboring San Diego colleges, both of which *do* have football teams.

By giving us greater recognition, a football team could certainly woo many out-of-state applicants just by letting them know that our school exists. This could result in a more diverse and competitive applicant pool, strengthening our admissions and boosting our reputation as a university.

While I doubt the Triton football team will appear on campus any time soon, I remain hopeful that the campus maintains some hope of launching a team sometime in the not-too-distant future.

Perhaps then UCSD can become an even greater university, and maybe my football-fanatical family will stop harassing me, too.

Our hypothetical football team doesn't have to be in the Rose Bowl ... its mere existence could have a tremendous effect."

compensate for the costs of running a team. Historically, UCSD's alumni giving rate has consistently fallen far below that of UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Davis and many other neighboring California institutions that rank far below UCSD academically. Is it a coincidence that most of these schools have better athletics programs than UCSD?

Alumni love sporting events — especially football. It gives them a reason to come back to their alma mater and interact with the fresh faces of the university.

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Clockcleaner

- "Vomiting Mirrors"
- "Daddy Issues"

Sigur Rós

- "Samskeyti"
- "Von"

Watch Me YoooooouTube That Ho

I didn't think I'd ever find myself defending Soulja Boy's good name, but this is just ridiculous, people. "Supermanning a ho" is exactly what Soulja Boy shows us in the video — a dance move. Nothing more. You might know this if you spent less time watching "Two Girls, One Cup" and spent more of your free time on YouTube, watching high-schoolers invent variational dances in their bedrooms. Just type "Crank Dat" into the search window, and you'll get about 31,000 results — and most aren't by Soulja Boy. Ever heard "Crank Dat Spiderman"? How about "Crank Dat Batman"? These aren't double entendres; they're actually dances inspired by the Marvel and DC universes.



Cusswords

WILLY STALEY
wstaley@ucsd.edu

Those who think Soulja Boy has such a dirty mind should check out his biography: Born in 1990. That's right, the kid turned 17 this year. Dude just wants to dance — and, apparently, so does the rest of the country. Some of the most successful Southern rap singles in recent years have been little more than vehicles for popular dance moves: "Lean Wit it, Rock Wit it," "Shoulder Lean," "Walk it Out" and "Snap Yo Fingers" certainly come to mind. Even New York rappers — who years ago wouldn't be caught dead imitating their Southern competition — are taking part, with limb-looseners like "Chicken Noodle Soup" and "Aunt Jackie."

The "Crank Dat" Movement — yeah, I called it a movement — is different from its slow-spreading predecessors because it almost wholly originated on the Internet. As a result, the process is more democratized, and the memes are multiplying rapidly. For instance, not long after the "Simpsons Movie" came out, there was a "Crank Dat Spider Pig" rap and dance on YouTube — a reference not only to the movie, but also to YouTube rappers' proclivity toward superhero subject matter. Stupid as the song is, you have to off your hat to Young Steph for his willingness to rap about cartoon characters ("Hoes — I get 'em, clothes — I get 'em/ snitchin'-ass niggas, yeah I call 'em Chief Wiggums"), complete with a hook from Homer himself.

"The Simpsons" isn't the only unlikely inspiration for "Crank Dat" spinoffs. Old arcade games are also fair, uh, game — "Crank Dat Ryu" is a personal favorite. For some reason, nerdy black characters from '90s sitcoms are also popular (everyone knows "Crank Dat Carlton" is 10 times cooler than "Crank Dat Urkel Dance"). I'd actually love to see a "Crank Dat Elaine Benes" as well, but I'm not holding my breath.

Of course, as with any Internet phenomenon, there have been a number of "Crank Dat" parody songs. Some, like "Crank Dat Army Boy," take direct shots at the sheer stupidity and unoriginality of Soulja Boy's song and dance. Others really blur the line between parody and just another "Crank Dat" remake. For example, "Crank Dat Folgers Boy" features all coffee-related rhymes and dance moves: Imagine someone doing the Soulja Boy with a coffee mug in hand, pulling moves to lines like "Catch me at that local Starbucks, yes I'm gonna bring the team/ Haters getting mad cause I got me some extra cream." It even opens with the Folgers coffee jingle. Don't believe me? YouTube that shit.

The beauty of the movement is that literally anything goes, so long as it follows the "Crank Dat" form. Sure, "Folgers Boy" is a parody, but the song and dance actually exist, and thousands of people have actually watched it on YouTube. So those who argue that the Internet ruined rap need to relax (even though they're probably right), because it has clearly saved rap by reviving it as a great medium for dance, even if the music itself isn't always that great. At least it's not boring.

Ballad of an Every Man

HAYNES HATCHES SIX-HEADED COLLAGE OF DYLAN'S

BY SIMONE WILSON · HIATUS EDITOR

It's tricky business, recapturing an aura. Not to mention the defiant, notoriously slippery aura of a pedestalled man like Bob Dylan, who — no matter how people may fight to shape him into their own little voice-of-America figurine — only forks his persona a thousand more directions, always contradictory, never content. And even then, Dylan must fight the resulting expectation for constant change, because a true cowboy doesn't stick around once the locals have got him pinned.

In order to avoid simplistic or misinterpreted caricatures — such as, most recently, Hayden Christensen's obvious unkempt brood in "Factory Girl" — the real-life Dylan makes an effort to squelch biopic hopefuls from the getgo. But apparently the old grump saw something he liked in twisted "Far From Heaven" director Todd Haynes, whose multiple-personality tweak on the portrait-of-a-legend trend promised to pay adequately artsy tribute to the folk icon's many rebirths and dodgy transformations. "Maybe the film also had a little bit of irreverence in it as well and it wasn't just worshipful," Haynes said in a phone interview. "I think that actually is something he finds refreshing."

But all this talk of Dylan's epic elusiveness, of Haynes' daring use of six separate actors to represent the aura's many layers, like it's all some kind of left-field taboo — like it's something strange for a person to be without singular shtick — seems a little dramatic. Yeah, so one of the Dylans is a boxer-hopping black kid (Marcus Carl Franklin) who claims to be Woody Guthrie, and one is the feminine Jude Quinn (Cate Blanchett), who sidesteps from "A Hard Day's Night" frolic to surreal "8 1/2" garden party without so much as a between-scene fade. But despite Haynes' best efforts to fragment the artist's life

beyond literality, a few dreamlike sequences (including Quinn machine-gunning the Newport Folk Festival crowd, aka going electric) are not enough to warrant such controversy. After all, Blanchett is an impeccably male replication of the 1960s icon, her scenes linear and mostly true to life; let's just say the obligatory celeb-impersonation Oscar ("Ray," "Walk the Line") isn't far in her future.

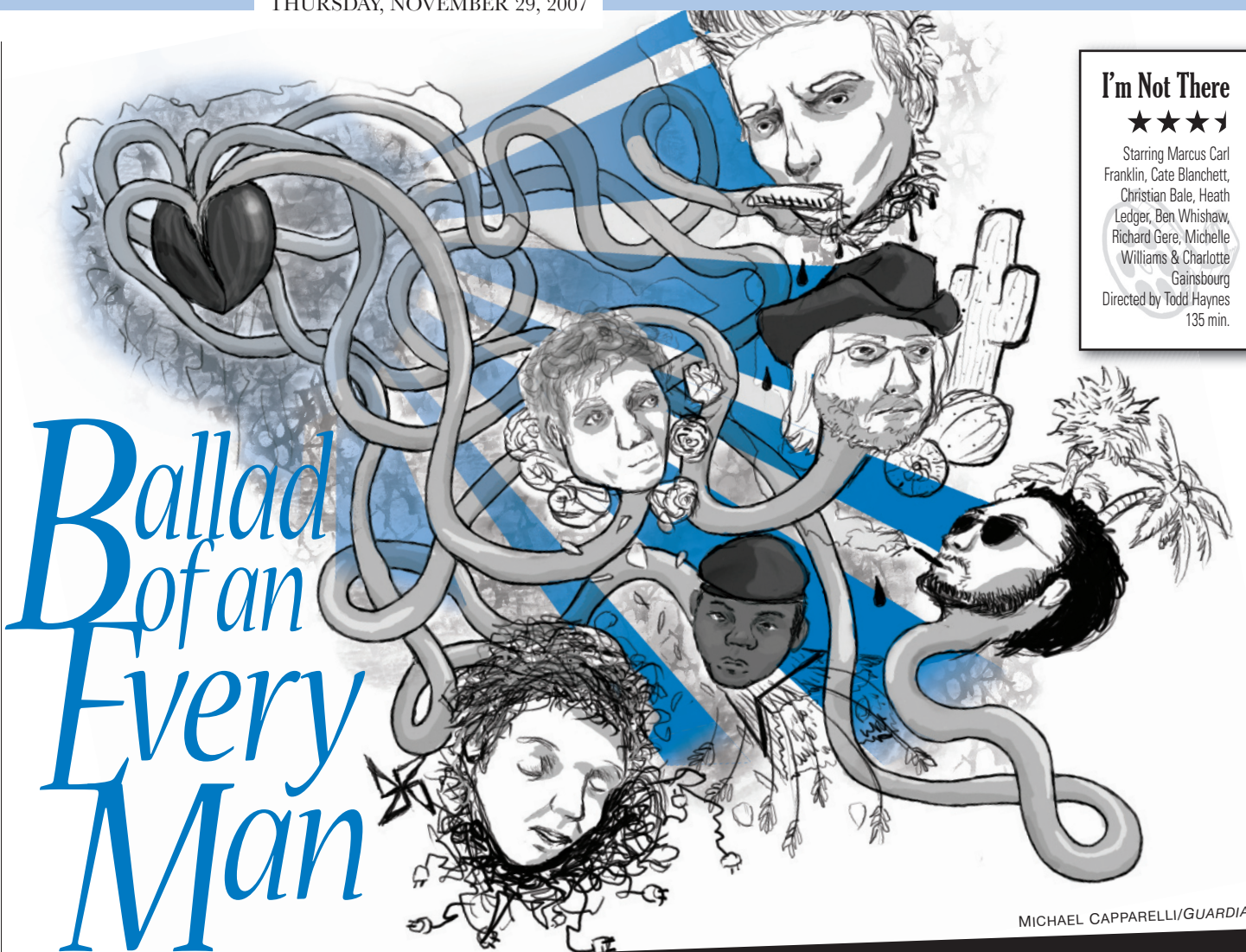
Then again, the film's plotless composition is admittedly strange compared to its biopic contemporaries. Its strains never merge, its narratives miss many a beat and no one can be trusted — even talking heads are fictional (Julianne Moore does an excellent recounting as the Joan Baez-based Alice Fabian). Not a single character upholds the unadulterated authenticity we skeptical digital-agers have become so obsessed with. Aside from Franklin and Blanchett, the film's other Dylans include Christian Bale as both wide-eyed folkster and born-again pastor, Heath Ledger as the movie star commissioned to play the voice of a generation, Ben Whishaw as a rebellious poet/interviewee and Richard Gere in an almost off-puttingly metaphoric take on "Billy the Kid." His characters are as much parts of Dylan as parts of Haynes and parts of ourselves — nothing is about just one person, and no one person is entirely authentic in the traditional sense of the word.

Haynes' intentions aren't a behind-the-music tour through Dylan's ups and downs, most of which we're tired with already; in fact, lifeline summary is all but lost to the wind. If the filmmaker only captures one thing, one previously intangible essence, that is enough. "I think the best way to enjoy it is — like it's taking a drug or having a dream or getting inside a great Dylan record," Haynes said. One entirely human feeling that transcends past and present, worth a million summaries.

I'm Not There

★★★★

Starring Marcus Carl Franklin, Cate Blanchett, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Richard Gere, Michelle Williams & Charlotte Gainsbourg
Directed by Todd Haynes
135 min.



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Daft Punk's "Electroma"

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The distant future. Two robots on an odyssey to become human. This Friday and Saturday at San Diego's Ken Cinema, the midnight hour calls in Daft Punk's (Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo) directorial debut, poised to become a late-night staple after well-received screenings in Paris ran for six months. To prepare for the

project, Bangalter did his homework by purchasing a couple hundred back-issues of American Cinematographer; and although none of their own music appears in the film, the Frenchmen have curated a minimal score featuring Brian Eno, Curtis Mayfield and other Daft Punk inspirations to accompany the stark narrative. Rock on, robots. (Chris Kokiousis)

Vampire Weekend

THE CASBAH / DEC. 2 / 8:30 P.M. / \$14

During the day, the four Brooklyn-based Ivy Leaguers that call themselves Vampire Weekend are just another buzz band with some self-titled EP on iTunes. But by night, these amateur Bruce Waynes roam the city streets, infecting venues with their groove-able, minimalist pop songs (imagine a collaboration between Spoon and Ray Davies) that turn the dance floor into a springy carousel down by the Village Green.

Even though Vampire Weekend won't release their debut album until January, Euro and East Coast audiences have been

cyber-zombified — already able to sing along to everything the band throws their way. Frontman Ezra Koenig reminisces about the not-so-distant highs and lows of college life, his stories wordy but simple enough to prevent afterthoughts, like a far less pissed-off Jarvis Cocker, if the Brit had been born in the Upper East side.

After scoring top marks as openers for the Shins, Vampire Weekend are ready to strike out on their own this Sunday at the Casbah to convert San Diego audiences alongside fellow nightcrawlers Grand Ole Party. (Jeff Wang)

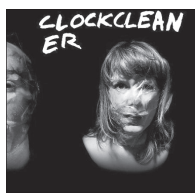
recordings

Clockcleaner

• **Babylon Rules**

LOAD

★★★★



When you overhear stories about the most-hated band in Philadelphia, you can't help but be curious; piss and blood and drunken brawls earned Clockcleaner their infamy, and *Babylon Rules* follows the same depraved path.

The smarmy trio resembles a clunkier, less playful version of classic Iggy and the Stooges. John Sharkey III doesn't have Iggy's pipes, but growls with ill conviction and throws in the occasional bloody yell to enforce the group's explosive breakdowns. At times, a pleasant singing voice peeks its head out of the trash, then realizes people are watching and dives back under. The lead guitar squeals as if Sharkey intentionally kicks his amp with the brunt of his foot at every chord change like a neglected dog.

Most tracks trudge along with the intention of capturing sludge-metal vibes minus the virtuosity, settling on a sort of brooding sludge-punk. Tones are relegated to dissonant guitar/bass scuzz for the low end, creepy noodled arpeggios for the upper registers and beat-to-hell minimal drums for the skeleton.

"Daddy Issues" bumps like the Sonics but meaner, needing only a few blasted power chords and a shuffling two-note riff to get its three-minute sexual release. "Hit hit, boom," Sharkey barks with a Danzig-esque drawl.

But "Vomiting Mirrors" is Clockcleaner's revolting centerpiece, made catchy by the periodic bursts that all the instruments endure together, as well as the light piano base. It's an experience akin to rolling around in a landfill with eager supermodels; the wild charge of overdriven chords and drummed insistence, plus the echoplex yelps, poses a moral dilemma. Fortunately, the gag reflex is overwhelmed by greater urges.

— Chris Kokiousis
STAFF WRITER

Sigur Rós

• **Hvarf/Heim**

XL

★★★★



Iceland. Images of vikings, frost-bitten tundras and Bjork come to mind. No one is more befitting to provide the soundtrack to this strange land mass, full of even stranger people, than Iceland's most beloved sons, Sigur Rós: Their lush cello-bow-on-guitar swells and frontman Jon Birgisson's hauntingly feminine falsetto embody the mystery of their homeland, where the majority of inhabitants believe in elves and the majority of the landscape is volcanic wasteland.

The quartet's new double-disc features previously unreleased gems and live sets, complemented by the DVD "Heima," which contains both a documentary and live footage of the band's Icelandic tour in summer 2006. The two albums are treated separately, each with its own fuzzy cover art (disc two pictured above), but work together in creating a unified feeling of homecoming, digging into the band's pre-breakout catalogue — before any studio heads forced them to record a track for recording's sake — for an organic, untreated intimacy, as if one would normally hear these ethereal verses resonating from the cliffs of Reykjavik.

Hvarf ("disappearance") boasts five studio rarities pulled from the furthest back-pages, including a 1995 demo of "Von." *Heim* ("home") is the unplugged half of the whole, with six acoustic tracks that still manage to give off the bravado and grandiosity of their studio counterparts — if anything, even more so. Birgisson sits on the floor, bow drawn, causing the instrument to sing in a falsetto not unlike his own (even more bonechilling when stripped of atmospherics). As if by accident, his microphone picks up the birds singing outside and the soft pitter-patter of rain.

Sigur Rós' latest island-spanning lullabies dip as low as the fjords and as long as a Nordic winter, but even when out on the northernmost tip of nowhere, we still feel strangely warm and peaceful inside because we know we're home again.

— Josephine Nguyen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KING'S SCI-FI COMPLEX LOST IN SHODDY GREEN-SCREEN 'MIST'

By Autumn Schuster
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A slap on the wrist and "Bad Stephen King!" might be in order for his newest novella gone cinematic. Like a straight-to-DVD movie that drunkenly stumbled into theaters on its way to Blockbuster, "The Mist" is creamed in cheap thrills and CGI effects that would make even a five-year-old giggle. True, King was the man who brought us classic horror reads like "The Shining" and "Pet Sematary" where he scared the living shit out of us, but his touch doesn't always mean instant gold: He's also blundered through sloppy monster flicks like "The Langoliers" and now, "Mist."

For a lack of anything scarier this fall, "Mist" just might squeak out some play on slasher pranks alone, disguised in blatantly terrible special effects and including neo-horror staples like locking random people inside a building while a mysterious bad guy peruses the perimeter. We might as well be in our ass-grooves at home, watching some Sci-Fi Channel original movie like "Anacondas 4."


So where did all the budget's green go? To one of those pricey actors pulling a J.Lo, demanding only holy-mountain water blessed and hand-delivered to the trailer by the Dali Lama himself? Not even the mild fame of Oscar-winner Marcia Gay Harden can explain why director Frank Darabont scraped by on the cheap, making his giant tentacles look like imports from "World of Warcraft." One might even speculate that the oh-so-scary, penetrating mist is merely a ploy to hide shoddy CGI spiders and scorpion-mosquito thingies.

Whatever the case, the bonanza of freaky critters is present only as a backdrop for the film's more character-driven drama. Like so many seemingly simplistic horror films, the central catastrophe is actually an opportunity to delve into the twisted human psyche. King attacks the age-old question of who is more monstrous — man or monster? — by shoving about 20 townies and outsiders into one

small supermarket during an unnatural disaster. Their best and worst sides are exposed when the store captives realize they're in serious trouble and must rally together to survive.

For one of the film's better performances, Harden plays religious zealot Mrs. Carmody, the prophet of the bunch, who incessantly preaches that the end of days is nigh and shows her blood-stained finger to the camera, declaring it a down payment for God. Though the film's conquering hero bores as a white, middle-class, attractive He-man who has all the answers, many minor characters carry their fair share of gumption. One big-time lawyer (Andre Braugher) is wonderfully awkward toward said hero (Thomas Jane), bringing cringe-worthy intensity to every line, regardless of how small or seemingly unimportant; and the best part of his restrained creepiness is that it's completely at odds with everyone around him. In a very Vincent D'Onofrio vein, Braugher oozes weird and acts with such groundless hostility that we almost wonder if he resents just being in the movie.

The tired us-vs.-them theme is somewhat salvaged by King's ability to create characters we truly loathe and drop them into the most ridiculous situations: When someone is slain for his stupidity, the entire audience claps, and whenever someone leaves the store it's terrifying regardless of how stupid the reason. The film rarely ruts in scenes where people aren't ripped to bits, crying about something or blowing each other away, a throwback to those days when all men were tough guys and monster suits had visible zippers. Slip "Mist" into your '80s B-movie marathon, and its psycho-analyzing story might start to shine through the fog-machine haze.



The Mist
★★

Starring Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden & Laurie Holden
Directed by Frank Darabont
127 min.

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Amjed Mustafa is director of Kaplan's Pre-Health Programs at Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions' New York City headquarters. During his MD/PhD candidacy, Amjed started working with Kaplan, eventually moving to head up Kaplan's Pre-Health program Research & Development efforts. Since teaching his first MCAT class 9 years ago, Amjed has spent much of his time holding workshops and seminars for potential medical school students on topics ranging from MCAT preparation to applications to personal statements and interviews.





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MFAs Strip 'Medea' to Its Murderous Core

By Sonia Minden
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A man leaves his wife for a younger woman — a plotline as recognizable to modern audiences as it was to Euripides' playgoers in 431 BC. But what makes "Medea" a tragic paradigm of wild proportions is not its conveyance of the archetypal heart-broken woman, but of a woman so racked by grief she is driven to reckless measures, murdering her husband and, ultimately, her children.

Any actress would devour Medea's role, thick with motives both rash and psychologically profound. Though she possesses supernatural prowess, it is incited by a weakness so intimately human that — even amid homicidal enchantments — we identify with her agonizing outcries.

Second-year MFA student Jihae Park tackles these sweeping transitions with an elegance and intelligence that lights up the hauntingly bare set. As she shudders, eye-level with the audience and doused in a syrupy blood-red spotlight, we are invited into the conscience of an embittered woman, tossed aside after a lifetime of groveling at men's feet. By the time the 85-minute production reaches its chilling climax, we don't know whether to commend her triumphant testament to woman's cunning, or question her willingness to betray motherhood for the sake of vengeance.

A perfectly synced chorus — servants clad in tattered beige trench coats and white face paint — accelerates Medea's emotional rollercoaster and provides needed punctuations



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN

of comic relief (think men miming childbirth), when Park's raging monologues begin to fatigue. The chorus members only break from their fluid narration to play Medea's counterparts — Mandel Weiss regular Johnny Wu impressively rises from choral chanting as Jason, the coolly patronizing husband who assures Medea that his desertion is entirely rational. "I'd rather be sung about than be a saint," he smugly explains. This self-satisfied swagger exposes the root of Medea's repressed hatred without being overtly antagonistic — the gender powerplay is subtle yet present throughout Park's interactions with the expertly unlikable King Creon (Peter Wylie) and Aegeus (Irungu Mutu).

But nonstop heady plot revelations don't encumber the production, thanks to the artful insight of director Isis Saratial Misdary. The circular stage is framed by little more than tightly hung ropes and a single black staircase, from which Medea descends

(the initial point of her avalanche into madness). A piece of red silk acts at once as her poisoned offering to Creon (father of Jason's new bride), and as a call to the deities to justify lethal intentions.

The limited use of props complements an equally sparse musical backdrop. The hollow beating of a single drum parallels appropriate peaks in Medea's quest for retribution.

The timelessness of the Greek epic is drawn upon in Misdary's adaptation — we could be witnessing any era, any kingdom, any woman's anguish. While this interpretive style allows certain liberties (amid spiritual transformation, Medea's speech dissolves into rapid Korean diatribe), it also neglects scenes that are traditionally expected (Medea's final chariot ride, King Creon's decision to poison himself). Omissions aside, we still leave the theater with the disturbing understanding that a woman's grief can bend the limits of human reasoning to their gruesome breaking point.

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Michael Robertson is a UCSD Alum and founder of REEF (Robertson Education Empowerment Foundation)



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UCSC Not Likely to Be Sluggish in Season Opener

► **VOLLEYBALL**, from page 16
 “We don’t have any nationally acclaimed recruits coming in so no one knows anything about us,” he said. “We don’t get respect in the league but we know we can play, and our team isn’t shy to share that.”

The Tritons got a taste of competitive conference play a few weeks ago at a preseason tournament held in Long Beach. According to Spangler, the tournament was an opportunity for teams to mix and match players and find chemistry with different formulas. Matches lasted an hour and a half and teams were encouraged to fit in as much volleyball as they could during the allotted time. Long Beach State, Cal Baptist and Hope International all gave the freshmen a feel for the speed of collegiate volleyball.

After the tournament, Leserman was pleased with the talent of the new players but is encouraging everyone to raise it to the next level. “Right now our biggest weakness

is our youth and inexperience,” he said. “The college game is a lot faster than high school and I’m trying to teach [the new players] that.”

Ring echoed Leserman’s sentiment, saying that the new recruiting class will bring height to the Tritons’ front line, allowing UCSD to match up better size-wise with other conference teams.

The team is focusing on improving its passing and serving. Ring wants his players to be more aggressive but still play smart. Because UCSD doesn’t pay money for top recruits like its competitors, the Tritons feel that improvement in these areas can lead to a vast development on last season and give them a better chance at running their offense.

All the preseason’s hard work will be showcased when the regular season begins Jan. 4 against UC Santa Cruz, which the Tritons have not faced since 2002.

Readers can contact Matt Croskey at mcroskey@ucsd.edu.

Right now our biggest weakness is our youth and inexperience.”

— Eric Leserman, junior libero

Tritons Seek to Start Fresh at Home



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

Grand Canyon limited senior guard Clint Allard to nine points and one assist, but Allard pulled down a team-high five rebounds in the Tritons’ loss.

► **BASKETBALL**, from page 16
 were able to build their lead with a blistering 66.7 percent first-half field-goal percentage and by converting 10 of their 19 three-point attempts. Grand Canyon also out-rebounded

UCSD, 34-23, and recorded three blocks in the game.

UCSD begins a five-game homestand this weekend, hosting Cal State University Stanislaus in its home-opener on Nov. 30 and Chico State

on Dec. 1. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tip-offs in RIMAC Arena.

Readers can contact Joe Tevelowitz at jtevelow@ucsd.edu.

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The junior forward leads the Tritons with 12.5 points per game and has logged a team-high 67 minutes on the court in UCSD's first two contests.



Parched Offense Dries Up in Valley of the Sun

Despite an early lead and a late surge, the men's basketball team drops its second consecutive game and fall to 0-2.

By Joe Tevelowitz
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UCSD men's basketball team returned home this week after another tough non-conference season opener. Despite holding an early lead and attempting to make a late comeback, UCSD fell 72-62 to regional opponent and former California Collegiate Athletic Association foe Grand Canyon University on Nov. 24. The Tritons now stand at 0-2 on the season as they prepare for their home and conference opener this weekend.

UCSD scored first against the Antelopes as it did the previous weekend at San Diego State, extending the 7-2 lead with two early three-pointers by sophomore guard Jordan Lawley. Grand Canyon responded with a 7-1 run, but the Tritons bench would help tie the game again with a jumper by sophomore forward Andrew Browning and back-to-back layups from junior center A.J. Maulhardt. UCSD would re-take the lead 16-14 on a Lawley jumper before

the Antelopes tied it again. Following a timeout, junior guard Shane Poppen's jumper gave the Tritons another two-point lead with 10:58 left in the first half. The Antelopes' Milee Karee responded with a four-point play, drawing a foul on a successful three-pointer and converting the free-throw attempt, and then knocked down another three to give Grand Canyon a 23-18 advantage. The Antelopes would extend their lead to 12 points and head into intermission up 37-25, as UCSD managed only seven points — with five from junior forward Henry Patterson — during the first half's final 10 minutes.

Junior guard Andrew Hatch said the Tritons' inability to penetrate the key contributed to the team's first-half struggles.

"Grand Canyon stayed in a zone the entire game and we had trouble getting good looks inside 20 feet," he said. "We missed a lot of open shots, but for our team to be successful we have to work inside out."

Patterson again put UCSD on the board first during the second half with two free throws. The Antelopes, though unable to put UCSD away, were able to retain their double-digit lead for most of the second half. The Tritons faced their biggest deficit in the game with 6:22 left to play as an 11-2 Grand Canyon run put the score at 63-46. However, the Tritons, led by Hatch, fought their way back within striking distance.

Hatch, who missed all of last season due to an injury, hit two three-pointers as part of an 11-0 UCSD run that pulled the Tritons within six

points with 1:13 left to play. Despite another Hatch three-pointer with 31 seconds left, Grand Canyon converted nine of 11 free-throw attempts down the stretch to hold on for the win.

Hatch said his flurry of field goals beyond the arc came from good opportunities created by other Tritons.

"Getting our team back in the game ... came from my teammates — driving and hitting the gaps, then kicking the ball out and giving me the opportunity to knock down open three-point shots," he said.

Hatch added that he hopes to be a veteran leader and perform well in the clutch.

"I just want to contribute as much as I can this year," he said. "I want to look back on my years here as a time when UCSD men's basketball became a force in the CCAA."

Hatch led UCSD in scoring with 12 points on four of five three-point attempts, while also dishing out four assists in 15 minutes off the bench. Lawley and senior guard Clint Allard also scored double-digits for the Tritons with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Allard posted eight assists and five rebounds, both tying game-highs. The assist total fell just short of his career-best nine assists recorded against Grand Canyon in January 2006.

As a team, UCSD shot 41.5 percent from the field, including 54.2 percent in the second half when they held Grand Canyon to below 40 percent field-goal shooting. The Antelopes



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

Sophomore forward Andrew Browning netted four points in 12 minutes coming off the bench against the Antelopes. UCSD's dormant offense needs a jolt for its home opener against Cal State Stanislaus on Nov. 30.

See **BASKETBALL**, page 15

Homecoming Preview 2007



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

The last time the women's basketball team faced Chico State on Mar. 12, the Tritons pounced on the Wildcats for a decisive 80-63 victory in the NCAA Division II West Regional Finals.

By Rael Enteen • Sports Editor

No. 4 Tritons to start conference schedule with tests against rivals No. 8 Chico State and Cal State Stanislaus.

Coming off its best season, if not the best season of any UCSD team at the Division-II level, the women's basketball team will look to stay undefeated and start a new California Collegiate Athletic Association win streak when the No. 4 Tritons (5-0) host Cal State Stanislaus and No. 8 Chico State on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, respectively.

Last year's Tritons had a fierce rivalry with the consistently competitive Chico State squad, splitting the season series at one apiece before blowing out the Wildcats in the final game of the NCAA West Regional at RIMAC Arena to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in program history.

Both games will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. at RIMAC Arena.

UCSD can bounce back from a rough start to non-conference play with wins over the Warriors and Wildcats.

First-year head coach Chris Carlson has not had the same strong start that his counterpart on the women's team has enjoyed. However, the Tritons have only dropped two contests, both on the road and one to Division-I San Diego State, and have a chance to erase their early woes with a strong start to conference play in front of a home crowd.

UCSD is set to host Cal State Stanislaus and Chico State over the weekend, and even splitting the games will give the Tritons a lift as they enter a five-game homestand before hitting the road for four straight California Collegiate Athletic Association contests from Jan. 4 through Jan. 12.

Both the Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tip-offs.

Young Tritons Ready for D-I Titans

UCSD's senior-less squad is set to take on Division-I powerhouses following last season's humbling 5-23 finish.

By Matt Croskey
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UCSD men's volleyball team has plenty to prove after last year's 5-23 showing, but there is promise for the Tritons as they return five starters to a potentially explosive squad that last year toppled

Division-I opponents University of Southern California, Princeton and Long Beach State University.

Last year's youth is now one year older, one year wiser and has one more year of experience; head coach Kevin Ring, now in his third year at UCSD, expects experience to play a large role in the team's improvement.

"We have four freshman starters returning with experience in competitive matches," he said. "The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation is an extremely competitive conference. I'm not making predictions about 'x' number of wins. We're just

trying to put a competitive team on the court and we can do that."

UCSD is led by lone captain junior libero Eric Leserman and a supporting cast of sophomores: outside hitter Will Ehrman, opposite Frank Fritsch and outside hitter Jason Spangler return for their second season in a Triton uniform. The trio power the Triton offense, but will be without Ehrman's service for the first half of the season due to shoulder surgery.

Spangler admitted that Ehrman's absence is a big loss, but there is a new crop of players waiting to fill his spot.

"Losing Will is a big hit because he's one of our best defenders," Spangler said. "It would be nice to have a guy with a year of experience but we'll see how things go. We've got four or five guys fighting for his position and the competition in practice is only making us better."

Ring must also find a replacement for the departed setter Brooks Dierdorff, who was the only senior to graduate last season.

"[Dierdorff] was a steady three-year starter and is not an easy replacement," Ring said. "We are mixing things up every day at practice and keeping a lot of stats. [Freshman] Phil Bannan and our backup from last year [sophomore] Billy Arnold are working extremely hard, and it's still wide open."

Once the setter position is cemented, UCSD will field one of its youngest lineups in recent memory. With no seniors on the roster, the Tritons are one of MPSF's up-and-coming teams. UCSD is the lone Division-II team in a conference of Division-I opponents, which includes the past three national champions.

Ehrman said the bigger schools don't pay much credence to the team's new talent, which only makes each win that much sweeter.



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN FILE

Sophomore middle blocker Adrian Guthals and the men's volleyball team hope to shock the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation teams this year after having a difficult season against Division-I opponents.

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 15