

ATHLETICS



Doctors from the Union of American Physicians and Dentists stage a strike on Library Walk over negotiations with the UC System. Photo taken by Siddharth Atre/UCSD Guardian.

Renovated Ballpark Hosts First Games of the Season

BY KRITI SARIN EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

After four months of construction, the newly renovated Triton Ballpark opened with its first doubleheader games of the season on Feb. 1. Although construction of certain outdoor amenities will not be complete until April, the UCSD baseball team will continue to host games at the new ballpark for the remainder of the season.

Senior Associate Athletics Director Ken Grosse told the UCSD Guardian that, while the baseball field has always accommodated players' needs, the ballpark's other facilities were in need of renovation.

"The field has always been top-notch, but the outside amenities have not been up to par with the rest of our facilities," Grosse said. "The players were literally using a doublewide trailer as a clubhouse. There were no permanent restrooms out here and no stands — they were all temporary. With [five] coaches and 36 players on the baseball team, it just wasn't a very good [situation]."

The finished ballpark will feature a 4,000-square-foot clubhouse named after UCSD's seventh chancellor Marye Anne Fox complete with locker rooms, showers, laundry facilities, coaches' offices and a Hall of Fame. According to a UCSD press release, Fox was a key member of the

original plans for Triton Ballpark and strongly advocated renovations that improved athletics facilities during her time as chancellor.

UCSD Athletics Director Earl W. Edwards said in the same press release that the improvements that have been made to the field will improve the university's baseball program as a whole.

"Having a facility to match the excellence of our talented student-athletes will contribute greatly to our team spirit and Triton pride," Edwards said. "In addition, it will allow us to recruit more high-quality student-athletes, host significant tournaments at UC San Diego and provide a better experience for spectators, who play a key role in our success each year.

Additional key amenities that fans can expect include a press box, designated areas for food trucks, full functioning restrooms and permanent grandstand seating arrangements for spectators, which Grosse said will enhance the overall atmosphere of the game.

"It's going to be a way better experience. The seats are all way closer to the field, giving fans a better view of the game," Grosse explained. "The players have new dugouts on both

See **BALLPARK**, page 3

TRANSIT

Bike Path Construction Set to Start Near Peterson

Bicycle and pedestrian improvements are expected to be completed by September 2015.

BY JACKY TO
STAFF WRITER

UCSD announced that it is making bicycle and pedestrian improvements as well as constructing a bicycle path on Peterson Hill in a Jan. 23 press release. Construction commenced on Feb. 2 and is expected to be completed before September of this year.

Assistant Project Manager Jamie Bohannon informed the UCSD Guardian of the many components of this construction project, known as the University Center Bike and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

"This over two-acre project will provide grove reforestation, new open space, two new classroom bike lanes as well as a new pedestrian stair and accessible

ramp on Peterson Hill," Bohannon said. "This is one of a few projects starting up construction that is aimed at improving the existing infrastructure on campus."

Bohannon also said that the bike lane will allow bicyclists to access Geisel Library while avoiding Library Walk, a bicycle dismount zone, while the additional pedestrian path will connect the university's core to other heavily traveled areas.

Student Sustainability Collective's Director of Internal Development Kyle Heiskala, who was assigned to lead the project by former A.S. President Andy Buselt, told the Guardian he thinks that the new pathway will improve both transportation efficiency and safety for students.

"These improvements will encourage students to use bikes as

a viable means of getting around campus," Heiskala said. "Once completed, circulation in the center of campus will be greatly improved for everyone, and safe, efficient biking will increase as well."

Heiskala also expressed his satisfaction that the project is coming to fruition after Buselt set it as a top priority in fall of 2013.

"I have been accompanying it along the way as it has progressed through various stages of design and approval," Heiskala said. "It is amazing to see the power of students and long-term collaboration producing such results."

The university has set up a construction fence with borders consisting of Peterson Hill, Mandeville Lane, the Faculty Club and Library Walk. The construction

See **PETERSON**, page 3

CAMPUS

Black History Month Events Commence in Price Center

Participants sought to bring awareness to issues facing the African Americans through different forms of expression.

BY BRYNNA BOLT
STAFF WRITER

The UCSD Black Student Union hosted the Black History Month Opener Monday, Feb. 2 in Price Center Plaza. The event was meant to welcome UC students, faculty, staff and members of the surrounding community in kicking off a series of events lasting from Jan. 25 through March 7.

The event began around 12:20 p.m. with the introductions of BSU Retention Coordinator Andre Thompson and Traditions Coordinator Victoria Gichohi. Other officers of the BSU subsequently introduced themselves.

Gichohi, who helped plan the event along with BSU Chair Jazzalyn Livingston, said that she considered the opener a success despite a difficult planning process.

"Jazzalyn and I did our best to reach out to current students and staff, such as Edwina Welch, director of the Cross-Cultural Center here at UCSD," Gichohi told the UCSD Guardian. "Without their efforts, this Black History Month Opener would have not been successful at all."

After a rendition of "Black National Anthem," a song originally written as a poem called "Lift Every Voice" by James Weldon Johnson in 1899, Welch took to the podium to give a talk.

Welch's presentation, entitled "Click Through," centered around contextualizing history to better understand contemporary times.

"I think it's really important that we understand the context of the time that we're in," Welch said in her talk. "What I want to suggest is that we all think, particularly as people of UCSD who are going to leave this institution to go out and do wonderful things in the private sector, nonprofit sector and other areas, that maybe it's time for us to slow down a little bit, understand the context in which we are hearing and seeing things and maybe click through."

Welch also read from an essay by Alicia Garza, the co-creator of the social media platform-turned national organization, Black Lives Matter.

The organization, which opposes police brutality and practices like racial profiling, is currently being represented on campus by a collection of materials gathered from print and online resources called #blacklivesmatter: A Century of Resistance to State-Sanctioned Violence. The exhibit will be featured at Geisel Library until the end of February.

Student spoken word performances followed the conclusion of Welch's speech. Among those performing was BSU External Vice Chair Brilon

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2015 GRAMMYS



IMAGE BY JENNA MCCLOSKEY/GUARDIAN

The UCSD Guardian takes on this year's best music and biggest hitmakers to create our list of favorites to win the 2015 Grammy's. Our pick for best single? Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off." Read on to find out more.

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VERBATIM

"IT WOULD BE WAY MORE FUN TO POINT AT ONE CURRENT OR PAST MEMBER OF A.S. COUNCIL OR EVEN BETTER AN ADMINISTRATOR AND SAY 'THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING.' BUT THAT'S JUST NOT THE CASE. IT HAS TAKEN A LONG TIME TO GET US WHERE WE ARE..."

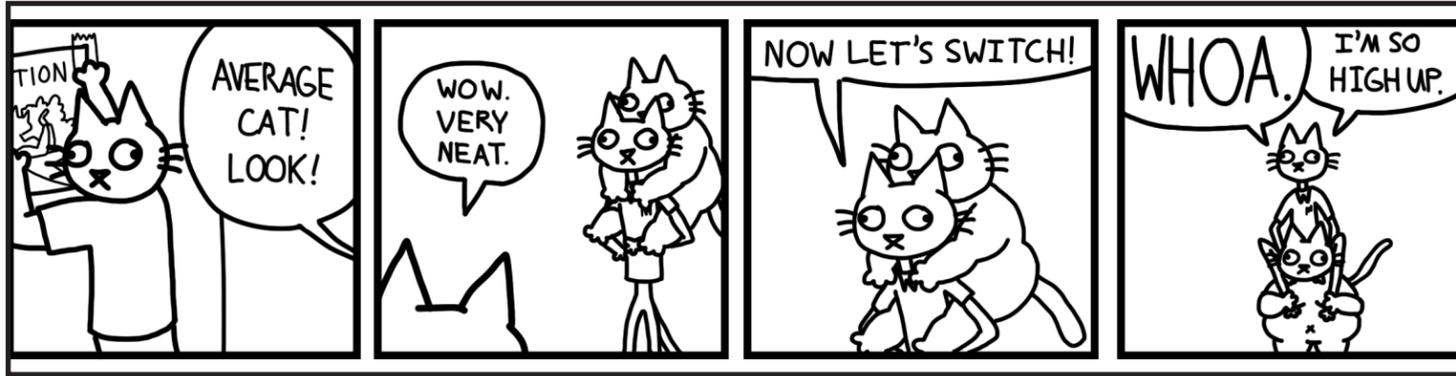
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AVERAGE CAT

By Christina Carlson



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Researchers Develop Model To Predict and Track Flu Activity

Data from Google Flu Trends and the Center for Disease Control can track outbreaks of the flu up to a week in advance.

BY TEIKO YAKOBSON
FEATURES EDITOR

UCSD researchers have developed a model to predict the spread of influenza up to a week in advance, with as much accuracy as Google Flu Trends can estimate current infections.

The study, published last Thursday, Jan. 29 combined “big data” compiled from GFT and traditional data from the Center for Disease Control to assess real-time flu activity with better accuracy and to make valid predictions about future spread.

GFT operates on the assumption that a spike in flu-related Google web searches in a geographical region is directly correlated with a spike in that region’s flu activity. People who have the flu are expected to be searching the web for indicative symptoms and possible remedies. While its system has been successful in estimating levels of flu infections in real-time

(and historically), GFT alone does not claim reliability in its estimates about the future.

Michael Davidson, first author and a doctoral student in political science, told the UCSD Guardian that the flu prediction model improves GFT’s data, which was originally an improvement from the CDC’s two-week delay in disclosing current flu trends.

“One of the reasons Google is so great is because it can estimate how many people are sick [with influenza] right now,” Davidson said. “The CDC can [also] estimate it, but it takes about two weeks to figure out how many people are sick. In our model, we can combine those two.”

In order to predict future flu trends, UCSD researchers set out to map a nationwide “social network” that could provide insight into which regions of the country would likely be struck with an outbreak next, based on the infection activity in regions to which they are connected.

“Social networks can teach us a lot about an individual based on the people whom they are connected to,” Davidson said. “We thought we could improve this really important tool by doing the same thing in the context of the flu.”

There are 10 regions in the United States whose borders are defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. Using data from the CDC about which regions experienced similar levels of infections at the same time over the past year, Davidson and his team developed a method to predict the movement of influenza across the regions. They checked their predictions for one week in advance at a time against historic records and found the model to be valid.

The ability to predict influenza movement would mean better allocation of resources for doctors, who could better gauge how many vaccines would be needed in a given flu season. For data modeling,

Davidson says their method shows the importance of incorporating multiple sources of information.

“The basic principle behind it all is that big data doesn’t work the best in a vacuum,” Davidson said. “It actually does better when we combine it with these traditional sources of data [such as those from the CDC].”

Expanding the reach of the model to predict trends within specific states, counties and cities is a future goal of researchers; however, doing so would require analyzing GFT’s raw data — which the team did not access — in these places.

“That would be great if we had more access to data like that,” Davidson said. “I’m confident that Google has the ability to make predictions [about flu trends] like that, but as of yet if you go on the GFT website they say that it’s just experimental at the city level.”

READERS CAN CONTACT
TEIKO YAKOBSON SYAKOBSON@UCSD.EDU

Dedicated Bicycle Paths Planned for New Bridge Over Interstate 5 on Gilman Drive

► PETERSON, from page 1

will significantly affect pedestrian traffic from Ridge Walk to Library Walk at Peterson Hill and the Faculty Club for at least six months.

Heiskala then told the Guardian that the Student Sustainability Collective’s new Bike Committee has worked on expanding bike

parking in areas near Library Walk as well as a campuswide bike-sharing program.

UCSD’s Director of Marketing and Communications Laura Margoni also informed the Guardian of other bicycle improvement projects that are in the works. These projects include adding a bike path on the Interstate

5 between Genesee Avenue and Voigt Drive, building a new Gilman Drive bridge over the I-5 and replacing the Voigt Drive bridge with one that has dedicated bike lanes.

The university also is in the planning stages of adding shared lane markings and sidewalks to Hopkins Lane as well as narrowing

the median on Gilman Drive in order to fit dedicated bike lanes. Margoni indicated that this final plan would achieve the goal of providing bike lanes throughout the entire Campus Loop.

READERS CAN CONTACT
JACKY TO J6TO@UCSD.EDU

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General Editorial:
editor@ucsdguardian.org

News: news@ucsdguardian.org
Opinion: opinion@ucsdguardian.org
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Tritons Triumphed in All Four Games Against Western Oregon

► **BALLPARK**, from page 1

sides, sunken and bigger and more typical of today's dugouts. It's very nice. The players love it, the coaches love it and the fans are going to love it."

Grosse added that an international construction company called Turner Construction was contracted to build the structure and that work on those areas of the ballpark that are essential for game play were finished just in time for the start of the season.

"We weren't sure if we were actually

going to get to play here because they were racing to get it done in time for this game," Grosse said. "Fortunately, it happened, and we're off to a good start."

The Tritons won both games against Western Oregon University on Sunday, outscoring the Wolves 4-0 and 8-3 in the doubleheader games, respectively. The UCSD team was also triumphant in both of the remaining games of the series this week, which featured free admission for all fans and were played on Feb. 2 and 3.

The four games against Western Oregon were collectively the first series of the season. The next seven games will also be played at home against Colorado Mesa University for the first two games, San Francisco State University for the next four games and Point Loma Nazarene University for the seventh game. The Tritons will play a total of 28 out of 49 games of this season in the new ballpark.

READERS CAN CONTACT
KRITISARIN K SARIN@UCSD.EDU

Black Student Union Will Be Hosting Events Throughout February

► **BSU**, from page 1

Cooper, who performed Maya Angelou's piece "Still I Rise."

BSU Co-Publicity Chair Kyler Nathan told the Guardian that the spoken word pieces were his favorite part of the event.

"The spoken word pieces were empowering," Nathan said. "And I got to know a more personal side of people through them."

Before the closing of the event, a dance performance was put on by Livingston, Gichohi and another student, Love Gordon. The event ended around 2 p.m.

Other BSU officers introduced at the event included Internal Vice Chair Briana Thrift, Co-Retention Chair

Derek Van de Streek and Art Historian Sabrina Evans.

Alexandra Villar, a Thurgood Marshall College junior in attendance at the opener, spoke to the Guardian about why she believes events like these are important to the UCSD community.

"UCSD students need another perspective," Villar told the Guardian. "It's lacking the awareness needed in order to understand what's going on today. People are not well-informed because they haven't been taught anything besides what's in the history books."

BSU will be involved with several other events occurring on campus during the remainder of Black History Month. There will be a free showing of

the film "Black Power Mixtape" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Black Resource Center, and Feb. 4 through Feb. 7 BSU will also be involved with the staging of the play "Venus" by Suzan-Lori Parks. The play, which is based on a true story, will be presented by the department of theater and dance.

Furthermore, BSU, in partnership with several other UCSD organizations, will be hosting a dedication of the Black Legacy Mural on the first floor of Price Center East. Finally, the Kumba Fest will be held Feb. 28 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Price Center Multipurpose Room.

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OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR
CHARU MEHRA
 ✉ opinion@ucsdguardian.org

Students For Spirit

UCSD could have a highly unified, social atmosphere like the one at Spirit Night year-round if students were more proactive about going out and getting involved.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY PARK

This year's annual Spirit Night games drew in a near-record number of attendees to watch the men and women's basketball teams secure victories against Cal State East Bay. But while our enthusiasm that night was commendable, it's a shame that the energy died out so quickly afterward. Spirit Night is a classic example of UCSD's tendency to hype up a select few events throughout the year while rarely filling in the gaps, leaving a rather muted campus atmosphere in their wake. If UCSD is to shed its unfortunate and frankly overplayed reputation as socially inactive, it's going to take some resolve on our part to change the way we view Spirit Night and other campuswide activities.

Events like Spirit Night demonstrate that, for a campus that supposedly lacks any sort of cohesive identity, we can still come together and show off a vibrant display of spirit, especially when some friendly college competition is added into the mix. However, major events like these seem far and few between. The basketball games against Cal State Monterey Bay held the day following Spirit Night had an abysmal turnout — only a fraction of the previous night's crowd. Only truly unique events, such as the 2014 water polo championships at Canyonview Pool or when UC Riverside's Instagram page featured a Triton mascot effigy burning down before the annual homecoming game seem to get any rise out of students. Keeping the energy going, then, should be a top concern.

While we have repeatedly refused to transition into Division-I athletics, our school still boasts a formidable

array of sports teams that deserve our support no matter what game it is. The men's basketball team held an impressive six-win streak this season, our women's swim team is nationally ranked No. 4 in the division and the fencing squads, along with lesser-known club sports, consistently emerge victorious against tough Division-I foes, providing a welcome alternative to traditional sports matches. The fact that they rarely seem to play against big names like the University of Michigan, University of Southern California and the University of Oregon can only be blamed on our staunch commitment to stay within the Division-II leagues.

Regardless of which opponents we face, it takes only some slight initiative on our part to keep up with game schedules and to show our hard-working athletes some Triton love. Each residential college has dedicated representatives in charge of promoting school spirit, and there should be no reason for decorations and tailgates to be limited to a single night. Spreading out spirit events throughout the year would mean there would always be matches to look forward to, incentivizing students to blow off steam between their midterms without fighting each other for the Spirit Cup. Besides, history has shown that, given our current campus climate, hosting only a few large-scale events as opposed to multiple smaller ones — think Sun God Festival and Hullabaloo — leads to health and safety concerns that threaten their viability in the future.

Now, setting athletics aside for the moment, it's still

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Student Voice on Board of Regents Is Underrepresented

Last week, some of the UCSD Guardian staff had the opportunity to sit down with UC student Regent Sadia Saifuddin and her 2015–16 successor Avi Oved who were on campus to promote the student regent position to future candidates.

Saifuddin and Oved have had a busy year as the student representatives on a much-maligned UC Board of Regents, which has raised pay and benefits for UC administrators and high-level staff while proposing the 5-percent tuition hike that caused protests throughout the campuses. Saifuddin, to her credit, strongly opposed the tuition increases and spoke on behalf of students while the regents debated the issue in November, and we think we can expect the same kind of advocacy from Oved next year.

But even with the hard work of this pair, it's clear that the student regent position is just one vote on a board of 18 to 20, meaning that in issues like the tuition hike, the voice of students is often drowned out.

And while the student regent position is undoubtedly valuable, and interested candidates

should absolutely apply, its existence is more of an afterthought, a minor concession from a board who wants to do the bare minimum to show that student input is being adequately considered.

But in discussing issues like tuition hikes, which has put a financial burden right on the shoulders of the students, the student voice should have more impact than one vote. Making room at the table for more than one student regent not only allows for that but gives the UC system's 233,000 students more avenues to make their diverse and prolific opinions heard.

Another possibility is to expand or reaffirm the role of the University of California Student Association, which was responsible this academic year for many of the protests that happened on campus. UCSA was amongst the first organizations to suspect incoming tuition hikes and organized letter-writing and petition drives far ahead of the regents' vote. The strong reaction to the eventual vote, which included coordinated protests and sit-ins, made student

opinion clear and certainly sent a message that prompted our state politicians to act.

UCSA has faced some criticism in the past for collecting more membership fees from some campuses than others, leading UC Irvine to pull out of the organization altogether last year. The group could certainly use an overhaul in its system, but, at its core, it is a unifying force for UC students and the organization this past year demonstrated that it could be a valuable political tool as well.

UCSA and the student regent are by no means at odds. In fact, coordination between the two is an ideal way to communicate and act on the happenings discussed by the regents. But with additional support for the student regent, and better organization for the UCSA, we could have a cohesive student body government that's even stronger than it was this year.

The student regent application is available online now and is due on Feb. 22. We would love to see a Triton take on this representative role in the UC system and foster it into something even better.

Why A.S. Council Is Broken and How to Fix It

POINT OF ORDER
SOREN NELSON
 SENELSON@UCSD.EDU



Inefficient, ineffective and underfunded. Those are all words that come to mind when I think about the current state of the A.S. Council. The A.S. Council that we look to for leadership and solutions — or at least should look to — is no longer capable of delivering on those promises. It's time for this council to fix that.

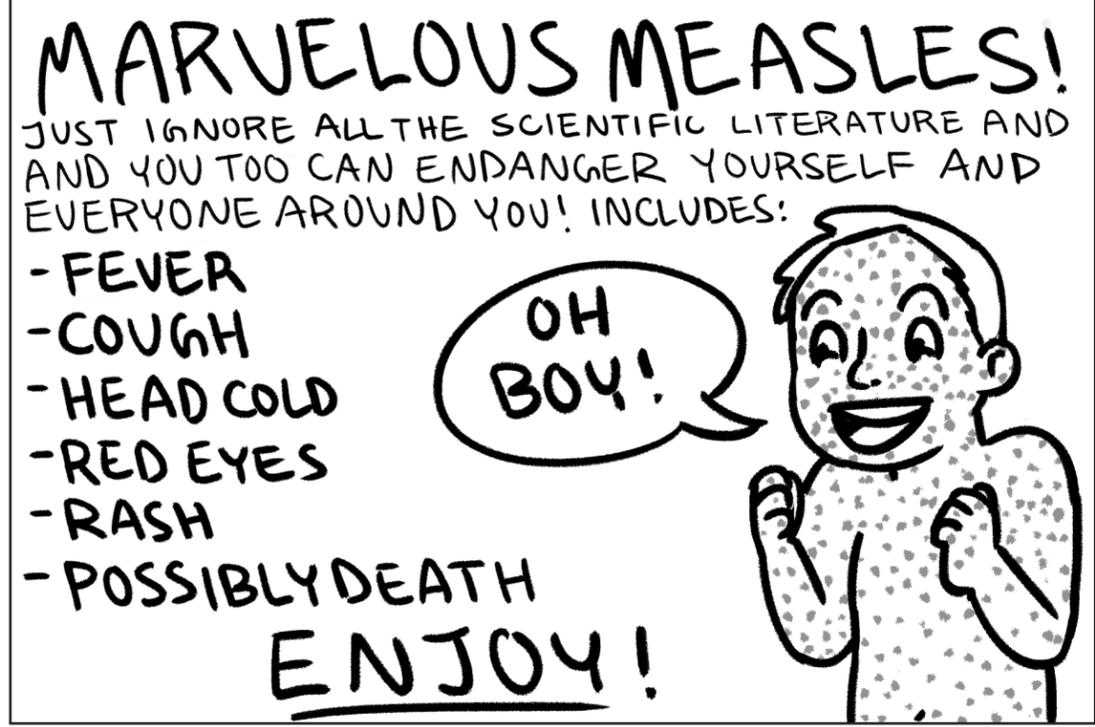
It's no one's fault. It would be way more fun to point at one current or past member of A.S. Council (or, even better, an administrator) and say "This is all your doing!" But that's just not the case. It has taken a long time to get us to where we are, and it will take us a long time to get us to where we need to be.

As with all things, it comes down to the money. The A.S. Council brings in somewhere between \$3 million and \$4 million every year. Hundreds of thousands of dollars go to administrative costs, and \$500,000 or more goes to the Sun God Festival. The rest is divided between A.S. offices and projects and student organization funding. What's left is pocket change compared to what councils at other UC schools have at their disposal. The reality is that A.S. Council has outgrown its income. We simply do not have the money to do all the things we want to do anymore. Our reserves are empty, and just last year we ran out of money to fund student organizations months before the end of the year. In an age of skyrocketing tuition and constant pleas for money from a myriad of campus organizations, convincing students that A.S. Council is worth spending more money on is a tall order. That being said, A.S. Council cannot afford to postpone a referendum to raise student fees. There will never be a "good" time to do it, so let's just get it over with.

Now, I'm not conservative by any measure, so what I have to say next pains me on a fundamental level. The A.S. Council is a bloated government. There are just too many people representing too many interests on for there to be any hope of efficient governance. If A.S. Council wants to get serious about streamlining, it's time to look at what council positions can be cut because there are too many cooks in this proverbial kitchen. I don't care how you do it — and I'm sure most UCSD students don't either — but it's time to find a way to pare down A.S. Council.

At its best, I believe A.S. Council is a force to be reckoned with. Our student government should be a group any student can turn to for help, especially as our administration grows increasingly brazen in its attempts to quiet student expression. But until A.S. Council finds a way to make itself more efficient and more effect, that just isn't going to happen.

CONFUSED MUSE By Elyse Yang



Students Can't Lament Lack of Spirit Unless They Make Effort

► **SPIRIT** from page 4

hard to accept why our university can't seem to foster a thriving social life. The problem certainly isn't that we don't offer enough activities: Venues like The Loft and Porter's Pub, the college councils and an untold plethora of student organizations and clubs host everything from movies to dances to mixers and bonfires. The difficulty seems to be getting students to actually attend those opportunities. It's a big campus out there and UCSD won't always spoon-feed us with opportunities. Perhaps it's that the student body has become accustomed to ignoring outreach efforts due to the tidal wave of choices that one encounters on Library

Walk. Whatever the reason, it's clear that current publicity techniques are in need of fine-tuning to draw in targeted demographics. Not only that, bodies like the University Center Advisory Board and University Centers have to step up their efforts to collect public input on the future of student spaces like Porter's Pub, whose lease is soon due to expire.

As for students themselves, getting involved isn't impossible. It means taking the time to read the colorful posters put up on random light poles. It means resolving to show up to that one general body meeting or semi-formal. We shouldn't complain about being bored if we don't bother going to various events that are already being offered. Without active

student participation, it's no wonder that establishing consistent, high-caliber UCSD traditions seems high impossible.

To make the most of our college career, we can't simply lament the lack of day-to-day school spirit. It's going to take real effort to don blue face paint, to thrust ourselves into foreign open forums, fundraisers and semifinal games — to make connections that transcend our colleges or majors. Remember that it takes genuine student involvement to make UCSD a truly unique, social locale. Channeling the energy we had on Spirit Night into campus activism and other areas is definitely an attainable possibility.

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Best New Artist - **BASTILLE**

Left to their own devices, the members of Bastille weren't about to let their days slip away with nothing to show. They were busy crafting chart-topping singles, a certified Gold record and a slew of tantalizing experimental remixes. With thundering drums and rhythmic chants, their hit single "Pompeii" dominated radio stations. But Bastille isn't a one-hit wonder; its debut album, "Bad Blood," is a collection of well-crafted stories both catchy and polished enough to be released as singles without disrupting the album's coherence. Yet what sets Bastille apart is an underlying creative genius that demands experimentation. Bastille tinkers, and from that playful trial-and-error comes intriguing variation. Its covers are clever marriages of unlikely pairings (Miley Cyrus and "The Lion King," anyone?) and its songs borrow from historical and mythological scenes when not toying with genres. Because Bastille thrives on this radical creativity, it'll only continue to develop its fascinatingly flexible sound.

- Karly Nisson
Editorial Assistant

ILLUSTRATION BY ELYSE YANG

GRAMMY PREDICTIONS

Design By
Joselynn Ordaz
Sherman Aline

Best Record - **"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS" by MEGHAN TRAINOR**

Meghan Trainor's sassiness level is about as unprecedented as a number-one hit about fat — or at least not-skinny — acceptance. And while the subject matter of "All About That Bass" has helped fueled debates about body image, what really makes it stand out is the sound. If you break down the sexy, bouncing single into its influences, you'll find pop (obviously), rap, cabaret and a hint of doo wop supported by a strutting acoustic bass line. It's definitely safe to say that "All About That Bass" has a lot going for it when it comes to standing head-and-shoulders above a pack of copy-paste pop singles this last year, mostly sung by "stick-figure silicone Barbie dolls."

- Kyle Somers
Associate A&E Editor



ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE HSIEH

Best Song - **“SHAKE IT OFF”** by **TAYLOR SWIFT**

When your midterms come back, when you trip in front of your crush, when you get criticism from major news outlets about every boy you date, take some of Taylor Swift’s stellar advice. “Shake it Off” is the “Hakuna Matata” of pop and a perfect anthem for bad days, good days and everything in between. She begins with “Got nothing in my brain,” but that is obviously not true after listening. Moving fully into the pop genre, she bravely confronts her own stereotypes and embraces her own adorable dorkiness while encouraging listeners to do the same. She sings the iconic line “Haters gonna hate,” but what makes this song so poignant is that it’s all true. Listen to this song’s easygoing and light-hearted lyrics and you’ll believe it’s all “gonna be all right” if you just de-stress and “keep moving.” If you disagree, well, you know what to do.

- Allison Kubo
Staff Writer

ILLUSTRATION BY ROCIO PLASCENCIA



Best Album - **“BEYONCÉ”** by **BEYONCÉ**

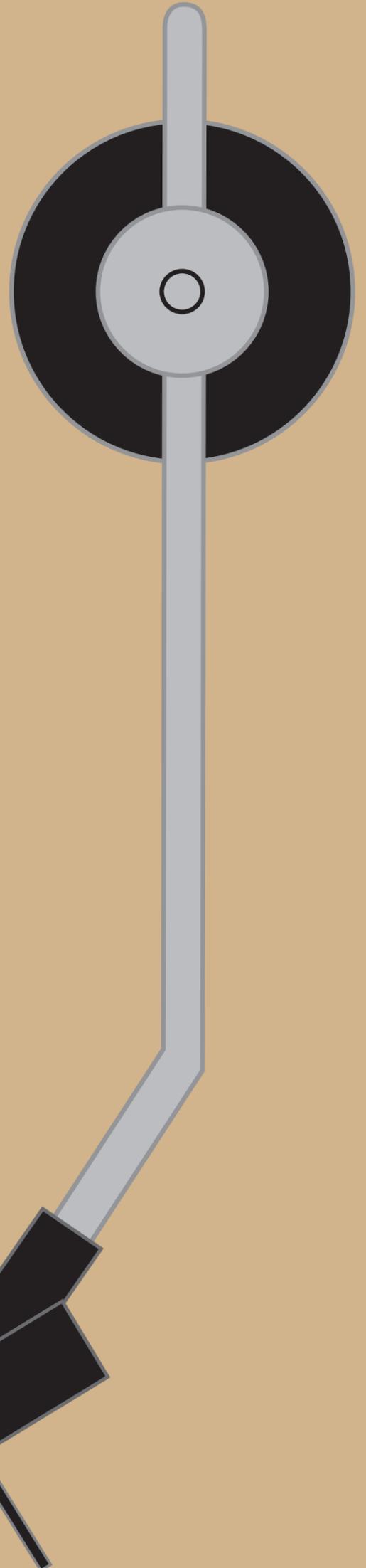
Feminism. Not exactly a word that you would typically use to describe the best album of the year, but in this case, it’s the perfect word to sum up Beyoncé’s self-titled album. Year after year, Queen Bey dominates the top of the charts with empowering, catchy songs, and year after year, she is awarded at various award shows for her achievements, making her the most nominated woman in music history.

Beyoncé’s Grammy nomination for Best Album of 2014 epitomizes what she has been working toward throughout her career: a successful and probable win. This influential album varies from self-empowerment to romance, important features that appeal to many young women and make for successful pop/rhythm and blues through the genre’s signature rhythmic buoyancy. “Beyoncé” contains hit songs like “Drunk in Love,” which was also nominated for best R&B performance and clearly represents the sensual artistry present throughout the entire album. The feminist motifs and success from the songs throughout this album sum up exactly what a “Best Album” should embody — power.

- Alex Diaz
Staff Writer



ILLUSTRATION BY IRENE LUU



FILM REVIEW

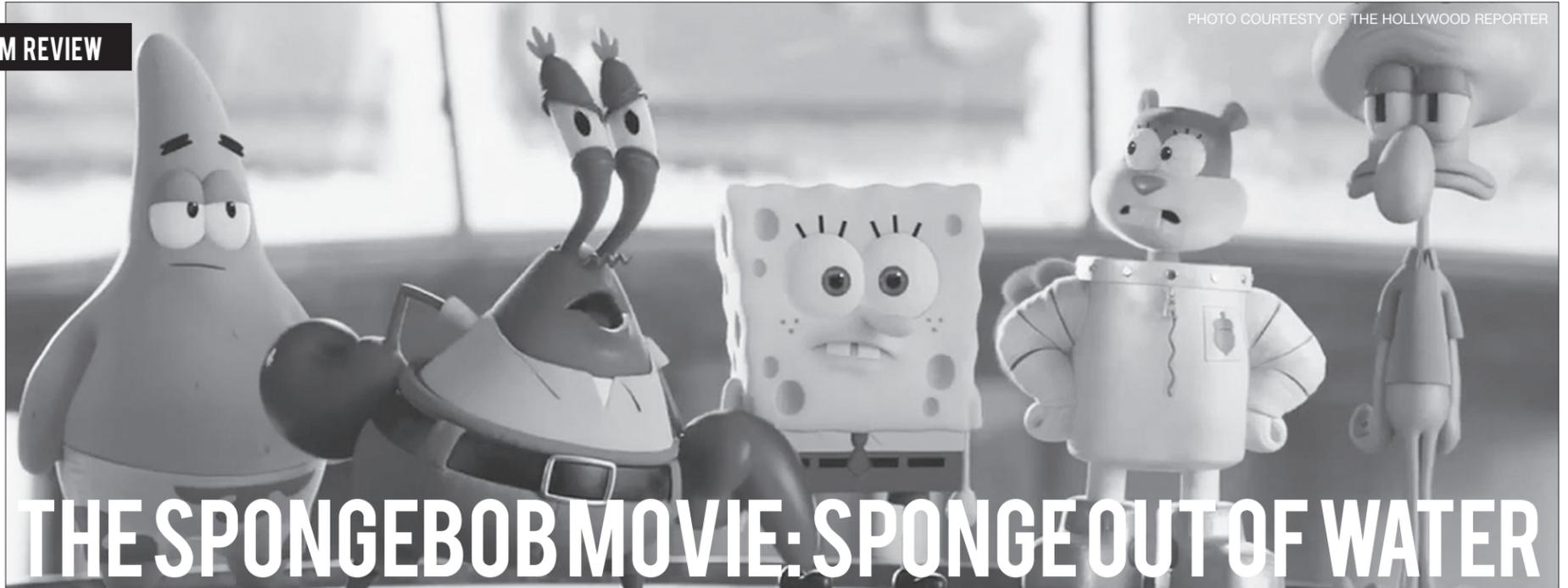


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

The new feature of the iconic cartoon retains bits of the show's old appeal but is too wild for its own good.

Directed by Paul Tibbitt

Starring Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke, Rodger Bumpass, Clancy Brown

Rated PG

Release Date Feb. 6

At the time, it most likely seemed ridiculous. But when the small, porous and all-too-jovial block of yellow known as SpongeBob Squarepants appeared on television in 1999, a multi-billion dollar franchise was truly born. The antics of the talking sponge and his bottom-dwelling, sea critter friends created a rare form of child-friendly entertainment that both adults and kids could enjoy. However, for those who either grew up watching Nickelodeon's most successful show of all time or reveling in its silly humor as an adult, take note: SpongeBob's glory



days are much farther away than the bottom of the sea.

In "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water," an evil pirate named Burger-Beard (Antonio Banderas) steals an ancient book that grants him the power to turn whatever he writes within its pages into reality. With his newfound ability, he steals the Krabby Patty secret formula, effectively turning SpongeBob's fellow burger-deprived citizens into a deranged wreck as their city falls into a "Mad Max"-looking, post-apocalyptic chaos. Eventually, SpongeBob and the gang must

embark onto land and fight their nemesis as buffed-up superheroes.

Sound ridiculous? Perhaps, but the believability of plots and premises was never an issue for "SpongeBob." What always made the show and its first film in 2004 work was a delightfully simple yet universally enjoyable sense of fun within wild backdrops. However, "Sponge Out of Water" forgoes its old ability to entertain an older demographic, as its humor and superhero moments largely attempt to pander to children's tastes. What's worse is that the kid-theme falls flat as well, as director Paul Tibbitt and his team include such distractingly bizarre and hallucinatory secondary scenes (more than the show already regularly does) that one is often left wondering if the film is meant to be a children's movie or an animator's tongue-in-cheek, acid-induced creation. In the show's golden age, absurdity complimented the charm

of the cartoon's silly jokes and buffoonery. Here, however, absurdity exists only for absurdity's sake and with no real comedic payoffs.

The film also appears to ignore the value of its main cast: other than the sponge himself, the villainous Plankton receives the most screen time. The chemistry between SpongeBob and his lovably dim-witted best friend Patrick or the curmudgeonly Squidward is largely abandoned, leaving reliably funny set-ups falling by the wayside.

As for the visuals, the live-action 3D animation hybrid portion (directed by Mike Mitchell), though executed well enough from a technical perspective, plays out as nothing more than a gimmick. In truth, though marketing pushed the style as the film's selling point, the actual usage of the real-world cartoon blend was whittled down to only a final act event. While "The Lego Movie" utilized the unconven-

tional animation of its commercial product to its comedic advantage, the format of "Sponge" provides an advertising tagline but little additional entertainment value.

For the most part, the film does boast the typical polish of the brightly colored and vivid animation from the show, and while there are traces of the smartly inane jokes that made it the behemoth commercial entity it is today, the old charm appears to have faded. What remains is an odd collage of childish flat humor and dizzying sequences of weirdness plastered over a 3D tag. Perhaps "Sponge out of Water" was meant as a sort of saving grace to the declining quality of its ongoing show, but if anything, the new film is only a further confirmation of its dying days.

— BRANDON YU
SPORTS EDITOR



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

PHOTO BY ADAM FISHER/UCSDGUARDIAN



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Obviously a cheese store, the Cheese Shop's wares are really far broader. Despite its name, the Cheese Shop deals primarily in sandwiches, though it also offers a healthy selection of salads and an unhealthy assortment of sweets.

Once a purveyor of gourmet imports, the Cheese Shop is in the final stage of its transformation into a deli. Instead of wine and cheese, the Cheese Shop primarily offers hot and cold sandwiches, crafted with a broad array of toppings. A meatless cheese sandwich costs \$6.50, while a replete sub runs at about \$10. Of course, the sandwiches are customizable, so it's entirely up to you to optimize your sub. Noteworthy items include the "Turkey Jack Avocado" and the hot, mysterious "New York Special," which combines pastrami, corned beef and pumpernickel. Salads are also on the menu: potato, macaroni, coleslaw, chicken, tuna

and egg. Cookies come in chocolate chip and flourless oatmeal — there's something for everyone.

A sandwich is easy to find, but a great sandwich is rare. Unfortunately, the Turkey Jack Avocado fell short of glory. Everything tasted fresh, but the result was a tad bland. Even without mayonnaise and mustard, the sandwich was moist and the vegetables imparted a satisfying crunch but did not contribute enough to the greater flavor. The Roast Leg of Lamb-wich was even less impressive and caught me off guard with an uncomplimentary mix of cucumber and feta. While toppings are generous and portions are substantial — the meal-sized sandwich justified the price — both cold sandwiches tasted like something one could prepare at home, given the ingredients. Luckily, the wide bread selection comes from the local Bread & Cie bakery. A high point of the arrangement: the tangy sourdough provided robust support

through consumption.

In a rush? Service is quick; the orders were filled, wrapped and bagged in just a few minutes.

Proximity to the beach is a blessing and a curse — the surf's within walking distance, but parking can be difficult.

While the Cheese Shop still sells its namesake, most of the store is dedicated to sandwich construction. Strangely, the Cheese Shop offers a wide variety of candy, including some obscure brands — in fact, this alone may be worth the trip for candy connoisseurs.

Quick service and fantastic location go a long way to elevate the food. If you're spending the day at the beach, the Cheese Shop is a solid choice for a brisk bite.

— ADAM FISHER

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, the clock is ticking to find that special someone to spend the day with. If you have time to spare next Tuesday, Feb. 10, you might just meet your Valentine at the All-Campus Transfer Association's Find My Valentine event at The Loft. The event begins at 7 p.m., and, although you are not 100 percent guaranteed to meet the love of your life, you are at least promised food and drinks!

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Mongoose Rockadile Mountain Bike - \$100. Mongoose Rockadile 16.5in chromoly frame: Shimano Exage crankset, Deore derailleurs, rapid fire shift and brake levers, Araya rims with Shimano quick release hubs. Teal color. All tuned up and ready to ride. Listing ID: 118984103 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

Specialized HR-Comp Mountain Bike - \$250. Specialized HR-Comp (Hardrock), hardtail frame mountain bike, Judy TT Rock Shox front suspension, Alivio Shimano components. Smaller frame 13" with Rockster tires. This bike is in "Like New Condition" and has been well maintained and kept in my garage. Tuned up and ready to ride! Listing ID: 117921180 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

ELECTRONICS

500 GB External Mirrored Backup Drive for Computer, Music, Photos, etc. - \$150. 2011-2012 NewerTech Guardian MAXimus 500GB Multi-Interface Hardware RAID-1 (Mirrored) Data Redundant Solution Drive. In box with cables. In great condition. Listing ID: 115092942 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

Antique Kodak Wood Screen - \$25. Rare 1930s Antique Kodascope Kodacolor Wood Screen for projecting slides or movies. One side is a movie screen, the other side beautiful wood. The two feet turn to support the screen and collapse for easy storage or transportation. Listing ID: 118984133 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

Canon Rebel T3i with 18-135 IS Lens Kit - \$500. Canon Rebel T3i with 18-135mm lens. The camera comes with all the original items, even the box. Includes two extra batteries and UV filter. Also includes remote shutter release with cable. The camera is in excellent working condition. Listing ID: 118984131 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

has a transitional style with a beautiful tufted seat back. It offers clean lines as well as an additional pillow top in the seat cushion for extra comfort. This model comes with a taller seat back at 40in which will provide full head support for most individuals. A full chaise footrest is also featured. I have two to sell. Listing ID: 118443654 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

Ikea Computer Desk - \$35. Original price \$60. Width: 31 1/2". Depth: 21". Height: 29". Listing ID: 118443653 at ucsdguardian.org/classifieds for more information

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3			5			6	3	8
2	7				3	1		
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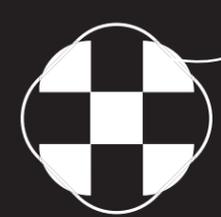
Level: 1

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Baseball Will Next Host Tough Foe No. 5 Colorado Mesa

► BASEBALL, from page 12

first to start an offensive onslaught that tallied 12 runs in the first three innings. Senior right-hander Dan Kolodin earned his first win of the season after pitching five frames with three hits, two walks and six strikeouts. Kolodin sat the Wolves down in order across the opening three.

With such a large lead, the Tritons sent freshman right-hander Jack Rupe Jr. to relieve Kolodin for the sixth and seventh. Rupe fared well in his first college contest, earning his six outs on ground balls, including a double play. Sommer managed a strikeout during his rotation and closed out the game.

The Tritons fourth and final win of the season came on Tuesday night with a 5-1 victory against Western Oregon University. Junior All-American right-hander Troy Cruz started on the mound and threw six innings allowing one run on six singles with three strikeouts.

On offense, Flatt and Shirley both batted in two runs off four and five appearances, respectively. Shirley's two RBIs came from a two-run homer in the eighth.

UCSD continues its opening 11-game homestand against No. 5 Colorado Mesa University on Friday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. Colorado Mesa, last year's national runner-up, will pose a significant challenge to the Tritons in spite of their hot start to the year.

"They are the runners-up, and they're fifth in the nation," Shirley said. "We'll see. It'll be a tough series. It won't be a blowout. It'll be close games, and that's what we need. We'll probably face them later on if we make it to [nationals] in Cary."

READERS CAN CONTACT
JOHNSTORY_JSTORY@UCSD.EDU

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Triton Drought Continues in Doubleheader Losses

Volleyball fails to win a single set in Friday and Saturday match defeats against No. 7 Brigham Young University.

BY LIAM LEAHY
STAFF WRITER

The UCSD men's volleyball team was unsuccessful in its back-to-back Mountain Pacific Sports Federation games against Brigham Young University on Friday and Saturday night at the Smith Fieldhouse. The Tritons fell in three sets on both occasions, losing Friday's game 25-18, 25-17, 25-18 and Saturday's game 25-18, 25-20, 25-21.

On Friday evening, it was UCSD that started the stronger of the two sides in the first set as the Tritons quickly took a 6-3 lead, thanks to a streak which featured three kills from freshman outside hitter Luke La Mont. However, the Tritons soon lost their advantage as the Cougars took six points in a row to lead 9-6 and continued to build upon their advantage to take the set 25-18.

In the second set, the Cougars were prompt in building a 5-2 advantage with two kills from their freshman outside hitter Brenden Sander. The Tritons managed to bring themselves back within a point at 5-4 with kills from La Mont and sophomore middle blocker Shayne Beamer.

A flurry of points for the Cougars, however, left UCSD with a significant deficit once again at 12-8. The closest the Tritons came again was within two points, with a La Mont service ace and a kill from freshman opposite Tanner Syftestad, making the scores 13-11. After that, BYU continued to widen the gap and eventually took the set 25-17.

The final set saw UCSD take its only block of the game from La

Mont to take a 2-0 lead early on. The teams seemed to be evenly matched with several exchanges of points and a service ace from Syftestad bringing them to 6-6. However, the Cougars began to pull away for the third time to a 16-12 lead. The Tritons showed resilience to pull the score back to 16-15 with a Syftestad ace and La Mont kill, but their efforts were to no avail, as BYU took nine of the last 12 points to take the set 25-18 and a match victory.

Despite the loss, positives for the UCSD came in the form of a season-high hitting percentage of 0.240 as well as a career-high of 12 kills for La Mont and 24 assists for freshman setter Milosh Stojcic.

Saturday's rematch started poorly for the Tritons as they fell behind 5-1 at the start of the first set. UCSD struggled to find a foothold but seemed on the verge of a comeback when a brace of four points featuring a Syftestad kill and block brought it back to within two points at 15-13. The persistence of the Cougars ultimately prevailed, though, and the home squad took the first set 25-18.

The second set proved to be a tight affair at the beginning of the set with the teams staying tied twice before BYU managed to push away to an 11-6 lead. It seemed that the Cougars would take an easy set when they got to set point at 24-16. Yet the Tritons spoiled four set points in a row and produced back-to-back blocks, bringing the score to 24-20 before the Cougars could take the set.

The last set saw UCSD take the upper hand for the majority of the play time. The Tritons marched into a lead, building a four-point

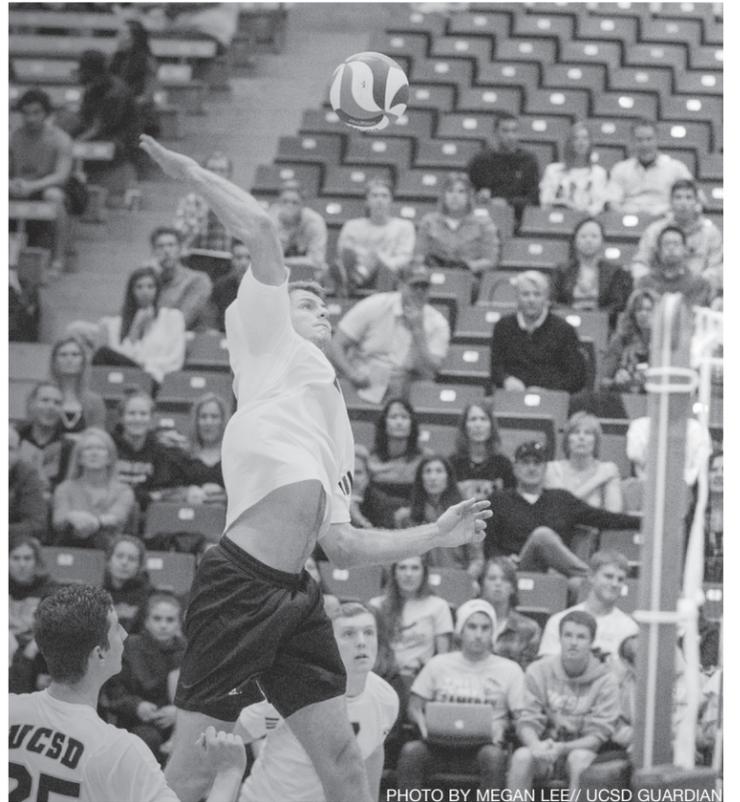


PHOTO BY MEGAN LEE / UCSD GUARDIAN

advantage at 16-12 after a service ace and kill from junior outside hitter Kirill Rudenko. But at 19-15, a six-point flurry for BYU gave the Cougars a sudden 21-19 lead and enabled them to win the match 25-21.

Once again, La Mont's performance proved to be a positive for the Tritons as he, for the second game in a row, led the match in kills.

Despite the disappointment, UCSD head coach Kevin Ring took the ability of his team's service as a bright spot.

"Maybe the best thing we did

here all weekend was we served really well," Ring said. "This is a tough place to serve. You're serving at altitude. We were able to keep our service errors to a minimum while still serving tough. We're going to need that the remainder of the season."

UCSD now begins a four-match run of home games starting against non-conference Concordia University Irvine this Friday, Feb. 6 at RIMAC Arena at 7 p.m.

READERS CAN CONTACT
LIAM LEAHY LLEAHY@UCSD.EDU

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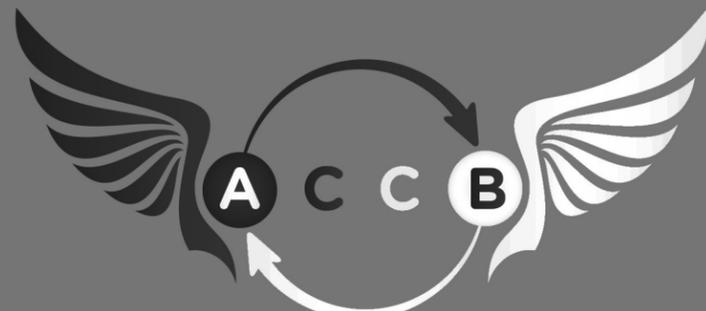
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SPORTS

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UPCOMING
UCSD
GAMES

Baseball	2/06	VS Colorado Mesa
M. Basketball	2/06	AT Chico State
W. Basketball	2/06	AT Chico State
Softball	2/07	VS St. Martin's
W. Water Polo	2/07	VS Triton Invitational

BASEBALL

TRITONS DOMINATE OPENER

No. 15 UCSD debuts new Triton ballpark in perfect start against Western Oregon.



BY JOHN STORY ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR // PHOTO BY SIDDHARTH ATRE

After a long offseason, the No. 15 nationally ranked UCSD baseball team opened its 2015 season with a four-game sweep of Western Oregon University in the new Triton Ballpark last Sunday through Tuesday. The 4-0 start is the best starting record for the Tritons since moving up to Division-II in 2001 and earned the 100th win for head coach Eric Newman.

Senior southpaw Trevor Scott and sophomore outfielder Jack Larsen were awarded the season's first weekly California Collegiate Athletic Association Honors for their work in the series as well. It is the first time both players have been recognized with the award.

Scott started on the mound for the first game of Sunday's doubleheader and threw six frames straight with four hits, no walks and no runs allowed in what would be a 4-0 UCSD shutout victory. Larsen broke out on offense in the same game, getting three hits out of four appearances at the plate to include two doubles, two RBIs and a home run.

"It's a huge honor to be able to open as a senior in this ballpark," Scott told the UCSD Athletics Department. "This team is ready to rock 'n' roll, our lineup is very solid, our bullpen looks as solid as it ever has."

Redshirt freshman right-handed pitcher John Erhardt and senior left-hander Chad Rieser joined Scott on the mound for the 4-0 opener against the Wolves, marking the first time the new field saw action. Single runs from redshirt freshman left fielder Justin Flatt, sophomore center-fielder

Brandon Shirley and sophomore shortstop Tyler Howsley combined with Larsen's homer to produce the Tritons' four runs. Scores came in pairs with two coming in the fifth and another two scored the seventh frame.

Howsley was the first Triton to cross the plate in the 2015 campaign and in the new ballpark as he tallied a run off Shirley's double in the fifth.

UCSD powered past the Wolves 8-3 in the second game with five of those runs tallied in the second inning alone. Junior right-hander Alon Leichman faced 21 batters across four frames with six hits, three runs and three strikeouts before being replaced by senior right-hander Javier Carrillo Jr. for the final two innings. Carrillo faced nine batters and finished the game with two hits and no runs.

Monday's 12-5 win in the third game of the Western Oregon series marked Newman's 100th victory since he took the reigns of the program four years ago.

"Right now, we're playing well," Newman told the UCSD Athletics Department. "The guys have really bought in to what we're trying to do. The lineup is working together, they're seeing pitches, they're working for each other, they're passing the at-bats along and that just allows us to get into that rhythm and flow offensively."

Senior first-baseman Michael Mann hit a bases-loaded triple in the

See **BASEBALL**, page 11

FENCING

Fencing Competes at Illinois

UCSD competed against the country's top Division-I schools over the weekend at the Northwestern Duals.

BY GURKIRAT SINGH
STAFF WRITER

The UCSD men's and women's fencing teams faced off against some of the very best Division-I squads from across the country this past Saturday and Sunday at the Northwestern Duals in Evanston, Illinois.

"We liked that we all got experience and that they were up to the challenge and were able to be exposed to that level of D-I schools," UCSD assistant coach Josh Runyan said. "The whole team grew from facing such quality opponents."

The Tritons women's squad faced off against top-ranked schools such as No. 1 Notre Dame University, No. 3 Princeton, No. 5 Ohio State, No. 6 University of Pennsylvania, No. 9 Northwestern University and No. 10 Temple University.

The Tritons women competed in 14 matches overall and went 6-8 throughout the weekend. UCSD finished with strong victories against Wayne State (23-4), Stanford (15-12), Fairleigh Dickinson University (15-12), Lawrence

University (19-8), Cleveland State (22-5) and Detroit Mercy University (22-5).

Their eight defeats came from the hands of the following teams: Air Force (15-12), University of North Carolina (17-10), Pennsylvania (23-4), Ohio State (19-8), Notre Dame (21-6), Northwestern (21-6), Princeton University (21-6) and Temple (15-12).

The women's sabre came out positive with a 67-59 mark, and the epee followed suit as they posted up a positive 66-60 mark. However, the foil fell to a negative overall with a 51-75 mark.

The men's squad also faced off against formidable opponents with competition including No. 2 Notre Dame, No. 3 Ohio State, No. 7 Princeton and No. 8 Penn. The Tritons men's squad competed in 12 matches in total and went an even 6-6 over the weekend.

The Tritons won against the competing squads from the following schools: Air Force (16-11), Wayne State University (18-9), Cleveland State University (22-5), Detroit Mercy (23-4), Lawrence



PHOTO BY ERIKA JOHNSON / GUARDIAN FILE

(20-7) and Northwestern (21-6). The other six teams they lost to were Ohio State (18-9), Notre Dame (19-8), Penn (18-9), Princeton (16-11), Stanford (19-8) and North Carolina (17-10).

The men's foil pulled victorious with a 65-43 record, the epee also followed through with a powerful record of 65-44, but the sabre fell with a negative record of 46-62.

Freshman foilist David Hadler had arguably the best weekend of all Tritons as he consistently performed well against higher-ranked teams, posting a 22-5 record in his bouts.

"He is one of these guys who gained experience and he was able to come out and perform against these top teams," Runyan told the UCSD Guardian.

Next, the UCSD fencing squads

will host the Intercollegiate Fencing Conference of Southern California Duals this Saturday, Feb. 7 beginning at 2:45 p.m.

"We are looking forward to facing Arizona," Runyan said. "Arizona has a very good team and will be our toughest challenge but we will be ready for it."

READERS CAN CONTACT
GURKIRAT SINGH GSINGH@UCSD.EDU