

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN

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The Student Voice Since 1967



I-House Opens Doors to Domestic Overflow

Apartment cramps at Eleanor Roosevelt College force officials to bunk surplus with international students.

By Smruti Aravind
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

International House has long maintained a reputation as UCSD's multi-cultural, ultra-social metropolis. However, that reputation may be threatened this year by an unlikely source — the Eleanor Roosevelt College sophomore.

While the addition of extra bunks to triple up freshman dorms was able to accommodate last year's enormous freshman class, the college's apartments have not been as successful, with sophomores insured by housing contracts spilling over into I-House.

The ERC Residence Life Office estimates that this year, out of the 146 American students living in Asante, Cuzco and Kathmandu Halls, an unprecedented 80 — more than 54 percent of the total American population in I-House — are sophomores.



JACLYN SNOW/GUARDIAN

An unprecedented number of ERC sophomores now live in International House (pictured). Sophomores comprise 54 percent of I-House's American residents.

Although still required to complete I-House applications, sophomores were judged separately from juniors and were not in competition with each other, I-House Director Christi Gilhoi said.

Apart from class level, this year's I-House population has witnessed other demographic changes. While

Gilhoi said the number of international and American students is kept close to 50 percent, the 103 international students living in I-House this year comprise only 41 percent of its population. Last year, international students outnumbered Americans by 6 percent.

The decline in foreign students

and increase in sophomores has also affected the average age of the I-House population. Generally, students living in I-House tend to be older than other students living on campus. However, the average age of current residents is 20, and a

See **I-HOUSE**, page 7

POLICY COULD CHANGE 'A-G' REQS

By Neda Oreizy
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The University of California Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools recently developed a policy that seeks to change decades-old eligibility requirements in order to better reflect the state's population.

The policy is currently under review by Academic Senate committees at each UC campus. Any identified problems will be aggregated at the systemwide B.O.A.R.S. Committee in Oakland on Dec. 7, before going to the Academic Assembly and landing on the UC president's desk for the UC Board of Regents' approval.

The state's 1960 Master Plan for Education specifies that the UC system draw from the top one-eighth of high school seniors for its fresh-

See **ELIGIBILITY**, page 3

Court Backs \$33.8-Million Judgment on UC Grad Fees

By Nathan Miklos
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A state appeals court ruled that the University of California must pay \$33.8 million in damages to professional school students whose student fees were unexpectedly increased in 2003.

The Nov. 2 ruling by San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren rejected the university's appeal of the 2006 *Kashmiri v. Regents* class-action decision, which found that several thousand students at UC Berkeley and UCLA were entitled to damages after the UC Board of Regents raised professional degree fees by 30 percent in 2003 and a similar amount in 2004, despite offering promises that fees would not be increased for continuing students.

Additionally, professional students whose educational fees (which are separate from degree fees) were increased after receiving billing statements are eligible for compensation.

Affected students may receive anywhere from a little over a hundred dollars to several thousand dollars, depending on their specific campus and degree programs. Including interest, the total cost to the university is nearly \$40 million.

The ruling applies only to UC students enrolled before December

2002. Promotional materials for the university from 1994 to that date — including the UC Office of the President Web site, the university's annual budget reports and the catalog for UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law — contain statements that professional degree fees will remain the same for the duration of a student's enrollment, and that fee increases will affect only new students.

The plaintiffs, eight UC alumni who filed suit on behalf of all affected students, argued that the 2003 fee hikes were a violation of those guarantees.

The university countered that all fee advertisements — including those presented by the plaintiffs — contain a general disclaimer that fees may be increased at any time. However, the 2003 fee increases came after billing statements had already been mailed. In its decision, the court wrote that the disclaimer could not apply to fees that had already been assessed.

"If we were to permit the university's disclaimer to permit it to raise the fees at any time without providing the students with any notice, even after students have paid their bills, this would lead to absurd results," the court opinion said.

The decision comes after a long

See **LAWSUIT**, page 3

'Loft' to Bring Nightlife to Price Center

Nightclub will bring acts to campus several days of the week. Campus officials tout its social, alternative feel.

By Vanessa Do
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Loft, a highly anticipated element of Price Center's ongoing expansion, is expected to open by Spring Quarter 2008. The nightclub is designed to give the campus community a place to socialize and relax in a venue that is unlike any other at UCSD, complete with a wine and tapas bar.

The Loft is being constructed beside Price Center's new main entrance, and will be located on the second floor. It will also have floor-to-ceiling glass windows so passersby can see inside and patrons can look out at the view of the Myers Loop — which will eventually be a park — and the grand staircase of the new Price Center.

"The words we're using to describe the Loft are 'performance crossroads and social lounge,'" University Events Office Director Martin Wollesen said. "We want to create a space where we have everything from rock-and-roll, a late-night DJ, jazz, spoken word to film festivals. It's a way to check out something different every night."

Wollesen said that Loft patrons



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY EVENTS OFFICE

An artist's rendering of the Loft, which is a performance space planned as part of the campus' multi-million dollar Price Center Expansion. The Loft is meant as a center for night life, and will include a wine bar.

will first enter a vestibule and then arrive at bar and restaurant seating. Customers can relax at the bar but still turn to face the stage, a lounge area with a cabaret-style setup. University Centers Director Paul Terzino said the Loft's entrance will face the new social space, located beside the Cross-Cultural Center.

"When you walk out of the Loft, you can see great artwork on the wall," he said. "It's in the perfect location. It will be right above the atrium and there will be an open feel with lighting from all the windows."

Both Terzino and Wollesen stressed the importance of the cosmopolitan and urban feel they hope the Loft will provide its patrons. They said they had always planned for the

nightclub to be a social oncampus space that promoted interactivity.

"An idea we have is an iPod jukebox," Wollesen said. "Students can put in their own playlists or can enter their own music. We also are thinking of taking photos of students who walk in and projecting it on a screen for the day, or putting blank books on tables for people can come, contribute and leave a legacy, in a way."

Wollesen said he hopes to book programming four to six nights a week. Although funding has not yet been reserved for recruiting talent, ArtPower! has scheduled the Tentacle Sessions and FilmPower! has scheduled the Teeny Tiny

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HIATUS

Saturday Night Fever

Of Montreal will headline a glam dance party at Mandeville, alongside Grand Buffet and MGMT.

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SPORTS

New Beginnings

No. 10 women's basketball starts its season with a win in Disney's West Coast Tip-Off Classic.

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CURRENTS

UC Dominates White House's Science Awards

Six UC researchers were honored with the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers at a White House ceremony on Nov. 1, making University of California the recipient of more awards than any other institution.

John Marburger III, President George W. Bush's science adviser and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, presented the honors to 58 scientists and engineers. The awards recognize exceptional leadership potential at the outset of the recipient's professional scientific career.

The award, established in 1996, includes research funding for a maximum of five years to support critical government missions. It is the highest honor the U.S. government bestows on scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Recipients are nominated annually by nine federal departments and agencies.

UCSD's Brian Keating, assistant professor of physics, and Katerina Akassoglou, assistant professor of pharmacology, were among this year's award recipients for their work in astrophysics and molecular and cellular mechanisms, respectively.

"We take great pride in the University of California scholars who have been recognized by these awards," UC President Robert C. Dynes said in a press release. "They are making valuable contributions to scientific discovery in an exciting range of fields, and we look forward with great anticipation to their con-

tinued accomplishments."

Inflammation Leads to Diabetes, Not Obesity

A recent study conducted by researchers at the UCSD School of Medicine found that inflammation provoked by immune cells called macrophages causes insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes. The discovery may break ground in novel drug development to fight the epidemic of Type 2 diabetes associated with obesity.

It has been theorized in recent years that chronic, low-grade tissue inflammation related to obesity, the world's most prevalent metabolic disease, contributes to insulin resistance, the major cause of Type 2 diabetes. The research, which utilizes mouse models, proved that disabling the macrophage inflammatory pathway prevents insulin resistance and the resultant Type 2 diabetes.

The findings of the research team, led by Michael Karin, professor of pharmacology, and Jerrold Olefsky, distinguished professor of medicine and associate dean for scientific affairs, will be published as the feature article in the Nov. 7 issue of Cell Metabolism.

"Our research shows that insulin resistance can be disassociated from the increase in body fat associated with obesity," Olefsky said in a press release. "We aren't suggesting that obesity is healthy, but indications are promising that, by blocking the macrophage pathway, scientists may find a way to prevent the Type 2 diabetes not linked to obesity and fatty livers."

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Council Sees 'Fabulous' End to Talk of Parking and S.P.A.C.E.S.

Last night's council meeting opened with a special presentation from the Board of Directors of S.P.A.C.E.S., the Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Services.

The presentation began with a reference to the 1996 passage of Proposition 209 that banned the use of affirmative action by public institutions in California. According to the directors' presentation, S.P.A.C.E.S. aims to maintain diversity in California's public higher education system and assist continuing UCSD students in making it to graduation and graduate school.

In the spirit of ensuring diversity on campus, S.P.A.C.E.S. plans to promote UCSD to middle school and high school students at admissions information sessions. The directors also hope to advertise the junior-transfer program on community college campuses to encourage more underrepresented students to enroll at UCSD by hosting an overnight program for minority admitted students this spring.

The organization was created this year because of funding secured through the Promoting Understanding and Learning through Service and Education referendum. It was approved by 56 percent of voters last year and added \$7 to the quarterly campus activity fee.

According to the presentation, S.P.A.C.E.S. will be spending a sizable portion of its funds this year to buy supplies to furnish its office-to-be in the new Price Center. Next year, more funding will be freed up, allowing the group to hire mentors and advisers.

Regular business resumed after the special presentation, but didn't give rise to any substantive debates.

Earl Warren College Senator **Peter Benesch** explained the importance of addressing parking concerns.

"Demand will be out of control by 2010," he said. According to Benesch, three different locations for new parking structures are under consideration.

He described the possible locations by verbalizing an invisible mid-air map of UCSD and waving his fingers through the John Muir, Revelle, and Sixth College campuses to indicate the relative positions of the proposed structures. Benesch reported that the sites for the Muir and Revelle garages were about one inch away on his air map, but was unable to provide a scale for the map to the council.

During question time, Benesch asked Vice President of Student Life **Donna Bean** about the rescheduling of the Nov. 30 Bear Garden. According to Bean, the first Bear Garden earlier this year was rescheduled at the last minute to start at 3 p.m., instead of 1 p.m., because Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs **Penny Rue** expressed concern that the greater number of students on campus at the earlier time would lead to more students skipping class for the free beer.

November's Bear Garden was briefly cancelled due to conflicts over scheduling before negotiations with Rue led it to be revived for Nov. 30 with a 2 p.m. start time.

If the talk of parking garages and event scheduling threatened to become too dull, Thurgood Marshall College Senator **Kyle Samia** came to the rescue with his proposal to form a task force to explore the possibility of holding a "fabulous parade" at UCSD next year. He did not elaborate on his plans to meld marching and fabulousity.

Cutbacks on School Funding Predicted

► **LAWSUIT**, from page 1

period of tight state budgets and ever-increasing student fees, particularly for graduate and professional students. At Boalt, for example, the professional degree fee — only one component of student fees — more than doubled between the 2002 and 2005 academic years, increasing from \$6,000 in 2002 to over \$15,000 in 2005.

Professional fees at all UC schools saw a temporary two-year hike in 2005, when the regents narrowly approved a fee increase to recoup losses after a preliminary injunction in the *Kashmiri* case prohibited the university from charging increased professional degree fees.

"Essentially, the UC Board of Regents would be imposing a fee increase to compensate for the losses incurred by a lawsuit over a previous fee increase," Berkeley's *Daily Californian* wrote in a 2005 editorial. "The irony is simply staggering."

Though UC fee increases have tapered off in recent years, unexpectedly low state revenue may lead the state Legislature to slash education spending in the very near future. On Nov. 5, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger already asked state agencies to reduce budgets by 10 percent.

The university is considering another appeal of the *Kashmiri* ruling.

"We are disappointed with the ruling," UC spokesman Ricardo Vazquez told the *San Jose Mercury News*, adding that university attorneys "are really carefully looking at the opinion."

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New Business

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Proposed Policy Eliminates SAT II Requirements

► **ELIGIBILITY**, from page 1
man class and encompass "the broad diversity of backgrounds characteristic of California."

According to Hans Paar, the chair of the Committee on Admissions in the UCSD Academic Senate, 30 percent of students admitted come from the top 10 percent of ranked schools in California, while few are from the bottom 10 percent.

"We're not following the directive well," Paar said. "This is not what the regents want."

The proposed policy suggests changing eligibility standards by leaving selection up to individual campuses. The most significant changes are an elimination of the SAT II Subject Test requirement and the eligibility index, which creates a combined GPA and SAT score minimum to apply. While eligibility in the local context — the top 4 percent of each high school class as determined by the University of California — will remain unaffected, no other applicants will be guaranteed admission based on the statewide eligibility criteria.

"As far as applicants are concerned, virtually everything else remains unchanged," B.O.A.R.S. Committee Chair Mark Rashid said in an e-mail. "The SAT Subject Exam scores have been seen to contribute negligibly to UC's ability to predict who will do well at UC (as measured by freshman GPA)."

The new standards for eligibility, known as "entitled to review," require that seniors take 11 of the 15 "a-g" courses, maintain at least a 2.8 GPA and submit SAT or ACT plus writing scores. This would permit 1.5 percent of California high school students who were previously ineligible to apply, Paar said. While more students would have the opportunity to apply, the number admitted would remain the same.

"Our impression of how [the UC campuses] admit students is more people would be eligible, but I don't

think more people will be admitted," said Lori Walls, an Esperanza High School counselor. "There's still a numbers problem."

Paar said that three of the four committees at UCSD designated to examine the policy have reviewed the changes and identified some negative aspects of the policy — particularly regarding the loss of guaranteed admissions for all eligible students. The practice has provided a referral pool for applicants who were rejected by every UC campus to which they applied, which allows other schools,

This would increase the diversity at UCSD. That's what it's all about."

— Linda Doughty, director, California Student Opportunity and Access Program

typically UC Riverside and UC Merced, to offer the qualified candidates a space in their own freshman class. However, Paar said, few students — only 6 percent — accept the offer, since they didn't apply to the school to which they were offered admission.

"We cannot force students to wish to come to UC, just by altering admissions policies," Rashid said. "What we can do and must do is formulate those policies so that they are as fair as possible. UC has a responsibility to do the best job it can at identifying who, among the state's high school graduates, are truly the most deserving of UC admission."

As for the impact on UCSD, there would be an estimated 1.5 percent increase in the number of applications.

"The change in volume is very much unknown," Vice Chancellor of

Admissions Mae W. Brown said. "We would look at each file comprehensively."

Technically, admissions offices at each UC campus could decide to keep their higher standards, Paar said. However, it allows students who would have been otherwise very close to being eligible to apply. This particularly affects schools that do not offer enough "a-g" courses or counseling to inform students of UC eligibility requirements.

"Students with lower [socioeconomic status] are more likely to be ineligible despite having high academic achievement; the hope is that the proposed policy would encourage such students to apply," Rashid said. "They would then be assessed along with everyone else via campus-based comp[rehensive] review."

Paar said he agrees with Rashid, although he said that there's no exact way of knowing how much of an impact the proposed policy would have. However, the possible changes still resonate with high school students who would be affected if the regents adopt the policy.

"It would be more competitive," said Veeral Patel, a senior at Valencia High School who is currently applying to UC campuses. "It might be harder to get into elite schools like [UC] Berkeley, UCLA and UCSD."

The policy would have a "grandfathering clause," Paar said, which would provide two to three years to be fully adopted. And its overall impact could be very important.

"The group that benefits the most are students that are ethnic specific and students who are low-income specific," California Student Opportunity and Access Program Director Linda Doughty said. "This would increase the diversity at UCSD. That's what it's all about."

Readers can contact **Neda Oreizy** at hineda@gmail.com.

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'Loft' Will Center on Food, Performance, Design

► **LOFT**, from page 1
Film Series in the Loft. However, Wollesen said the acts may have to find an alternate host if the Loft is not finished in time.

Registration Fee Advisory Committee Chair Garo Bournoutian said the Loft is still in the process of gathering funding. Last year, registration fees provided about \$86,000 in one-time funds to cover costs for lighting equipment in the new space. This year's funding process has just begun, however, and allocations will not be finalized until late spring.

The projected annual budget for the Loft's programming is \$168,000 to \$200,000, and funding support for both permanent staffing and student staffing is about \$150,000.

"[The budget] may seem like a lot, but when you compare four to six nights a week of concerts and events for a year to what is spent on one day of Sun God, it is really a great investment," Wollesen said.

Once completed, the Loft will have three central aspects — food, performances and the physical design — and will have space for approximately 150 to 250 people to exhibit an intimate, social feel, Wollesen said.

The nightclub's restaurant follows the basic concept of a wine and tapas bar, with a menu that will change every few nights and feature food that will promote interactivity, such as wine, cheese or chocolate tastings. Additionally, the restaurant

“The Loft won't feel like other parts of the university, so it has its own unique character.”

— Martin Wollesen, director, University Events Office

will have larger food portions to promote sharing with other people.

"Everything will be social and interactive so people can experience food, beverages, performances, and be in a social setting," Wollesen said.

Wollesen said he wants to implement a "pay as you can" system, instead encouraging donations for performances. There may be a sug-

gested contribution amount to support the artists, depending on how much funding the Loft will receive.

"If you can contribute something, great, if not, that's okay," he said. "Most people will recognize that if it is something good, people can contribute when they can. I'd rather give people the opportunity to attend, rather than not go because they think 'oh, it's too expensive, I don't want to do it. We don't want price to be either a perceived or real barrier for students who want to explore something new."

The Loft's physical design is currently being coordinated by Bells and Whistles, a local husband-and-wife design team that has worked on a few San Diego clubs, including the Starlite Lounge on India Street. Wollesen said the pair will assist in making the space feel less institutionalized than the rest of campus.

"The Loft won't feel like other parts of the university, so it has its own unique character," Wollesen said. "When it opens, it will be the only venue like it in the UTC area."

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

Students Gripe About I-House's RSO Presence

► **I-HOUSE**, from page 1
majority of students are 19 years old.

"Last year all of us were 21 by the end of the year," said Revelle College senior Joshua Ocegueda, who has lived in I-House for the last two years. "Having younger people definitely changes the atmosphere."

Gilhoi said the goal of I-House is to achieve a mixture of represented countries and ages to create a snapshot of the world.

Despite the age disparity, she said that resident advisers have indicated that turnout for I-House events has almost doubled in comparison to last year, with the increased participation mostly coming from American students.

"I would say the challenge is getting international students involved," she said.

While many international students said they attend cultural events, such as European Culture Night, some said the social scene has not lived up to their expecta-

tions. Revelle College junior Josephine Pheron, an exchange student from France, said she was disappointed not by the residents of I-House, but

“Whenever there are more underage students, a little extra care is necessary.”

— Christi Gilhoi, director, International House

by its stricter policies. "Most parties are shut down by 11 [p.m.]," she said. "In the beginning of the year, international students who lived off campus would come to I-House for the social life, but now they think, 'What's the point?'"

The constant presence of resi-

dential security officers this year is another change that may be related to the larger sophomore population, Gilhoi said.

"Whenever there are more underage students, a little extra care is necessary," she said.

While Gilhoi did not know why more RSOs have been patrolling I-House this year, she said that some RSOs likely remember the "troublemakers" from freshman dorms last year, and feel obliged to "check up on them" this year.

However, not everyone said they were dismayed by the younger, more sober I-House.

ERC sophomore Liam Boogar, an 18-year-old American student, said the changes are "a step up from anywhere else on campus."

Gilhoi said this year's changes are temporary.

"We don't expect to have large numbers of sophomores next year," she said.

Readers can contact Smruti Aravind at saravind@ucsd.edu.

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Props to the state auditor who called for the CSU Board of Trustees to tighten control over "questionable compensation" for the university system's executives.

Flops to the UC Board of Regents for its continued closed-door policy involving student input in the appointment of the next UC President.



EDITORIALS

Sophomore Overflow in I-House Detracts From Cultural Mission

When Marye Anne Fox kicked off her career as UCSD's chancellor three years ago, she brought with her a series of ambitious plans for growth to ebb the campus' burgeoning housing problems. Among the aspirations was a desire to, one day, house half of all UCSD students. But as campuswide overcrowding woes continue to pester the administration, significant advances in housing have been few and far between — and many have been beyond Fox's control.

These shortcomings were most recently apparent as Eleanor Roosevelt College struggled to house its oversized sophomore class. With space in apartments scarce, administrators were forced to shuffle many of the extra students into International House — UCSD's exchange-student housing unit that boasts a dedication to world cultures and diversity.

While I-House does typically board non-international students, these undergraduates undergo a fairly competitive application process, during which their commitment to participate in multi-cultural activities while living in I-House is evaluated.

This year, however, nearly half of the spots usually reserved for American students were filled by sophomores who were forced from apartment assignments because of space constraints.

The changes' effects are already being felt by some of the non-overflow students who have complained of a diminished atmosphere as a



JASON CHIEM/GUARDIAN

result of the added sophomores — and rightfully so. The extra students detract from the original mission of the project, which was to boost global awareness at UCSD.

Though the issue may be small in proportion to the campus' overall housing concerns, it underscores a stunning failure of former Chancellor Robert C. Dynes' administration and spotlights the

incessant housing headaches that plague current campus officials, often preventing them from making significant headway.

Dynes' administration, which oversaw ERC's construction in 2003, should have anticipated the recent booms in student population before it began construction plans. Instead, only four years after its opening, the college is already struggling to

deliver on UCSD's two-year housing guarantee.

Clearly, the road ahead for campus housing is not quite as promising as Fox might like to have us think.

Rather, as has been the history for UCSD undergraduates, we should expect a patchwork of small successes and great failures in the future.

Full Plate in Store for New Associate VP of Student Services

With the appointment of a new AVP of Student Services coming next week, the A.S. Council will hopefully pluck the worthiest candidate of what Associate Vice President of Finance and Resources Sarah Chang calls an "extremely competitive" applicant pool to oversee the position's resurrection, following last year's extended vacancy. Chang's recommendation is Thurgood Marshall College sophomore Bianca Harlow, a Student Voice! affiliate who is "strongly involved" with Marshall's student organizations.

Harlow or not, on the appointee's resuscitation list are KSDT and SRTV, two student media bodies that collapsed last year. Luckily, the new AVP

won't be building from scratch: KSDT has freshly returned to the airwaves, while SRTV is moving into an upgraded facility with new equipment. There is much potential here; these student-run operations extol the flavors of alternative culture that this college lacks so sorely.

Also under the elected official's watch is A.S. Safe Ride, the council-sponsored service that transports stranded students. This service is due for operational expansion. However, improvements shouldn't be the imprudent kind: The new plan to include Thursday in the handy service's days of operation is a step to take years from now, when Safe Ride is more popular and heavily used. The new student

services leader should first find better publicity avenues to jumpstart Safe Ride usage while still maintaining the service's concept: encouraging safety and convenience. Safe Ride, at its best, could be this campus' most-used student service.

All this is more than a full plate for whoever the council elects. The incoming AVP will need to exude communication and a serving spirit. He or she should expect to develop a good rapport with the council's services, and be innovative enough to identify ways to extend the services' reach.

If the council occupies the position with a stagnant figurehead, it will reap the same result as last year: nothing.

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See **PRINT**, page 5

Academic Fixation Encourages Political Apathy on Campus

By Jake Blanc
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

STUDENT LIFE — The U.S. occupation of Iraq has led to over 4,000 American deaths and roughly 30,000 injuries. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died and millions are homeless. Spending on the war so far has been over \$461 billion. On Oct. 27, over 100,000 people marched throughout the nation to protest the war in Iraq, and despite a demonstration held in downtown San Diego, UCSD students seemed oblivious.

The campus administration is threatening to carve up the campus into sections where the First Amendment can be practiced, yet there has been very little student mobilization against this horrific act of autocracy. Political activism and an overall sense of global awareness are in short supply on campus. Is there some innate characteristic in UCSD students that leads them into apathy?

UCSD is home to over 190 student organizations, but only 13 of them are officially categorized as "political," and only a handful more deal with any type of activism or social consciousness. Although some students might be happily surprised to simply find out that 13 of these organizations exist, the number embarrasses in comparison to other universities around the country. Macalester College, a small university with under 2,000 undergraduate students nestled in cozy St. Paul, Minn. has created 16 student orgs of its own that enhance social awareness and promote radical change. Why don't Tritons seem to care?

A quick trip over to the UCSD Bookstore shines some light on the issue. For sale are license plate frames that read: "UCSD — the Smart Ones." This is not some student-made joke but an officially licensed school product, one that represents the administration's chosen image of the student body. As one of the top research insti-

tutions in the nation and one of the most prestigious public universities, it would be easy for UCSD to depend on its academic excellence as an excuse for its apolitical persona. But a look to its northern neighbor UC Berkeley undercuts any of UCSD's lame justifications for political inaction. As little as UCSD students want to admit it, UC Berkeley is a more celebrated university for both academics and activism.

In the 1960s, Berkeley rode the wave of radical thought emanating from San Francisco, and still has a prevalent activist movement today. Founded during the '60s — a time of immense social and political upheaval — UCSD originally did have foundations in political dissent. The campus should be proud of its political roots and look to its once-proud activist community as motivation to revive its current one. UC Berkeley holds claim to the Free Speech Movement and Mario Savio's bold speech on top of a police car, but few are aware of UCSD's

own historical protests, including that of George Winne, a 23-year-old graduate student who set himself on fire in the middle of Revelle Plaza in protest of the Vietnam War.

The potential for successful activism on the UCSD campus is evident, yet since its once-proud days of dissent, the school has focused more on promoting its science departments. And that focus has led to less student participation in social studies, helping cultivate today's political lull.

In 2006, 17 percent of graduating students received a degree in biology and 14 percent in engineering, compared to only 2 percent in history. Unlike UC Berkeley, UCSD has surrendered its intellectual curiosity to the social responsibility of becoming a top-notch research university, while UC Berkeley has been able to develop its academic reputation simultaneously with an active student body. UCSD cares more about pumping out famous doctors and award-winning research-

Writers' Strike Spells Doom for Primetime Television

The Writers Guild of America sucks. Not to mention it's anti-American.

Usually I sit back and adoringly watch its witty sitcoms and goey dramas as the writer's union invents new love triangles for McDreamy, McSteamy and the rest of the McCast and the rest of "Grey's Anatomy." I tune



All That's Fit to Print

Natasha Naraghi
nnaraghi@ucsd.edu

in late nights to watch Jay Leno and John Stewart ridicule political leaders and cracked-out celebs.

But alas, those days ended Nov. 5 when close to 12,000 WGA members took to the nation's streets to protest their lack of royalties for online media.

Of course, writers — myself reluctantly included — would like you to think they're hardcore, that they live life on the edge and that on the weekends they're skydivers, mountain bikers and rock climbers. But compared to truckers, mine workers and firefighters — all of whom are also unionized — they're featherweights.

It was no surprise then, that when writers launched their crusade earlier this week, their performance was underwhelming. They were calling it a strike, but it looked more like a mid-morning powwow for the fuzz: Striking writers sipped coffee, ate donuts and feigned superiority; the only difference was that they weren't fat.

With BlackBerry devices and picket signs in hand, they paraded the streets as more of a spectacle than a strike.

They blew a major chance at resolution on the evening of Nov. 4, when negotiators for both sides were hashing out demands. Despite active bargaining on the West Coast among Hollywood writers and studio officials, East Coast union members went ahead with their plans to strike when the clock struck mid-

See **PRINT**, page 5

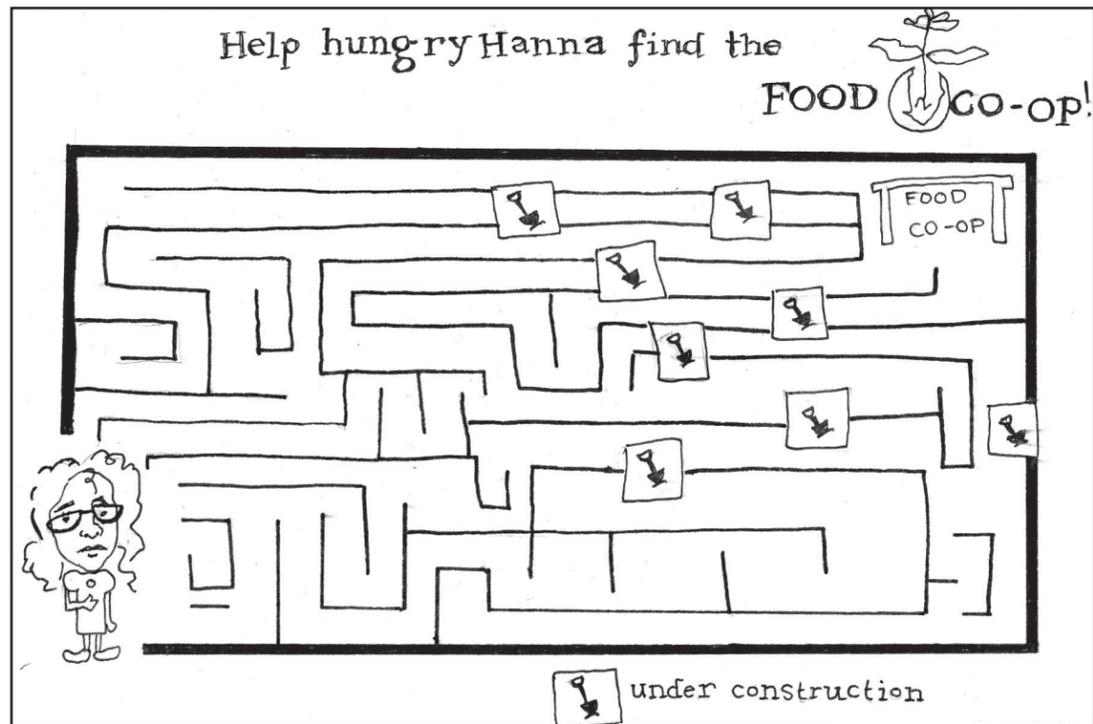
ers than motivating its students to take an active role in society. One of the best programs at UCSD, Thurgood Marshall College's Dimensions of Culture, had lost touch with its original intentions of igniting students into global debates and action, and needed two outspoken teaching assistants to make the school realize its fall from grace.

Meanwhile, Berkeley activists have again made national headlines, this time with the noble exploits of the tree sitters. A group of Berkeley students have taken up residence in an oak tree for almost a year now, proclaiming that they will not leave the tree until the university promises to shelve plans to uproot the tree and many others in order to renovate its football stadium. The university has not yet legally or forcibly removed the environmental squatters from the tree. The school's more lenient policies toward campus activism exemplify a more enlightened

See **ACTIVISM**, page 6

A DROP FROM THE INKWELL

By Priscilla Lazaro



A Strike? Who Cares, Just Give Me My TV Back

► **PRINT**, from page 4 night Nov. 5.

Although Nick Counter, the studios' chief negotiator, urged the union members to postpone the walkout and continue negotiations, writers carried out plans the following day to put primetime television on hold.

I couldn't help but take offense. Do they not realize the gravity of their morning mutiny? Primetime entertainment for millions of Americans is at stake and the instigators are sans a plot for their own daytime drama. These are *writers* for god's sake; couldn't they have just scripted their strike ahead of time?

Instead, they went along making a mockery of themselves and their fellow writers with scattered chants and a severe lack of organization. In doing so they've slighted not only *us*, the groupies who tune in week after week to watch their skills at work, but also the hundreds of make-up artists, set decorators, costume designers and camera crews who are now temporarily out of work.

Indeed, the WGA writers, many of whom earn a mere \$30,000 a year, do deserve the increased salaries that would come from the greedy studios' tycoons if they agreed to pay the picketers the requested 1.2 percent licensing fee for online shows.

Granted, there are the few lucky

show creators and blockbuster screenwriters who rake in more than a million a year, but these folks are few and far between. So of course I support them collecting money from slimy network and studio moguls. But honestly, why the haphazard approach with so much at stake?

This is America, guys. Primetime

Entertainment for millions of Americans is at stake and the instigators are sans a plot for their own daytime drama."

television is like a family staple. You can't just go around cutting people off cold turkey whenever you feel like it or there might be *another* angry mob on strike.

So for the sake of all that's good and true — continued fresh episodes of my favorite primetime programs — I'm begging you studio execs, give them what they want. If not for their welfare, then for mine and for that of the American people that are being frightfully neglected throughout this whole debacle.

They can't afford another strike of 1988, which lasted five months and subsequently boosted the notoriety of shows like "Cops."

A repeat of that lengthy strike would force networks to air replacement reality shows, a danger that would undoubtedly be detrimental to the state of the nation. We can only watch episodes of "America's Next Top Model" and "Pussy Cat Dolls Present" so many times before neighboring countries stop taking us seriously — assuming they haven't already.

And to be quite frank, I'm just not sure I can take any more drugged-out Paula Abdul, whose future celebrity now seems cemented, given the networks' need for filler shows.

FOX corporation executives have already indicated that if strikes continue through the holidays, we can expect to see the typical masses of atrocious singers that accompany the annoying TV sensation "American Idol" hit our screens in early January.

Five months away from devious housewives, mock doctors, pretend heroes and plane crash survivors would mean Americans would have to start reading, or better yet knitting. So please, studio barons, if you're listening, hand over the cash.

Is this desperate? Definitely. Lame? Perhaps. But, goddamnit, I want my television back.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

U.S. Needs Complete Nuclear Disarmament

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for printing the letter by Achraf Farraj, Leonor Tomero and Lt. Gen. Robert Gard. The authors rightly deny that the development of new nuclear weapons makes the United States any safer.

However, that letter conceded too much to the pro-nuke camp. Rather than insist on the complete, immediate and unconditional nuclear disarmament of the U.S., it only insisted that the U.S. stop developing new nuclear weapons.

The letter seems to suggest that nuclear weapons could have justifiably been developed and stored at one point in history. The authors wrote: "The Cold War is over and the threat of an all-out nuclear war with Russia has greatly diminished." That nuclear weapons were needed to counter the Russian threat is absurd. No action intended to destroy innocent life should ever be considered as a viable option.

A nuclear strike is a blatant use of indiscriminate force, and the threat to use it is a threat to murder numerous civilians. Nuclear deterrence is based on the idea that we can and should prevent one injustice by threatening to commit another. When the U.S. government maintains nuclear weapons as a deterrent, it issues a threat that differs only in quantity from the threats made by common terrorists.

Al Qaeda may kidnap a few innocent men and threaten to hack off their heads if the U.S. does not pull out of Iraq, or release female prisoners, by such-and-such date. The message is a clear one — "Do as we command, or we will kill these people."

The same message is delivered by the U.S. government; except that

when this government holds open the option to flatten an area of several square miles with a nuclear explosion, it says: "Do as we command, or we will instantly kill these thousands of people and mortally wound a 100,000 more, regardless of the fact that they are uninvolved civilians." Both Al Qaeda and the U.S. government threaten to kill innocent people; but the threat that the U.S. government issues is much greater than Al Qaeda's, and makes it a bigger terrorist than Al Qaeda.

The letter's authors attempt to cajole nukemongers by assuring them that the U.S. nuclear deterrent is "guaranteed for at least another 50 years." This assurance may comfort a warhawk, but it hardly comforts me. That we can retain for the next 50 years the ability to murder thousands at the push of a button can bring no comfort to anyone who fervently believes in the individual's fundamental right to live. It is good that Farraj, Tomero and Gard demand an end to the development of nuclear weapons. But their demand would have been much more principled if they had called for the immediate end of that threat whose very existence is immoral.

— **Isaiah Sage**
Revelle College senior

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On-Campus Activism Stifled by Lack of Student Concern

► **ACTIVISM**, from page 4
administration that UCSD officials should try to imitate. The thought of UCSD allowing a group of students to live in eucalyptus trees in protest of rainforest destruction is laughable.

By suffocating students with academic pressure, UCSD leaves its undergraduates with no choice but to attach a sink-or-swim approach to their college experience, giving them little time to focus on anything outside of their La Jolla bubble. Most UCSD students will argue that they have just as much academic pressure as UC Berkeley students, and it is that brand of anxiety that has forced the student body to use its undergraduate experience not as four years of intellectual discovery and glossy-eyed idealism, but as a premature departure into the *real* world. It is not that UC Berkeley students can better handle stress or are better at juggling both academics and social causes, it is just that UCSD students seem to have chosen to focus solely on the academic opportunities at hand.

It does not hurt that UC Berkeley's version of the A.S. Council, the Associated Students of the University of California, actively promotes student activism by distributing numerous grants of up to \$500 for student group events that promote global activism and community involvement. There is no reason why UCSD can't help promote student action by making funds more readily available to student organizations. The UCSD A.S. Council budgets roughly \$150,000 to all student organizations regardless of political leanings — about \$10,000 less than the total budget for the Sun God festival.

One of UCSD's most active student organizations over the last decade, Students of Economic Justice, was forced to disband last year partially due to lack of funds. The club had previously lobbied for, and succeeded in getting, all campus dining halls to agree to sell only fair-trade coffee, a global problem that the student organizers were able to bring to the forefront of students' political awareness. With vital student organizations unable to stay afloat, the campus' activist community will only continue to deteriorate. The task of making sure these student organizations are sufficiently funded, so they may spawn as much student action as possible, now rests on the shoul-

ders of UCSD administrators.

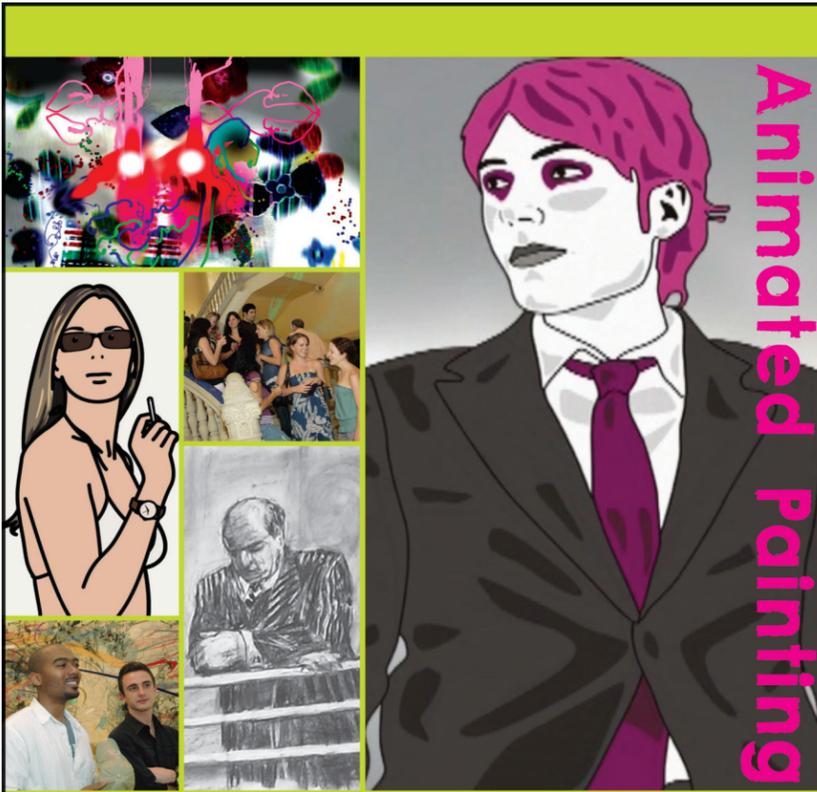
All of this is not to say that there are no activists on campus, or that there are no student organizations working tirelessly on very important causes. But power is in numbers, and for UCSD to be considered a mobilized campus the student body as a whole must make a more concentrated effort at change.

UCSD students are very intelligent and capable, and are therefore likely aware of problems that exist in the world. They may even have some desires to eradicate these problems. Occasionally these students will donate a dollar or two on Library Walk to different charities, but these donations give students a false sense of instigating real change, and only leave them feeling better about themselves and their role in the world. Donating to philanthropic organizations is a positive method of change, but it is more an appeasement of personal guilt than an attempt to improve the world. If the occasional charitable donation is the only manifestation of a student's desire to fix the world's atrocities, how can UCSD ever hope to achieve its supposed goal of encouraging students "to stand out from the crowd, to make a difference, to create an impact on the world," as the school's Web site so eloquently boasts?

Students need to realize that no matter how important their sheltered world of Geisel Library and endless chemistry labs may seem, these places and events are only temporary entities, and sooner or later they will have to leave UCSD behind and enter a world that is, in fact, much more ominous than a bad report card. Students devote so much of their time to preparing for a successful future, but their political inaction only increases the likelihood that their futures will be tarnished with the negative effects of indifference.

There are on-campus organizations dedicated to profound social change, but their low turnouts and drastically poor funding are indicators of the campus' lack of concern. This apathy must be overcome. Students must take the initiative and overturn UCSD's apolitical image. Most importantly, students need to realize that there are greater problems in the world — and UCSD needs to facilitate a path to this vital realization.

Readers can contact Jake Blanc at jblanc@ucsd.



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Program Images © SDMA, Artwork (Right) Ruth Gómez, still from *Animales de compañía* (detail), 2005. (Top left) Jeremy Blake, still from *Sodium Fox* (detail), 2005. (Bottom left) Julian Opie, still from *Ruth Smoking 3*, 2006. (Bottom right) William Kentridge, still from *Tide Table* (detail), 2003-04.



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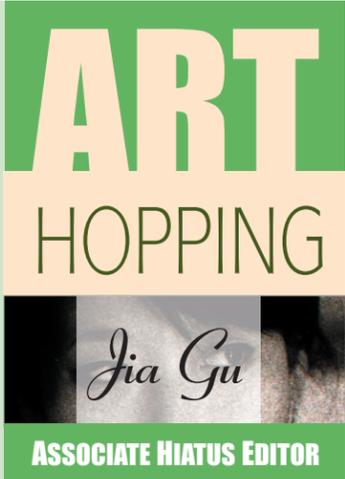
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- "Pray Together"
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Through Nov. 24

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Luis de Jesus Seminal Projects
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COURTESY OF SCOTT HORSLEY

New sculptural installations and photo-based collage works by Jason Sherry, and new line drawings by Scott Horsley opened Nov. 2 at the Luis de Jesus Seminal Projects gallery, one of San Diego's most provocative and progressive artistic spaces. Searching for the roots of human motivation, Sherry explores alchemist traditions within Western culture. Sherry (like the alchemist) turns a putrid topic to gold, using humor to explore the stages of human ignorance. Scott Horsley, a UCSD MFA candidate, exhibits epic works that depict — in Spartan black-and-white line drawings — a vast cast of characters. Seemingly nonsensical portrayals, like that of an octopus collapsed beside an erected scaffold or dozens of masked muggers battling each other, are endless readings of contemporary iconographies, including sex, violence and constructed masculinity.

See ART HOPPING, page 10

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THREE BIZARRE PRODUCTS OF DISCO TEACH UCSD SOME KILLER MOVES

BY CHRIS KOKIOUSIS
STAFF WRITER

When I look at you guys, all I see is sandwiches — delicious sandwiches," Jackson O'Connell-Barlow of Grand Buffet admitted to the Los Angeles crowd when the band opened for Of Montreal back in 2005 — and come Saturday, Nov. 10, they're back together at UCSD, along with glam Brooklynites MGMT. O'Connell-Barlow's bizarre interludes and kitchen-sink surrealist humor — touching on poignant topics like golden retrievers, tan lines and Bethlehem — spill over the synth-heavy hip-hop production of Jarrod Weeks, a.k.a. Lord Grunge, with whom he shares the stage.

New kids on the bill MGMT channel David Bowie's falsetto and '70s arena anthems through an electro-pop filter. Mystical rambler "Of Moons, Birds & Monsters" makes it easy to understand why founding members Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden signed a deal with Columbia after

only one EP. Now they're a touring five-piece, able to recreate their swooping pads, multi-track vocals and other space-jam ingredients in a live setting.

And then comes the sexually ambiguous climax. Kevin Barnes and his troupe of elegantly dressed bandmates make up Of Montreal, a set of near-twee, borderline A.D.D. Georgians who recently decided to go introspective and tragically glam, persuading a whole new wave of fans to jump on the gravy train. On old recordings, the band devised conceptual tracks with vaudevillian pace, detailing fictional characters like Mimi Merlot and Mr. Edminton. Highlights from this year's renowned *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?* like "She's a Rejector" shine with a metallic preci-

See GLAM, page 11

New
Cool 4 Old
SchoolBy Willy Staley
STAFF WRITER

Naming your rap group "The Cool Kids" is a bold move, without a doubt. First off, it doesn't sound like the name of a rap group. It almost seems like an ironic gesture, immediately calling to mind pathetic, whiny, androgynously tight-pantsed hipster rock, or some shit like that. Thing is, these Cool Kids mean it — they are cool, and they are acutely aware of what it means to be cool. To them, it's both a blessing and a burden.

"A Little Bit Cooler," from their new *Totally Flossed Out* EP, is practically an essay about what it means to be cool. "I'm about to say 'Screw it!' And grow a jheri curl/ Wear a diaper like cupid or/ Something else stupid and/ See if people do it," Mikey Rocks explains. "If they do then that proves it/ People are just losers/ And they'll do anything if someone cool do it/ But they won't do it first/ So I guess they not cool."

One would usually expect to hear such

cynical thoughts on being cool from a loser, but that certainly isn't the case with Mikey Rocks and Chuck English. In fact, they're cool as fuck. Not only can they rap, they can dress (what more could you ask for?) and then rap about how they dress — which is, for the most part, like it's anywhere between 1988 and 1993.

Vintage Starter jackets and hats aren't the only way the Cool Kids are bringing the '80s back. They also handle their own production, and only rap over stripped-down, 808-heavy beats reminiscent of Rick Rubin on old Run-DMC or Beastie Boys albums. They help us remember a rap world with no Scott Storch, no Timbaland and sure as hell no motherfucking Pharrell — because believe it or not, back then, rappers either handled their own production or had an in-house DJ, without a bunch of superstar producers on call for an instant hit. As a result, some old-school mainstreamers actually managed to have a sound of their own.

This homemade constant is the Cool Kids' saving grace, rescuing them from becoming just another pair of hipster-hoppers, or worse — dare I say — gimmick rappers. They love what they do, and are all the cooler for it.

The Cool Kids perform live with M.I.A. on Nov. 11 at Canes Bar & Grill in Mission Beach.

CHUCK ENGLISH'S
guide to being
cool

AS INTERVIEWED BY WILLY STALEY

CREWNECKS OR HOODIES?

FITTED OR STARTER HATS?

SKATEBOARDS OR BIKES?

HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL STRIPES?

DIDDY OR AL GORE?

KANYE OR 50?

2007 OR 1988?

"Some combination of the two would be best."

DUNKS OR AIR FORCES?

STREETWEAR OR VINTAGE?

FIXED GEAR OR FREEWHEEL BIKES?

BLONDES OR BRUNETTES?

NORCAL OR SOCAL?

"Both — I love the people up in NorCal, but I also love the weather down in SoCal."

Is San Diego cool? Answer honestly."

YEAH.

"Really?"

YEAH, MAN.

concert preview

BACKPACKER? GANGSTER? NOT GUILTY

By Andres Reyes
STAFF WRITER

Stones Throw stronghold Guilty Simpson is anything but easy listening. He attacks verses with a blunt attitude and equally crass delivery, and his lyrics sometimes border on violent and misogynistic. Yet Simpson is currently sitting on one of the most anticipated albums in underground hip-hop, due out in early 2008 on Stones Throw Records. His aggressively raw music speaks for itself — and when J Dilla, Wajeed, Madlib and D12's Mr. Porter are producing that music, it speaks volumes.

But Simpson is in no danger of being drowned out, neither in voice nor content — which makes sense, considering he comes from Detroit, whose disenfranchised inner-city neighborhoods (similar to most major urban clusters in the U.S.) are consciously reflected in Simpson's rhymes. "It's definitely music for the inner-city," he explained over the phone earlier this year. "You could still say my music is hood, but at the same time you could say it's definitely hip-hop, because it's lyric-driven."

We're always quick to throw labels on rappers, but it'd be a mistake to think of Simpson as either gangster or backpack. "I wanna be able to get

on someone that has some get-money music, and at the same time, be able to get with someone who's not stressing any of those things," he said.

So far, so good. Simpson's raps were featured heavily on J Dilla's *The Shining*; his indie label, Stones Throw Records, is quickly on the rise; and he's performing locally November 9th, as part of the Kava Lounge's monthly Get Live! series, hosted by Mr. Brady and Dannu of the Visionaries. Scheduled to perform alongside Simpson is fellow Motor City native DJ House Shoes — so look out, hip-hop and vinyl enthusiasts, because Shoes' crates run deep and he's been known to pull out the rare gem on a whim. Now this should be good.

Guilty Simpson & DJ House Shoes will perform live Nov. 9 at the Kava Lounge. Doors open at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$7.



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A Futile October Surge in the Media's War on Piracy

Apparently, the Man feels that if he's going to arrest the users and suppliers, he should take down the doorkeeper to the pirated-media flophouse as well. That's what transpired last month, when British police arrested the 26-year-old maintainer of TV-Links, the biggest Internet index of online film and television, for either copyright or trademark infringement (the UK feds haven't yet made up their minds).

The Web site's owner never hosted a movie or TV show, but he did set up thousands of frequently updated links to unaffiliated hosting sites, including Google Video and other variations of YouTube, turning the online card catalogue into a haven for Web subversives — and, naturally, a pariah for anti-piracy executives.

We're told that the issue at hand is that TV-Links provides portholes to copyrighted material — the ethics and legality of which has never been resolved (imagine how many of our Facebook links would warrant an arrest) — but this public tarring-and-feathering is just another concrete slab proving that media producers and distributors have yet to find a constructive way to functionally adapt to the net. Instead, they've opted to declare their own War on Terror — an equally absurd War on Stealing. Next time we decide to wage combat against an intangible idea, I nominate idiocy.

Last month not only saw the disconnection of TV-Links (which didn't really do anything other than force the junkies to translocate their hunt to the hosting sites), but also the removal of copyrighted clips from YouTube (the pending lawsuit with Viacom indicates Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert may testify) — and, to the terror of all you music folk, the shut-down of Oink's Pink Palace, the

exclusive and premier torrent tracker. All in all, anti-Internet media fuzz have had quite the October mop-up.

And yet fresh clone sites spawn every day, thumbing their nose at the entertainment establishment, taunting "Destroy all you want, we'll make more!" And instead of playing bad-cop, media corporations wield their judicial support, then try to placate download fanatics with a truce. This was the iTunes plan of selling songs at one buck a pop — a noble idea of the new music marketplace, and one that created a low-cost but effective monopoly for Apple, but with the flawed flat rate that posed problems for how a song's popularity and length should factor into the price.

So instead of adjusting their system, Apple and the media companies told consumers to take it or leave it, and the iTunes dissenters could return to illegal P2Ps. The cycle continues: P2P/Torrent/Host gets caught, goes legit, and the illegal hotspot moves a few IP addresses over.

We are starting to see solutions. Networks like NBC and Fox are allowing some episodes to be broadcast on their Web sites, and the first real headway in online movie watching has been made with Netflix's Instant Watching program. But by and large, America's media empires still share its current administration's idea of how to fight a guerilla war: with the classically flawed invasion strategy of sending in all manpower without tact or foresight. We've passed the advent of Napster and i2Hub, so why are we only now starting to see aggressive media engagement with the Internet? This issue should have been resolved by the moguls back in 2002, instead of holding out for a change of course until 2007.



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During Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in 35 years, documentarians Eva Mulvad and Anja Al Erhayem covered 27-year-old Malalai Joya, the first woman to enter the country's governing body, as she embarked on a treacherous campaign trail. Mulvad and Al Erhayem's emotionally raw look at gender and politics after the fall of the Taliban won them the 2007 Sundance Film Festival award for best international documentary, premiering in San Diego at the Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown La Jolla. Alongside the hour-long feature, Cinefemme, a nonprofit organization for women filmmakers, will screen a variety of short films. (CM)

Pieta Brown

BELLY UP TAVERN / NOV. 12 / 8 P.M. / \$14

She may not have the East Coast grit of her folksy, gospel-channeling father Greg Brown or the striking Western twang of her country-gal contemporaries, but Pieta lingers long enough amid her stubborn storm to wait it out 'til the end, when we finally have to stop and stare. And it certainly takes a second of endurance — through slippery, introspective tracks that often seem to be going nowhere — before she throws us that bone of intrigue. But once we've been consumed, her husky middle-state mystery is downright heartbreaking, and for what seems to be no reason at all. (SW)

▶ ART HOPPING, from page 8

Ready-made text and images comprise the latest exhibition from Marcos Ramirez ERRE and Allison Weise, San Diego's 2nd Art Prize nominees. Born in San Diego's sister-city, Tijuana, Ramirez consistently makes work that comments on the sociopolitical nature of the Mexican-American border. His two-headed Trojan Horse, made of wood and standing 33 feet tall, was situated at the border to make a contemporary allusion to the historic Greek infiltration — but ambiguously blurred the lines between the invader and the violated.

In his exhibit for L Street Fine Art, Ramirez quotes a passage from Nobel prize winner Salman Rushdie, minimizing the letters line by line until the last words are simply textual suggestions.

Similarly, Weise is an interdisciplinary artist who works in mixed media, including sculpture, installation, sound and architecture. Her work alters spaces and cops language to evoke unexpected meaning from the familiar. With "Root Hog or Die," Weise continues the textual study she started in "I Ain't Rich But I'm Free" and "Industry Need Not Want."



COURTESY OF ALLISON WEISE

Through January 2008

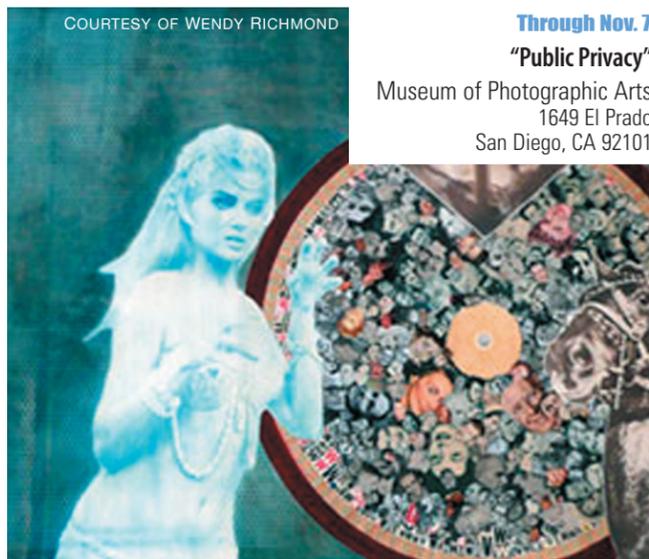
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Wendy Richmond's surreptitious videos are tiny vignettes of our modern-day lives. Her silent, 15-second cell phone recordings examine the paradox of the private moments in public space — moments we experience wandering the city streets, reclining in public seats or withdrawing from the world during train rides to work. Like the surveillance cameras they mimic, they are grainy, pixelated videos whose minimal aesthetic enhances the voyeuristic documentation of her work. Richmond denies being a pornographer (she was once accused of being a Peeping Tom who posted her cell-phone recordings online), yet she is just that. Like a pornographer, Richmond records the everyday, then isolates it in a framework that transforms the routine into a seductive, impersonal narrative.



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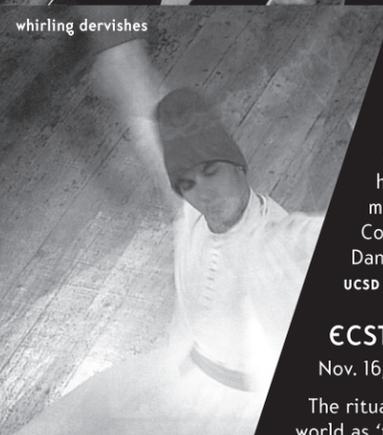
One of the most highly regarded ensembles in France, these three remarkable musicians have been connected by their love of chamber music since they were students together at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Paris.
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Nov. 17, 8:00pm | The Neurosciences Institute

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Hip-Hop Weirdos Help Set Stage for Montreal's Bleeding Glitter



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► **GLAM**, from page 8
 sion but drip with animal urgency, highlighting Barnes' inclination towards the rigidity of computerized beats, but still safely within the lighthearted tone palette of indie-pop. Barnes' lyrics on the album, which was recorded in the wintry gloom of Norway, take a dark turn from the whimsical stories of yore, instead divulging his chemical depression, relationship troubles and spiritual yearning. Prepare yourself for a myriad of costume changes and pelvic thrusts.

Barnes is already hard at work on *Fauna's* follow-up, which will supposedly contain hundreds of 30- to 50-second song segments collaged into a cohesive album, tentatively titled *Skeletal Lamping* — and there's a good chance that some of the new material will be showcased this weekend. With a schedule of bands aligned in their desire to get people on the dance floor, students have no excuse to ditch campus Saturday night.

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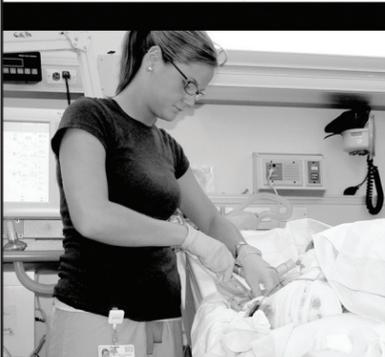
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Mary Anne Fox
Chancellor, University of California, San Diego
 UC San Diego

recordings

Blue Sky Black Death & Hell Razah

■ Razah's Ladder

BABYGRANDE

★★★★

Wu-Tang certainly stems its fair share of dead branches. The legions of cling-ons that adopt the Clan's dramatic self-worship and scriptural philosophy are inclined to believe that rehashing Wu lyrics over a soul-crutched beat is enough to be worthy of the brand; what they can't help but lack, of course, is the leading-edge aura of legends.

Instead of stepping in minion-line behind the aging eight, West Coast bedroom-producers Blue Sky Black Death depart on a less literal tribute. Kingston and Young God pull what they like from RZA beat signatures (like looped orchestral spikes and deep, battering drums), then use this blueprint to develop a signature of their own, built on the full-bodied ambience of debut double-disc *A Heap of Broken Images* and last year's collaboration with the deranged and scattered Holocaust. BSBD heap the blank canvas of *Razah's Ladder* in a lasagna-

load of layers — soaked keyboards, electric riffs, horn coils, smooth beat-machine bass — and stuff the cracks with enough folk-instrument samples, vocal mini-clips and media snippets to overflow a landfill.

Leaning his street-weary bones on the pair's youthful energy is a somewhat lackluster — if self-convinced — Hell Razah, so busy flipping through the analogous elements of his biblically inspired ladder-elevation that he often forgets to hold on tight. The album's 14-track spiritual journey is book-ended by definitive reinforcement from Razah: "The science we dealing with is elevation — which can be compared in a parable to a ladder," he spells out in opener "Elevation," and finishes the album with a recital of excerpts about Jacob's ladder and Heaven's opening, complete with bibliography.

But as much as he may linger on this tired

Wu-affiliate schtick, Razah's not a half-bad minister — and better, when he manages to forget his sophomore solo's far-reaching concept, there are some precious traces of the beast that once tore through Sunz of Man projects and Wu-Tang guest spots, back in the late '90s. "Pray Together" comes hard, as Razah picks up the pace and BSBD uncharacteristically pace themselves, holding out through lounge piano, acapella harmony and bay-ing mountain-song before they drop the blues-rich beat in full force. The production duo's spiritual subtext caters to the client — as did the nightmarish thunderclouds they threw Holocaust — and, at the same time, finds time to indulge a genre-rounding fetish for combining every last noise our technology-enhanced universe has to offer.

— Simone Wilson
HIATUS EDITOR



Blue Sky Black Death

■ Dirtnap Mixtape

★★★★

A varied dessert platter to follow the heavier, more wholly conceived *Razah's Ladder*, BSBD's *Dirtnap* mixtape — available as an album bonus on a handful of hip-hop sites — opens 14 more slots on which the boys can mess around. The comp breezes through no-pressure instrumentals and homeless gems from cut-short collaborations with Clan offshoots like the 5-percent-crazed Jus Allah, a top-of-his-game Killah Priest and awesomely slurry Midaz (whose *Muggs Vs. Midaz* stealthily showed up GZA's sleepy original in 2006). But most importantly, the supplement frees Hell Razah and his *Ladder* costars from the album's overwrought theme; the Paz-inspiring Ill Bill brings a notably slicker game to the almost Jedi-Mind drama of "Darkness Deepens," and Crooked L punches harder when up against the wily Ras Kass. Razah nixed first track "Holy Grail" because it stuck out too awkwardly from under the blanket, when it easily could have been one of the official album's relievingly random standouts.



Enter Shikari

■ Take to the Skies and Run

TINY EVILS

★★★

What happens when you throw a few tortured emo boys into a seizure-inducing rave arena, then give them something to really kick and scream about? British sensation Enter Shikari's hybrid of throbbing techno synths and soaring indie harmonies — punctuated by DragonForce growls — is an imbroglia of industrial riffs and noisy dissonance that probably shouldn't work, but is persistent enough to be persuasive.

So persuasive, in fact, that they've cultivated an impressive following among hair-in-the-eyes, glowstick-waving MySpacers, despite adamantly rejecting numerous major record label propositions. One of only two unsigned bands to ever

sell out the London Astoria, Shikari's self-released *Take to the Skies and Run* is a refreshing diversion from most atonal thrash, a torrential metal outcry laced with Lost Prophet-inspired melodies. "Mothership," the band's first single, buds from an otherworldly trance-scape and explodes into an angst-ridden anthem backed by deft, hardcore hammering.

Sometimes, though, this hammering seems misplaced — as in "Sorry You're Not a Winner," which unconvincingly vacillates between electronica strobes and sporadic metal barking. The punky "No Sssweat" and electrifying "Return to Energizer" are more successful, the familiar ado-

lescent act taking unexpected turns with swelling echoes of the keyboard. And while their efforts do deserve some credit, the headbanging warbles can grow a little tired without visual aid from the live, microphone-humping freakouts that originally won them worship.

Enter Shikari's twisted techno mashup falters in some places and exhausts in most, but their exuberant crack at genre-hopping is worth a second gander — if only to find out what screaming sounds like in a British accent.

— Sonia Minden
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

— Simone Wilson
HIATUS EDITOR



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Bryant's Selfishness Has Cost Lakers Real Dynasty

► **KOBE**, from page 16

The lack of playoff success didn't damage the youthful Bryant too much, as he was able to grow as a sixth man in his second year and become the youngest All-Star starter in league history. O'Neal knew a good thing when he saw it (as "Kazaam" obviously proved) and thus the Lakers' All-Star quartet of Shaq, Bryant, Eddie Jones and Nick Van Exel was narrowed to the Dynamic Duo: "Superman and Superboy." Unfortunately, "Superboy" was too mature to adopt the kid label, and as the son of a basketball player, Kobe carried a sense of entitlement.

During the Western Conference Semifinals against the Spurs in the strike-shortened '99 season, Bryant's youth again would prove disadvantageous. Several missed free throws during the closing seconds in game two and an ill-timed turnover at the end of game three essentially handed San Antonio the sweep. As Kobe again dealt with failure, Tim Duncan — who came to the NBA from Wake Forest one year after Bryant — was a Finals MVP and the new Next Big Thing.

The strain of the O'Neal-Bryant relationship showed early on, and has been well-documented. The theory in LakerLand was that if Magic and Kareem could co-exist for five titles, Bryant and Shaq could too. When Phil Jackson came and led the Lakers to three straight titles, the relationship and team looked like it would hold.

Unfortunately, each year that didn't end with a title, the cracks shone brighter, and it became apparent that Bryant had become a selfish supernova, wanting the atmosphere but feeling constrained by the Diesel. Shaq was the king of L.A., and even if Bryant was more explosive, he was still the prince.

Bryant should have realized that the torch he longed to carry would have naturally been passed, as the aging

Shaq would inevitably decrease in his skills. Dwyane Wade played Robin to Shaq's Batman, and ended up as the Finals MVP during their second season together. Had he played his cards right, maybe it would have been Kobe hoisting the trophies and being given the torch.

The love-hate relationship with Bryant had always been one of those dirty little secrets among Lakers fans. Of course he was cheered, because every night, even post-Shaq, there was always a chance that something amazing would happen (and it would in a near-upset of the Suns in the 2006 playoffs and 81 points against the Raptors). Still, Bryant widened this rift, seeming to push Shaq and Phil out by flirting with signing with the Los Angeles Clippers, and then changing his jersey number to distance himself from the Shaq-led Lakers and ring up a few more merchandising dollars.

I don't know if Bryant will be traded this season, and unless McGrady, Arenas or a group of semi-equivalent talent is involved, he shouldn't be, but I wasn't surprised by his demands. And I wasn't surprised to hear Buss go off on Bryant, someone he had protected for so many years. And I'm also not surprised to find out that GM Mitch Kupchak doesn't want to be "the guy who traded away Shaq and Kobe." I also won't be surprised if Derek Fisher becomes Kupchak's best acquisition due to his ability to put a bandage on the situation, or if Bryant becomes such a distraction that he's traded mid-season for an unequal package.

But I was still surprised when the boos reigned down from the Staples Center crowd in the season's opening game — surprised that so much talent, so much excitement and so much history would finally not be enough to balance out all the negatives. Yet, looking at the entire Kobe Bryant saga so far, everyone should have seen it coming.

No. 10 UCSD Wins Inaugural Tourney

► **BASKETBALL**, from page 16
Colorado Christian University, Augustana College and Western Washington University to win the tournament.

Even though they are enjoying success similar to that of last season, the Tritons are relying on more players for offensive production.

In the game against Western Washington University, eight different Tritons scored for UCSD, but none of them reached double digits in points. Last season, Juster, Hansen and Osier scored the vast majority of UCSD's points in almost every contest.

"It's really been five people working together instead of just one or two," Mezzetta said. "That's really been one of our strengths."

In this season's three regular season games, Elliott has maintained the same starting lineup: senior point guard Marla Mason, sophomore forward Erin Noonan, senior forward Meaghan Noud, senior center Alexis Gaskin and Osier.

The Tritons have a break from games for a couple of weeks before they head to Phoenix for the Grand Canyon Classic, where they will play Western New Mexico University on Nov. 23 and Fort Lewis College on Nov. 24. After that, the Tritons will start their schedule of conference games in the hopes of winning the California Collegiate Athletic Association championships for the second straight year and return to the NCAA D-II National Tournament.

Even though the team is basically starting from scratch this year, Osier is confident that the Tritons will excel this season.

"In the beginning, fans and other people not affiliated with the team had doubts since we lost four starters and our coach," she said. "They assumed we wouldn't be as good as last year. But our new coach has a totally different philosophy than our old coach and I think we're going to be really successful this year following that philosophy."



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN
The Tritons won all three of their games in the Disney West Coast Tip-Off Classic by 10 points or more.

First-Year Coach Accomplishes Rare Feat

► **CROSS COUNTRY**, from page 16
Oregon University, and Becijos was proud of the way his team was able to succeed in the West Regional.

"It is pretty shocking how well both teams did at regionals," Becijos said. "But this year we knew that we had a really solid team and we were able to put it all together."

According to Becijos, the Tritons had been eyeing the West Regional since they began their campaign in late August.

"We were really focused and determined all year," he said. "Regionals was our biggest goal of the season, and we knew we could go out and get it. It really means a lot to me because as a senior I

haven't seen a team go to nationals in all my years and to finally be a part of a team, and to be leading a team that is going, is awesome. I'm so proud of all the guys who went out there all year, not only of the guys who are going to nationals but every man on the team."

The Triton women will be making what has become an annual trip to the NCAA National Championships, and this year were led by senior captain Dianne Dunn.

Dunn, who earned All-West Region Honors, finished seventh overall with her time of 21:04 in the 6K women's race. Senior Emily McGregor and junior Ashleigh

Montgomery continued UCSD's success with respective times of 21:26 and 21:49, earning 17th and 27th place finishes. Senior Amanda Burkhardt ended the race in 22:02, while California Collegiate Athletic Association Freshman of the Year Jessie Bodenhamer ran her course in 22:15, good enough for 34th and 40th place, respectively.

UCSD has proven that it can handle the physical demands of winning at the national level, but according to Becijos, a team's mental stamina could be the determinant of a national championship.

"Now it comes down to being prepared and ready to take it on mentally," Becijos said.

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The junior goalkeeper earned Daktronics Division II All-West Regional First Team Honors after posting a .46 goals-against average and relinquishing just eight goals during the regular season.

No. 10 UCSD Starts Season in Style

By Janani Sridharan
STAFF WRITER

The No. 10 UCSD women's basketball team, which broke school records last year, is expecting similar results this season with a completely different look. The Tritons made the Division II Final Four last season, but with four of last year's starters graduating, UCSD's team looks a lot different than the previous squad.

The team is without guard Leora Juster, last year's conference MVP and the Tritons' leading scorer, as well as starting forward and second-leading scorer Hillary Hansen. The Tritons also graduated last year's center Jillian Ricks and point guard Kacie Kostlan.

In addition to the departure of their starters, the Tritons also lost last season's head coach Janell Jones, who announced her resignation from UCSD after accepting a head coaching job at Division I Mercer University following the end of last season.

Taking Jones' place is Charity Elliott, who spent her last two years as head coach of the women's basketball team at Portland State University — a D-I program.

Replacing Jones is no easy task, considering she led the Tritons over two seasons to a 50-10 record, including last season's program-best 27-5 record. However, the players have already bought into Elliott's system of coaching.

"I think we've adjusted really well to our coach this year," junior forward Michelle Osier said. "Our coach this year is similar to last year's in the sense that she expects a lot from us and we have to bring intensity to every practice. Learning

the new coach's philosophy has not been slow. Her philosophy really works; it's so successful."

A major part of UCSD's new game plan emphasizes defense. The Tritons, who mostly played zone defense over the last couple of seasons, have switched to a man-to-man defense under Elliott, and are already seeing positive results.

"This is the first year with our new coach that we've been able to play man-to-man defense, and it's become one of our strengths," senior forward Alexis Mezzetta said. "We've been getting a lot of steals, making them turn over the ball and taking charges."

With Osier being the only remaining starter, and the only player who averaged more than 15 minutes per game for UCSD last season, there are plenty of opportunities for playing time. The Tritons seem ready to prove themselves under their new coach.

"Those players realize that there's a better chance this year to get time in games," Osier said. "With a new coach, it's like a new beginning ... I think last year, a lot of those players were frustrated and started to lose their love for the game. Now, everyone's refreshed and their spirit and love for the game is renewed."

Even though they are only three games into the season, the Tritons look to be on the same track that they were on during last year's successful season. After a 60-54 exhibition win at Biola University on Oct. 27, UCSD traveled to Anaheim for Disney's West Coast Tip-Off Classic from Nov. 2 through Nov. 4. The Tritons also posted wins against

See **BASKETBALL**, page 15



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN

Senior guard Marla Mason makes a move on a defender in the Tritons' exhibition game against Biola University on Oct. 27. Mason and the Tritons then started the regular season by winning the West Coast Tip-Off Classic.

Kobe Saga Shouldn't Surprise Any True Fans

We should have seen it coming. The boos from the Staples Center crowd in response to Kobe Bryant's introduction at the first game of the season seemed strange. Yet, anyone who has been paying attention — not just to the trade rumors, but to Bryant's entire Lakers career — shouldn't have been surprised.



Cup O' Joe

Joe Tevelowitz
jtevelow@ucsd.edu

Kobe Bryant was an intriguing piece of the Lakers puzzle from the start. People took to Bryant initially because Jerry West did, and L.A. fans trusted the Logo's judgment. Shaquille O'Neal was the Lakers' big acquisition during Bryant's rookie year, setting a precedent that would affect the course of both men's careers.

Bryant, though not a starter, was slowly developing a cult following after winning the NBA Slam Dunk contest. But when he got a chance to showcase his awesome talent, he crumbled in the clutch. Rather than one of those high-arching threes with time ticking down that fans have now come to almost expect, Bryant fired two air balls in potentially game-winning playoff situations.

See **KOBE**, page 15

Women's Soccer Gets Another Shot in NCAA Tournament



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN

Despite its early exit from California Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs, the UCSD women's soccer team is still a contender for the NCAA Division II National Championship. Thanks to a 12-3-2 regular season record that earned them an at-large bid into the West subregional, the Tritons will have a chance to showcase the skills they exhibited so frequently during the regular season on a national stage.

On Nov. 8, the Tritons will take the field in Seattle to face division rival Cal State Dominguez Hills in a win-or-go-home test. The winner will advance to take on the Far West regions' No. 1 seed and host team, the Seattle Pacific University Falcons, who went undefeated with 20 wins during the regular season.

UCSD went 0-1-1 against the Toros this season, including a 1-0 home loss on Oct. 10 (pictured above), and is 12-14-3 against them all-time. Although they have had problems with the Toros, the Tritons will not be in unfamiliar territory, as they have made the NCAA tournament in 21 of the last 22 years. Coverage of the team's first-round game will come in the next issue.

— Rael Enteen
SPORTS EDITOR

Both Men and Women Vying for Title

By Jake Blanc
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2003, both the UCSD men's and women's cross country teams will be going to the NCAA Division II National Championship, which will be held in Joplin, Mo. on Nov. 17. While the women will be making their sixth straight appearance at the nationals, the men will be running at the championships for the first time in four years.

To qualify for nationals, the Tritons had to compete against the top competitors on the West Coast on Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 at the NCAA D-II West Regional in Boise, Idaho. Both teams excelled, with the men taking the third spot and the women grabbing fourth, both good enough to earn a trip to Missouri.

For a team that was not expected to make it to nationals, the Triton men are in the great position of competing with relatively little pressure.

"We don't have anything to lose, so we're going to give it our all and see how high we can go," senior captain Ryan Becijos said. "We have such a strong pack this year that we hope to just get in the mix at nationals and hopefully we can get into the top ten."

On the men's side, UCSD sent five runners to the West Regional, and all five of them placed in the top 31 of a field of 125 participants. Sophomore Jesse Morrill, whose time of 31 minutes, 44.53 seconds was good enough for 24th place in the 10K race, paced the Tritons. With times of 31:58.53 and 32:01.13 respectively, junior Kevin Klein and senior Greg Goldman grabbed the 27th and 28th spots. Rounding out



SANH LUONG/GUARDIAN

Sophomore Jesse Morrill led the men's cross country team to qualify for nationals with his time of 31 minutes, 44.53 seconds in the 10K race, ranking 24th out of 125. The rest of the men's team finished in the top 31.

The Tritons' top five finishers were junior Daniel Anderson with a time of 32:07.48 and sophomore Max Mullender with 32:08.12, in 30th and 31st place respectively.

The Triton men took their third-place finish with a total of 135 team points, five points ahead of Western

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page 15

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Solution to Last Monday's Crossword

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O	M	A	N	I	A	F	A	R	O	I	L	S			
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.

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Find SUDOKU solution in Tuesday's issue

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