

STUDENTS AWARDED MILLIONS IN UC LAWSUIT

Decrying systemwide fee increases, student takes university to court over breach of affordability promise.

By Justin Gutierrez
 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The University of California distributed roughly \$40 million to nearly 35,000 students last month who took part in a class-action lawsuit filed against the UC system on claims of unjust fee increases.

Kashmiri v. The Regents of the University of California began in July 2003, when student plaintiffs filed the lawsuit against the Board of Regents claiming a breach of contract.

In March 2006, a San Francisco County court ruled in favor of the students, stating that student fees had been raised despite written promises from the university. The ruling was upheld by the First District Court of Appeals in November.

"The court found that the contract was breached with three different student subclasses: the spring 2003, the summer 2003 and the professional student subclasses," said Andrew Freeman, one of the attorneys who represented the student plaintiffs in the case.

On Sept. 20, 2008, the Superior Court of California approved a distribution plan for the settlement, which allotted differing amounts for each subclass.

UC spokesman Ricardo Vazquez said that student fees would be increased about \$60 per student for five to six years in order for the university to meet the payment requirements dictated by the court.

The court ruled that students were told by UC literature in the form of online statements and published material that fees would not be altered for the time the students were enrolled. However, the regents voted to raise fees three times, ranging from charges of \$400 to nearly \$10,000.

"Though the court found the university had raised fees when they had promised not to, there is a clause in the student contract that says that it may raise fees at any time, without warning or explanation," Vazquez said.

Freeman said that many of the students had paid their fees in full for the spring 2003 or summer 2003 semesters, only to later find they owed money for fees that had been tacked on after the academic calendar had begun.

The plaintiffs were undergraduates, graduates and professional stu-

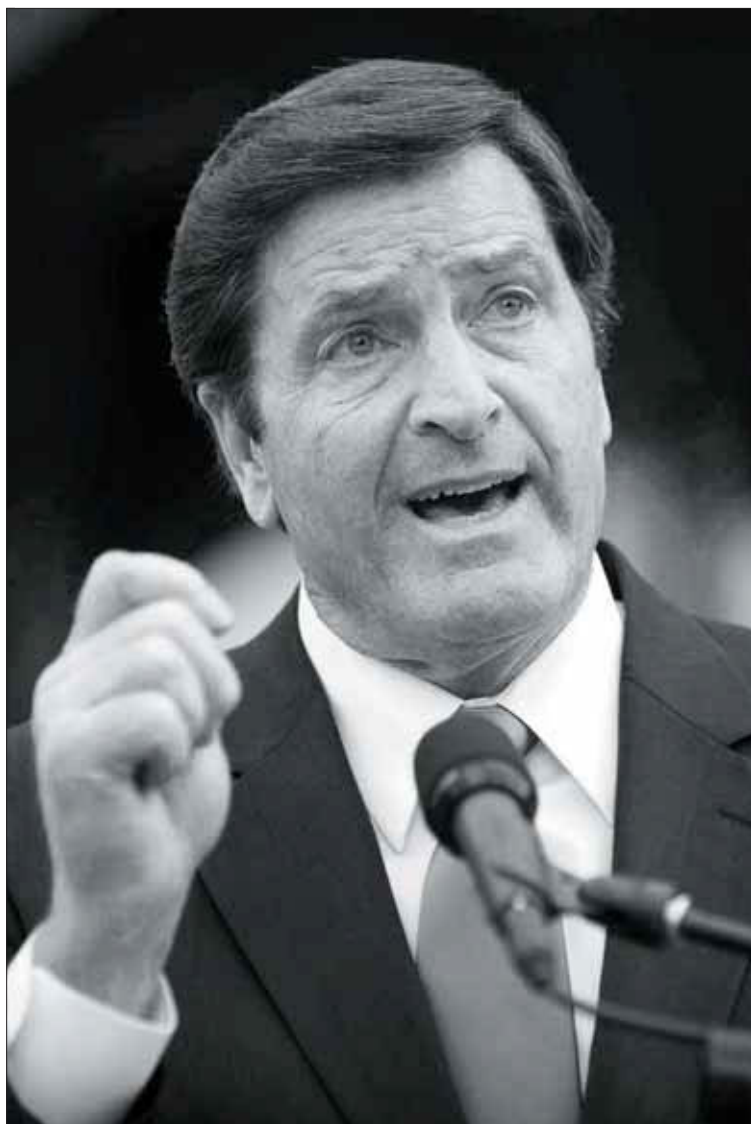
See **LAWSUIT**, page 3

BUDGET CRISIS

Regents Vote to Slash Freshman Enrollment

Lt. gov. calls plan a "short-term fix," warns of future problems for state if higher education remains underfunded.

By Henry Becker
 STAFF WRITER



Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who has announced his intention to run for governor of California in 2010, has been a vocal critic of the state's continued lack of funding for higher education. As a de facto UC regent, Garamendi openly opposed the proposal to cut freshman enrollment.

Facing a record number of freshman applicants and a severe short-fall in state funding, the UC Board of Regents voted yesterday to cut enrollment for the 2009-10 academic year and freeze wages for top UC officials.

The university will admit 2,300 fewer freshmen than last year, while transfer-student enrollment will increase by 500. The changes will affect all UC campuses except UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Merced.

"This [plan] is a modest reduction and a gradual one," UC spokesman Ricardo Vazquez said. "Even if we reach that target, we would still be overenrolled by 9,000 [students]."

The university is currently over-enrolled by about 11,000 students and faces a budget gap of roughly \$121.8 million.

According to a statement from UC President Mark G. Yudof, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urged the UC system — along with California

community colleges and the California State University — to create savings in any way possible for the next fiscal year.

However, Yudof and others admit these savings come at a price. UC Regent and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said that cutting enrollment is an unfortunate result of the state's financial crisis.

"This short-term fix will have long-term fall-out because it is draining the fuel of California's economic growth by starving education," he said. "The key to a thriving economy is a well-educated and developing workforce."

Nonetheless, officials maintain that the decreases in enrollment are necessary, because growing enrollment creates a ripple effect of costs for the university.

"The state is not providing funding for more students, which means the UC is taking on commensurate funding on their own, so the UC is stretched," Vazquez said. "These students might need more professors and sections and classes, along with more structural support. Without state funding, the UC is putting their education at risk."

The wage freeze approved by the regents is designed to affect top UC personnel, eliminating the university's merit and equity program for senior

See **REGENTS**, page 3

Insurance Snag Puts Che Cafe Operations on Hold

Long-time campus landmark hunts for new liability coverage as its stage remains silent.

By Larisa Casillas
 STAFF WRITER

Operations at the Che Cafe, UCSD's widely renowned music venue and vegan eatery, were halted last month following a missed insurance payment that prompted the Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of California to discontinue the Che's coverage.

Under UCSD's Master Space Agreement, the venue cannot maintain its lease without insurance. Administrators gave the cafe an initial deadline of Dec. 1 to find a new provider, then extended the deadline until Jan. 1.

The deadline has now been extended indefinitely, and all events are on hold.

The Che has been completely self-sustaining and volunteer-run since it was established in 1980. Insurance costs are the largest expense in the venue's budget. Coverage demands are extensive and include catego-



JOSEPH HO/GUARDIAN

In its nearly 30 years of operation, the Che Cafe has hosted such notable artists as Nirvana and Blonde Redhead. The venue now faces insurance difficulties.

ries for physical injury, libel and slander.

Che member David Barclay said the co-op has struggled to find a new insurance provider, due in part to the venue's reputation as a host for freedom of expression and music events that feature independent, hardcore and punk bands.

Despite these difficulties, core members at the co-op remain opti-

mistic that they will find a provider willing to offer coverage, and insist that the cafe's doors will not be shut permanently.

"The university has been really understanding," Che member Alice Nash said. "They could have come down harder on us for not having insurance."

Nash said increased efforts to open stronger communication

between the UCSD administration and the cafe's core members should lead to less animosity between the two parties, which have clashed over issues of contention in the past. Nash referred to an incident several years ago during which the administration attempted to shut down the cafe, leading core members to defi-

See **CHE**, page 3

HIATUS A Crotchety Ol' Hero
 Clint Eastwood strikes again — this time as an insult-hurling bigot packing serious heat — in self-directed "Gran Torino."
 PAGE 6

SPORTS Tritons Turn the Tide
 Women's swimming: UCSD avenged last year's 13-128 loss to LMU with a decisive win Saturday over the Lions.
 PAGE 12

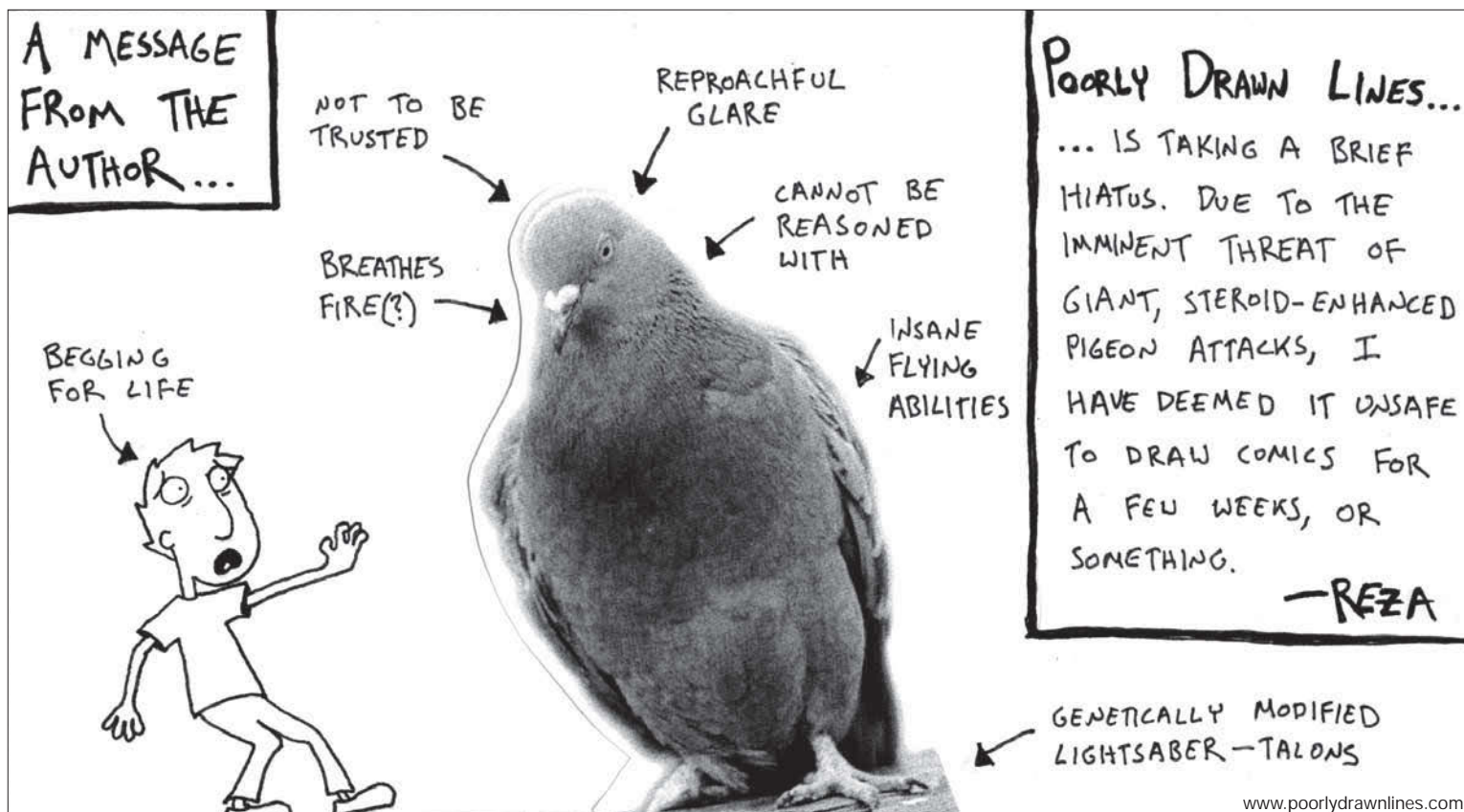
INSIDE
 Currents.....2
 Poorly Drawn Lines.....2
 New Business.....3
 Editorials.....4
 Ties That Bind.....4
 Classifieds.....10

ONLINE
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WEATHER
 Jan. 15 H 75 L 47
 Jan. 16 H 77 L 48
 Jan. 17 H 76 L 47
 Jan. 18 H 74 L 50

POORLY DRAWN LINES

BY REZA FARAZMAND



CURRENTS

Peace Corps Ranks UCSD Among Top Colleges

UCSD alumni Nemo Curiel and Sarah Termondt will join the 49 UCSD alumni currently serving overseas in the Peace Corps, which has named the campus 18th on the Peace Corps "Top Colleges" rankings among large universities.

Curiel, who graduated with a math degree in 2005, will begin service in Kenya in late January while Termondt, who graduated last spring with an environmental systems degree, will start Peace Corps work in the Dominican Republic in March.

Last November, Curiel began a three-month training process in Kenya and is expected to officially swear in as an education Peace Corps volunteer later this month. Curiel said in a statement that he was attracted to the Peace Corps because of "the opportunity to live abroad and meet new people."

Spending the majority of her UCSD years participating in green campus programs, Termondt will continue with her focus on sustain-

ability in the Peace Corps as a community and environmental educator by teaching activities she learned at UCSD, including solar cooking and organized gardening.

"The Peace Corps 'Top Colleges' rankings are a friendly competition among many schools with a strong legacy of service," Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter said in a statement. "Currently, there are more than 3,000 colleges and universities with alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 76 countries worldwide."

With more than 550 volunteers since 2002, UCSD currently has alumni serving in 29 of the 76 countries where the Peace Corps operates. Most of the volunteers from UCSD serve in Guatemala, Honduras and Namibia and work in health or education.

"California has always been a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers," Tschetter said. "More Californians have served in the Peace Corps than any other state. Historically, UC Berkeley maintains the number one rank, with 3,371 graduates who have served as Peace Corps volunteers since 1961."

Researcher Gets \$16.6M for Epigenome Center

The National Institutes of Health recently selected Bing Ren, associate professor of cellular and molecular medicine at UCSD's School of Medicine, as one of four grant recipients in its Roadmap's Epigenomics Program.

The project aims to study stable genetic modifications that affect and alter the behavior of genes across the human genome.

Ren, who also heads the laboratory of gene regulation at UCSD's Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, will receive the five-year \$16.6 million grant to support interdisciplinary work in the San Diego Epigenome Center to comprehensively map elements of the human epigenome, which he describes as "like an added dimension to the DNA string."

Located at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, the epigenome center is one of four centers in the country called Reference Epigenome Mapping Centers and is part of a five-year, \$190 million NIH program.

"The human epigenome is the next frontier of genomic research," Ren said in a statement. "Just as the Human Genome Project provided a picture of the sequence of genomes, our work will help create a map of the processes that impact gene regulation — what turns genes on and off — in order to improve our understanding of what drives human development and disease."

By regulating the transcriptional potential of the genome and specifying when and where genes are activated, the epigenome plays a crucial role in cellular differentiation. Certain factors such as diet and exposure to environmental chemicals throughout all stages of human development can cause epigenetic changes that may turn certain genes on or off.

"Such modifications to the genetic blueprint may provide part of the answer to why some people are most susceptible to disease than others," Ren said. "Our hope is that understanding how and when epigenetic processes control genes throughout our lives will lead to more effective ways to prevent and treat disease."

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Talk of Gaza Violence Resolution Dominates Council Meeting

More than 70 people poured into the forum chambers at last night's A.S. Council meeting to address a resolution that calls for a ceasefire to the violence in Gaza. Due to the large number of individuals present at the meeting, it took nearly an hour for speakers to share their thoughts.

The council began its meeting with an announcement for Alpha Chi Omega's annual philanthropy event, Mr. Alpha Chi, to which the council reacted with relieved chuckles around the room. This announcement was followed by comment after comment from people present at the meeting solely to discuss the drafted resolution.

"The whole point of this resolution is to condemn violence, to condemn the loss of life," Sixth College freshman Omar Khan said. "We're not asking you to take a stand on one side or another. We're asking you to stand with the victims."

"To all of those that tell you that you don't have the right to vote on this resolution, this is about UC-wide condemnation of violence," former senator Rishi Ghosh said. "You guys need to stand up for human rights and say that we as students unilaterally disagree with this kind of violence."

Aaron Horning of Hillel pointed out the uncomfortable reality that the part of the room designated for members of the public was generally divided between those who stand for Palestine and those standing for Israel.

All-Campus Senator Chris Westling motioned for the council to proceed to the New Business section of the agenda so that the council could

discuss the drafted Gaza resolution. A.S. Speaker Jordan Taylor nixed this motion and the council subsequently proceeded to squander the next 20 minutes deciding whether it could overturn Taylor's decision.

Amid the debate, which included a lengthy and repetitive voting process, Taylor had to depart for the Triton Engineering Student Council meeting and was temporarily replaced by Revelle College Senator Katie Hall.

The final decision from the council was that the resolution would not be added to New Business at this week's meeting, no special committee would be formed and that the constituents would re-submit the resolution to the council by Sunday.

"I want to apologize for council being tied up in bureaucratic consults while people are dying," Westling said with obvious frustration to the members of the public that had patiently stayed through the lengthy discussion.

"I just wanted to say that I'm disappointed, especially when we voted to not allow members of public onto the speakers' list," Physical Sciences Senator Daniel Nguyen said in a similar tone.

The rest of the meeting went smoothly once councilmembers decided that the issue of the resolution would be tackled the following week. The council unified over the topic of the A.S. activity fee referendum election, which has been going on all week.

"I was looking at the numbers and they're not dismally low, but they're not fantastic," Frank Carroll said. "I really want to see everyone going full force these last two days."



New Business
Connie Shieh
cshieh@ucsd.edu

Che Was Inspiration for Similar Venues Throughout Region

► **CHE**, from page 1
antly barricade themselves inside the venue.

The nearly 30-year-old Che Cafe has a rich history and a reputation that extends far beyond UCSD's boundaries. According to Barclay, the venue was one of the first of its kind in North America to develop as a cooperatively-run political and musical space while doubling as a vegan kitchen.

It has since garnered a large cult following and inspired the creation of similar venues — such as the Smell in Los Angeles — and continues to attract visitors from all over San Diego County and beyond.

Che Cafe performers have included such artists as Simon and Garfunkel, Carlos Santana, Nirvana and former Rage Against

the Machine frontman Zack de La Rocha.

The venue also recently hosted an event starring straightedge icon Ian Mackaye of Minor Threat and Fugazi.

Barclay emphasized the inclusive, open-minded nature of the Che and encouraged student participation.

"Anyone can be a volunteer at the Che Cafe," Barclay said. "All you have to do is show up and tell someone that you'd like to volunteer. Furthermore, anyone can come to the Che and propose and organize an event. If you want to make something happen, you can make it happen at the Che."

Readers can contact Larisa Casillas at lcasilla@ucsd.edu.

Settlement Paid to Three Separate Classes

► **LAWSUIT**, from page 1
dents who were affected by the fee increases, including lead plaintiff and former UC Berkeley law student Mohammad Kashmiri.

The spring 2003 student subclass includes students from UC Berkeley and other UC professional schools that operated on the semester system at that time.

The summer 2003 student subclass included UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Francisco and UCSD graduates and undergraduates who registered for summer courses in early May 2003.

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

Yudof: Salary Freezes Regrettable but Necessary

► **REGENTS**, from page 1
managers and saving an estimated \$1.3 million annually. Of the 285 officials to be affected by the wage freeze, 85 represent the university's highest salaried positions: president, chancellor, vice-president and medical chief executives, among others.

In addition to freezing the wages of high-ranking employees, Yudof's plan will also shrink the UC systemwide employee recognition and development program and other campus-based bonus programs.

Current bonuses for employees with salaries over \$205,000 will be cancelled, while participation in the program for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be restricted. Only staff outside of senior management with salaries of no more than \$100,000 will qualify for the program, and year-

ly bonuses will not exceed \$1,000.

Throughout the university's budgeting process, Yudof has said that he regrets the prospect of wage

These salary actions appropriately reflect ... the gravity of the economic crisis."

— Mark G. Yudof, UC President

freezes. "I am very sensitive to the impact of these kinds of actions on employees, and I regret the need for them

very much — our very dedicated and talented people are what make UC great and everyone deserves to be adequately compensated for their contributions," Yudof said. "At the same time, these are extremely difficult times, requiring very difficult decisions, and I believe these salary actions appropriately reflect and balance our obligation as a public institution and the gravity of the economic crisis confronting us."

The only bonus programs that will escape funding constriction are those associated with UC medical centers, such as the Clinical Enterprise Management Recognition Plan, since they are supported by hospital revenues without state funding.

Readers can contact Henry Becker at hbecker@ucsd.edu.

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Props to U.S. District Judge Richard Leon for ruling to release Guantanamo Bay detention center's youngest prisoner Wednesday.

Flops to Obama's secretary of education pick Arne Duncan for offering few specifics as to his plans for the upcoming term.



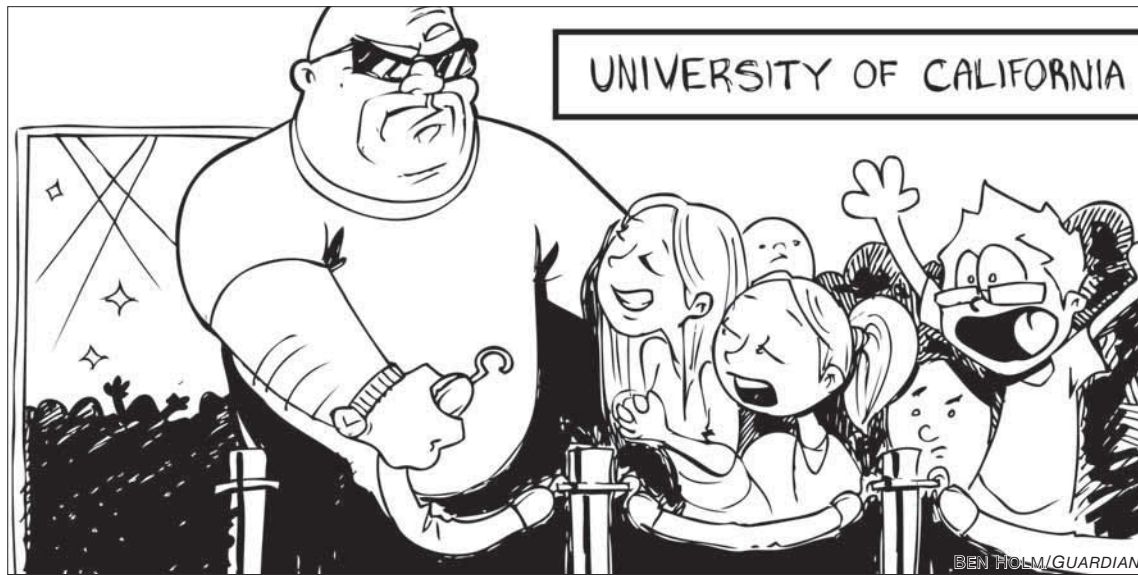
EDITORIALS

Rejection Letters Now Sealed With a Kiss — from Merced

With its decision yesterday to cut 2009-10 freshman enrollment at the 10-campus University of California system by 2,300, the Board of Regents effectively paved the way for a massive setback to the mission statement of the century-old institution: ensuring accessibility for all qualified applicants.

While state budget cuts have already led the university to reduce programs this year and the board itself has readily admitted that the Legislature is unlikely to come up with any more cash to fund the university's operations next year, leaving qualified applicants on the curb is a hard slap in the face for students who worked strenuously throughout high school to satisfy the university's rigorous entry requirements. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the university has announced a record-size freshman applicant pool this year, which in turn will lead to an unprecedented amount of rejection letters.

Although the university has tried to distract critics of the decreased enrollment plan by saying there will be a spot for all qualified applicants somewhere within the system, in reality they plan on sending those applicants acceptance letters from UC Merced — a noble thought, but stinging in the fact that admission to UC Merced resembles a last-place finish in a nine-person race. Most applicants are hesitant about attending a campus that has such little notoriety, an issue that will ultimately lead students away from the UC system.



"It is an excruciating decision to reduce opportunity for students in any way, but the lack of sufficient state funding leaves us no choice," UC President Mark G. Yudof said in a statement. "In future years, of course, we hope the state will be able to focus on investing in California's human capital and provide the resources necessary for expanded opportunity in public higher education."

Despite the policy's approval, there are some bright spots on the otherwise dim horizon.

Transfer applicants will see an enrollment increase of 500 admits, while the university has finally clamped down on skyrocketing executive salaries, enacting a much-needed and long-overdue salary

freeze for chancellors, vice chancellors, medical center CEOs and other top officials.

UC Regent and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi — a candidate for governor in 2010 — has called the reforms a short-term fix and outspokenly demanded that more attention be devoted to higher-education issues. If Garamendi indeed plans on restoring confidence in California's troubled university systems, he must immediately begin drafting plans aimed at reversing the enrollment alterations, pressuring the Legislature to prioritize higher education before seemingly more urgent matters and continue the practice of executive salary freezes until the system is healthy again. Otherwise, students will find

it harder and harder to make their way into the failing system.

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Cancer Continues to Cluster in Lit. Building; Admin Discuss

After a nearly yearlong investigation by a UCSD professor of medicine, an original report was released on June 20 of last year that identified a cancer cluster in the Literature building, located in Earl Warren College. More recently, on Nov. 5, a town-hall meeting made the news a public concern, and Chancellor Marye Anne Fox quickly announced her intentions to put an investigative team of experts on the job.

Lackluster publicity moves aside,

this blatantly dangerous situation is being treated like anything but the emergency it is. It seems that after the diagnoses of at least eight separate cases of breast cancer in individuals who worked primarily in the same building, and after identifying that the abnormally located elevator motor could very likely be emitting cancer-causing energy spikes — it seems that in this extreme of a case, administrators could possibly skip the formalities for once, set aside their pride and at least tell peo-

ple what's going on. The literature department did manage to move employees out of offices directly surrounding the motor and post a sign on elevators' doors asking people to please not use them — but how would anyone know that wasn't just some environmental push to suck it up and use the stairs?

Then there's the fact that no one has actually done anything about the problem itself. Though each elevator would cost \$350,000 to replace, who knows what the sum of all this daw-

dling around could really cost in the end, at \$10,000 per evaluation and priceless lives on the line? There are cases in which slow-moving committee formations and bureaucratic steps by administrators to publicly display their concern and assemble teams for further investigation are essential to arriving at the best and most cost-efficient solution. But when a cancer-causing machine continues to hum behind all this hubbub, the answer seems clear — turn it off already.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Referendum Coverage Fails to Show Dissenting View

Dear Editor,

This is regarding the coverage given to the proposed quarterly campus activity fee ("Council Taps Students for Referendum Support," Jan. 12). Last Thursday's article fails to mention the actual cost to students due to the referendum fee increase. The \$19.82 increase actually raises the total campus activity fee to \$47.82 per quarter. This represents more than a 40 percent increase to existing fees, and an overall yearly campus fee of \$143. I feel this point would certainly give context to readers trying to make an informed decision on the referendum.

Additionally, of the 21 paragraphs devoted to the subject, there was not one single argument made against the proposed fee increase, and no mention of its impact on students already facing skyrocketing tuition. Besides having no dissenting views, there were seven (by my count) dif-

ferent comments taken from A.S. Council and Student Organization representatives. Does the *Guardian* rank worse than Fox News in giving a voice to dissent?

Lastly, one key argument made in favor of this fee increase was to put toward a sustainability effort. According to the article, "the referendum goes to supporting the environment with a sustainability resource center ... would be another main beneficiary if the referendum passes." This "main" beneficiary of the referendum is actually only \$2.34, or 11.8 percent of the total proposed increase. An argument can definitely be made on how 11.8 percent certainly cannot qualify as being the main focus of any issue. I find it insulting that the *Guardian* would use my (and my fellow UCSD students') love for the environment as a cheap tool for passing this dishonest and poorly-drafted referendum.

If the *Guardian* represents "The Student Voice Since 1967," you effectively silenced it last Thursday.

—Luis Huang
Revelle College senior

Council's Need for Funds is a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Dear Editor,

The A.S. Council has once again proven itself worthless. If we are to look at the assertions of this fee referendum through the lens of empiricism, it becomes painfully clear that it is largely without merit. To be more specific, the A.S. Programming Office's claim that it needs more money is predicated on the idea that with money comes a better Sun God Festival. But is this the case? One needs only consider the history of Sun God to long for the days of yore when the festival was about student celebration, not the idolization of half-rate pop acts. Because of this apparent disregard for the event's history, many people view A.S. Programming with disdain (as evidenced by the thousands of members in various Facebook groups). They see this demand for more money with no previous results as malicious, but I would argue this is not the case. A.S. Programming has no

real incentive to do things economically, or to consider the fun students have, because it has no competition, and there are no consequences if everyone hates the event. Every time people like former Associate Vice President of Programming Kevin Highland or his successor Garrett Berg storm into council demanding more money, councilmembers oblige regardless of the outcome. Why would they ever consider the results of their efforts? As they hold Sun God hostage, we sit in fear that UCSD will fulfill the stereotypes. The answer is not paralysis, but dissent.

— Kris J. Gregorian
Editor in Chief, the Koala

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Gloried Good Times Are Unchanging but Entertaining

No matter how many excuses a Triton finds to avoid the obligatory trip back to his or her hometown, there comes a point where students have to confront their parents' old curfew rules, spend some time with their withering childhood pets and most importantly, catch up with high school friends.



Ties That Bind

Gabriella Capisani
gcapisan@ucsd.edu

During winter break, I was curious to see if the drama that bred typical who's-cheating-on-whom gossip in my small private high school still existed. After a couple of hours and a couple of beers at an immediate reunion at the token rich kid's personal, beachfront Malibu house I couldn't help noticing that no one had shaken the past.

I sat back and watched as 10th grade played out like a movie in front of me. The "popular" group of girls clung to each other desperately, migrating like a flock of seagulls to any missing pieces that might have wandered off to check their reflection in the mirror. The boys, who had spent their entire high school career attempting to out-man each other, still spent the entire night challenging one another to drink more, chugging beer after beer until they were completely incoherent.

I had missed everyone in the past three months, but it was uncanny how consumed we all still were with the things that plagued our awkward teenage years. I had hoped that the need to wear slutty dresses and get belligerently drunk would be outgrown and done with. Or after a couple months of doing the same thing in college parties, we could avoid the relentless desperation and at least act mature.

When my group of friends decided to spend our New Year's Eve together at the same Malibu party house, the old chemistry within our group combined with our newfound identities as college students, culminating in a catastrophic love child.

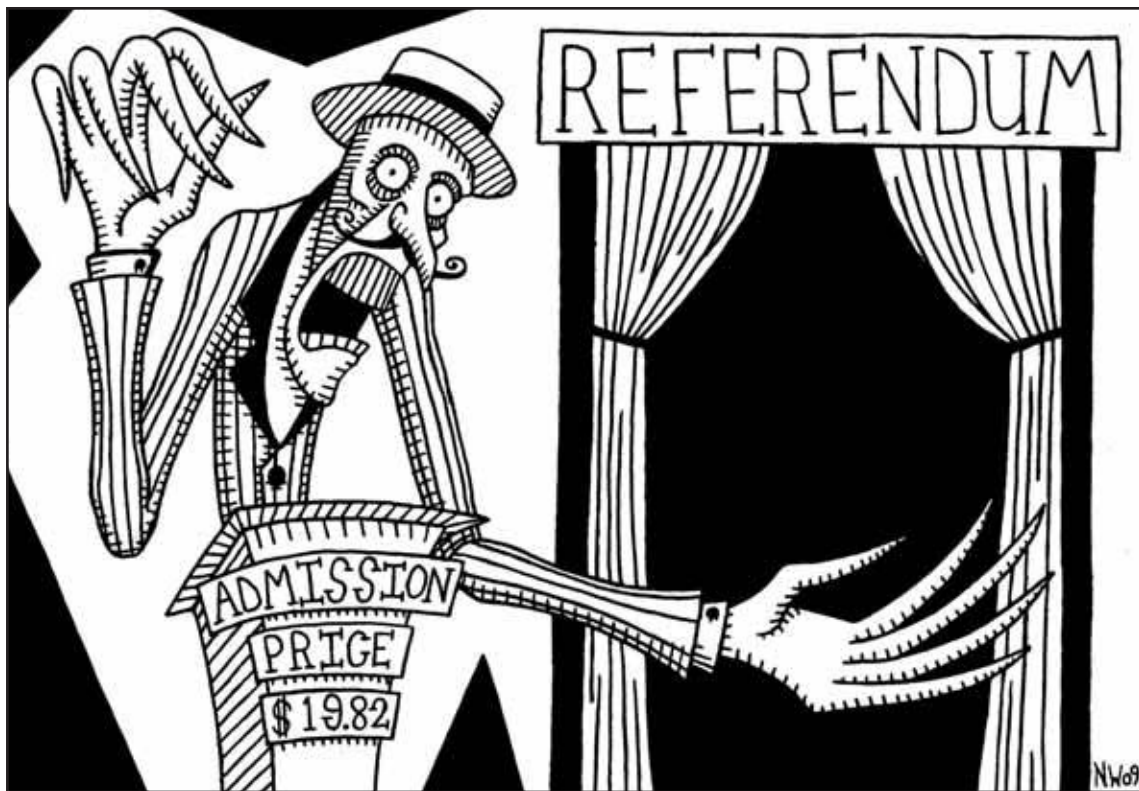
The typical, oversensitive drama queen was crying in the corner after she had broken her heel trying to grind on her ex-boyfriend, while the pompous prom king was throwing a drink at the one girl he had always loved but had never been able to get. Girls were desperately vying for the attention of boys who had chased them months ago, dancing with the same sex and flipping their hair seductively. Boys were eagerly trying to impress their old flings by downing shots without so much as a flinch, and flexing their biceps at every chance. The champion of the night was the girl wandering around in a drunken stupor, soaked in blood after accidentally having chopped off part of her index finger in a door.

The night's most dramatic event revolved around the infamous unbreakable high school sweethearts who had immediately broken up following the distance of college

See **TIES**, page 5

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

By Niven Wilson



College Is High School With Less Acne, Better Makeup

► **TIES**, from page 4 but wasted no time in apologizing to each other, and then mysteriously disappeared together upstairs after a few drinks.

But then again, how much different was that New Year's Eve party from the typical college mixer? From what I've experienced in my first 10 weeks supposedly living the college dream, parties are filled with girls who are just as drunk and just as slutty, and guys who are just as concerned with binge drinking to impress anyone with breasts.

The only real difference I've noticed is that my teachers aren't up to date with the most recent makeup session, girls have less acne and better eyeliner and it's easier to cut class.

As obnoxious as they are, my high school friends will always have an inevitable charm, and I'll miss that reliable source of entertainment.

When I wander around fraternity parties, pushing through the hundreds of crammed, sweaty people,

As obnoxious as they are, my high school friends will always have an inevitable charm, and I'll miss that.


I'll still be longingly searching for that dysfunctional couple, fighting then quickly making up in the corner of the room, and hoping to see a football player passed out shirtless. The idea that college is a serious upgrade from the lameness of high school hasn't lived up to its standard just yet, and while I wait for that to happen, I'll be closing doors carefully at parties, hoping to make it through each night without losing a finger.

OPINION

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"Slumdog" Soundtrack

- "Ringa Ringa"
- "O...Saya"

Animal Collective

- "My Girls"
- "Bluish"

druthers

HIATUS PICKS
THE WEEK'S
BEST BETS

"Silhouette City"

PC THEATER/ JAN. 16 / 7 P.M. / FREE

Despite having seeded its roots in American soil back when the Puritans crash-landed on Plymouth Rock, religious extremism takes a fresh liberal beating in Michael Wilson's debut documentary. Sifting through militia-group archives and pillaging the database of investigative journalism that's followed Christian nationalism up until the pending Bush-administration sendoff, "Silhouette City" shines a light on the meteoric rise (and apocalyptic prophecies) of the moral majority's militant strand that swells in the rural Midwest. Q & A to follow with the filmmakers and UCSD professors. (EG)

New Writing Series:
AMITY GAIGE

VISUAL ARTS PERFORMANCE SPACE / JAN. 21 / 8:30 P.M.

A work of suburban absurdity, Amity Gaige's *O My Darling* played on the desperate-housewife trend of '05 by shacking one up in a haunted house. Its curious wordplay made a small splash at the time, but fast-forward to a year later, when *The Folded World* hit bookstands: Another tale of humble relationships and their oft-alarming quirks, Gaige's sophomore effort one-upped its predecessor with dabs of idiosyncratic wit, examining the meaning of love in this strange and changing world of ours. Anyone else smell Oprah?



The work snagged Gaige a Forward Book of the Year award; swiftly thereafter, the National Book Foundation proclaimed the blonde bombshell one of the nation's five "exceptional authors under 35." Next up, *Esquire's* top hottie list. Certainly, it seems the publishing pond and beyond is abuzz with Amity Gaige — and she shows no sign of stopping anytime soon.

While hastily poppin' shorts for the likes of the *L.A. Times* and anticipating the release of *Feed Me*, her collection of essays, Gaige is busy touring universities, giving hope to literature majors with bleak cubicle futures everywhere. But anyone can attend the readings of this quarter's New Writing Series — and if her early accomplishments are any proof, Gaige's words might just inspire you to pick up a pen for something besides class lecture. (SM)

exit strategy →

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

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\$52.50ECLIPSE DANCE
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Jan. 16, 9 p.m.
FREEHYPNOTIST RICH
AIMESThe Loft
Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
FREEOBAMA
INAUGURATIONThe Loft
Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
FREE

CURUMIN

The Loft
Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
FREE

ONE HELLUVA RIDE

Gran Torino

★★★

Starring Clint Eastwood, Ahnie Her & Bee Vang
Directed by Clint Eastwood
116 min.

'Torino' revives the kick-ass Eastwood we know and love: a crotchety porch hero packing serious heat.

By Sonia Minden

Hiatus Editor

Well, it finally happened. Clint Eastwood is no longer dreamy, even for an old guy — he's, uh, just plain old. But unlike the other aging starlets that poke, puff and pluck their various imperfections with a \$5,000 botch, Eastwood unabashedly embraces the haggard charm of his golden years. Hey, cut the guy some slack — with two Oscars under his cowboy belt and a closet full of Globes, he's pretty much the baddest old guy in the game.

And that's what "Gran Torino" is all about, really — a sort of battle cry for the retirement-home bingo game. Whispered to be Eastwood's last flick, he's out to remind us that: 1) Crotchety grandpas still kick ass; 2) America, for all its messy fol-

lies, still kicks ass; and, most importantly, 3) Clint Eastwood will always, invariably still, kick ass.

While he might star as the porch-howling bigot Walt Kowalski, the Eastwood ghost behind those furrowed eyebrows never truly lifts. He's there, lurking in the scowl of a veteran who's lived it all — and that's why we can never quite hate the absurdly flawed character, even while he's spitting racial slurs, loathing his fat American family and grumbling at the neighborhood gooks/swamp rats/barbarians to get off his damn lawn already. There's just something so lovable about the grouch, and it's because we know that underneath that crusty exterior is Eastwood himself, waiting to unleash his unflinching magic wand.

Maybe that's why everyone else seems to take Kowalski's shit with a smile, too. "Oh, crazy old Walt," they chuckle, as he sifts through virtually every politically incorrect insult imaginable. Where another man (or actor, even) might be sentenced wildly inappropriate for this kind of nonsense, Eastwood seems to use it as a last hoorah, in which to say whatever the hell he wants — because, well, he can.

So while it requires a certain suspense of disbelief to accept that one human being could be so secluded from a changing world, the madness is ridiculously fun to watch. So much that, after a while, it doesn't really matter that the other characters are

See TORINO, page 7

recordings

Animal Collective

■ Merriweather Post Pavillion

DOMINO

★★★★

If the exquisite *Pet Sounds* was what we got from Brian Wilson fueled by schizophrenia, paranoia and blow, imagine what we would get from him now if he hadn't gotten his act together for *Smile*. Forty years of music technology rendering the theremin as officially old news

Animal Collective's *Merriweather Post Pavilion* is what we would have gotten if Wilson hadn't regained control of his mental health — and the rest of the Beach Boys came back to have fun. It's those old, eerie melodies put through a bizarre time-space continuum, where lush, overlaid harmonics are supplemented by complex washes of noise.

The reverberating dreamscapes of *Merriweather* lay the grounds for the finest pop sentiments of its creators. Love is the recurrent theme, as anywhere; however, the Baltimore triad (Deakin's gone AWOL) creates an underbelly of subsonic bass and spiraling synths. It encapsulates the dizzying, dazed effect that emotion has had on members Avey Tare, Panda Pear and

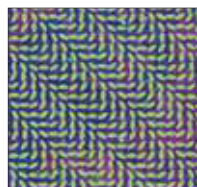
Geologist — the kind of derangement that comes from habitual, over-and-over love.

Median track "Bluish" is done with the Beach Boy formula of boy-meets-girl infatuation: Vocalists Avey Tare and Panda Bear layer their voices over gauzy instrumentation to invoke "getting crushed out on the things," something the menagerie considers the "kind of magic" that can (and should be) obsessed over. Constantly propelled by synth arpeggios but with a slow, sweet languor about it, second track "My Girls" is testament to holding strong to that kind of love one only feels for a wife or daughter.

Merriweather Post Pavilion manages to encapsulate all, the chaos of the Collective's previous albums into a linear lushness that still hears the madness of their roots, and that Brian Wilson's crazies would surely be proud of.

Animal Collective will play L.A.'s Fonda Theater on Jan. 23.

— Josephine Nguyen
STAFF WRITER



"Slumdog Millionaire"

■ Music from the Motion Picture

INTERSCOPE

★★★★★

Let's forget for a second that "Slumdog Millionaire" won A. R. Rahman a Golden Globe Award last Sunday for best original score. And that he's the first Indian — ever — to win the Globe. Illustrating what he calls "the throbbing pulse of Mumbai," Rahman's soundtrack to the award-winning "Slumdog Millionaire" ultimately matches its heat-seeking depth and cultural transcendence note for unbelievable note. With masterful mixing of cheeky Bollywood beats, epic rave-style electronica and gangster hip-hop, Rahman crafts that heaven-and-hell space between innocence and loss to trail the musical journey of Jamal, a teen from the slums poised to become India's most famous millionaire.

"O...Saya" hits the streets running with racing, climbing tribal drums shredded into electric guitar and shadowed by ascending Indian vocals. Even M.I.A.'s puckish, pop-princess rhymes echo Jamal's childhood hustle: "One day I wanna be a star/ So I can hang in a bar/ I go to Vegas/ And they pay us/ Just to forget my scars."

Rahman enters adolescence with "Ringa Ringa," contrasting suggestive tik-a-tik chants and hot, scraping exhales with silky female voices. "Liquid Dance" rushes between your ears like a fly buzzing on heroin, spinning doomsday violins with sharp, rappy reggaeton. And just when we're about to faint from thrashing so hard, "Aaj Ki Raat's" smooth-as-water techno transitions easily into full-scale Bollywood magic.

But it's the effortlessness of it all that's so wondrous to Western audiences. Rahman has a magician-like ability to camouflage the choreography of hundreds of elements with simple, surging vocals and smoothed-over experimentation. The Titanic of his soundtrack, "Dreams on Fire" is a testament; its ocean rhythms and aching flute melodies tap into the lifeblood of Hollywood romance. If anything, Rahman's achievement proves that excellence doesn't have a formula — in film and in life, anyone can get the gold.

— Allie Cuervo
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Apolitical Quips Rev Fog of Obvious Eastwood One-Liners



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

► **TORINO**, from page 6 two-dimensional amateurs, or that the transparent plot takes a back seat to the action. When it comes down to it, we just want to see Clint Eastwood kicking some ass, for old time's sake.

Written by first-timer Nick Schenk, the screenplay reads like a clunky spaghetti western in some parts and a subtly hilarious drama in others. Regardless, it delivers some of what promise to be the best lines of the new year. This includes a scene in which Kowalski drives through the 'hood in his prided Torino and notices some thugs harassing his friendly Asian neighbor Sue (Ahney Her). The gang takes no notice of the geezer — until he whips out a loaded .44 rifle and aims it at their heads. "Ever notice how you come across somebody once in a while that you shouldn't have messed with?" he says, grimacing with that uber-famous Elvis snarl. "That's me."

And the crowd goes wild. There are only a few things that make Kowalski happy: his graying lab, his cheap beer and his Gran Torino — no fancy stuff. Just a few American

familiarities. There are, however, a lot of things that make Kowalski unhappy. Really unhappy, it seems, and for a really long time. The memories of war, the crumbling sidewalks, the increasingly "diverse" neighbors with their colorful language and rickety houses. These people don't have dogs — they eat them.

Of course, the neighbors aren't so different after all, a theme that pushes the movie's heartfelt heroism, and sometimes pushes us over the edge. But when Sue's brother Thao (the painfully artificial Bee Vang) attempts to steal the old man's cherished muscle car, it's a little far-fetched that it only takes Thao a couple days of honest labor to break down Kowalski's icy walls of resentment — well, that and a family of Hmong immigrants placing flowers at his doorstep.

But, like a solid car, Eastwood still gets us from point A to point B with only a few coughs and stumbles. And who are we to complain? The man can do no wrong. Even for a bumpy ride, we're happy to take the passenger's seat.

All's Quiet on the Middle-American Frontier



COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS

By Edwin Gonzalez
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

Commonly derided by phrases like "sexual repression," "consensus thinking" and even "suburban sprawl," the 1950s isn't the most difficult decade to barb — especially when you approach it from a sun-flecked New England homestead cropped with congruent lawns. But Sam Mendes tries — with an adaptation of Richard Yates' well-received novel — and largely succeeds, though he hammers that exhausted trope with a good deal of effort. Despite blasting American Victorianism for essentially not being the 1960s, "Revolutionary Road" courts versatile acting with a steely, modestly nuanced style.

Looking to land a happy marriage in the suburbs, carved out of Connecticut forestry and fertilized with picket fences, Frank (played by a brooding, self-assured Leonardo DiCaprio) and April Wheeler (Kate Winslet) settle into the postcard

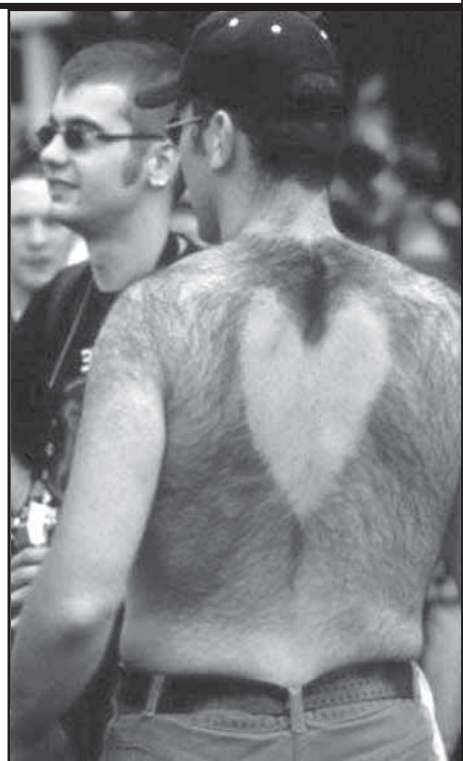
Revolutionary Road
★★★
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael Shannon & Kate Winslet
Directed by Sam Mendes
119 min.

clime of Revolutionary Road — well aware that settling down isn't exactly what they'd hoped for in younger years. Still, the Wheelers decide to bury their quiet desperation in the past — contrary to April's stapled smile and kitchen ennui — and endure the Eisenhower doldrums for the sake of security.

That is, until Frank rather capriciously indulges his wife's whimsical bout of expatriotism, announcing to neighbors that the Wheelers are moving to the bohemian paradise of Paris in the coming month. And yet, just when "Revolutionary Road" looks to rewrite "Madame Bovary" — trad-

See ROAD, page 8

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SWEAT AND SPANDEX

Rourke Seeks Revival in Body-Slamming Heights



The Wrestler
 ★★☆☆
 Starring Mark Margolis, Mickey Rourke & Marisa Tomei
 Directed by Darren Aronofsky
 115 min.

COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

By Jenna Brogan
 STAFF WRITER

While the modest script of "The Wrestler" looks like a dismissible second-chance sports biopic, 2008's last-minute submission to the Oscar bucket is sure to be a golden ticket for Mickey Rourke and director Darren Aronofsky ("Requiem for a Dream"), putting both back onto the map and into favorable conversations.

It's rare that a role comes along that fits an actor so well, but pro-wrestler Randy "The Ram" Robinson was written for Rourke — literally. Both stars from the '80s, both who have since struggled to regain fame, Rourke

and Robinson's parallel search for career revival is implicit. And let's face it, after a misstep like "The Fountain," Aronofsky could use a few redemption points of his own.

Lucky for all three, "The Wrestler" proves to be a visceral, unpretentious, brutally realistic character study that — above all else — is stunningly choreographed. Where so many things could have gone wrong with this film, few did. Instead, Rourke moves beyond body slams and ladder matches to inject high doses of humanity into the resurrection tale of both Rourke and the Ram.

Despite a filmography suggesting that a WWE expose

would stray light years from his comfort zone, Aronofsky maintains meticulous control over aesthetics amid the tumult of blood, sweat and cheers. And exploring the inner workings of the pro-wrestling circuit — from tanning salons to the trenchcoat 'roid operations — offers backstage insight into the falsifying lifestyle Randy chose over his estranged daughter Stephanie (Evan Rachel Wood).

Crawling beneath his Herculean facade, "The Wrestler" follows Robinson's struggle to accept his mortality after a heart attack and a staple-gun stunt, forcing him to re-evaluate the

See **WRESTLER**, page 9

Winslet Saves 'Road' from Stock-Drama Syndrome

► **ROAD**, from page 7

ing arsenic for tickets on AirFrance — Yates' true contempt for bourgeois society sets in, inherited and deeply indebted to French realism.

Making an infrequent and thoroughly mordant appearance as the voice of reason in the film is John Givings, a soapboxing S.O.B. (played with stammering snark by Michael Shannon) visiting the Wheelers from the local psychiatric ward. Scissoring the illusions of middle-class existence with cutting truths, he stands as the only figure both Frank and April feel they can relate to. But when Frank is offered a pretty promotion and reason to stick around in the States, Givings' assails begin to fuel the domestic disturbances that follow.

If Mendes was trying to recapture the acclaim of his debut familial darling — yet again peddling two egos warring within the American marriage — he falls short without enlivening characters as dynamic, animate or, well, revolutionary as April Wheeler.

Recreated with sanded-down motives and bullet-point complexity by a fairly new Justin Haythe, the film's cast of non-Aprils are far more shallow than "Road's" onscreen heroine (and Mendes' offscreen wife).

Though Winslet's performance pulls the gravity of nearly every scene behind her (garnering its only Golden Globe), April's story ultimately boils down to a depressing situational tragedy of a woman suffocating in a man's world.

Transported from the 1950s, "Road" loses half its salience on the spot. To the credit of cinematographer Roger Deakins and composer Thomas Newman, how-

ever, "Revolutionary Road" reads artfully upon projection, modeling poetic compositions and a polished score that crowns scenes like gilded caps. With a faint pollen-wash glazing its indoor scenery, the spare score — layered with woodwinds and jazz — positively welds together the film's many joints.

After a welcomed return to the theater for the past three years, having started his career on the English stage, Mendes' cathartic surroundings have rubbed off with good measure in his latest project. The last time suburbia was shot through his lens, by contrast, he was still learning, overly eager to employ every technique at hand. Symbolism pummeled the audience every 35 seconds, while a Thoreau-impersonating voiceover always made sure the film was speaking directly to you.

Nine years later, "Road" takes a more naturalistic approach — though no less skillful — relying less on its director's heavy-handed technique and more on the caliber of time-trained actors imposed onto a live background.

In the end, Winslet and Mendes steer the film's course as best they can against an American poltiscap in which Puritanism has seeped back into the collective consciousness — right on cue with the falling of the Iron Curtain.



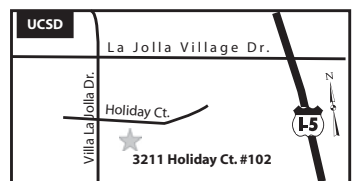
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The University will convene initial public notice meetings on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 and Tuesday, February 3, 2009 from 1 pm to 3 pm at 300 Lakeside Drive #1206, Oakland, CA 94612. Copies of initial bargaining proposals will be available at the meetings. Interested members of the public may secure copies of initial bargaining proposals from both parties, at the main campus library, or online at <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/>.

Copies of the procedures governing the required public notice meeting may be requested in person or by mail from the University of California, Labor Relations, 300 Lakeside Drive, 12th floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550.

For additional information regarding this bargaining, please contact Gayle Saxton, Chief Negotiator, UC, at (510) 987-9907; Mike Miller, International Representative, UAW at (562) 801-1515; Meredith Wilson, International Representative, UAW at (510) 656-9901; or, Ken Lang, International Representative, UAW at (562) 801-1500.

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recordings

Friendly Fires

• Friendly Fires

WEA JAPAN

★★★

On the heels of the UK-born Ting Tings and the Florida-bred Black Kids, the next indie bombshell — probably won't be Friendly Fires.

Fearing the obscurity-rendering typecast of "another British indie band," Friendly Fires freaks out a little too much and crams its club-ready anthems chock full of techno garbage and recycled melodies. While the best moments burst with relentless '80s synth bubbles, hyper-mixed electropop and tons of deep breathing, it's not surprising that the debut fizzles out at the halfway mark. Innovation quickly takes a back seat to sound-alike grooves that sponge samples of Depeche Mode, Prince, Michael Jackson and more.

Who knew there could be so much file sharing over only 10 tiny tracks? Featured on "Gossip Girl," "White Diamonds" switches between campy bass-beats from Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" and hip-shaking riffs from '80s classic "Tainted Love." If you've heard either of those, listening to Friendly Fires' "inspired" version — really just a lame remix — is like double deja-vu. Of Wii



Fit commercial fame, "On Board" borrows NSync's falsetto and thrumming bass, as well as Ok Go's treadmill-ready beats, and ties them with a few measly fuzzy techno blips. Ironically as it's the most obvious rip-off, of dance-pop gods Jackson and Prince "Lovesick" tells the truth: "Everybody else thinks you're out of touch/ Don't you think it's about time you turn the page and move on?" While honoring your idols is understandable, shameless copycatting only hints at a deeper sickness — a lack of honest songwriting chops.

Technique isn't the issue here. When Friendly Fires has a fresh idea, its supercharged mixing and raucous enthusiasm promises an instant indie hit. Expect crazed tin-can drumming, epic whispery escalades and light-filled synths on "Jump In the Pool," or the street-funk playground of bongo drums and maraca shakes on "In the Hospital." At least for a while, the nearest Urban Outfitters will be playing them just as loud as the rock stars they revere.

— Allie Cuervo
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Ghostface Killa

• GhostDeini the Great

DEF JAM

★★★

Ghostface Killah, a king among proto-emcees, delivers a mishmash of remixes and classics on *GhostDeini The Great*, a hip-hop head's timely stocking stuffer.

GhostDeini opens with new track "Slept on Tony," a lyrical compilation of Ghost's history, spliced with superhero fantasies: "Playboy industrialist/ Face of a ghost/ Mind of a technologist/ Modern-day speech slang therapist/ Specialize in weapons/ I can blow up terrorists." The fierce verbal battery is accompanied by a brass tour-de-force — fused with old-school percussion and subtle tambourine. It's a brilliant, albeit fantastically short, introduction. Standing at only 2:31, we're left drooling for more.

Instead, we get a series of rehashed junk, all but starting with "Run" (now with Lil Wayne, Raekwon and Freeway), which serves as more of an extension than an official remix. The tracks that follow similarly tweak their original version's eclectic madness, and we have to wonder if the Killah's really lost his touch for good, or if he's just plain lazy. Production on every "remixed" track is unchanged — apart from "The Champ" in which Just Blaze (gasp!) removes spoken dialogue during the chorus.



Such so-called "remixes" only go so far as to slop on lyrical additions by equally over-relaxed emcees. Ice Cube's evidently rushed and rehashed contribution to *Fishscale's* "Be Easy" is a nauseating tribute to his middle-age endeavors ("I got a movie fo' yo kids/ A dick fo' yo bitch/ A .45 slug fo' yo wiz").

From legendary *Supreme Clientele* to *Fishscale*, you've heard it all before. But for reassurance, the album ends on new track "Ghostface Xmas," a bizarre song that gives "Carol of the Bells" a Wu-facelift as Ghost raps about the holidays with his trademark gangsta-amped delivery: "Snowflakes, cinnamon cakes/ Sisters and brothers slide down with garbage can covers/ No more fights/ Egnog slashed with Hennessy/ But Christmas is Christmas from New York to Tennessee." Touching, really.

GhostDeini collects too little of the new and too much of the old — so if you're craving that Ghostface fix, you're better off reaching for the stack of classics in your closet. Or better yet, just grab *36 Chambers* and get right to the grit of it.

— Omar Khan
STAFF WRITER

With Fishnet Finesse, the Radiant Tomei Gives Us More Than a 'Flashdance'

► WRESTLER, from page 8

choices that have left him void of human interaction outside the ring.

In any other instance, Marissa Tomei's stripper parable would be met with an eye-rolling Flashdance reference or T-Pain scoff, but in "The Wrestler" she redefines the archetype by bringing depth to single mom Cassidy, who like "The Ram" is fastidiously aging in an industry contingent on the youth culture.

In careers where public scrutiny is part of the job, Cassidy and ringmaster Ram bare nearly all — exemplified shamelessly by Rourke's new spandex-splitting Venice Beach physique and Tomei in peek-a-boob fishnet. But for the Hollywood veterans, a combination of on-screen presence and radiating humility make it impossible for either to really be outshone by his or her nudity.

Shot like a documentary, with natural lighting and

tipsy camera work, much of the film's framing is spent paparazzi-trailing Goldilocks' bird's-nest bun through New Jersey auditoriums and community centers, or wherever the wrestling subculture is forced to meet for battle — where the line between reality and make-believe is blurred. Though praise-worthy cinematography (suffused in inky shadows) allows the audience to taste the sweat in the 20-foot square where the legend reigns king, it's rarely a pretty sight.

Rourke brings a modest authenticity to a warrior who continues to lug his feeble limbs to combat — despite his heart's betrayal and cumbersome hearing aid — and to dismiss the performance would be a disservice to any fan of the cinema. Surrounded by a culture where nearly everything is souped with glitz and applique glamour, "The Wrestler" is a brutal story of redemption that lets a raging ram loose in the ring.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Guardian Green Card is available at EDNA in the Price Center and Student Center, Soft Reserves, and the Guardian office, upstairs in the Old Student Center. (3/12)

EVENTS

Take part in UCSD's 29th annual appearance in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade through Downtown San Diego. This Sat., Jan. 17, 10am-1pm, starts in the Petco Park Tailgate Park. Free breakfast and transportation (UCSD students only) if you meet at Sun God parking lot by 8:30am. See the ad on page 5 in today's issue for locations to sign up and and join your college.

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SUPERBOWL FARE—We're kicking off the Superbowl with some healthy fare at Whole Foods Market La Jolla! Join “The Kitchen Shrink” – syndicated columnist Catherine Kaufman, for a fun and funky cooking class, just in time for your Superbowl shindig! Saturday January 31st at 11AM – you'll learn how to make some tasty healthy dishes and dips that'll score big at your party! Go for the extra Superbowl “pointers” form Whole Foods Market! (1/29)

Don't forget you can post your UCSD campus events on the Guardian online Campus Calendar. Go to www.ucsdguardian.org and link at the top to “Calendar.” (3/12)

JOB

Survey Takers Needed: Make \$5-25 per survey. Do it in your spare time. www.GetPaidToThink.com (1/29)

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FOR SALE

“Diary From the Dome: Reflections on Fear and Privilege During Katrina” describes the harrowing experience a UCSD staff person had when trapped in the Superdome during the hurricane. This gripping story is available for you to order via the UCSD Bookstore or online at Amazon, Target, Borders, Barnes & Noble, or the Blue Stocking Bookstore. (1/20)

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2				9		7		1
8			3	6		9		
	6		7				5	4

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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PERSONALS

President Bush's farewell was even better than the movie “W.” (1/15)

Have a wonderful Martin Luther King Day and three day weekend! (1/19)

MONDAY JAN. 12 Crossword Solution

I	C	E	P	I	C	K	S	C	H	L	E	P	P
M	A	L	A	C	H	I	E	L	E	A	N	O	R
E	Y	E	S	H	O	T	R	I	S	O	T	T	O
L	U	C	O	R	B	R	P	I	H	A	J		
D	S	T	R	E	A	D	A	P	T	R	U	E	
A	E	S	S	A	G	E	T	E	A	A	F	C	
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E	R	G	W	O	U	L	D	S	T	L	U	X	
M	A	L	A	L	G	A							
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Y	A	O	U	N	D	E	H	O	A	R	T	E	R
E	N	L	A	C	E	S	I	N	T	O	N	E	S
R	E	A	R	E	R	S	M	A	Z	I	E	S	T

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Expect a Keystone State Battle in Tampa for Super Bowl XLIII

► **JOE**, from page 12

NFC Championship game before. Donovan McNabb and Andy Reid made themselves an annual fixture at the conference championships from 2002 through 2005. The streak culminated in a 27-10 win over the Atlanta Falcons that earned the Eagles a trip to their first Super Bowl since Ron Jaworski was playing for the team, rather than simply felling himself while watching them. Philadelphia understands the pressure of this situation far better than the Cardinals and, due to previous experience, has a tested routine heading up to this type of game.

Why they won't win:

1. The Eagles have been to the NFC Championship game before ... and they usually lose. Philadelphia's four conference championship losses have been one of the main rallying cries for those picking the boosters. However, it's not simply that the Eagles have lost more often than they have won in the final step to the Super Bowl — it's that, like this year, they were almost always favored to win.

2. Donovan McNabb got benched. Some feel that McNabb's benching against Baltimore has awakened him. However, having played poorly enough that Andy Reid — who loves McNabb like Andy Reid loves cake — would bench him, means that McNabb has shown, this season and previously, to be capable of unpredictably awful games.

Arizona Cardinals

Why they'll win:

1. Kurt Warner is a winner. The story of Warner's rise from working at a supermarket to winning a Super Bowl has been well-documented. However, after Marc Bulger unseated him in St. Louis, after he backed up Eli Manning in New York and after he found himself in a quarterback competition with Josh McCown early

on in Arizona, the story was supposed to be over. Warner, however, keeps coming back and thus can't be counted out.

2. Arizona's offense is the best of all the remaining squads. While the Steelers and Ravens have strength in numbers in terms of their running games and Brian Westbrook is the most exciting offensive player remaining, the Cardinals can rack up the points — they scored 30 or more in eight of their 11 wins on the year. Plus, Arizona did most of that without a true running game that has seemingly been discovered during the playoffs.

Why they won't win:

1. Their defense cannot possibly be this good. It's hard to believe that Arizona is now a defensive juggernaut after allowing 35 or more points in back-to-back losses to the Vikings and Patriots, as well as 56 to the Jets and 48 to the Eagles on Thanksgiving. After watching Delhomme's birthday meltdown, you can be sure that McNabb won't get caught in the same air-it-out formula that resulted in so many Arizona takeaways. Adrian Wilson is great, but as a whole, the Cardinals' defense is due for another awful performance.

2. They're the Arizona Cardinals. Come on, it's the Cardinals! I know we just witnessed the previous laughingstock Tampa Bay Rays advance to the World Series, but still, they are the Cardinals. People in Arizona don't even really like this team. They just go to the stadium because of the air conditioning and free wi-fi — people in Arizona love sitting in large air-conditioned areas while looking at pornography. If the Cardinals make it to the Super Bowl, people like Dane Cook are going to start thinking they could one day get an Oscar nomination, and I refuse to deal with that kind of unfounded optimism.

Joe goes with: Eagles 35, Cardinals 29.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Why they'll win:

1. The Steelers are the most complete team remaining. The top-seed New York Giants and Tennessee Titans are both out. The second-seed and popularly predicted Carolina Panthers were done by halftime. The Steelers, meanwhile, took care of the Chargers — the team riding with the most momentum into and through the first round of the playoffs. Pittsburgh showed that it was great throughout the year and then, unlike all the other teams receiving first-round byes, showed up for the playoffs. Their defense is dominating but, just as importantly, their offense has all the pieces to build a

Flacco might need more than one or two strong drives and a few throws to keep up with Pittsburgh on its home field.

lead and then dominate the clock to protect it.

2. Mike Tomlin is an awesome coach. Lost in all the conjecture about where former Steelers coach Bill Cowher might end up is the fact that current Steelers coach Mike Tomlin (yes, the guy who looks like Omar Epps) stepped in to lead this team without missing a beat. Injuries to Ben Roethlisberger or Willie Parker might have derailed other squads, but the Steelers stayed on track, and while linebacker James Harrison was deservedly lauded for his performance, it's Tomlin who sets the calming and focused tone for the entire team.

Why they won't win:

1. It's hard to beat any team three

times in a single season. While having beaten the Baltimore Ravens twice already during the season should seemingly give Pittsburgh the mental edge leading into the game, both of those contests were close. The Ravens are due to pull out one of these close contests. The reason division foes usually prove to be the toughest tests, particularly in the playoffs, is because they know each other so well; the Ravens have probably learned a lot about Pittsburgh from their earlier encounters this year.

2. Troy Polamalu isn't at top speed. The Steelers' safety is reportedly taking it easy this week after injuring himself prior to the Chargers game. While Polamalu will definitely play, his weakened state last week made what should have been a total rout of San Diego into a 35-24 win, and Polamalu recorded only three tackles in the game. For the Steelers defense to be at its dominating best, Polamalu will need to have an impact that rivals the size of his beautiful mane of hair.

Baltimore Ravens

Why they'll win:

1. The Ravens, like a reformed crack whore entering college, are getting hot at the right time. After three straight losses early in the season, some thought that the Ravens, with their rookie quarterback, were still a couple of years away from contending. However, Baltimore fast-tracked the wait, losing only twice more during the season and closed out Texas Stadium by demoralizing the Cowboys with back-to-back huge touchdown runs. Baltimore might not have looked as dominating against the Titans as they did against Miami, but they still found a way to win, and in the playoffs, that's all that matters.

2. Ed Reed is the best player remaining. Offensively or defensively, the most dominant player left in the playoffs and one of the most dominating forces in the NFL is the Ravens'

safety, Ed Reed. While not as vocal as linebacker and designated team leader Ray Lewis, Reed has risen to the role of the Ravens' best player. He's able to cover the entirety of the field, scaring opposing quarterbacks to even throw it near his area and at all times capable of making a turnover into a touchdown.

Why they won't win:

1. Rookie quarterbacks are always a risky proposition. While it seems almost insane to ever pick against a quarterback named Joe, in this case, inexperience and thus far a lack of one truly amazing performance is able to lessen the impact of quarterback Joe Flacco's Joe-ness. Flacco has shown an ability to manage a game capably, proving to fit far more into the formula that helped Trent Dilfer win a Super Bowl instead of the formula that led to Elvis Grbac working as a male model. Nonetheless, Flacco might need more than one or two strong drives and a few throws to keep up with Pittsburgh on its home field.

2. Anything the Ravens do, the Steelers do better. The Baltimore Ravens have got to this point with a ball control offense and dominating defense. However, it was the Steelers who allowed fewer yards per game, including holding opponents to an amazing AFC best average of 80.2 yards rushing per game. On the running side of the football, the Ravens have benefited from a fine rookie season from Ray Rice, Willis McGahee battling through injury, and a Pro Bowl performance from Le'Ron McClain (earning a trip to Hawaii as the Mike Alstott Award Winner for fullback who is used more like a halfback). However, again it was the Steelers who led the league running the football, racking up 165 yards per game with Willie Parker and Melde Moore. For the Ravens to win, they'll have to come up with a plan to beat a more polished version of their own team.

Joe goes with: Steelers 16, Ravens 13.

TRITON BASKETBALL



REMAINING 2009 SCHEDULE

Jan. 23 vs. Cal State Stanislaus @ 5:30 & 7:30pm

Jan. 24 vs. Chico State @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Feb. 13 vs. Cal Poly Pomona @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Feb. 14 vs. Cal State San Bernardino @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm

*Feb. 20 vs. San Francisco State @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Feb. 21 vs. Cal State Monterey Bay @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm

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Swim Team Earns Revenge at Home

By Tyler Nelson
STAFF WRITER

SWIMMING — Revenge is a dish best served cold, as the saying goes, but it could not have been less accurate for the Triton women at their swim meet against Loyola Marymount University on Jan. 10.

The Tritons would have taken revenge served any way possible in their attempt to bounce back from the shameful loss to the Lions last season. UCSD swam an immaculate race against its bitter rivals and began its post-meet cooldown and lunch by the second intermission.

"Is that what you call a beat down?" asked men's swim captain Daniel Perdew, who came to show his support for the women's team as the men's team did not have a meet.

The Tritons clearly outswam the Lions, winning 11 of the 14 events. It had been a long victory in waiting for UCSD, which lost a bitterly close race to Loyola Marymount last year by a score of 131-128. The team did not leave a possibility for another close finish this year as the Tritons came out powered by the support from their team, parents and the home crowd.

The day began with a victory by the 200-yard medley team, led by freshman Shea Kopp, freshman Mercedes O'Brien, sophomore Jessica Ferguson and senior captain Aubrey Panis, with a time of 1:48.69. Freshman Alexandra Henley, sophomore Ashtyn Douglas, sophomore Anju Shimura and senior Jennifer Sims each recorded two wins for the Tritons in impressive performances.

"Last year we didn't have a good meet," Panis said. "This year we just came out [and] didn't let anything like last year happen. It feels so good to beat our rival and by so much."

The Triton women raced one of



The women's swim team circled its meet against Loyola Marymount University, and responded with one of its best performances of the year — a 158-104 win.

their best meets of the season, coming out strong and finishing just as well en route to a decisive 158-104 victory.

Adding to their convincing win over Loyola Marymount, the UCSD men's and women's swimming and diving teams hosted a dual meet against Grand Canyon University on Jan. 11. The competition held special significance for the Tritons as it was the last home meet for UCSD's 10 seniors. Parents, fans and friends gathered to cheer on the seniors in the last home meet of their careers.

It was an emotional day for the Tritons, coming off of a huge win against their bitter rival the day before, but they were able to build on it and quickly got down to business against Grand Canyon University. UCSD had no trouble putting away

its opponents, winning every event of the day and sweeping most. The Tritons defeated the Antelopes by a whopping score of 171-15.

"We worked hard to avoid the emotional letdown from this weekend," head coach Scott McGihon said. "I talked to them earlier in the week, and we just needed to come out and swim."

The emphasis on the day was clearly on the senior class, especially captains Panis, Shannon Simonds, Perdew and Steven Hardy.

"It feels good to go out on a win, but it would have been good for it to be more competitive," Perdew said. As the Tritons raced through the day they reflected on their time swimming at UCSD.

"My fondest memory was the first day they opened this pool," Hardy said. "It was horrible — the

heater wasn't working, so it was cold. There were metal rails all around the pool and there were no trees."

The seniors' final home meet brought out some mixed feelings from the Triton veterans.

"It feels weird," Simonds said. "I don't know what to do after this."

Even though this season's home meets are over, the Tritons are amid a tough schedule. The Triton women will face the University of San Diego at the Toros' home pool on Jan. 16 and the men's and women's teams have a meet at UC Irvine on Jan. 17.

The Tritons will be looking to improve their times over the next month while preparing for conference championships in Long Beach on Feb. 18.

Readers can contact Tyler Nelson at tcnelson@ucsd.edu.

CONFERENCE TITLE GAMES: WILL THEY OR WON'T THEY?

With four teams remaining in the NFL playoffs, it seems only fitting, and symmetrical, to give two reasons why each of the remaining teams will or won't win.

Philadelphia Eagles

Why they'll win:

1. Philadelphia has a winner's mentality. After knocking the Cowboys from playoff contention and eliminating the defending Super Bowl champion Giants, the Eagles can indeed lay claim to being the best of the NFL's most complete division. While friends who live there



Cup O' Joe

Joe Tevelowitz

jtevelow@ucsd.edu

have continually described the city of Philadelphia as, to put it mildly, a diaper factory where all the diapers have been used and all the people appear to enjoy the scent of their own feces, the Phillies are also coming off a World Series win that has made the entire area feel invincible. Plus, the movie "Invincible" was pretty good and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" is hilarious, so I guess that helps in some way.

2. The Eagles have been to the

See **JOE**, page 11

Tritons Take Two Golds at BladeRunner



By Janani Sridharan
SPORTS EDITOR

FENCING — Facing 167 fencers from four different states, including some UCSD alumni, the Tritons met a wide variety of competition at the BladeRunner match held at RIMAC Arena on Jan. 10 and 11. The UCSD fencing team came away from the event with two gold-medal wins in men's and women's foil and some much-needed experience in preparation for the NCAA West Regional and National Championship coming up this March.

"They fenced extremely well, particularly in the foil events," head coach Heidi Runyan said of the Triton fencers. "Foil is definitely our strongest weapon this year."

Sophomore foil Benjamin Dorn proved the strength of the UCSD foil team when he won the gold medal bout on the first day of competition. On his way to the final match, Dorn won close bouts against UCSD alumni Tedd Padgitt and Cameron Sprowles 15-14 and 15-13 respectively.

"One thing that struck me about BladeRunner was the number of alumni who showed up and fenced really well," Runyan said. "It is great to see people stay active in the sport, even after they have graduated."

Dorn followed up tight matches against former Tritons with a decisive 15-5 victory over Nick Kazimiroff from Boston College for the gold medal.

"I definitely went through the toughest competition in the tournament so coming out on top and getting my name on the trophy meant a lot to me," Dorn said.

The women's team dominated foil

play at BladeRunner, advancing two Tritons to the gold medal bout. Junior Pilar Alicea overpowered teammate senior Zitin Kachru 15-9.

"Women's foil is our strongest women's team," Runyan said. "Pilar Alicea, who won the gold, is an amazing talent. Zitin Kachru, who finished second, is fencing very tough this year. Our third woman's foilist, Razan Faraj, started slow, but ended up fencing very well at BladeRunner. Razan is a terrific athlete who just needs more experience."

In addition to the champions, freshman foil Armin Chan took third in the men's foil while junior sabre Samantha Rojas and senior foil Alicia Trigeiro placed third in the women's sabre.

The strong showing at BladeRunner is encouraging especially with the tough North American Cup in Louisville, Ky., from Jan. 16 to Jan. 19. The tournament will give the stronger UCSD fencers a chance to refine their skills.

"The North American Cup is definitely a level or two above anything we have faced so far this season," Runyan said. "We go to it because some of our fencers need that experience and challenge."

After the North American Cup, UCSD has three competitions before the West Regional on March 7 and the NCAA National Championships from March 19 to March 22.

"We have such a great team this year we're looking to send a record number of people to nationals," Dorn said.

Readers can contact Janani Sridharan at jsridhar@ucsd.edu.

DANIEL CADDELL/GUARDIAN FILE
After a strong showing that earned UCSD two gold medals at the BladeRunner competition, the Tritons will turn their attention to the prestigious North American Cup in Louisville, Ky., from Jan. 16-19.

ON DECK

Women's Basketball

at Cal State Monterey Bay
and San Francisco State
Jan. 16-17

The women's basketball team has jumped out to a 6-0 start in CCAA play, which puts them in first place. The Tritons will look to win their season-high seventh straight game when they take on Cal State Monterey Bay on Friday night. UCSD is 8-0 lifetime against the Otters. On the following night, the Tritons will face San Francisco State, owners of the best defense in the CCAA. A year ago, UCSD won all three games against the Gators.

Men's Basketball

at Cal State Monterey Bay
and San Francisco State
Jan. 16-17

Currently riding a three-game losing streak, the men's basketball team will attempt to get back on track as it embarks on a two-game road trip to Northern California. First up are the Otters of Cal State Monterey Bay, who are 10-3 overall. The Tritons have struggled offensively during their skid, but should get a boost when they face one of the worst defensive teams in the CCAA. San Francisco State, meanwhile, is experiencing its own woes, having lost four straight.