

Doctor's Orders: THEY'RE WORTH GETTING USED TO. PAGE 6



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN



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CA BUDGET CRISIS

Oil Tax May Fund Higher Education

The UC, CSU and community-college systems stand to split \$1.8 billion in revenue.

By Kashi Khorasani
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 11, the California State Assembly Committee passed a bill aimed at allocating more funds to higher education with five affirmative votes and two negative votes. Bill AB 656, authored by Assemblyman Alberto Torrico (D-Fremont), will impose an excise tax on oil companies that extract oil and natural gas from the state's land and water sources.

If passed by the California State Legislature, the bill would create the California Higher Education Endowment Corporation. The corporation would be run by representatives from the California State University system, the University of California and community colleges and would be responsible for allocating the money each year.

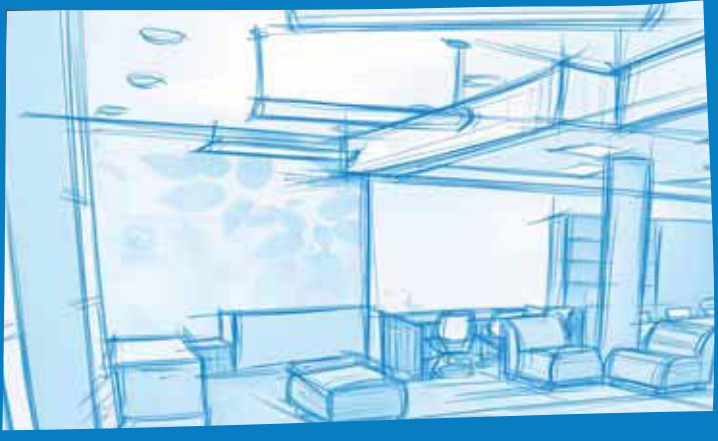
Earlier this month, the bill was amended to incur a 12.5-percent severance tax, as opposed to the previously proposed 9.9-percent tax. According to an analysis by the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation, the tax will now be expected to raise \$1.8 billion in 2010 and \$2 billion in 2011.

Prior to recent amendments, the bill would have sent 60 percent of revenue to the CSU system, 30 percent to the UC system and just 10 percent to community colleges. After the urging of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, however, the bill was rewritten and now directs 50 percent of its revenue to the CSU system, 25 percent to the UC system and 25 percent to community colleges.

"We have allowed oil companies in California to extract oil from our ground and we have failed to charge

See OIL, page 3

SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCE CENTER



LOCKED OUT

Though they were promised space, students lack access to the SRC.

By Ayelet Bitton • ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHILIP RHIE & EMILY KU/GUARDIAN

After the grand opening of the Sustainability Resource Center last November, members of the Student Sustainability Collective and Campus Sustainability administrators have not yet come to an agreement over how to share the space.

According to SSC student director Rishi Ghosh, the center was conceived two years ago when students approached university administrators with hopes to begin the project. When student activity fees were raised last Spring Quarter — providing the SSC with an additional \$2.34 per-student per-quarter for projects and staff — SSC members were under the impression their new efforts would be housed by the collaborative space.

Since then, however, university staff and student leaders have disagreed on the role of students in the center — leaving the SSC without the opportunity to utilize the SRC on a consistent basis.

"The spirit of the referendum, the way we advertised it, was that the funding was for students working right in the new SRC," A.S. President Utsav Gupta said. "That was the context in which we had all these discussions with the administration — until it totally flipped. It was a bait-and-switch."

According to the SRC's Web site, its original intention was to "house UCSD's sustainability staff and the student-funded and -run SSC."

As no form has yet been signed indicating an understanding of the two groups' control of the center, however, only the CSS currently has full access the space.

In the months following the student-fee referendum, plans for the center were arranged verbally between students and staff. University

See SRC, page 3

ALUMNUS DIES IN QUAKE

UCSD graduate Daniel Ryan Kloos was killed while volunteering for a children's hospital.

By Hayley Bisceglia-Martin
NEWS EDITOR

The earthquake that hit the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12 — claiming an estimated 200,000 lives, according to the Pan American Health Organization — also took the life of 24-year-old UCSD graduate and Arizona native Daniel Ryan Kloos.



Daniel Ryan Kloos
UCSD Alumnus

Ryan, who went by his middle name, was in Haiti visiting his sister Erin Kloos, age 27. She was one of four Americans volunteering at Friends of the Orphans, a subset of the children's charity Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos.

At the time of his death, Ryan was at the Father Wasson Center, a children's hospital where his sister worked. When the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit, five of the hospital's seven stories collapsed, killing both Ryan and another volunteer, Molly Hightower, age 22.

Ryan graduated from Muir College in 2008 with a double major in Sociology and Biochemistry/General Biology, and had just been accepted to two schools of osteopathic medicine, according to close friend and classmate Liz Costa.

"Once he had been accepted to one of the programs, he quit his job

See KLOOS, page 9

A.S. Council Places Loft on Spring Quarter Fee Ballot

By Angela Chen
NEWS EDITOR

After more than six hours of debate, the A.S. Council voted 20-7-1 late Wednesday night to place the Loft referendum on the Spring Quarter election ballot. If approved by the student body, the proposal would raise student fees by \$3.82 per student per quarter. The money would go toward art and music programming at the Loft.

The referendum requires that at least 29 percent of the fees go to financial aid, that at least 80 percent of all events at the Loft be "pay as you can" for UCSD students and that undergraduates represent at least 60 percent of the venue's hiring staff.

During yesterday's meeting, the council discussed two models of the referendum — one sponsored by A.S. Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and chair of the University Centers Advisory Board Jordan Taylor, and one sponsored by A.S. President Utsav Gupta.

The primary difference between the two proposals was the intensity of A.S. Council oversight.

Under Gupta's proposal, the A.S. Council would create a student-majority Loft Governance Board to regulate the venue's budget allocation. This board would include various members of

See LOFT, page 3



KEVIN WU/GUARDIAN

If passed by the student body, the Loft referendum guarantees that at least 80 percent of Loft events will be "pay as you can" for UCSD students.

SPOKEN

"We just do it. We've really conditioned ourselves from years of playing; we can do it anywhere."

JOHN FAMIGLIETTI
HEALTH
PAGE 6

FORECAST

THURSDAY H 59 L 49	FRIDAY H 55 L 45
SATURDAY H 58 L 42	SUNDAY H 63 L 42

NIGHT WATCH

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY

SURF REPORT

THURSDAY Height: 2-5 ft. Wind: 8-19 mph Water Temp: 59 F	FRIDAY Height: 2-5 ft. Wind: 9-13 mph Water Temp: 59 F
SATURDAY Height: 2-5 ft. Wind: 8-12 mph Water Temp: 59 F	SUNDAY Height: 3-6 ft. Wind: 1-5 mph Water Temp: 59 F

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SUNNY-SIDE UP By Philip Rhie



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Diego-San Learns Motor Skills of Real Boy

By Regina Ip
STAFF WRITER

Researchers from UCSD have developed a “baby robot” to simulate the growth and development of a one-year-old child.

Named Diego-San, the robot is used to conduct research on the brain development of children. It is part of the Machine Perception Laboratory — part of UCSD’s division of Calit2 and the Institute for Neural Computation at UCSD — whose mission is to create a robot that can learn and develop sensory-motor and communicative skills of infants.

Dr. Javier Movellan, principal investigator and founder of MPL, created Diego-San in order to study how babies acquire problem-solving skills that are, traditionally, difficult to reproduce with robots.

“The idea came from the fact that many problems in robotics and artificial intelligence have been very difficult to solve with classic A.I. approaches,” Movellan said. “Yet babies solve, within one year of life, the most complicated problems effortlessly.”

Movellan said he created the project to understand the complex brain development of a baby when it learns the motor and social skills necessary to survive.

The four-foot, 66-pound humanoid robot is equipped with a head that houses 20 moving parts that make facial expressions without speaking, two high-definition cameras for eyes, an audio speaker for a mouth and a six-axis accelerometer for ears, to detect orientation and movement.

The robot also has five-fingered hands that can hold objects like water bottles. It has sensors that detect the pressure points placed on different joints in its body, and can stand up from a chair.

The main goal, according to Movellan, is for the robot to carry out all these functions independently by integrating motor control functions in social interactions with only the help of its sensors and activators.

MPL is currently in its second phase of the project — which includes developing the control elec-

tronics and software — and is trying to replicate the way babies learn motor movements.

Specifically, the researchers want the robot to be able to recognize facial expressions, learn and recognize the appearance of its caregivers, reach objects on its own without human aid and use gestures like pointing, reaching and grasping for items.

To do so, researchers are currently working on an algorithm that integrates a multidisciplinary approach of bringing together the fields of physics, electronics and psychology.

“The robot really is an instrument for research and our goal is to push the limits of robot control,” Movellan said. We want it to have similar properties to that of a human being and the level of complexity similar to that of a human being.”

The robot has already been publicized in a newsletter published by Kokoro, a company in the Sanrio Group that specializes in animated robots and automated machinery. It has also been featured in several tech blogs, such as www.gizmodo.com, to mostly negative responses on the baby’s appearance.

Of the responses from blogs, Movellan said, “One of my students told me about this. I was surprised that this made it through the Internet.”

He said did not expect the newsletter to reach the Internet. But now, he said he sees the feedback as an opportunity to improve the robot’s design. For example, he plans to change the aesthetics of the face by working with Hanson Robotics, who collaborated with MPL on the Einstein robot.

Movellan responded to some of the blogs, clarifying that researchers were still in the initial phase of developing the robot’s body (which was constructed by Kokoro, along with the head).

After the developmental phase, MPL is planning to train the robot.

“It’s been great [because it’s] such a challenging project that tests you in so many different ways,” Movellan said. “What I expect from the project is a better understanding of the nature of human intelligence.”

The research began in September 2008. Diego-



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN

Calit2 engineers created Diego-San to mimic the learning patterns of a baby, including face recognition.

San is part of Project One, funded by the National Science Foundation.

As far as a projected date for completion, Movellan said that — though the funding will be cut off in 2013 — work on Diego-San is likely to continue much longer.

“The project is part of an ongoing effort to understand the development of intelligence in infants from a computational point of view,” Movellan said. “The effort is likely to continue for as long as I am alive.”

Readers can contact Regina Ip at rwip@ucsd.edu.

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Regina Ip, Emily Ku, Jonathan Shan, Naomi Shiffman,
Teresa Trinh, Simone Wilson

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Amy Guzdar, Monica Haider, Jonathan Kim,
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General Editorial: 858-534-6580

editor@ucsdguardian.org

News: 858-534-5226, news1@ucsdguardian.org

Focus: 858-534-5226, features@ucsdguardian.org

Hiatus: 858-534-6583, hiatus@ucsdguardian.org

Opinion: 858-534-6582, opinion@ucsdguardian.org

Sports: 858-534-6582, sports@ucsdguardian.org

Photo: 858-534-6582, photo@ucsdguardian.org

Advertising: 858-534-3467

ads@ucsdguardian.org

Fax: 858-534-7691

The UCSD Guardian

9500 Gilman Drive, 0316

La Jolla, CA 92093-0316

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At Long Last, the Drawn-out Loft Saga Comes to a Close

A wet Wednesday night and a leaking fourth-floor forum didn't hinder the A.S. Council from finally deciding the fate of the Loft Referendum.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs **Penny Rue** first addressed the council. She discussed planning for the next fiscal year, and warned councilmembers that Student Affairs programs will be cut further due to the growing state deficit.

But Rue's presentation wasn't entirely filled with depressing statistics — she spoke of UCSD's coming 50th anniversary during the 2010-11 academic year, and the festivities and flair surrounding the anticipated yearlong celebration.

About two of the six total hours the council dedicated to the Loft discussion consisted of debate between two different proposals for Loft oversight. The council discussed President **Utsav Gupta's** suggestion to create a Loft Governance Board, as well as University Center Advisory Board Chair **Jordan Taylor's** recommendation that the existing committee continue regulating the Loft.

The council voted 16-11 in favor of Taylor's proposal over Gupta's. Once the governing body proposal was finalized, the council amended the referendum line by line.

Once the language of the Loft Referendum was passed a few hours later, the council took to debate over whether or not the referendum should appear on the Spring 2010 ballot.

Strong arguments were heard from both sides.

"The Loft is a part of student life,"

Taylor said. "We saw 1,500 student signatures in support, and if that's not enough to convince you that this needs to go to a student vote, then I don't know what is."

AVP Enterprise Operations **Rishi Ghosh** was a vocal opponent against the referendum.

"When education funds have gone down dramatically, why are we entertaining the idea of funding entertainment?" Ghosh said. "It's frivolous

to what I think is our core function as a governing body."

Muir College Senator **Lynne Swerhone** summed up the arguments nicely: "I feel like no one's going to read this proposal," she said, and the room filled with snaps in agreement.

After three more hours of debate and a 20-7-1 vote, the council decided that the Loft referendum will appear on the Spring Quarter 2010 ballot. A round of applause followed — the decision was made just past 1 a.m.

During question time, Sixth College Senator **Kevin Nguyen** and Warren College Senator **Alyssa Wing** appeared before the council, armed with a colorful poster that read, "Associated Students, will you go to Spirit Night with me?" Nguyen and Wing, in a continuation of their senator project, insisted on A.S. Council support at the Jan. 30 basketball game against Cal State San Bernardino.

After a long eight hours, the council retired for the night, and Marshall Chair **Tanvir Dhillon** graciously offered a ride so fellow councilmembers wouldn't have to walk home in the rain.

New Business

KELSEY WONG
klw009@ucsd.edu



Zierman: Oil Tax Could Add Stress to California Economy

► **OIL**, from page 1

them an extraction fee, as every other state in the country currently does," Torrico said. "AB 656 will address that problem directly."

According to CEO of the California Independent Petroleum Association **Rock Zierman**, one common objection to this bill is that it would cause an increase in gas prices — something Californians in today's economic crisis can ill afford.

Torrico, however, said that AB 656 wouldn't allow for such a price jump.

"The bill specifically prohibits oil companies from passing along the severance fee to consumers at the pump," Torrico said.

The text of AB 656 states that not only are gas companies forbidden from "using the tax as a pretext to materially raise the price of oil," but also that the State Board of Equalization is licensed to investi-

gate any producers that they suspect of doing so. However, Zierman doubts the bill's ability to realistically restrain gas prices, despite its strong wording.

"[Torrico's claim] is true and it's not true," Zierman said. "The only companies that [the investigation] would affect are the fully integrated companies that extract crude oil from the ground and take it all the way to their gas stations. What this bill can't stop is an increase in gas prices. You can't completely prohibit an increase in the price of gas — that's a global market."

The bill is backed by the California Federation of Teachers, the Service Employees International Union and the UC Student Association.

"I think 656 will provide us with an important alternative source of revenue to allow education to be prioritized in this state," UCSA President **Victor Sanchez** said. "It's

the solution that's out there, the one that's the most tangible and it's the one that has the most backing and is moving forward. We're waiting to see what's going to happen."

While Sanchez is uncertain about the fiscal effects that the bill would have on oil companies and oil-dependent industries, he stressed the need for additional funding for universities and colleges.

"We don't know what the implications would be [for consumers], but we do know what it would mean for higher education in California," Sanchez said.

Having passed out of committee, the bill must now face both houses of the legislature. Since AB 656 pertains to revenue and budgetary issues, it requires a two-thirds majority from the state senate and assembly.

Readers can contact **Kashi Khorasani** at kkhorasa@ucsd.edu.

Students, Staff Struggle to Agree on Terms of Contract

► **SRC**, from page 1

Centers designated a space for it in Price Center.

The administration agreed to fund renovations to the space while students and staff negotiated the terms of how the space was to be shared between advocates. The agreement was to be authenticated with the signing of a Memorium of Understanding by the SSC and CSS, to establish the presence of each group in the space.

According to Ghosh, SSC members hoped to have the MOU signed prior to the center's opening last November.

"We were of the opinion all the hard work was done," Ghosh said. "We just needed to sign the MOU."

However, the SCC has failed to

come to an agreement with Campus Sustainability Coordinator **Margaret Souder** since then; as a consequence, Souder has not allowed students to use the space freely.

According to Souder, the two groups have been unable to reach a final agreement because representatives from the SSC continue to change their stance on the details of the MOU.

"We've had several meetings and were all in agreement," Souder said. "But then the SSC would have come back with new ideas and wouldn't agree anymore."

New changes were proposed over multiple meetings, according to Souder.

"In the details is where it falls through," Souder said. "We come

up with an agreement and everyone is happy. Then, a few people want changes, and we begin discussions again and come to a new agreement. In the last few meetings, though, an agreement hasn't been reached."

Members of the SSC have expressed frustration with the discussions. Ghosh said that Souder has recently retracted promises she outlined verbally in original discussions of the MOU.

"It actually was worked out earlier," Ghosh said. "It's just that it was worked out verbally. We were made specific promises. [Souder] had consistently told us her supervisors were on board. It was not as if we just stormed in. We had gone through

See **DISPUTE**, page 9

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WEB POLL
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80% No.

Yes.

20% 20% I don't know.

OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR: opinion@ucsdguardian.org

Props to President Obama for asking lawmakers to approve an additional \$1.3 billion education initiative intended to spur innovation in schools.

Flops to John Freshwater, an eighth-grade teacher in Ohio, for burning a cross onto two students' arms in an attempt to force his religious beliefs onto them.



EDITORIALS

A Sustainable Home's No Use Without a Key

Despite decades of evidence to the contrary, there's always something we want to trust in the goobery handshakes of student-life administrators, spectacles a-sparkle, promising us the world.

Two years ago, the promise was a space for the sole purpose of streamlining sustainability efforts on campus: a snazzy center where both the Student Sustainability Collective and university officials could combine their scattered, homeless initiatives under one roof; a lean, green, tree-hugging machine.

WEB POLL

Have you visited the new Sustainability Resource Center?

The Sustainability Resource Center — now located next door to Price Center Theater, in what used to be the EDNA info booth — was originally a brainchild of the SSC. The organization offered to pay for it through student activity fees, allotted quarterly by the A.S. Council.

That's when university officials kindly stepped in, offering to pay all construction and rent costs, so that A.S. funds — which now abound, since student activity fees were inflated last year, with a special line for the SSC — could go 100 percent toward the projects themselves.

Surely student leaders must have felt, for a moment, that they might just be on the same team as the Man, all money and power aside — especially for the sake of something so blatantly common-good as slowing the gassy death of our dear planet Earth.

The center's Web site is still taglined with its startup mission: to "house" both university staff and SSC representatives in a "collaborative space" to realize "common goals."

Despite this noble goal, now that construction rubble has cleared and recycled-material furniture been pushed into its right place, the SSC can hardly call the center a home. Simple initiatives like a campuswide bike-rental program and electronic-waste bins are having trouble getting off the ground, as they have no central place to exist: Campus Sustainability Coordinator Maggie Souder won't allow students to set up any additional fixtures inside the SRC.

In fact, according to SSC student director Rishi Ghosh, they aren't even allowed to put anything on the shelves or the walls. Students can only use the meeting space by appointment — and even those can be overridden by administrative agenda.

See **SUSTAINABILITY**, page 5

THE GUARDIAN

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Leave Argyle to Grandma — Fluffy's Fine *Au Naturelle*

At the risk of being branded a crazed cat lady, I'll confess: Anything involving those lethargic lumps of fluff I've called pets all my life is of great fascination to me.

So when I came across this online scandal starring an especially press-worthy kitty, I was all ears. Turns out a couple from Boston thought it'd be funny to include their furry "son" on a census, identifying the animal as Sal Esposito.

Though the pair explicitly stated Sal's status as a non-*Homo sapien* (read: cat), that minor detail still slid under the rug of the Suffolk courthouse, and the feline was summoned to jury duty. Then, when the Espositos attempted to disqualify the feline, the jury commissioner decided the household still had to show.

Without trying to stereotype,

The Surf Report

KELSEY MARRUJO

kmarrujo@ucsd.edu



I'll be frank: Anyone who fills out a census and includes the names of his or her pets is a freak. One can safely assume that Mrs. E knew the pet police wouldn't come pounding on her door had she not included little Sal — but she had to list the smallest family member anyway.

As a cat enthusiast who's owned a geriatric, obese Siamese monster for 14 years, I nonetheless must distance myself from the likes of Mrs. E. Prematurely aging your cat by naming him after an old Italian dude is one thing (Sal, please pass the prunes), but bringing the troublemaker to the courthouse, as if he'd otherwise get arrested? Listen, Lady — I know you love Sal, but he is not your son. Nor does he give a crap about human justice.

Admittedly, my family isn't much better. I've witnessed human-feline interaction evolve from a simple pet-and-purr exchange to my mom asking my sister if she wouldn't mind sleeping on the couch because Spanky was used to taking her bed. See, Mom didn't want the change of environs to excite poor Spanky into a heart attack.

Now our bedrooms are hand-me-down lounges for the exclusive breeding of fleas. Cool. Thanks, Mom.

Cat lovers everywhere cater to their companions like children, but kicking your firstborn onto the couch for a kitty's sake? Too much. There's a reason that Garfield and Jon Arbuckle could never talk shit on Odie to each other: There's a respected division between species.

My mom and Mrs. E have crossed the line. And they're not alone. Take a walk in your neighborhood on a breezy Sunday, and you can bet your bottom dollar that at least one visored Betty will be walking a sweater-cozied bulldog named Horace, with whom she will be having a full-fledged conversation.

I can only hope that womankind will revert back to the good days, when best-friend cats were distanced to the appropriate middle ground: beloved playthings, but clear-cut inferiors (sorry, PETA). But as Mrs. E has demonstrated, America is only becoming more pet obsessed. Any attempt to undo Paris Hilton damage on pet relations would be futile. It's 2010, baby, and what Fluffy wants, Fluffy gets.

Cabinet No-Shows Sink the Student Vote

Attendance doesn't usually count in college. Your biology professor won't notice if you don't show up to your 300-person lecture, and there's little consequence to ditching a dorm meeting besides missing out on a free slice of pizza.

But when you're an A.S. councilmember who earned the student body's vote on enthusiastic promises of change and visibility, the very least you can do is make an appearance at your own weekly meeting.

Showing up is a minimum requirement that — according to A.S. Advocate General Parminder Sandhu — many A.S. councilmembers have been struggling to meet. Four members are one absence away from the council's three-absence maximum, and six have surpassed it. Sandhu now plans to nominate them for impeachment at the A.S. Council meeting during Week Four.

And rightfully so. In a perfect world, the councilmembers we elected last year would gauge their peers' perspectives, then vote accordingly at meetings. But if members aren't even showing up for meetings, it's likely they're not surveying the general public. And if they're not surveying the general public, they're probably not doing much else.

True, a handful of councilmembers have still been productive out-

side of weekly meetings. But their absence also slows the council's progress on collaborative initiatives by necessitating repeat information.

We understand that discussing referenda language for six hours isn't the most stimulating way to spend a Wednesday night, but there's more to being a student representative than making posters and designing bear paraphernalia. All A.S. councilmembers knew what they were signing up for when they ran for election, and if they aren't honoring their commitment, they don't deserve to buffer their resume with some official-sounding position any longer.

According to Sandhu, excusing an absence prior to a meeting is as simple as saying "I have a class." You'd think the impeachable councilmembers would at least care enough to lie about why they're ditching.

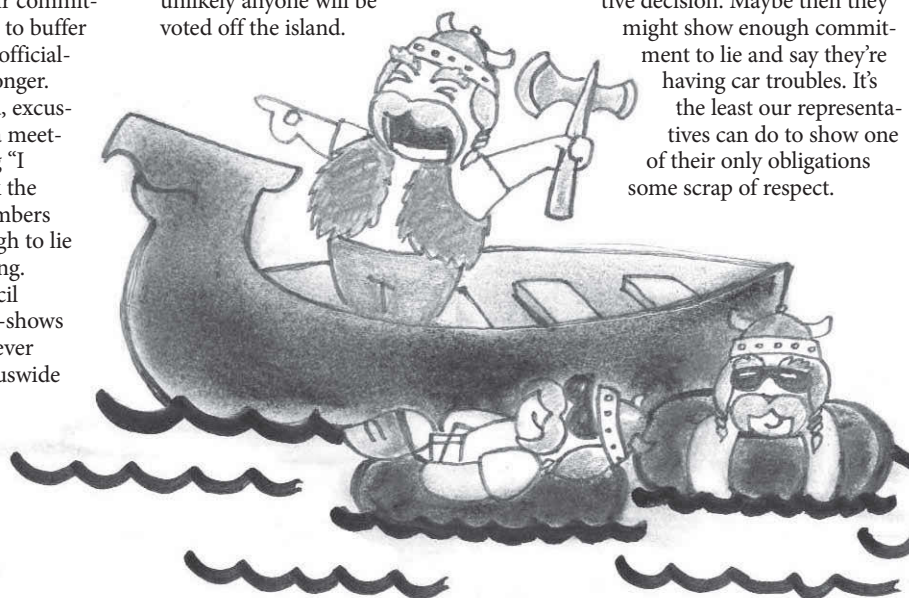
Problem is, the council threatens to impeach no-shows almost every year, but never does. In 2008-09, Campuswide Senator Henry David Ritcherson missed the vast majority of meetings, but no one noticed. By the time his absences finally came up in Spring Quarter, there was so

little time left that no one wanted to impeach him.

Maybe this year it'll be different, but — despite the fact that A.S. President Utsav Gupta's supports Sandhu's impeachment nominations — the A.S. General Advocate still needs two-thirds of council's approval to move the process along. Considering a majority of members don't want to upset their cushy, non-committal community or endanger their own right to ditch out, it's unlikely anyone will be voted off the island.

Furthermore, even the nonvoting members — who have accumulated a good amount of absences themselves — have submitted an amendment to the council's Standing Rules that would eliminate their obligation to come to meetings altogether.

What can we say that's not painfully obvious? Don't run for office if you're not planning on showing up to meetings. Make the impeachment of voting councilmembers who've exceeded the limit a more executive decision. Maybe then they might show enough commitment to lie and say they're having car troubles. It's the least our representatives can do to show one of their only obligations some scrap of respect.



ANIMAL INSTINCTS By Kim Cyprian



To Hold Down the Fort, We'll Have to Get Our Hands Dirty

► **SUSTAINABILITY**, from page 4
They don't hold keys to the building. Souder blames the student shutout on their own inability to present her with an agreeable right-to-use form, which would lay out the guidelines for their presence in the center. But ultimately, it's up to Souder's discretion whether students should be able come and go in the interim. The space "rules" she's set up are clearly arbitrary hurdles, serving to shut the strewn backpacks and collegiate commotion out of her pristine new office as long as possible. Meanwhile, the student vision of a bustling community lounge has lost the good fight to UCSD's token taste for anal feng shui. Seems administra-

tors will never stop trying to convince us we like Ikea ottomans and white space as much as they do. Green, chilly and spotless, the SRC looks and feels not unlike music/art venue the Loft a few chain restaurants down — nice-looking and new-smelling, but not us. Not college. So from here on out, let's at least get our promises in writing. (Granted, the Loft wasn't created under the same pretense that students were going to get some say in its goings-on. We weren't even asked to pay — not directly, at least. Although now that the Loft is going on the A.S. referendum as a potential student cost, what do you say we bulldoze that UFO lamp and graffiti over the olive-puke wall paint?)

The entire SRC lobby area is dedicated to bragging about the center's uber-progressive building materials — vintage wood flooring; translucent window panes and Polygal walls to maximize daylight (even though the ceiling is riddled with light fixtures); furniture shaped so sustainably your body enters a state of absolute space-age efficiency. It reeks of public relations, not progress. And all the while, the SSC is sitting on a budget the size of the ozone hole. Not to be dramatic, but trees are dying. Glaciers are melting. Polar-bear cubs are crying. It's the kind of sadness that warrants a cluttered bulletin board and the sacrifice of personal desk space.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students Should Stand Up to Clicker Costs

Dear Editor,
I wish to bring more coverage to the clicker technology being used in classrooms. You might already be familiar with it; however, I did notice that only a handful of classes at UCSD use this system, so I'll provide a short background from my perspective.

Certain classes require each student to buy a wireless clicker device that works as a remote control. Each student's clicker communicates with a wireless hub that the professor brings to class, and this serves as a wireless voting system.

Professor of molecular biology Susan Golden uses this system for BILD 1 to track students' participation, and can thus objectively award points toward their final grades. She generally asks a multiple-choice question and opens up the poll for those of us in class to choose an answer. She then discusses the right answer and has real-time results of the poll to see how the entire class is doing in understanding the subject matter that she just taught.

This has several advantages — it allows students an opportunity to think critically during lectures, and it allows the professor to gauge students' understanding of the material in real-time. It also allows the entire class to participate without feeling bad about selecting an incorrect answer. I think it's fair, useful and I like the system.

However, I would like to bring serious attention to two facts: First, the clicker device is extremely expensive! In addition to requiring a \$180 textbook for the class, students are now required to spend upward of \$40 for a clicker. Secondly, it appears that there are three to four different clicker devices from different manufacturers that are all incompatible with each other, and some professors use one system and others use the other.

This is a serious oversight on the part of the professors and the university to not have one system so that students do not incur multiple costs for different systems that provide the same service. Not to mention, students have to carry multiple bulky clickers around (although this, in principle, is insignificant to the larger issue).

My hope is that students will stand up against what seems like a broken system which only burdens them with higher costs.

— Sherman Antao
UCSD alumnus,
Jacobs School of Engineering

► The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than 500 words, typed, double-spaced and signed with a name and applicable title. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the Guardian office on the second floor of the Student Center or e-mailed. Send all letters to:

The UCSD Guardian
Opinion Editor
9500 Gilman Dr. 0316
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OPINION

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TONIGHT

Rain got you down? Head over to Porter's Pub at 7 p.m. and laugh your ass off to the comedic stylings of the Dan Simmons Comedy Club of Higher Learning. It's going to be free, fun and freaking hilarious.

HIATUS

CONTACT THE EDITOR: opinion@ucsdguardian.org



boss ditties
THE BEST SONGS
IN HIATUS THIS WEEK

- Editors "Papillon"
- Ringo Starr "The Other Side of Liverpool"
- Motion City Soundtrack "Skin and Bones"
- Surfer Blood "Swim"
- Spoon "I Saw the Light"

CONCERTPREVIEW

INTERVIEW

ATRACKADAY



WILL PREP YOU FOR HEALTH'S DIFFICULT BLISS / SATURDAY AT THE LOFT

BY CHRIS KOKIOUSIS

Do you enjoy blasts of white noise? How about harnessed feedback anarchy, when instruments turn incoherent? At first, HEALTH might not seem like your sonic bag. The LA four-some culls power-tronics and abrasive beats from bashing experimentalists like Liars and manage to cram in post-punk, hardcore and techno sheen. But get this: no screaming. Just

Jake Duzsik's ghost-in-the-machine monotone syllables, a lulling counterpoint to the madness behind him. Not as immediately tasty as last week's Vampire Weekend expose, but you need bands like HEALTH to yank your mind in disparate directions with guitar stabs and tempo shifts. Dip your toes into the great, murky pool that is HEALTH's alienation with new single "Die Slow,"

and watch the morphing chords and '90s rap-speed beat grab you. Intrigued? Wade further with "We Are Water," a hardcore drill sergeant wrapped in dance gauze, to keep the head nodding and tease at something more visceral. Finally, to prepare your body for the show this Saturday, try "Triceratops" off their self-titled debut. A feedback swirl and crash cymbals lead into a robo-

strobe beat, riding in like a freak train, barely waiting for you to hop on before devolving into A.D.D. squalor. The last third of the track reaches ambient tremolo bliss as BJ Miller slams the shit out of his toms until they fade to paced drums. HEALTH proves rock can still shock — it hasn't all been done before. Weirdo-poppers Tape Deck Mountain open for HEALTH.

Guardian: What did you guys try to do on *Get Color* to branch out from the first record? In what ways have you succeeded?
John Famiglietti: More repetition, making everything more "song-based" and more grooves. I think we mostly succeeded in evolving and progressing our sound, but we'd like to go much farther.
G: Do you see the band moving toward a more dance-oriented sound on the next release? Where
See **HEALTH**, page 7

Warning: 'Lost' Spoil to Follow

Just a little less than two weeks until the premiere of "Lost"'s final season, and I'm getting antsy. Think about all the questions we need answered: Is John Locke really dead, and is that mysterious Man in Black possessing him? What caused the statue of Tawaret to be destroyed, leaving only a foot behind? What happened when the hydrogen bomb exploded and everything went white — did Oceanic 815 land in Los Angeles?

Judging by the newly confirmed title of season six's first episode, "LA X," it's still up for debate. The "X" in the acronym is deliberately separated from "LA" by a space, conjuring up images of Los Angeles International but also hinting that "X" is a variable.

FILMPREVIEW

Couch Classics

SIX HOUSEHOLD NAMES LIGHT UP THE KEN FOR A BLOODY NOSTALGIA TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE. BY JENNA BROGAN

For the next six weeks, Landmark Ken Cinema on Adam's Ave. is showing \$7.25 classics every Saturday at midnight. That's right: one big steaming pile of nostalgia for the price of a decent hamburger. Though the Ken may be a couple miles more distant than our local La Jolla Village Cinemas, the newly made-over "Midnight Madness" series is well worth the trek — and what its film selection has lost in subversive overtones, it's gained in cult cred.

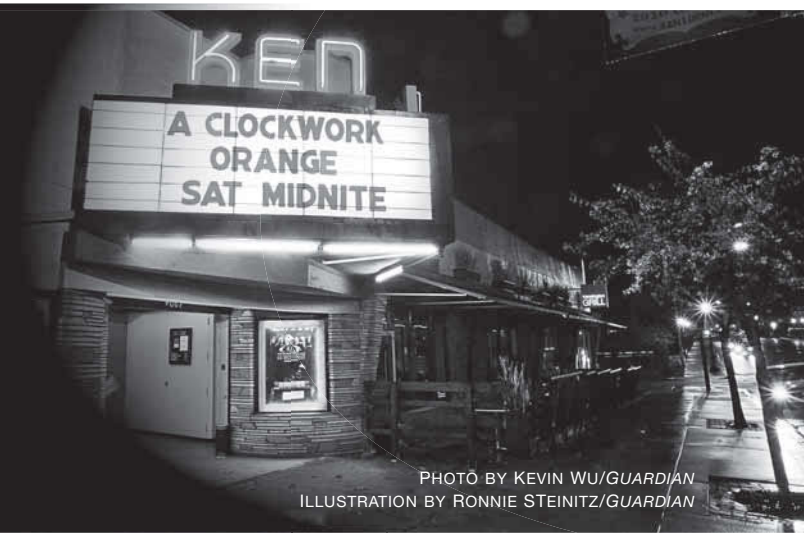


PHOTO BY KEVIN WU/GUARDIAN
ILLUSTRATION BY RONNIE STEINITZ/GUARDIAN

JAN. 23 STANLEY KUBRICK'S "A CLOCKWORK ORANGE"	JAN. 30 THE COEN BROTHERS' "THE BIG LEBOWSKI"	FEB. 6 JOHN CARPENTER'S "THE THING"	FEB. 13 STEVEN SPIELBERG'S "E.T."	FEB. 20 QUENTIN TARANTINO'S "PULP FICTION"	FEB. 27 JIM HENSON'S "THE LABYRINTH"
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The anthem of volatile youth, Kubrick's adaptation of Anthony Burgess' dark, violent novel is equally offbeat and haunting. Set in futuristic London, the film centers on Alex (Malcolm McDowell), A psychopathic gang leader who settles down for a nice glass of milk and some Beethoven after ripping open young girls' throats. When Alex is arrested for rape and murder, he undergoes behavior therapy to purge his violent tendencies — only the therapy itself is brutal and sadistic. It can be quite a sobering surprise if you go in unaware, but "Orange" remains a horrific favorite for its exhilarating pace, perversity and harsh honesty. So if you and the droogs can't make up your rasoedocks about what do to for the evening, head to Kensington for the bets kind of violence.

Jeff Bridges is the Dude — a bathrobe wearing, White Russian-drinking bowler who keeps to himself. That is, until two porn-industry gangsters invade his home in a case of mistaken identity, and soil one very important rug that really tied his living room together. Seeking retribution for his prized carpet, *el Duderino* locates the perpetrator: Lebowski. During their meeting, Lebowski commissions the Dude to rescue his kidnapped trophy wife. Throw in ultra-feminist daughter Maude, a Vietnam vet with anger issues, a handful of nihilists and a very wet ferret, and you've got "The Big Lebowski" — it never disappoints. The Dude always draws a large slippered crowd, mostly belligerent, so grab a Russian, pour it in a discrete thermos and get there early.

With the tagline "Man is the warmest place to hide," how could this film go wrong? "The Thing" details the story of a research team in the Antarctic that discovers a parasitic alien presence. Aside from being the biggest sausage fest in the known universe (even the dog is male), "Thing" is an excellent horror movie that exploits the classic thriller theme of mysterious rabid disease. Though you might have seen it done since in "The Invasion" and "The Faculty," the idea originated from this fresh take on claustrophobic paranoia. It's an enjoyably tense ride on which no one and nowhere is safe.

Though most of us can't remember the 1982 release of this cutesy alien flick, only the unborn have never heard E.T.'s heart-wrenching request to "phone home." What childhood would be complete without the story of Elliot (Henry Thomas) and Gertie (Drew Barrymore), two siblings who discover a pint-sized alien in their backyard? They teach their wrinkly visitor everything about Earth culture, from basic language to Halloween dressup. In return, E.T. eats all of their candy and establishes a psychic connection with Elliot that makes everyone think he's psychotic. Before Spielberg developed a bad habit of throwing money into terrible Shia LaBeouf films, he invented the warm, fuzzy feeling with golden-age "E.T."

This classic made QT's last name a verb (Tarantino: to upset a film's time sequence so severely that all heads in the audience cock to one side in confusion and awe). If you're unfamiliar with Tarantino's particular blend of blood and verbal lyricism, this is the perfect introduction. In 1994, he had just enough popularity to garner a decent budget, but not so much that it clouded his judgment (see "Kill Bill, Part Douche"). Three seemingly unrelated stories cross each other unexpectedly in this masterly woven tale of a mob boss and his heroin-addicted wife, the boxer he paid to throw a match and two very Travolta and Jackson hitmen.

What happens when Jim Henson abandons his Muppet family to team up with David Bowie for an '80s fantasy film about a Goblin King? Pure magic. In a style characteristic of the time (think "Gremlins," "Big Trouble in Little China" and "Legend"), a caterpillar-eyed Jennifer Connelly has to traverse a magical labyrinth to retrieve her baby brother from the clutches of Jareth the Goblin King — complete with fairy dust and an embarrassingly large codpiece. You'll love this film (if you don't already) for its unabashed camp and knee-slapping puppetry. After all, Henson isn't happy unless his hand is up the skirt of one character or another.

Suburban Steez
CHRIS KOKIOUSIS
ckokious@ucsd.edu



As Faraday clearly explains in season five's "The Variable": "Whatever happened, happened. All right? But then I finally realized ... I had been spending so much time focused on the constants, I forgot about the variables. Do you know what the variables in these equations are, Jack?"

In essence, Faraday is saying that Jack, Kate and company have the power to mess with time and the universe if they use big enough tools — the hydrogen bomb being the boulder in the proverbial river. So it's clear they can change the course of history, but that doesn't answer anything. We're left waiting for the last episodes like crack connoisseurs who've invested lots of time, money and energy in their crack hobby — which is why I've decided to provide my own all-encompassing theory that explains every single answer to LOST ... wait for it: lizards. Seven-foot-tall, bloodthirsty, shape-shifting lizards.

In truth, these past few weeks I've been reading conspiracy theories on the Interwebs — you know, the Bilderberg Group, the 9/11 Conspiracy, mind control, etc. — and I stumbled on the Godfather of them all: David Icke. His dense New Age book "The Biggest Secret" spends over 500 pages weaving translated ancient texts and secondhand accounts of lizard man sightings all to conclude that the world's elite are really a disguised alien race called the Annunaki planning global domination. So in honor of Mr. Icke, I'm going to transpose his fairly insane yet compelling theories onto the world of "Lost" speculation.

Here we go: Jacob and the Man in Black are both highly evolved reptilians; one embraces humans and leads them to the island's secrets, and the other has no faith in humanity. They have existed on Earth since ancient times, at least dating back to the Egyptians, but have never reached out openly to humans until the fateful day that Jacob calls the Black Rock (a 19th century slave ship) to the Island. One of the passengers on this ship is the mysterious Richard Alpert, still unfamiliar with the Island's magic, but Jacob takes him under his wing and teaches him about eternal life. Richard becomes Jacob's pri-

See **STEEZ**, page 8



ALBUMREVIEWS

Motion City Soundtrack
My Dinosaur Life
SONY



3
10

Ringo Starr
Y Not
HIP-O



5
10

Under Flashy Producer, Bubblegum Pop Deflates

It seemed like the Minneapolis boys of Motion City Soundtrack were finally on the verge of some serious radio play: They moved to a fancy label, snagged a veteran power-chord virtuoso Mark Hoppus as co-producer and cranked their Moog synthesizer to a nearly unbearable blast.

Unfortunately, the bubblegum pop on *My Dinosaur Life* is little more than an overproduced rehash of the band's limited repertoire: fast-paced, hyper-lyrical storytelling, climaxing in butter-smooth cries of self-loathing and forced irony. With a hotshot producer on board, you'd think they'd ease up on the high-school poetry ("There's a buzz/ There's a buzz/ There's a buzzing of bugs") and indulge in the kind of melodic simplicity that made their first efforts — "Feels Like Rain," "The Future Freaks Me Out" — so freewheeling.

Instead, we get a haggard Justin Pierre bitching about pharmaceutical evils, something about a tourniquet, dinosaurs and dreams. Notable exceptions to their nonsensical babbling are "Skin and Bones," which employs jumpy repetition to rival Fall Out Boy, and "Stand Too Close," paring down every song's obnoxious synth layers and cutting to recall a bit of their original simplicity.

By far the stupidest track is "@!#?@!" (Did I get that right? Am I missing an octothorpe?), which is apparently what Pierre was thinking of when he described the album as "edgy": "You all need to go away, you motherfuckers/ You all need to leave me and my homeboys alone." Really. And the rest is so forgettable that it's better left as background music to the next episode of "Gossip Girl."

— **Sonia Minden**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Midlife Crisis Drowns in Superficial Sentiment

Ringo Starr is too damn busy to write you an autograph. He's got too much on his plate — peace and love, folks. He's busy singing indie-soft over a collection of wannabe chart-toppers. Stuffed with disco synths and sweet, meaningless nothings, it's hard to tell whether *Y Not* is a revitalizing sound for the 70-year-old former Beatle or a delayed midlife crisis.

Take duet "Walk With You." It's an airy love song with fellow Beatle Paul shoved ignominiously into the background, muddling through predictable rhymes and gimme-an-Emmy sentimentality. After that, we're in for a barrage of tracks like "Everyone Wins" — peacenick anthems, bizarrely set to Alanis Morissette melodies.

If you can stomach that sugary stupidity, though, Ringo comes through with ZZ Top blues like

"The Other Side of Liverpool." This streetwise track is vintage blues-rock, matching down-on-your-luck lyrics with a wobbly guitar with a wailing organ. It's a refreshing change, and you can hear Ringo's smile as he lays down some catchy blues. The ridiculously named "Who's Your Daddy" is a tongue-in-cheek throwback to "R.E.S.P.E.C.T." with soul singer Joss Stone guest-starring as the had-enough liberated woman kicking a deadbeat Starr to the curb.

There are only four blues numbers, though, and *Y Not* sinks with Ringo's attempt at the fame game. The clock's ticking for the septuagenarian, and unless he cranks out more like "The Other Side," he'd have been better off sticking with Thomas the Tank Engine.

— **Matthew Pecot**
STAFF WRITER

'We Can Do It Anywhere'



► **HEALTH**, from page 6 are your heads at right now in your vision of HEALTH for this year? **JF:** Well, yes actually, because our next release is *DISCO2*, the sequel to our remix album, which is naturally dancey. But for future HEALTH projects, yes with an 'and,' and if with a 'but,' not gonna make an album of dance beats, but definitely want to keep streamlining the "groove" aspect and produce things in a way that is more electronic bassy.

G: How do you engage the audience in spaces that might not be as conducive to your frantic live show? The Loft is a fairly upscale bar and lounge, for example. What's your mentality when getting ready to play at a space like that? **JF:** We just do it. We've really conditioned ourselves from years of playing; We can do it anywhere. Also for college shows, it's par for the course.

G: What band is inspiring you guys most right now in what you're doing with your own music, and why? Any new bands from LA you want to shout out? **JF:** No one really, and I'm not being a dick. We do keep taking influence from other music, but it's mostly just song concepts or musical tricks. At the moment we're listening to Top-40 radio ... really dying for a good new record to listen to at the moment. There's a new band in LA called TEARIST, which I think is pretty cool. Also, I'd love to shout out Pictureplane from Denver — his 2009 album *Dark Rift* is amazing.

G: After the SD show, you guys are going to quickly tour Canada and then it's off to New Zealand and Australia. What was it like getting that tour booked? **JF:** Well, there's never really much of an adventure of getting a tour booked, its just some e-mails, and you cross your fingers. **G:** Do you have any vacation plans while you're there, aside from playing music? **JF:** Totally. We've never been, so we're taking days off to hang (which we rarely do on most tours). Hoping to hit up the black sand beaches and see some countryside.

G: What's HEALTH's dream collaboration? If you could do a song with any artist working now, who would you pick and why? **JF:** We've always wanted to do a song with Johnny Jewel of Glass Candy. **G:** P.S. My funny HEALTH fact: Way back when, there was a post on Craigslist wanting a vocalist for a band based in LA, listing influences like Liars and the Locust ... it was you dudes. My hometown is Thousand Oaks, a suburb about 45 minutes north of Los Angeles, but I answered the post because I was looking to join a new band and I loved all the influences you had put down. At the time, it bummed me out that I couldn't join (I think I was still in high school). Just thought I'd share that, take it easy guys.

JF (laughing): I forgot about that. We never used anyone from the ad by the way.

druthers

HIATUS PICKS THE WEEK'S BEST BETS

"WALTZ WITH BASHIR"

PRICE CENTER THEATER
JAN. 22 / 7 P.M.
FREE

"Waltz with Bashir" is an award-winning Israeli documentary written and directed by Ari Folman, a former infantry soldier who fought with the Israel Defense Forces in 1982 — oh, and it's animated. The film depicts Folman in search of his lost memories from the Lebanon War. While a friend whom he fought alongside during his years of service is still haunted by nightmares connected to their experience in combat, Folman can remember nothing. Find out why this provocative tale was considered one of the top ten best films of 2008. (JB)



THE USED AND ATREYU

HOUSE OF BLUES
JAN. 27 / 6:30 P.M.
\$25

If you grew up on alt-metal bands like Drowning Pool and Saliva, forget about your Thursday classes. Headliner the Used almost sound like AFI with their yell-along choruses, but if your tastes run to the hardcore, Atreyu serve an even mix of melody and aggro screams that'll shake the walls. The House of Blues is the Bennigan's of the music world — an overpriced cookie-cutter chain — and Atreyu toured with Linkin Park, so it'll never get too crazy, but it's still a hell of a noisy way to spend a night. (MP)

exit strategy

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

"WHIP IT"

PRICE CENTER THEATER
JAN. 21 & JAN 23,
6 P.M. & 9 P.M.
\$3

JEHOVA'S FITNESS

CHE CAFE
JAN. 21, 8 P.M.
\$5

THE HOPE CONSPIRACY

CHE CAFE
JAN. 22, 7 P.M.
\$10

DJ JON TRAN

ROUND TABLE PIZZA
JAN. 22, 1 P.M.
FREE

KSDT/CHE BENEFIT

CHE CAFE
JAN. 23, 7 P.M.
\$7

UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE

THE LOFT
JAN. 25, 9 P.M.
\$5

PARACHUTE & SAFETY SUIT

PC BALLROOM EAST
JAN. 26, 8 P.M.
FREE

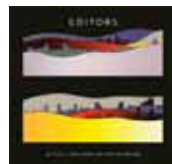
"COUPLES RETREAT"

PRICE CENTER THEATER
JAN. 26, 6 P.M. & 9 P.M.
\$3

Editors

In This Light and On This Evening

KITCHENWARE RECORDS



3
10

The Remnants of a UK Synth-periment Go Awry

The newest album from Brit-rockers Editors should serve as a poster child for the grim side of taking a risk, when ambition goes awry and experiments turn ugly. Perhaps seeking to deviate from their formulaic yet wildly successful UK chart-topping imitation of similarly dark alt-rock groups like Interpol and U2, *In This Light and On This Evening* jettisons glitzy guitar riffs for monotonous synthesizers

scrubbed of the edgy pizzazz that characterized their earlier work.

Lead singer Tom Smith's lyrics, delivered in a crystal-clear drone that only heightens its banality, achieves torturous levels of incoherence on nearly all nine interminable tracks. Long stretches of bland synth-bass noodles underline both the poor editing and conspicuous underuse of guitars that made Editors' previous two albums a pleasurable, if rather predictable, listen. The soaring emotional power present in bygone Editors classics like "Smokers Outside The Hospital Doors" and "Munich" is lack-

ing in wannabe anthems like "You Don't Know Love" — a static and mechanical cut that personifies everything subpar about *Evening*. There are a handful of bright spots, like "Papillon" — Smith's stand-and-deliver hook paired with slickly up-tempo drums and synthesizers to make it a stand-out track — but these flashes of brilliance are obscured under the rest of the album's sludge. Editors tried to change the game with *Evening*, but all they come up with is 45 minutes of depressing gunk.

— **Imran Manji**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

FILMREVIEW

9/11 NEO-NOIR LEAVES AMERICA IN THE DARK



By Neda Salamat
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ambitious writer-director Noah Buschel's latest makes a wholehearted attempt to narrow the gap between World War II film noir and films like this decade's "Sin City," but falls worlds short.

In a dark, rundown apartment, private investigator John Rosow (Michael Shannon, "Revolutionary Road") receives an assignment

The Missing Person

STARRING MICHAEL SHANNON, FRANK WOOD & AMY RYAN
DIRECTED BY NOAH BUSCHEL
RATED NR
01:25



See PERSON, page 8

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Starting the week of Friday, January 22nd



The Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus [PG-13, 122min]
Fri 22, Mon 25 – Thu 29: (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, 9:45
Sat 24, Sun 25: (10:45), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45



The Young Victoria [PG, 104min]
Fri 22, Mon 25 – Thu 29: (1:40), (4:25), 7:10, 9:55
Sat 24, Sun 25: (10:55), 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55



A Single Man [PG-13, 99min]
Fri 22, Mon 25 – Thu 29: (1:50), 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
Sat 24, Sun 25: (11:05), 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05



Broken Embraces [R, 128min]
Fri 22, Mon 25 – Thu 29: (2:10), 5:05, 8:00
Sat 24, Sun 25: (11:15), 2:10, 5:05, 8:00

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Not valid with any other offer or discount.
Not available at 52 & Convoy.
UCSD Expires 2/7/2010

ALBUM REVIEW

Surfer Blood
Astro Coast
KANINE RECORDS



4
10

Surfers Stumble out the Karaoke Bar

This Florida band's name might sound like a late-night B-movie, but the debut album from Surfer Blood is just as velvet-soft and vox-dominated as anything by the Shins or the Smiths. These indie-rockers are so new, they don't even have a Wikipedia page (I admit it, I looked), but they're already knee-deep in dust — covered in such a film that five minutes after you turn off your iPod, you've forgotten everything but a five-second lick.

Linchpin of their sudden popularity "Swim" starts off with a catchy hook and Benatar-esque power chords, but the riffs start rambling halfway through, and the track drowns in distortion. The vocals echo so long, it's like bad karaoke: The chorus is the only time we can make out the words.

Astro Coast does serve up a few clean cuts, especially "Neighbour Riffs," an instrumental with ringing guitars much like Eric Johnson's "Cliffs of Dover." Other than that, though, the only bright sides are "Take It Easy" and closer "Catholic Pagans." We can hear the lyrics, but they still don't make much sense: "Please don't padlock/ Your parents' bomb shelter." It's ridiculous, but "Easy"'s tropical toe-tapping groove mesmerizes us into not caring about even the most terrible lyrics.

"Easy" and "Pagans" might get the fuzz-meter right, but they can't save *Coast*. Surfer Blood did record the album in a dorm room, so a little professional mixing might make all the difference. For now, if we want to spend almost an hour wondering what's going on, we'd be better off in the last row of o-chem.

— **Matthew Pecot**
STAFF WRITER

Spoon
Transference
MERGE



5
10

Spoon Go Undercover As Formulaic Alt-Rock

If I wanted to listen to generically crappy indie alt-rock, I'd cue up Hoobastank. But Spoon is a group we expect a little more out of. Or a lot more. From the same men who brought us the awesomely catchy and peculiar *Ga Ga Ga Ga* in 2007, seventh studio record *Transference* should have been, at the very least, a rung above mediocre.

But *Transference* doesn't transcend anything. It's like Spoon went into the indie-rock handbook and followed a step-by-step formula on how to write a semi-hit. Each cut has an unwavering, steady pace, plodding along without any variety before coming to an abrupt end.

But this isn't as bothersome as the fact that they all run at least a minute too long. This is the A.D.D. Twitter generation; how do you expect us to pay attention for an extra minute of bass drum and guitar strums when we get impatient waiting for a Web page to load?

In its journey to experiment with new genre trends, Spoon dabbles with odd echoic Auto-Tune on "Is Love Forever?" and "Who Makes Your Money." As a result, the album's overall aesthetic is awfully inconsistent, jumping abruptly from fast-paced feel-good melody "The Mystery Zone" to "Written in Reverse," a chugging number with somber piano plunks and raw, aggro vocals.

The LP's saving grace is "I Saw the Light," which weaves smooth vocals and blown-out riffs with calmer ones, and an epic buildup with some "Fuck yeah!" strumming that completely shifts gears mid-song, keeping our attention spans in check.

For the most part, Spoon plays a crappy version of their garage-rock facade, resulting in 11 run-of-the-mill tunes that aren't terrible, but definitely aren't anything we'll put on repeat. Guess it's time to switch to sports.

— **Amanda Martinak**
STAFF WRITER

Theory: Blame It All on the Lizards

► **STEEZ**, from page 6
mary messenger and assistant for the human world, taking leadership of the others (the rest of the people on the ship) and overseeing them as they adapt to the island.

More than a century later, Jack, Locke, Kate and all the rest of the important players receive a special visit by Jacob, who pushes them in the direction of the island, ensuring their fate on the Oceanic flight. It's unclear what Jacob intends for these humans — perhaps they have

We're left waiting for the last episodes like crack connoisseurs who've invested lots of time, money and energy in their crack hobby.

more potential than the rest of humanity, or maybe they're part lizard and they don't even realize it — but he guides them to the event-chain plane crash that begins "Lost." Going with the lizard motif, what if Jack and John's fathers were also part of this reptilian bloodline, hiding out as civilians in human disguises and having children with human females? It would explain a lot about the fathers' self-destructive, manipulative behavior and why both Christian Shephard and Anthony Cooper (Locke's dad) can never seem to relate to their children (heck, Anthony even does malicious things like steal Locke's kidney and push him out of a window). It would also answer why Christian and Anthony both appear on the island as if out of thin air, and why Christian guides Locke to push the underground wheel that stops all the wacky time travel.

Ultimately, the "Lost" writers have an absurd undertaking here. Trying to wrap up all these loose ends and plot holes, they just might need an ancient lizard conspiracy. Yes, it sounds so crazy that I'm not sure I even believe it. But come May, I might be having the last laugh.

Arthouse Imitation Goes Up in Smoke



► **PERSON**, from page 7
to follow a man later identified as Harold Fullmer (Frank Wood) on a train from Chicago to Los Angeles. Like the average college kid, Rosow survives on alcohol and coffee, minimal sleep and grudgingly does what he is told. So naturally, he embarks on the cross-county journey without question. On the way, he uncovers Fullmer's identity as a missing person; one of the thousands presumed dead after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Tempted by a \$500,000 reward, he must decide whether or not to bring the missing guy back to his wife in New York City against his will.

The discovery prompts Rosow to explore his own painful memories of the 9/11 tragedy — a dramatic tale of love, loss and moral ambiguity — with the help of his assistant and love interest (Amy Ryan), a process that allows him to better understand the reason for Fullmer's purposefully long absence.

Imbued with black silhouettes against a cityscape, a score chock full of jazz and a whole heap of cigarette smoke, Buschel's work is sure to receive more than a few accolades for its triumph in cinematography, despite its lack in script development. Shannon's pained and effortlessly cool performance succeeds in earning a few nods and smoothing out the film's occasional

plot fallacies.

The awkwardly sewn together 9/11 reference is diced with a rather sluggish and anti-climactic plot, leaving Buschel's creation with a distinct Frankenstein-esque feel: lumbering through with occasionally charming characters before fading into smoky, ashen darkness.

While it thankfully strays from the normal decorum of a 9/11 script, witty dialogue regarding Chinese food and misunderstood jokes only creates an awkward dichotomy — a film that is unsure about its identity and moral conviction.

Buschel's repeated hurrahs to New York locals, while humorous, begs the impression that the director will, at any moment, burst on to the screen and scream "Where my homeboys at?" Likewise, half-hearted attempts at comedy like Segway riding cops only provide brief moments of relief in an otherwise dull film.

Buschel's script is hopelessly tame, lacking the action and bone-chilling mystery we have come to expect from a neo-noir film of the last decade.

Nonetheless, "The Missing Person" makes a tremendous effort to walk the perilous line between old and new, making it an interesting — if largely unsuccessful — addition to the long list of noir that precedes it.

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SSC: Strained Coexistence in New Green Center

► **DISPUTE**, from page 3

the correct avenues. We are well aware of how to work with the administration.”

As it stands, only Souder and Campus Sustainability Analyst Kristin Hansen hold a permanent office in the center. Students and community members alike are permitted to schedule meetings or events in the center, but are not allowed occupy the space as joint directors.

“I would love to make sure there is really good access for anyone that doesn't exclude everybody,” Souder said. “We want a space where anyone and everyone feels welcome. Ultimately, we're running it by my bosses; I want to make sure they're comfortable. The administration has committed a lot of money and effort, and I want to make sure the university is happy.”

While SSC members are able to reserve the SRC for weekly meetings, they are unable to use the center as a main office.

“We have no functional office space or meeting place,” Ghosh said. “There is no public space where we can display our projects. We can't put anything on the shelves [in the SRC]. We can't put anything on the walls. We can only be there at certain hours. We're forced to run our programs with no central locations.”

Various programs the SSC is attempting to house in the SRC include an extension of the TritonBikes rental program, along with an e-waste drop-off center that would properly dispose of broken electronics.

“We want to set up an e-waste center,” Ghosh said. “We can't do that project right now, though, since we have no space to publicize to students. We aren't even allowed to enter the space.”

Ghosh said that the SSC feels there is even difficulty setting up meetings under the current arrangements.

“We don't get preference in the scheduling process,” Ghosh said. “[Souder] can schedule over us if she finds out when our meetings are. She's treating us as a non-involved third party who she just lets use the space.”

Souder holds that the center has been very productive and useful during the time it has been open, despite the SSC's lack of a role in managing the center.

“It's already proven to be great,” Souder said. “The space is already being well-utilized by many, including students, faculty and staff.”

The SSC is currently working with the A.S. Council to expedite the process to reach an MOU.

“We've decided we need to stop negotiating with [Souder] directly,” Ghosh said. “Our talks weren't productive. We were going backwards. She kept rescinding promises. Now we're working through A.S. and various vice chancellors, who are her supervisors. They can make it clear an anti-student activity will

“Our talks weren't productive. We were going backwards. She kept rescinding promises.”

RISHI GHOSH
STUDENT
DIRECTOR, SSC

going to make sure they're treated with respect — the same respect any administrator would receive. It should be two departments working together.”

Gupta said he intends to re-open discussions between the SSC and CSS, bringing in higher administrators including Souder's supervisor Assistant Vice Chancellor Russell Thackston. Gupta said he also plans on meeting with the University Centers Advisory Board to discuss the current state of the SRC, along with its intended purpose.

“We had met with the University Centers Advisory Board,” Gupta said. “They reviewed the space agreement with the intent that students were to share in the space. I've spoken with the UCAB chair. We'll be presenting to them sometime in the next few weeks.”

Readers can contact Ayelet Bitton at arbitton@ucsd.edu.

not be tolerated at UCSD. If things don't go well, we won't hesitate to meet with the chancellor herself.”

Gupta said he supports the SSC's efforts to attain a physical place in the SRC.

“The SRC is part of A.S.,” Ghosh said. “The students in the SSC are employees of A.S., which is a department of the university. We're

Med Student Hoped for Masters in Public Health

► **KLOOS**, from page 1

in Arizona and decided he wanted to take some time and travel, see the world, volunteer... He had just gotten there on Sunday and was supposed to stay for a little while before the earthquake hit.”

Ryan was a member of the UCSD swim team and swam breaststroke for four years, despite recurring knee injuries.

“He fought through a lot of injuries while he swam, but he never once thought about not swimming,” Costa said. “The team really meant the world to him, and I think it's been really hard for a lot of the alumni that swam with him for years.”

In addition to his involvement with the swim team, Ryan was also a writer for the *Muir Quarterly*, a satirical newspaper that, according to Costa, allowed him to showcase his sense of humor.

“He had this sarcastic humor that was really quick — really witty,” Costa said. “When we were freshmen, he and a few of the other swim

guys used to sneak into our apartment while we were at dinner and invert all of our furniture. This happened a few times before we actually figured out who it was.”

The Kloos family has asked that any donations in Ryan's memory be made to Friends of the Orphans at 1-888-201-8880 or www.friendsoftheorphans.org, in honor of Erin and Ryan Kloos.

“Ryan just showed a lot of love to everyone around him,” Costa said. “He loved his family, he loved his school, he loved his chosen career path and he showed that every day; it's kind of that feel for life that we're all hanging on to.”

Ryan's family is currently at a Miami hospital with his sister Erin, who was also injured in the quake. She is now in stable condition.

“Knowing my son, Ryan, for only 24 years is so much better than never having known him at all,” John Kloos said. “No son has ever made his family prouder.”

Readers can contact Hayley Bisceglia-Martin at hbiscegl@ucsd.edu.

UCAB to Review Fiscal Allocation of Loft Funds

► **LOFT**, from page 1

the council — including VP Student Life, VP Finance and AVP Concerts and Events — as well as the Graduate Student Association president and UCAB chair.

In contrast, Taylor's version allowed for the current UCAB governing board — composed of members of the six college councils, as well as administrators and alumni — to review the funds appropriated to the Loft.

Gupta said he was pushing for the maximum amount of student oversight, especially because UCAB is known for being under the administrative thumb.

“When you're deciding where to place hundreds of thousands of student fees collected every quarter every year, you better put it in a place that can perform effective and real oversight,” he said. “I do not feel comfortable in placing these fees with the University Centers Advisory Board.”

Taylor said that UCAB was capable of regulating the Loft's finances because members had experience dealing with student fees —

as opposed to the as-of-yet nonexistent Loft Governance Board.

“UCAB is a fully functioning board, not a committee,” he said. “We control a \$10 million budget, most of it in student fees.”

The UCAB model of the referendum passed by a vote of 16-11-3, due to concerns that the oversight provided by Gupta's model was excessive.

Loft Director Martin Wollesen said the night's debate was valuable, and praised the council's decision to place the referendum on the ballot.

“There was comparable evidence — from attendance records to signatures to A.S.'s own surveys — that the students want to be able to vote,” Wollesen said. “I would have been disappointed if A.S. didn't listen to the student voice.”

If passed, the fee would go into effect Fall Quarter 2010 and be charged every quarter until Spring Quarter 2014 — at which point it would terminate unless renewed by a majority A.S. Council vote.

Readers can contact Angela Chen at shchen@ucsd.edu.

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Level: 1 2 3 4

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Midseason Musings for Some NBA Standouts

► **CRACKERJACKS**, from page 12 complete guard. More impressive than his jumpers is his rare rookie ability to make plays at the basket.

Evans is shining for a Kings team that is, as Charles Barkley would say, "turrible" beyond belief. If there is any truth to the Sacramento Kings move to San Jose rumors, Evans might be playing in my hometown sometime soon.

Honorable Mention: the Warrior's Stephen Curry.

Monta Ellis said it couldn't be done, but he and Stephen Curry have been tearing up the backcourt for the Warriors lately — even if the rest of the team is struggling to bring Golden State out from the cellar. But seriously, what were the Warriors thinking, letting Ellis answer questions about Curry without prepping him first? Have you heard the man talk? He can run faster than most of the league, but put him in front of a mic and he's slower than Bengie Molina rounding first base.

Still, Monta came around once Stephen Curry got in the rhythm of things. On Monday against the Bulls, Curry had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. And his outside shot that brought him to stardom in college is starting to show up in the pros — Curry hit five tres against the Bulls.

I just realized I got through this whole NBA column without mentioning everyone's favorite star: Kobe Bryant.

There. Now I still have a shot at becoming a professional sports journalist in Southern California.

Tritons Focus on Mental Strength in Hopes of a Championship Repeat

► **BASEBALL**, from page 12 need to prove ourselves."

In last year's historic season, the Tritons posted a 27-9 overall record, including a perfect 16-0 record at home during conference play. The stretch included a four-game sweep of then-No. 1 Cal State Stanislaus.

UCSD claimed its second California Collegiate Athletic Association championship and won the CCAA tournament, defeating Sonoma State University. The victories vaulted the team to No. 2 in the country in Division-II.

After advancing past the NCAA West Regional, the Tritons reached the D-II College World Series in Cary, North Carolina for the first time ever, where they won two games before bowing out in the National Semifinal against Emporia State University.

After playing an underdog role for much of last season, being on top of the the preseason rankings this year gives the Tritons a new perspective.

"We like to say that our opponents are nameless and faceless," Rossman said. "We're not worried about who we're playing or what they're ranked. Everyone is going to be gunning for us this year."

Hoisting a target on their back, UCSD is looking to replace key cogs from last year's squad. The Tritons lost the program's all-time hits leader Garrett Imeson, all-time home-runs leader Matt Cantele and all-time wins leader Trevor Decker to graduation.

The team will also have to replace now assistant coach Josh Tanner, a .419 career hitter.

An influx of younger players and transfers will fill the voids, leaving it up to the returnees to keep the fresh faces grounded despite the hype.

"There will be times that we will have to deal with adversity and how we respond will be big," senior shortstop and preseason All-America Vance Albitz said. "Losses will definitely happen, and how we deal with them will come down to how the older guys act. We have been around a couple years and have seen it."

Junior pitcher and All-American Tim Shibuya believes that the preseason accolades will help the team.

"Psychological warfare: It's an honor that I don't take lightly," he said. We can use it against other teams. When teams come to play us, we have an advantage."

According to Shibuya, success in the new season won't be so much about talent and fundamentals, but will depend more on the players' ability to gel as a team and conquer the often overlooked mental aspects of baseball.

"Last year we came together so much as a team that we were playing as a unit," Shibuya said. "Every team hits and pitches; mental things are going to separate us."

UCSD will open the season with 18-straight home games at Triton Field, where the team lost only three times last season. The stretch includes a pair of preseason ranked opponents: No. 18 Western Oregon in non-conference play, and No. 22 Chico State to open up the CCAA.

Readers can contact Vishal Natarajan at vnataraj@ucsd.edu.



DANIEL CADDELL/GUARDIAN FILE

UCSD will look to continue their perfect record at Triton Field in CCAA play, where they were 16-0 last year. Contributing to their success was a .983 team fielding percentage, the highest in the nation.

Tritons Try to Steady Their Game After Falling in Five-Set Thriller to UC Santa Barbara

► **M. VOLLEYBALL**, from page 12

Neither team was able to gain a firm hold on proceedings, especially early on, as evidenced by the 33 ties in the match — eight of which occurred in the first set. The Tritons trailed behind 3-0, but quickly turned things around to take the lead 8-7 with a kill from Kiani. UCSD and UCSB went back and forth until the Tritons ultimately claimed the first set 27-23, due to a Gaucho error. Junior middle blocker Adrian Guthals' kill sealed the set at 30-26.

In the second set, the Gauchos jumped out to an 11-6 lead, until the Tritons fought back to 12-10. However, UCSB was able to stave off the comeback attempt, and ultimately claimed the second set with a 30-24 victory.

The Tritons started out on top in the third set with a 10-6 lead, thanks

to a block from Fritsch and junior middle blocker Calvin Ross. UCSB fought back to tie the set at 18-18 until UCSD scored four straight points topped off with an ace from Ross to lead 22-18.

But the Gauchos fought on, and tied the set at 27-27. Fortunately for the Tritons, two errors from UCSB and a Ross kill were enough to hand them the set at 27-30.

In the fourth set, UCSB broke the 11-11 tie to take a 20-15 lead. The Tritons worked to bring the score to 25-24, minimizing the Gaucho's lead to only one point. Despite the Tritons' best efforts, they lost the set 30-27.

In the fifth and final set, the

Tritons started off with a 9-8 lead, but could not improve on their .095 attack percentage as the Gauchos hit at a .316 clip. UCSB eventually sealed a 15-13 win, ending the match in its favor.

“

In order for us to be competitive, we need to sideout with more consistency.”

KEVIN RING
HEAD COACH,
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

on Wednesday, Jan. 13. There, the Tritons were defeated 30-24, 30-26 and 30-28 at the hands of

the Matadors, extending their winless streak against Northridge to 35 matches.

The Tritons were outhit by the Matadors .320 to .174. Fritsch led the way for the Tritons with 16 kills on .33 hitting. Spangler had seven kills. Bannan offered 29 assists, five digs and four kills in the game. Guthals led the team with six blocks and five kills on .625 hitting. Freshman libero Chase Frishman had a team-high eight digs in the game.

Fritsch tied the first set at 16-16 with a kill. However, Cal State Northridge won the first set with a score of 30-24.

The Tritons scored the first three points of the second set. With the score tied 14-14, both teams battled until the Matadors topped the Tritons and won the set 30-26.

In the closely fought third set,

Bannan sent a kill to tie the set at 23-23. After the Matadors cruised to a two-point lead, the Tritons retied the set at 26-26 through an ace from Spangler. Moments later, Fritsch sent down a kill to again tie the set at 28-28. At the end of the dramatic set, Cal State Northridge claimed the set victory at 30-28 with a kill and block.

"For the next match, we need to continue passing well," Ring said. "In order for us to be competitive, we need to sideout with more consistency."

The Tritons will return to action on Jan. 20 against Pepperdine University before heading to Los Angeles to play University of Southern California on Jan. 22.

Readers can contact Jessy Jahangir at fjahangi@ucsd.edu.

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M. Rugby @ UC Riverside
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Ice Hockey vs. San Diego State
 JAN. 24 • *W. Volleyball vs. USC*

HOTCORNER

MICHAEL FONG | FENCING

Sophomore Michael Fong placed 22nd out of 198 in junior men's foil at the North American Cup in San Jose on Jan. 20. He also finished 58th of 187 in the Division-I men's foil against the best of North America that day.



The Scoop: Midyear NBA Accolades

It's mid-January, and even San Diego has shown some signs of "winter," leaving its residents comically unprepared for the rain. So it's time to talk football, right? Well, I've never been one to follow trends — heck, I've been a Warriors fan since before their "We Believe" days — and I refused to jump on the Chargers' bandwagon this year. Let's face it, after Nate Kaeding's glorious suck-fest on Sunday, the last thing you want to hear is predictions for an AFC Championship game to which the Chargers so brilliantly botched their ticket.



So instead, here are a few of my midseason NBA awards. We'll see if they have any relevance by the time summer rolls around.

Guy that screwed over his team the most: the Wizard's Gilbert Arenas

To be fair, Agent Zero's biggest crime was being too serious a practical joker. In fact, we should applaud how committed he is to punking his teammates. I'm talking, of course, about bringing unloaded guns into the locker room and, alongside Javaris Crittenton, pointing them at each other. Maybe bringing in the guns and then joking about it later (Arenas and his teammates drew more attention to the scandal by making guns out of their hands on the sidelines) wasn't as hilarious as they thought.

One thing I've learned from all of this: If I ever see a professional athlete out on the streets, I'm gonna make sure to be extra careful about what I say. Arenas was by no means packing light — accompanying his .50 caliber gold-plated semiautomatic was a .500 magnum revolver, a .45 mm semiautomatic and a 9 mm. Who knows what would happen if he went all Plaxico Burress on us and loaded all his guns into his sweatpants? Four shots in the leg and indefinite suspension wouldn't have been the only thing that ruined his season.

Surprise Team of the (Mid) Year: Oklahoma City Thunder

Loyal readers know that I dedicated my last column to picking apart the Sonicgate fiasco from a couple of years ago that sent the Sonics to Oklahoma City. But the Thunder has really stepped up its game, thanks to third-year forward Kevin Durant. The former Rookie of the Year has led the team to 23 wins this season in half the time it took all its players combined last year. Durant has exceeded already high expectations for the year, averaging 29.1 points per game and 7.1 rebounds. Second-year point guard Russell Westbrook isn't too shabby either, putting up 16.1 points and 7.5 assists per game.

The Thunder is definitely not perfect — the team ranks in the top five in turnovers. But considering the nucleus of young players, they should start handling the ball better soon — hopefully in time to make a push for the playoffs this season.

Rookie of the (Mid) Year: the King's Tyreke Evans

It's a close tie with Brandon Jennings' ghetto ass, but Evans has been playing well of late and looks to be getting even better. The 20-year-old is averaging 20.8 points per game for the Kings, and has all the qualities of a

TRITON FENCERS TAKE ON NORTH AMERICA'S ELITE

By Yvonne Chow
 STAFF WRITER

FENCING — The best fencers on the western North American coast — from Canada to San Diego — gathered in San Jose from Jan. 15 to Jan. 18 to compete for continental supremacy in the North American Cup.

The tournament featured over 260 competitors, and presented a wide range of competition for the UCSD fencers.

"This tournament really served to challenge and expose our athletes with world-class level fencing," head coach Heidi Runyan said.

However, Runyan felt the timing of the tournament was not favorable for the team, since it's prox-

imity to the recent BladeRunner tournament didn't give the team enough time to recover or adjust their techniques.

"We would have preferred if it came longer after the Christmas break," Runyan said.

The tournament — structured in knock-out format — pitted players into groups of six or seven. Then, the competitors faced each other for top spots in the group. The group's highest scorers were then placed into direct elimination rounds.

Despite the tournament's inopportune timing and stiff competition, the UCSD fencers performed well.

Triton sophomore Michael Fong continued to find success in only his second year fencing, and placed 22nd out of 195 participants in the junior men's foil. Fong has already placed second at the UC

Irvine Collegiate Open and 5th at the BladeRunner Tournament this year. His finish marks a 22-spot improvement over his performance at last year's NAC, where he placed 44th out of 188.

Fong said that fencers come from all over North America to compete at NACs and the quality of the field is incredible.

"The competition is always fierce at NAC," he said. "It's typical to fence against Olympians and world team members."

UCSD now looks ahead to the Northwestern Duals that will take place in Evanston from Jan. 30 to Jan. 31.

Readers can contact Yvonne Chow at ychow@ucsd.edu.

SEASON PREVIEW



KAREN LING/GUARDIAN FILE

BIG CLEATS TO FILL

By Vishal Natarajan • SPORTS EDITOR

BASEBALL — The UCSD baseball team is entering the upcoming 2009-10 season ranked as the No. 1 team in the nation in Division-II by Ping!Baseball, and No. 3 by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.

The team also boasts three Division-II preseason All-Americans — designations given to the best players in the country in their respective positions — as voted by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

All this, on the heels of a record-breaking 2008-09 season.

In spite of the preseason praise and high expectations, however, the team is taking a workman's attitude to the upcoming season.

"Last season was arguably one of the best seasons in UCSD history," senior pitcher and preseason All-American Matt Rossman said. "As for this year, it doesn't mean much. All the preseason rankings are based on last year's results — who's coming in this year and the talent that's returning. But we still

UCSD Falls to Gauchos in Five Sets

Men still looking for first win in conference play after showdown with No. 14 UCSB.

By Jessy Jahangir
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

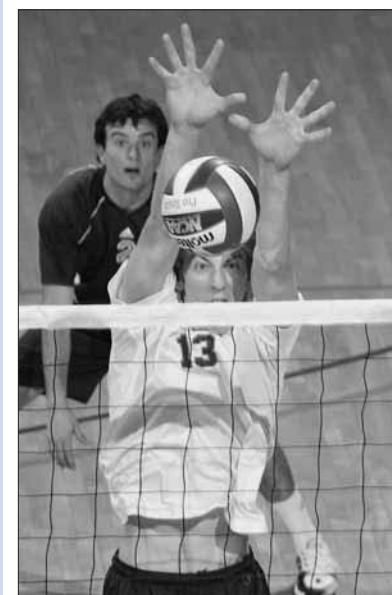
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL — The No. 11-ranked UCSD men's volleyball team traveled to UC Santa Barbara on Saturday, Jan. 16, to play its second match this season in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation campaign. The Tritons were unsuccessful in securing their first victory in a very close seesaw match against the No. 14-ranked Gauchos. UCSD lost with a final score of 26-30, 30-24, 27-30, 30-27 and 15-13.

This was the fourth consecutive meeting between the two teams where the winner was decided in five sets. However, it was the first time that the Gauchos were victorious in the matches. The loss dropped the Tritons to 0-2 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and 1-4 overall.

Leading the way for UCSD was senior outside hitter Jason Spangler, who registered 15 kills and seven digs. Freshman middle blocker Cyrus Kiani also contributed with 12 kills on .625 hitting. Junior setter Phil Bannan had a double-double with 52 assists and 10 digs. Senior opposite hitter Frank Fritsch slammed 11 kills and junior outside hitter Joel Davidson added nine kills.

UCSB was led by outside hitter Jeff Menzel who finished with 25 kills, and opposite hitter Cullen Irons with 14 kills.

See **M. VOLLEYBALL**, page 11



JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN FILE

Frank Fritsch attempts to block a shot from UCSB. Fritsch smashed 11 kills in the loss on Jan. 16.

Source: Collegiate Baseball Newspaper

Source: Ping!Baseball Preseason Top-30