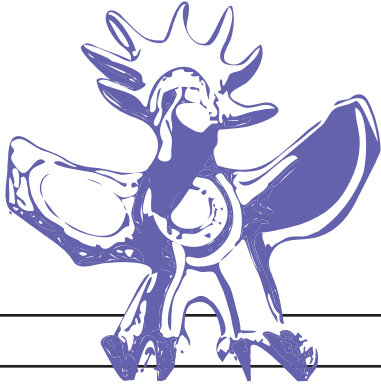


# THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO GUARDIAN

www.ucsdguardian.org

Thursday, October 23, 2008

The Student Voice Since 1967



## University, Union Reach Tentative Wage Agreement

New contract mandates minimum wage, revised overtime policy and health-care leverage for UC employees.

By Jesse Alm  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The University of California reached a tentative contract agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Oct. 19, closing a 14-month negotiation period for 11,000 patient-care technical

workers who have not received a pay increase since 2006.

The five-year agreement — which includes \$127 million in total salary increases and guarantees a systemwide PCT minimum wage of \$14.50 by 2012 — will take effect once it is ratified by union members early next month.

Since bargaining began in August 2007, the university has witnessed organized walkouts, student demonstrations and expressions of discontent published online by AFSCME.

UC Office of the President spokesman Paul Schwartz said the university is relieved to have finally attained a compromise.

“We feel that we have had fair and financially realistic proposals on the table, and we would have liked to have reached this point sooner,” he said. “But we’re pleased to now be able to provide our workers with the raises they deserve.”

Under the new contract, PCT employees will receive 2-percent increases at the beginning of each year, as well as midyear raises of 3 to 5 percent. In addition, an across-the-board 4-percent increase will be paid retroactively between the date of ratification and Oct. 15, 2007, when the previous contract expired. The settlement also includes a significant revision to over-

time benefits. The university will discontinue a current policy that excludes part-time workers by offering overtime rates only to those employees who work at least 80 hours per pay period.

Jessica Agost, a senior surgical technologist at UCSD Medical Center and a member of AFSCME’s patient-care bargaining team, works only four days a week, but she frequently serves extended shifts for no reward.

“Somebody like me who works 80 percent never gets time-and-a-half,” she said. “I’m off one day a week, so even if I work 12 hours a day side by

See **CONTRACT**, page 9

### AN END IN SIGHT?

<b>August 2007</b>	Patient-care tech worker contract negotiations begin.
<b>May 2008</b>	University files restraining order, halts AFSCME strike.
<b>June 2008</b>	Students join union workers in protest on Library Walk.
<b>October 2008</b>	Contract agreement reached for patient-care tech workers.

## Charter Policy Forces Council to Stall Referendum Vote Again

By Sarah de Crescenzo  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For the third time this quarter, the A.S. Council tabled a motion to introduce a new student activity fee referendum yesterday after realizing that an addendum recently tacked on to the referendum to support the Social and Environmental Sustainability Committee could not be voted on due to the group’s lack of an official charter.

The council tabled the motion twice previously in order to discuss the referendum with various student organizations and individual college councils so as to achieve greater support for the motion before the referendum goes before the student body.

Since the inception of the A.S. Council in 1985, the student activity fee, which goes directly to the council, has remained at \$21. Following the Promoting Understanding and Learning through Service and Education fee referendum last year, which aimed to fund the Student Promoted Access Center for Education



JOSEPH HO/GUARDIAN

Despite proclaiming the passage of the impending fee referendum to be necessary for the funding of A.S. Programming and student organizations at their first meeting of the new academic year, the A.S. Council’s vote on the referendum has since been delayed for a third time due to bureaucratic complications.

See **COUNCIL**, page 9

## WHITE HOUSE REAFFIRMS STUDENT LOAN COMMITMENT

Though no official plans announced, Bush administration assures economy won’t affect federal loan availability.

By Sarah de Crescenzo  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In response to increasing concerns over financial-aid availability as the economic downturn continues, the Bush administration released a joint statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson last week reassuring students that the administration will take decisive steps to maintain the stability of the student-loan market.

Though officials revealed no specific plans in achieving this stability, the final goal is to restore “the government-guaranteed student loan market to normal operations,” the statement from Spellings and Paulson said.

Additionally, a bill signed last week by President George W. Bush extended the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, renewing the Education Department’s temporary powers to apply federal funds to loans for students and their families.

“We have no idea what steps the administration is planning to take, though we are seeking meetings with administration officials to see what they intend to do,” National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator Larry Zaglaniczny said.

Zaglaniczny said it is crucial that the government also works toward securing loans for students continuing their studies through this academic year.

“While it’s great that the adminis-

See **GROVE**, page 3

See **LOANS**, page 9

## HOPES STILL HIGH FOR GROVE AS DEBT MOUNTS



JIMMY KAN/GUARDIAN

The Grove Caffe, an A.S. enterprise, has experienced extensive financial difficulty over the past several years. The longtime campus landmark now faces over \$100,000 worth of debt.

By Omair Qazi  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Grove Caffe — UCSD’s first coffee shop, funded by the A.S. Council — began the new academic year with hopes of financial growth but remains mired in debt, struggling to attract customers within an increasingly competitive campus eatery environment.

In February of this year, the cafe’s debt stood at about \$66,000. Since then, it has increased to \$104,400.

The 2008-09 academic year will serve as an evaluation period for the Grove following significant financial investments from the A.S. Council, which funded the salary for newly hired manager Cleveland Thomas and brought the building up to code — investments that

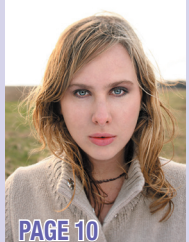
added to the Grove’s accumulating debt.

“This year is to see if the Grove can survive in a modern UCSD, with the new Price Center and with competition for where to eat on campus,” A.S. Vice President of Finance and Resources Naasir Lakhani said.

Since the Grove’s struggles last year were attributed largely to off-putting construction surrounding its Student Center location, the A.S. Council deemed last year’s profit margins unfit for evaluation. Now that construction has dissipated and student activity in the area has returned to normal, the council will use the cafe’s performance through this academic year to determine whether the

### HIATUS Someone Else’s Blues

Nineteen-year-old acoustic prodigy swings by the Loft to channel a short lifetime of coffee-shop somethings.



PAGE 10

### SPORTS Late-Game Heroics

Men’s soccer: Senior forward Tony Fernandez scored in the 83rd minute to upset No. 4 CSULA Oct. 19.



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### ONLINE

**Poll:** Are you familiar with the Graffiti Alley stairwell in Mandeville Center?  
Give us your answer at [www.ucsdguardian.org](http://www.ucsdguardian.org).

### WEATHER

Oct. 23 H 84 L 54	Oct. 24 H 67 L 56
Oct. 25 H 80 L 57	Oct. 26 H 80 L 58



## POORLY DRAWN LINES

BY REZA FARAZMAND



## CURRENTS

### Researchers Set Out to Find Genghis Khan's Tomb

Scientists at UCSD's Center for Interdisciplinary Science in Art, Architecture and Archaeology (CISA3) are hoping to use advanced visualization and analytical technologies to pinpoint Genghis Khan's secret tomb and conduct a non-invasive archaeological analysis of the area in which he is believed to be buried — a region bordered by Mongolia's Onon River and the Khan Khentii mountains, near Khan's birthplace in Khentii Aimag.

Legend has it that the ancient Mongolian emperor's men took extraordinary pains to ensure that the location of his tomb would never be discovered. But Dr. Albert Yu-Min Lin, an affiliated researcher for the CISA3, says that by using unparalleled technology available from CISA3 and the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology, scientists may be able to pinpoint the location of Khan's tomb — and even develop a virtual recreation of it using various methods of spectral and digital

imaging.

"Genghis Khan was one of the most exceptional men in all of history, but his life is too often dismissed as being that of a bloodthirsty warrior," Lin said. "Few people in the West know about his legacy. But as great a man he was, there are few clues and no factual evidence about Genghis Khan's burial, which is why we need to start using technology to solve this mystery."

Lin and several colleagues — including professor Maurizio Seracini, the director of CISA3 and the man behind the search for Leonardo da Vinci's lost "Battle of Anghiari" painting — plan to establish a position at UCSD that will allow him to spearhead the three-year Valley of Khans project, which will require \$700,000 in funding for eight researchers.

"Once we've narrowed down this region in Mongolia to a certain area, we'll use techniques such as ground-penetrating radar, electromagnetic induction and magnetometry to produce nondestructive, non-invasive surveys," Lin said. "We'll then work with people in UCSD's electrical engineering department to

develop visual algorithms that will allow us to create a high-resolution, 3-D representation of the site."

### Volcanoes and Lightning May Have Created Life

Scripps Institution of Oceanography researcher and UCSD professor of marine chemistry Jeffrey Bada and colleagues are presenting a new analysis to explain the origin of life on Earth, suggesting that early volcanic eruptions may have provided the essential building blocks of life.

The theory, co-authored by Bada and Indiana University graduate student Adam Johnson, was published in a paper titled "The Miller Volcanic Spark Experiment" in the Oct. 17 issue of *Science*.

The theory adds to the commonly accepted primordial-soup experiment published by Stanley Miller in 1953, under whom Bada studied as a UCSD graduate student. Miller's experiment, still used in chemistry classes today, simulated earth's early atmosphere by circulating methane, ammonia, water vapor and hydro-

gen in a closed environment and sending a simulated lightning spark through it. After some time, organic compounds form, demonstrating how Earth's primitive atmosphere may have given rise to life.

"We believed there was more to be learned from Miller's original experiment," said Bada, who had preserved Miller's organic chemical samples and original lightning apparatus to follow up on Miller's studies after his death in 2007. "We found that a modern-day version of the volcanic apparatus produces a wider variety of compounds."

It is commonly believed that early Earth was comprised of many small volcanic islands. This study suggests that lightning and the release of gases associated with these volcanic eruptions could have produced the necessary chemical components to give rise to early life.

"Historically, you don't get many experiments that might be more famous than these," Johnson said. "They redefined our thoughts on the origin of life and showed unequivocally that the fundamental building blocks of life could be derived from natural processes."

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

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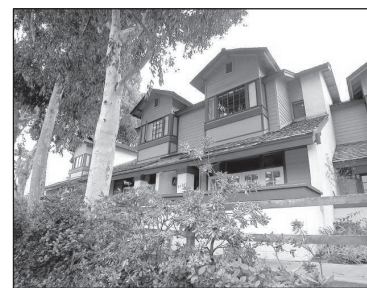
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## Financial Woes Take Precedence Once More at Council Meeting

Last night, the A.S. Council was graced with the presence of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs **Penny Rue**, who opened the meeting with a special presentation and welcomed questions from councilmembers. She came before the council to discuss the concerns of the Student Affairs office and to ask for the council's help in planning for UCSD's 50th anniversary.

Rue was greeted with a plethora of questions from councilmembers regarding everything from the Loft to the RIMAC Annex to the free-speech policy.

"One of the benefits and detriments to being part of a 10-campus system is that

problems of other campuses get promulgated to all campuses," Rue said of the recently implemented systemwide free-speech policy. "That solution given was for a problem that didn't exist on this campus."

Revelle College Chair **James Lintern** asked Rue about what she perceived as the biggest improvement in unifying the campus community since her arrival.

"I'm a huge fan of the Triton statue," Rue said. "It's a small thing, but it's visual. A lot of building community has to do with symbols."

In addition, when grilled about her stance on the impending fee referendum, she declared her support for the idea, though she felt that the language was too binding for future leaders to work with.

During oral reports Associate Vice President of External Affairs **Lisa Chen** announced the final results of the CalPIRG and Associated Students voter registration drive. The numbers were greeted with a drum-roll and

applause.

"The final number is 3,936 new registered voters," Chen said. "All the UCs together have 40,000 new registered voters, and we are fourth in the nation for registered voters."

After Rue's departure, Associate Vice President of Programming **Garrett Berg** requested that the council allow a special presentation regarding the perilous financial situation of this year's Sun God Festival. He proposed to move \$80,000 from A.S.-mandated reserves to fill the gaping

black hole of funds for the festival.

"Even if the referendum passes, we do not have enough money for Sun God this year," Berg said.

Discussion of the council's tired, unfinished business of the referendum trailed the two presentations. The issue of the Loft, its need for programming funds and whether it should be included in the proposed activity fee referendum sparked substantial debate.

"If [the University Events Office] needs the money, they can make their own referendum," Associate Vice President of Student Advocacy **Frank Carroll** said. "Does the Loft need the money? Apparently not because Penny Rue came in and said it will survive; student orgs may not."

The discussion was truncated by the council's discovery that the Social and Environmental Sustainability Committee's proposed referendum addendum could not be voted on because no charter was ever conceived for the organization.

Since the proposal has been requested to be tacked onto the A.S. referendum, neither one could be voted on and were begrudgingly tabled for yet another week.



**New Business**  
Connie Shieh  
cshieh@ucsd.edu

## New Year to Serve as Evaluation Period for Ailing Cafe

► **GROVE**, from page 1  
Grove will be able to support itself financially in the future.

"We're [searching] for a sign that the Grove is not going to dig itself deeper," Lakhani said. "We're looking at this year, and we're going to determine a plan."

The Grove's mounting debt at the end of the 2006-07 academic year led to a drastic restructuring of its management: Formerly operated exclusively by students, the failing enterprise hired full-time non-student Thomas to oversee business operations.

In an attempt to differentiate itself from other coffee shops on campus and attract a larger customer base, a number of operational changes have been implemented at the Grove. Increased advertising and event planning, as well as the introduction of a redesigned menu offering new food items, have been part of the effort to create a niche in which the Grove can thrive. Lakhani cited the Grove's catering service as a positive step toward the cafe's financial restoration.

"It's been offered since January of last year, and it's slowly increasing the amount of money [the Grove] is bringing in," he said.

In addition to changes in internal operations, the A.S. Council remains

hopeful that positive change for the Grove might stem from the actions of the Grove Advisory Committee, an oversight body formed last year that is set to hold its first meeting this quarter. The committee will confer regularly in order to provide a greater degree of scrutiny over the Grove's finances while exist-

eateries, a function that should take precedence over its monetary profits.

"I would just hope for the Grove to serve a niche on campus, as the place where students can go away from the Price Center atmosphere," Lakhani said. "Personally, I don't think it's important to make thousands and thousands of dollars."

The Grove was created in part to provide students with an opportunity to manage a small business and gain experience. Last year, original founder and manager of the Grove Ron Carlson sold his 50-percent stake in the enterprise to Associated Students and left the council with a debt of \$48,000.

Fiscal debt continued to mount throughout the year, prompting the A.S. Council to consider closing the eatery. Alternative options such as renting the space to a new vendor, hiring a full-time manager or partnering with the Rady School of Management were discussed, but the council settled on hiring Thomas to provide a stable influence in the day-to-day operations of the enterprise.

Grove management declined to comment.

Readers can contact **Omar Qazi** at oqazi@ucsd.edu.

**"I would just hope for the Grove to serve a niche on campus ... where students can go away from the Price Center."**

— Naasir Lakhani,  
VP Finance, A.S. Council

ing as a forum to voice management concerns. Members include Thomas, Lakhani, representatives from A.S. Enterprises, the Student Life Business Officer and a student employee from the Grove.

Lakhani said the Grove plays an important role on campus as an alternative to more centralized

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**2nd place:** iTunes Music Store gift cards (\$150 value)

### CATEGORY 2 – SCARIEST

**1st place:** iHome IH9 with 8G Nano (\$240 value)

**2nd place:** Portable DVD player with  
7" color screen (\$150 value)

### NEW! CATEGORY 3 – BEST GROUP

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**2nd place:** Rockband for PS3 (\$170 value)

### CATEGORY 4 – MOST CREATIVE

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**2nd place:** Canon SD1100 IS PowerShot,  
8.0 mega pixels, 3X optical zoom (\$190 value)

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## CONTEST DETAILS

- **When & where:** Friday, October 31. The contest takes place on a stage in front of the theatre located in the UCSD Price Center plaza. The stage is wheelchair accessible.
- **Who can enter:** The UCSD Halloween costume contest is free and open to costumed UCSD students, staff, and faculty.
- **Who's invited:** Non-UCSD friends, family and the community are encouraged to attend as spectators. It is recommended to arrive early to get a good viewing seat.
- **Sign-up:** Costumed contestants should arrive in the plaza no later than 11:30 to check-in and receive their entry numbers. Sign-ups close when the contest begins – at approximately 11:45.
- **Judges:** Costumes are judged by one student, one faculty, and one staff person with an emcee directing the contestants on the stage.
- **Entering the stage:** Starting with Funniest Category #1 and ending with Most Creative Category #4, each contestant will walk up the stage stairs and enter through the rear of the Halloween themed backdrop.
- **Entry numbers:** While on stage, the entry number **must** be held up so the judges can see it clearly to score appropriately.
- **What to do on stage:** The judges and spectators like animated contestants. Use the microphone, speak clearly, shout your name, describe your costume, sing, dance, act goofy.
- **Exiting the stage:** Use the east-facing stairs that are attached to the stage and wait until all four categories are finished.
- **Scoring:** Each contestant is scored between 1 and 5 points. 5 points is the highest. Decisions are final.
  - After all the categories have finished on the stage there will be a brief intermission while scores are tabulated and reported.
  - The contestant with the highest average score in each category will be awarded the 1st place prize.
  - The contestant with the second highest score in each category will be awarded the 2nd place prize.
  - A tie for 1st place will be determined by audience applause. The person with the loudest applause breaks the tie and wins 1st place. The applause runner-up wins the 2nd place prize.
- **Prizes are final:** There are no prize exchanges or refunds.



# AFSCME Shifts Focus to Service Worker Contract

► **CONTRACT**, from page 1  
side with nurses, [overtime] does not go into effect.”

The new overtime plan — identical to those at competing San Diego hospitals Scripps Memorial and Kaiser Permanente — grants employees 150-percent pay after eight hours and double-time after 12 hours, without the 80-hour pay period requirement.

AFSCME Local 3299 President Lakesha Harrison added that for the first time ever, union approval will be required for any revisions to health-care or pension policies that the university wishes to implement.

“In the past, the university was just able to say, ‘Here are your new rates for health care,’ she said. ‘Now the workers have the final say.’”

Agost said PCT contracts have always lasted only three years, and that the union’s most recent demands were more ambitious than usual. However, she said workers have been struggling for a long time, and that her bargaining team remained patient in order to avoid committing to a contract that was “just OK.”

“I would say that this is the best contract PCT workers have ever received,” she said. “It might not be exactly where we want to be, but we had a lot on the table and we got a lot.”

Harrison called the contract a victory, but emphasized that roughly 8,500 service workers — also represented by AFSCME — remain in poverty and have been working without a contract since January.

“This agreement reflects the kind of change we’re trying to make, but this is only half the battle,” she said. “We represent 20,000 workers, and this still leaves our service workers out. Many of these workers are eligible for public assistance, and they are the workers we really need to help now.”

Whereas patient-care technical salaries are funded by UC medical center revenues, the university relies on state money for its service workers.

Schwartz explained that although many service employees work at the medical centers, the university must consider all service workers in the same category for equity purposes.

“The amount of money we get from the state is the biggest single source for systemwide increases, and we have to think about employees across the system,” he said. “All of our employees deserve to be compensated fairly, and we’re working hard toward that goal to the extent that resources allow.”

Readers can contact Jesse Alm at [jessealm@gmail.com](mailto:jessealm@gmail.com).

# Referendum Needed to Continue Support of Student Organizations

► **COUNCIL**, from page 1  
and Service, the activity fee rose to \$28 per student per quarter, but the amount of money the council receives to fund campuswide events such as the Sun God Festival remained the same.

The current referendum was proposed in reaction to the council’s recent realization that the funding it now receives from student fees is barely enough to sustain current A.S. activities, much less allow for the improvement of any provided services.

“The A.S. Council has been functioning on the same \$21 per student per quarter since the council was founded,” A.S. Associate Vice President of Athletic Relations Peter Benesch said. “We are either going to fail to meet the needs of students, or we will need to increase the amount of money the A.S. Council is receiving from student fees.”

Currently, A.S. Programming has \$200,000 allotted for Sun God. This amount represents less than half the funds spent organizing last year’s festival. Even with the provision of additional funds if the referendum passes, A.S. Programming will still be \$80,000 short of the amount needed to maintain the festival’s previous scope.

“Even if A.S. Programming were to cut every single event we put on other than Sun God, the festival would still

be much smaller than previous years’ without the funding from the referendum,” Festivals Coordinator Alex Bramwell said.

If the council passes the fee referendum, the largest chunk of the newly raised activity fee would go to A.S. Programming. A.S. Student Organization Funding, the group that doles out funds to the ever-increasing number of campus student organizations, would receive a lesser but still substantial \$4 per student per quarter.

Other areas that would receive funds from the proposed fee referendum include the A.S. External Affairs Office, the University of California Student Association Dues, A.S. Safe Ride, the All-Campus Transfer Association and All-Campus Commuter Board, A.S. Women’s Commission and Alliance, KSDT Radio, Student-Run Television and A.S.-mandate reserves.

A full 29 percent of the fee referendum is allotted for a mandatory “return-to-aid” that will become part of the university’s financial-aid fund.

If the council, and subsequently the student body, approves the referendum, the proposed fee increase would go into effect Spring Quarter 2009.

Readers can contact Sarah de Crescenzo at [sdecresc@ucsd.edu](mailto:sdecresc@ucsd.edu).

# NASFAA: Gov’t Must Assure Loan Availability Now, Not Just Next Year

► **LOANS**, from page 1  
tration is looking to ensure that loans will be available for the next academic school year, we will be working to make sure they are also taking steps to make sure that loans will still be there for the students who need them for next semester of this year,” Zaglaniczny said.

Though the student loan market is facing difficulties because of tight credit markets and an uncertain economic forecast, Zaglaniczny is confident that federal loans for students will still be available next year.

“While I have no question that any administration will ensure that federal loans are available, an administration can take measures that affect the student loan market that are more or less effective,” he said. “We, of course, are hoping for the former.”

Under the Bush administration’s \$700-billion bailout plan, Paulson has standing powers to prop up both the federal loan market and the more restrictive private student loan market with federal funds.

“The secretary of the treasury has a blank check, in terms of his authority, to intervene in the student loan markets — both federal and nonfederal,” Zaglaniczny said.

While no further explanation has clarified the ways through which the administration hopes to secure the student loan market, the statement describes the initiative as expedited and aggressive, and says that more announcements will be forthcoming over the next several weeks.

Readers can contact Sarah de Crescenzo at [sdecresc@ucsd.edu](mailto:sdecresc@ucsd.edu).

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## EDITORIAL

# Enough Excuses, Get Our Referendum Together

A.S. councilmembers recently came to the harsh realization that certain aspects of their enterprise have gone utterly broke. Currently possessing barely half the funds needed to stage the annual Sun God Festival, A.S. Programming has hit a financial dead end, while the council's funding for student organizations is quickly dwindling to a trickle.

In order to tackle this rapidly worsening financial conundrum, councilmembers earlier this year proposed bringing a new activity fee referendum before the student body, the first since the council's inception in 1985. Aimed primarily at resuscitating the ailing A.S. Programming, the envisioned referendum would, in its current form, raise student fees by an additional \$19.82 per student per quarter, leaving A.S. Associate Vice President of Programming Garret Berg and his posse of programmers with the financial freedom and peace of mind to organize an even worse festival lineup than last year's.

With additional funds allotted to various campus organizations and enterprises, including KSDT Radio and A.S. Safe Ride, the referendum seems poised to rescue the floundering council from tapping into their much-coveted reserves. Having to do so, councilmembers contend, is not an option. Thus it would appear that this referendum is crucial to the continued survival of the many A.S.-funded services this campus has come to shelter. It would be a vast relief, a saving grace an unprecedented emergency bailout, one might say, of epic proportions.

Yet after all this, they still can't seem to finalize the damn thing.



Last night, the council decided once again to postpone a vote on whether to bring the new referendum before the student body. This marks the third time councilmembers have tabled this vote, indicating that our student government is perhaps even less organized than originally given credit for.

The council's decision to again stall this vote, however, reveals a much deeper flaw within this governing body than one of mere disorganization or an inability to maintain campaign promises. The council is meant to exist as an institution that represents and ensures the continued well-being of student interests, yet the apparent inability of councilmembers to carry out their duties in a timely manner suggests an alarming lack of foresight, the inability to execute a well-laid plan and perhaps just plain apathy.

Councilmembers attribute their latest failure to approve the referendum to the fact that an organization added into the proposal at the last minute has not yet drafted a charter, a requirement for any enterprise funded by the council. Why, however, when dealing with such an important matter, should something so obvious slip under the radar?

This is more than just a mistake; it's a stark testament to the sort of lackadaisical attitude possessed by so many councilmembers. This is an incident that points to a lack of oversight within the council, to a disregard for responsibility and to a distinct absence of any noticeable coherence among those supposedly representing the student body.

Hopefully councilmembers will get their act together long enough to actually put this issue to a student vote at some point in the near future, especial-

ly considering the last time the council sponsored a special election (SRTV, anyone?), it took nearly two months to organize. It would be unacceptable if the funds needed to maintain crucial campus events and organizations — Sun God in particular — were simply not attained in time.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Turkey's Blinking Traffic Lights Superior to USA's

Dear Editor,

It was your average, sunny San Diego afternoon and I was hastily cruising down La Jolla Village Drive trying to get to school on time. As I approached the Genesee Avenue/La Jolla Village Drive intersection, something happened that has probably happened to all of us. As I was getting closer to the lights the green suddenly turned yellow. I was already past of the point of no return, as in "slow down boy," so I had two options: either I was going to blast through the yellow and hopefully pass the intersection before the light turned red, or make a very, very painful stop and wait for the light to turn green again while enjoying the aroma of burnt rubber. What did I do? Well, that's not the point of this letter.

Having encountered this dilemma many times, I have now generated a phobia of approaching green lights from a distance. I always question myself, "Has it been green for awhile?" or "Has it just turned green?" Simultaneously, I get ready to put on some Formula 1 moves. Yes, Formula 1, that's what we Europeans watch (not that there are many maneuvers). To be honest, it's not pleasant. I have thought of some solutions but nothing has been as pleasant as what I witnessed this past year while I was visiting my home country, Turkey. The traffic lights there (yes, we have cars!) have an interesting twist to them. As the green light approaches its end it starts blinking, notifying the driver by basically saying, "Heads up, I am about to turn yellow." If this were implemented in California, drivers who were 100 feet away from a green light that's blinking would start slowing down

instead of keeping a constant speed and then having to decide what to do as soon as the light turns yellow 50 feet from the intersection. Think about it — how many people are there that get into accidents just because they thought they could pass it? OK, I am not saying what they did is right but I honestly believe that if you do not put that driver in that worrisome position in the first place, maybe he or she would make a more conscious decision.

What would this change require? I don't know, maybe a reprogramming of the software? We know that the lights are capable of blinking, especially for the people who drive late at night. Is it too much to ask?

— Ahmet Kaan Ozkarahan  
Thurgood Marshall College senior

### Think Ahead: Get Your Flu Shot at Student Health

Dear Editor,

Summer is barely over and already there is talk of flu season. Student Health Service has its supply of flu shots available and is encouraging students to come in for their flu shot. You might be thinking: "But hey, I knew someone who said they actually got the flu from the flu shot. So why take the chance?"

Why? Well, every year in the United States, 5 to 20 percent of the population gets the flu. Here at UCSD that could be close to 5,000 students, not to mention about 3,000 faculty and staff. That's a lot of flu virus floating around — literally, floating! Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Think of being in a large lecture hall, or maybe a movie theater; ever hear anyone coughing or sneezing?

Another way people may become

infected is by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. How many door handles, chairs and desks do you touch in a day?

Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick. So, that poor guy in Center Hall coughing his head off didn't really mean to get you sick.

Since there is only so much you can do to prevent getting the flu, you should get a flu shot. It is still the best protection against the flu. The thought of a fever, body aches and feeling exhausted should have you heading over to Student Health for your flu shot today!

Flu shots and FluMist (nasal spray) are available on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday. Students with chronic health conditions such as asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, chronic bronchitis or a weakened immune system pay only \$2 for their flu shot. For all other students the cost is \$16 for the shot, or \$25 for the nasal spray.

— Debbie Pino-Saballett, MPH  
Director of health education,  
UCSD Student Health Service

► 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:

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## WANT TO GO GREEK? BETTER FIT THE MOLD

By Gabriella Capisani  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**ON CAMPUS** — Fraternities and sororities are most commonly known for weekend ragers and the occasional contribution to the community through required philanthropy. As UCSD is not exactly famous for its social scene, oftentimes the most prominent advertisements on Library Walk are for Greek life. For incoming freshmen looking to squeeze as much as they can from their college experience, going Greek is presented as the perfect, all-inclusive package. Differing from the drunken stereotype, UCSD Greeks boast a great balance between rigorous academics and a healthy social life. And while the Greek system may be a good outlet and source of fun on campus, the entry process — Rush Week — is blantly shallow.

The six-day Panhellenic recruitment process requires pledges to narrow their sorority preferences further and further each night, picking their top two from the original nine by the end of the week. When a rushee has ranked her choices, she is matched against the chapters' rankings to find the most mutual selections, a process that allegedly ensures that incoming members will receive a bid from one

See RUSH, page 7

## A High Five to Liberal-Arts Majors: Keep Keeping It Real

Earlier this week, as the autumnal fog of Southern California season change rolled hazily over campus, the newly remodeled Price Center machine chugged smoothly along and students cemented their Fall Quarter routines and began studying for midterms, the few humanities-minded Tritons in our midst were reminded, yet again, that even after that epic tassel turn there will be no jobs for us.



### Stealing the Shoes

Hadley Mendoza

hsmendoza@ucsd.edu

The recent career fair on Library Walk — one of the many hosted at UCSD each year — surely provided relief to science-major seniors concerned over facing a harsh economy upon graduation, as the pathway was full of friendly job scouts sitting invitingly at neat white booths. There was, and consistently has been, very little attention given to the hundreds of Tritons who aren't interested in those fields (and apparently made a horrible mistake somewhere along the line when choosing which college to attend).

Now over the past two years I've stood witness to countless rants from my column-writing peers about how the arts and humanities — and given our own personal standing, literature majors specifically — are basically the red-headed stepchildren of San Diego's hottest school for science. And though it's totally true, I've made a conscious decision not to go there. There's nothing to be accomplished by sitting in a writerly bubble, writing complaints about how no one is supporting our writerly bubble. What I am going to do now is proclaim how baller each and every humanities major is.

So to all the kids who took that other chemistry series freshman year — you know, the one that starts with a course simply titled "The Periodic Table" — this one's for you. Why? Because you're bold. You recklessly laughed in the face of 20-plus years of parental pressure, sadist lectures from at least one desperate teacher a quarter, a global market system driven by technological advances and probably your own better judgment to pursue something greater than future financial stability.

You, my friends, are the true pioneers of tomorrow, courageously committing your time and energy to subjects that actually spark your interest. You aren't afraid to admit that solving organic chemistry mechanisms for hours is shitty and, ultimately, pretty pointless. And for that you deserve accolades even greater than those UCSD has obtained.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease, and in a university overflowing with frantic begoggled pre-meds, it's only fitting that these kids would receive the most career support, program funding and course variety. Sure, all that we humanities majors have to hold onto is the

See SHOES, page 5



# Juicy Campus a Cesspool of Pathetic Hate Speech

By Matthew McArdle  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

**STUDENT LIFE** — Covering 500 university campuses nationwide and boasting nearly 100,000 musings since its August 2007 launch, gossip Web site JuicyCampus.com has quickly become a fast and easy way for students to read and post entries on their campus' respective page about any topic they choose. In fact, the site's motto pretty much sums up its purpose: "C'mon. Give us the juice."

The site, however, comes with a catch: anonymity. Promising all entries will be posted without requiring registration or otherwise giving away the submitter's identity, Juicy Campus is almost like a college version of celebrity-gossip Web site PerezHilton.com — except that entries about Britney, Miley or Brangelina have been replaced with posts about your roommate, your resident adviser or in some cases maybe even you.

Juicy Campus allows users to search the list of postings by key words (ahem, names) or browse the most viewed, most voted, most agreed or most discussed entries. More often than not, the site's entries are peer-related, involving anecdotes that ridicule, judge or — rarely — praise other students. Usually these comments are acidic, discussing such topics as "the biggest man-whore on campus," "the sluttiest sorority girl" and "guess who has herpes." Usually they are posted by members of the Greek community. And usually they receive hundreds of views, replies and counter-replies, in essence transforming the site into a huge, virtual bathroom wall that

allows anyone with Internet access a chance to contribute.

Because of the negativity surrounding many of the posts, it's unsurprising the site has become quite controversial on several university campuses — at Pepperdine University, the student government passed a resolution earlier this year urging the administration to block access to the site, and similar measures have been discussed at Columbia University and Yale University. Bloggers across the Internet have denounced the site as a breeding ground for hate speech, personal attacks and blatant lies, with one student from George Washington University describing the site as an offshoot of the "Mean Girls" movie script.

The student, Max McGowen — who himself has been a target on the site — has played a leading role at George Washington University as part of a grass-roots effort to bring Juicy Campus down from within by swamping the site daily with long-winded entries discussing topics as diverse as the intricacies of Latin to the history of the Egyptian pyramids. Students at other universities, including Cornell University and Williams College, have also resorted to this technique, posting chunks from the Bible or in some cases entire novels to drown out any potentially offensive entries.

But even as complaints about the site's content continue to rise, Juicy Campus remains popular and its founder, Duke University alumnus Matt Ivester, has said the site has plans to expand even more, defending it as an arena for free speech and a

See **JUICY**, page 7

# Reality at SD's 'Hottest for Science' School Not So Hot

► **SHOES**, from page 4  
Mandeville Center — that administrators have suddenly decided to aggressively reclaim — and one random building hidden among the

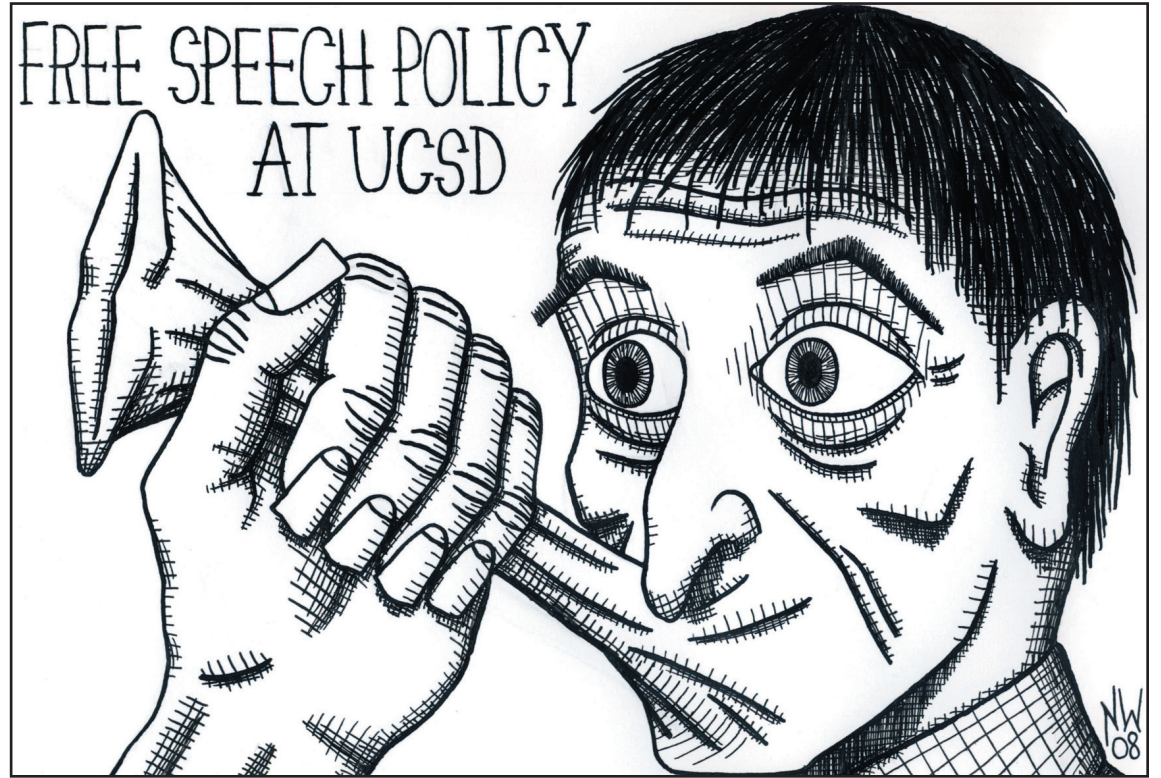
Warren College engineering thickets, but that's just a testament to our strength of will.

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Plus, what does "hottest for science" even mean? I've met organic chemist and UCSD Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and let me just say, hot is not the first word that comes to mind.


## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

By Niven Wilson



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# When It Comes to Rushing, Shallow Sorority Stereotype Well Deserved

► **RUSH**, from page 4

of their top sororities while simultaneously achieving the best fit for everyone.

Walking into a room filled with smiling girls, all dancing and chanting their individual chapter songs, was like walking into Disneyland's "It's a Small World" ride. Each sorority chooses how to present itself to the group of pledges through compelling speeches from chapter presidents about their "classy reputation" or "focus on philanthropy" and picture slide shows. The girls all appear to be interested and lively but once the song and dance was finished and pledges were partnered randomly with a member for a brief interview, routine took over.

Each veteran stood scanning her rushee, asking the girl's name, college and major, with all the excitement and interest of a well-rehearsed infomercial, internally gauging whether the answers matched the mold.

After just a few short minutes the conversations ended as members fluttered off to meet new girls — leaving with one last thorough up-and-down glance. The distinct blueprint in each chapter's room was uncanny, as the high-heeled, short-skirted blondes were at home with the Pi Phi and the quieter (often Jewish) girls were warmly welcomed by AEPHi.

Although pledges are made to believe that the chapters are trying to impress each and every one of them, it's impossible to deny the truth about their reputations. Pledges are encouraged to leave preconceptions at the door; however, walking into each chapter's room just confirms the so-called rumors. Each sorority's pictures, memorabilia and members themselves were living proof of the stereotypes pledges were told to forget.

Being herded like cattle from room to room in dictatorial silence was a sharp contrast to the bubbly parties championed by sorority members. Pledges were not allowed to speak to each other — a strictly enforced measure to discourage chatty girls from passing on information of these "false" caricatures and influencing

other people's opinions. This demand was obviously useless, as pledges are well aware of which sororities are considered the best — meaning the most-favored by frats — and silly, since chapters are simultaneously looking to fill their mini-me quota.

Entering the dark, pushy lair of the less-praised sororities, pledges were surrounded by the sad desperation of chapters trying to prove their worthiness. Be it their looming height or awkward sweat stains, there was a clear difference between these Greeks and those from the more coveted chapters. They sang and danced like the neighboring sororities, but these girls were less successful in attracting an excited group of followers, nearly begging each rushee to give their chapter a shot through awkward strokes of the arm and intent, uncomfortable stares.

But despite the claims of a happy mutual selection, at the end of the sometimes-grueling process, the decisions and preconceptions of each chapter carry a much heavier weight than the desire of the pledge. No one's nuanced personality can be expressed in a three-minute meet-and-greet, so there's no way sorority selections are based on anything other than an aesthetic evaluation. And with quarterly dues in the range of \$300, rushees better hope they wore the right shoes to impress their soon-to-be sisters.

While on bid day throngs of screaming pledges rush excitedly toward the top-choice sorority that selected them, there are still tons of forgotten girls who paid \$30 only to find there was no perfect, mutual match for them. It was these girls who marched tearfully home from Price Center, clutching their high heels, lamenting their devastation over not being chosen by the chapters they felt a connection with. Although this otherwise-celebrated Greek system may provide a sustainable social life for the "in" crowd, the allegedly mutual rush process proves to be just as shallow as Elle Woods in all her stereotypical glory.

Readers can contact Gabriella Capisani at [gcapisani7@yahoo.com](mailto:gcapisani7@yahoo.com).

# Gossip Web Site's Creator Claims It Promotes Free Speech

► **JUICY**, from page 5

convenient central point for students to exchange ideas that would have supposedly been discussed on campus anyway. And although speech that is "unlawful, threatening, abusive, tortious, defamatory, obscene, libelous or invasive of another's privacy" is prohibited by the site's terms of use and Ivester declared on his site's official blog that "hate isn't juicy," the fact remains that users of the site

don't really care and students continue to be listed by name along with links to pornographic films in which they've acted, people they've slept with and drugs they've taken, posted alongside lists of who's hot and who's not.

So the tug-of-war continues between Juicy Campus administrators and students determined to overload the site with random entries in an effort to mask personal attacks, while postings continue to accumulate, even on UCSD's own page, which is peppered with its fair share of embarrassingly crude comments.

While in a perfect world everyone would be nice to each other and would never resort to anonymously posting random personal information on a gossip Web site, in reality

that is never going to happen, unless the law under which the site takes haven — the federal Communications Decency Act of 1996, which provides immunity to Web sites to prevent them from being held accountable for information posted by users — is altered by Congress. And that creates a whole host of legal issues (the law was designed to prevent major companies like AOL from legal implications from comments made in chat


rooms, for example) that make it unlikely the law will change anytime soon.

Until then, posters will post, students will retaliate and Juicy Campus administrators will get richer. It's a never-ending merry-go-round.

So the moral of the story is if you don't like the site, don't use it. If you want to be an undignified, slimy asshole, post entries about other people that would make you cringe if they were about you. Or if you want to truly use the site as a forum for student communication, ditch the hate speech and post commentary that is actually relevant to making your campus a better place for everyone.

Readers can contact Matthew McArdle at [matt.mcardle@gmail.com](mailto:matt.mcardle@gmail.com).

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## Deerhunter

- "Agoraphobia"
- "Calvary Scars"

## People Under the Stairs

- "Up Yo Spine"
- "The Ultimate 144"

## FROM STARBUCKS TO THE LOFT:

SONYA  
Kitchell

BY SIMONE WILSON

Everyone loves a child prodigy — and if anyone knows everyone, it's Starbucks. When the corporate giant to clobber all corporate giants plucked singer-songwriter Sonya Kitchell, a homely 16-year-old with one ambitious EP to her name, from the banks of a Massachusetts brooktown in 2006, the caffeine monopoly and their legions of back-pocket critics knew just how to pitch her.

Angelic. Jazzy. Virtuoso. Wise far beyond her years. Lightly sprinkled with every last press-release keyword in their people-pleasing bank, *Words Came Back to Me* (Kitchell's first full-length) soon drew the jittery J. Crew crowd from every urban and suburban street corner, looking for that buzzed-about up-and-comer to peruse over their double soy latte — all sips and chin-strokes and bedroom eyes to the equally jazzy lunch-breaker across the lounge. The simplistic puppy-love musings of such an unsharpened mind melted effortlessly over schmoozy piano into the daily routines of a million busy Americans with no need for more weights to the brain, grateful for straightforward drags like "Why I love you, I cannot say/ Honey, reasons are reasons/ Emotions are so funny that way." But despite the company's cheesily grandiose proportions, Kitchell insists she never felt pressured to cram herself into anybody's cookie cutter.

"It's a large small company," she said in an interview on Wednesday. "Plus, they helped me get my work out there; it was an ideal situation."

In the long run, though, it could be a disservice, being plastered all over everyone's consumer dreams like that. The public adoration inevitably heaped onto such a highly publicized talent her age — and granted, the country girl did know her way around a Mitchell tune and an acoustic guitar, but E. E. Cummings comparisons? Really? — may be good and

cuddly for a time, but no artist can truly recover from a corporate magnifying glass held so intently to her awkward stage. A Scarlett Johansson-type teenhood of too many Billie Holiday records, layers of dress-up gauze and tales of the good old boys bathed her in jazz traditions of someone else's present, leaving the idealized darling smelling of their timeless influence but without much of a tradition of her own. And who could really deny an imitator so pretty in her devotion, so committed and sincere? Outside the coffee chain, Kitchell lured just the right critical attention: National Public Radio's soft and cradling All Things Considered drew a whole new kind of fan to her cause, complete with their bumper-stickered Volvos and travel mugs with definitely-not-Starbucks inside.

Things got even better when the ever-prolific Herbie Hancock, accessible millennium leftover of Miles Davis' second great quintet, hand-picked the youngster for a Joni Mitchell tribute tour. And it's really no wonder: Kitchell's full-bodied, husky-then-shrill vocal vacillations are eerily similar to the original acoustic poet to whom she so looks up (and with whom, ironically, she shares the Starbucks rack — they paved paradise, indeed). Kitchell describes the experience of singing "All I Want" as not so far a

See **SONYA**, page 15

COURTESY OF SHORE FIRE



## Smokes Us With Her Latte Lullaby

## recordings

## People Under the Stairs

• Fun DMC

GOLD DUST MEDIA

★★★★

Fun. It's devastating, it's hard hitting, its mind blowing. What can I say? It kicks ass."

*Fun DMC* is two B-boys' return to those Los Angeles-afternoon barbecues in the dead of summer — an endearing tribute by underground producer-emcees Thes One and Double K to the days when hip-hop was not just an expression of daily struggles, but an outlet to release inner-city stress — in short, to have some fun.

People Under the Stairs effectively pay their dues to the old school, both in lyrical craft and affectionate, crate-digging production. Thes One emulates legend Jam-Master-Jay's percussion layout, lacing the classic blueprint with manic snare and hi-hat loops accompanied by well-ratoned bass drums. Opening track "The Swan Fever" sets up the backyard party, as attendees holler over an infectious, energized trumpet crescendo; the bash only gets louder with "Up Yo Spine," a live recording given a block-party feel by the clapping of the crowd.

Thes One's copious throwbacks add undeniable charm to his production.

"The Ultimate 144" is a seamless composition of celebrated beats from gurus like Eric B., Jam-Master-Jay and DJ Kay Jee, sure to tickle those nostalgic nerves among every degree of hip-hop head. A sample of Tupac's "California Love" is spun with a faint conga loop beneath a rapid-clap beat for a respectable nod to Dr. Dre.

Although the majority of *Fun DMC* flows in this finesse, it's not free of irregularities. The mushy reggae-rap of "People Riddum" is blessed with catchy vocals, yet is discordantly uncharacteristic of PUTS' brass-and-drum production style; and though reminiscent ballad "D" pays musically sound respect to lost loved ones, its dreary ambience is unbecoming of such an upbeat record.

*Fun DMC's* shine is in the polish: Whether with a clever Pharcyde sound bite or between-track party conversation, the close attention to detail makes this tribute a reflective success in its own right. Summer might be over, but there's no reason we can't keep celebrating.

— Omar Khan  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

## SEX AND SATIRE STIR THE OLD SOUTH

COURTESY OF LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

By Leila Haghighat  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The collision of overt sexuality and immodest religiosity erupts into an only modestly cliché reflection of family structure in "Tobacco Road," the stage adaptation of Erskine Caldwell's 1932 novel. Despite cut-chewing hillbillies whispering God-fearing prayers, the play steers far from a trite allegory of Bible Belt South.

Wrapping up its third week at the La Jolla Playhouse, "Tobacco Road" teeters between the extremities of lewdness and misery in chronicling the Lester family breakdown. With a quick pace that defies its characters' slurred Southern accents, the play plunges into the Lesters' economic turmoil as failed sharecroppers, only to emerge heroically in the end with a sliver of hope as arid as the untilled land.

## Tobacco Road

★★★★

Starring John Fleck, Kate Dalton and Jan Leslie Harding  
Directed by David Schweizer  
Contains adult content and graphic language

Jeeter Lester (John Fleck), the family's obstinate patriarch, refuses to abandon sharecropping in spite of the bank's imminent repossession of his house. Anchored by tradition, he affirms that "people who's born on the land should stay on the land," much to the chagrin of his unrelenting wife Ada (Jan Leslie Harding) and her aspiration to indulge in the shopping districts of a far-away Augusta.

On the fringes of the stage linger hare-lipped daughter Ellie May (Kate Dalton) and Grandma (Lucy Ann Albert), whose inarticulacy throughout the play reflects the unimportance her family shamelessly attributes to her. Jeeter doggedly professes his indifference to the possibility of Grandmother's death

See **TOBACCO**, page 16



# CLAN OF BADGERS CAUGHT IN OWN CROSSFIRE

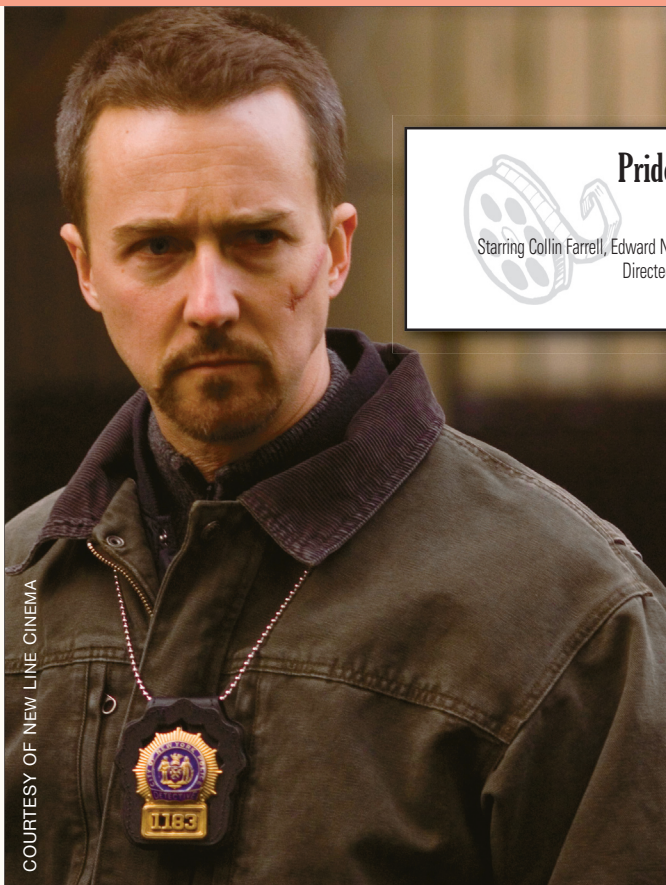
By Edwin Gonzalez  
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

Dirty cops are common folk in Batman comics, pulp-fiction paperbacks and every Joe Carnahan (“Smokin’ Aces,” “Narc”) script ever penned. With an eHarmony profile that undoubtedly lists his interests as firearms, witty zingers, “fuck” as a noun/adjective/verb and copious amounts of red dye waiting to be sprayed across windows as his “Interests,” Carnahan’s one-trick-pony salesmanship catches the eye of Director Gavin O’Connor in his latest homage to New York’s Finest.

A film plagued by innumerable studio setbacks since its insemination back in 2001, “Pride and Glory” finally arrives — fashionably late — with a lackluster mainstream makeover. Conceived as an arthouse under the title “Manhattan North,” producers panicked, underestimating the blockbuster stronghold of “High School Musical 3” and plethora of Halloween commodities.

Despite the fact that its final title sounds like a Nazi propaganda picture, “Glory” crawls the narcotics bazaar of New York’s inner-city, host to Rodney King re-enactments and very few law-abiding men. However, guaranteed and gently pushed into police work by their father’s saintly legacy, Franny (Noah Emmerich), Ray (Edward Norton) and Jimmy (Colin Farrell) honor the Tierney family name with their dedicated service to the state and loyalty to the values that begin in the home.

With Francis Sr. (Jon Voight) as the clan’s sage patri-



## Pride and Glory

★★★

Starring Colin Farrell, Edward Norton and Jon Voigt  
Directed by Gavin O’Connor  
Rated R

arch and city’s former Police Chief, the NYPD Tierney coat-of-arms becomes an aegis for political asylum by the time their father is promoted out of the precinct. And although eldest brother Franny tries to fill his father’s boots by taking up his managerial duties, no one thinks they have to play by the rules when their brother’s the referee. So when the semiautomatic slaughter of four cops is found trailing back to the family’s front door, Ray’s investigation quickly uncovers more dirt than can be swept under the living-room rug.

Cutting out corruption before it spreads with the etiquette of a field surgeon, the brothers procrastinate turning on one another. And aggravated by the *New York Post*’s mudracking headline news, the demise that ensues only escalates heated tempers, drug market synergies and 10-gauge Tylenol remedies.

Boasting an indictment of New York’s corrupt police politics and belligerent racial tensions Tom Wolfe would be proud of, camera work capturing the city’s urban milieu packs shot-by-shot frames with claustrophobic *mise en scene*. Director of photography Declan Quinn puts into effect the dense and austere shades of a prison-gray palette, cramming fire escapes and chain-link fences into shots with more layers than a shingled roof. Even when the trite cop-out of close-ups and chase scenes on cameras that jangle like key chains lead the

See **PRIDE**, page 13

## druthers

HIATUS PICKS  
THE WEEK’S  
BEST BETS

### Neil Young & Death Cab for Cutie

COX ARENA / OCT. 29 / 7 P.M. / \$54

Neil Young is either getting too old to make rational decisions or desperately wants to be relevant, because the idea of Death Cab opening for the vetted folk-rocker is surreal in the worst way. Most of Cutie’s fan base probably isn’t familiar with Young’s rough acoustics and calloused lyrics, so far removed from Ben Gibbard’s shiny vulnerability. Still, the fact that two such gigantic acts are sharing the same bill might make a few people ecstatic — all those that love themselves some open-faced emotion with a side of grizzly balladry. (CK)

### “Happy-Go-Lucky”

HILLCREST LANDMARK / OCT. 24 / 7 P.M. / \$10.50

Downing uppers would seem the only way Mike Leigh could pull out an uncharacteristically optimistic portrait of a London schoolteacher with a Hannah Montana attitude — and from the same hat that hung on characters like the nihilistic Johnny in “Naked.” But he does, and “Happy-Go-Lucky” isn’t a sugar-coated pill too sweet to swallow, either.

Poppy (Sally Hawkins), a leading lady already collecting critical praise, keeps a smile despite the Job-esque tribulations that affront her personal life. As pensive a film as any of Leigh’s, the perfect midterm pickup this week won’t be the Adderall in your roommate’s desk. (EG)

## exit strategy →

THIS WEEK’S  
ON-CAMPUS  
EVENTS

**BITTER:SWEET**  
The Loft  
Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
\$5

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Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m.  
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Price Center Theater  
Oct. 28, 6 & 9 p.m.  
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**“THE DARK KNIGHT”**  
Price Center Theater  
Oct. 23 & 25, 6 p.m.  
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**DENGUE FEVER**  
The Loft  
Oct. 25, 7 p.m.  
\$5 ADV.

**PRESS REWIND PLUS**  
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FREE

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Cafe Roma  
Oct. 27, 7:45 p.m.  
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# recordings

Keane  
 ■ Perfect Symmetry  
 INTERSCOPE



★★★★

Keane, the band that battled Coldplay for the top spot on melancholy music playlists a few years back, has reinvented itself with *Perfect Symmetry*. The group's quintessentially brooding piano ballads have given way to unabashed retro synthpop — a transition that, despite sounding dubious at best, works.

Tom Chaplin's clear, bright vocals humanize the album's super-synthetic background, helping Keane channel the '80s while maintaining fresh rhythms and harnessing instrumental oddities.

Keane has certainly not neglected its piano-centered roots, skillfully layering acoustic keys over funkalicious bass and wound-up synthesizers. It toys around with the drum machine but generally stays true to its rock roots via drum kit and sporadic guitar (especially in "Pretend That You're Alone," which also features saxophone). While the album is very upbeat (almost to a fault — by the third song we're ready to don a

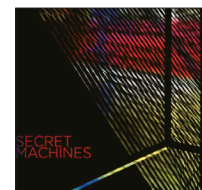
sideways ponytail and do dance aerobics in the living room), there are a few remnescent tracks that return to Keane's piano-bass-drum foundation, including "You Don't See Me" and "Playing Along," which offer the album its necessary acoustic balance — reminding us that, yes, this really is Keane, after all.

*Symmetry's* pinnacle is definitely "Black Burning Heart," which underscores Chaplin's impressive range by marrying a gently pressing piano with expansive electro-symphonics. And deluxe-version bonus track "Love Is the End" is a sweet and spare little love waltz not to be missed.

Solid overall — Keane's latest foray into new territory does the '80s justice without forgetting the roots that won them pop reverence.

— April Stephenson  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Secret Machines  
 ■ Secret Machines  
 TSM



★★★★

Lack of an original title doesn't always mean lack of original material, as Secret Machines' eponymous third album proves. The band's newest effort combines conventional rock sensibilities — high-powered guitars and heavy bass lines — with their trademark psychedelic swells and reflective, spaced-out lyrics.

The album takes a slow start on designated single "Atomic Heels." With lead singer Brandon Curtis' ploddingly straightforward vocals urged by a pulsating guitar, it's the most radio-friendly (and least interesting) track on the disc — but don't let it fool you. The palatable rock core quickly merges with a more prog-tinged style on tracks like the electro-powered anthem "Have I Run Out" which channels a Killers-David Bowie mashup. "Now You're Gone" shifts styles again, as Curtis wails a resounding, "It's too late." His echoing, restrained expression of heartache and lost hope is where *Secret Machines* really shines.

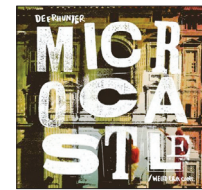
The rock ballad then lets loose with rabid strumming reminiscent of U2's guitar hero, the Edge (an appropriate influence, seeing as how Secret Machines toured with the Irish legends in '06).

But not all is well in the land of machines — closing track "The Fire is Waiting" runs just over 11 minutes, leaving you exhilarated and slightly confused, stuck somewhere between artful narrative and confused acid trip.

While Secret Machines plows on after the departure of guitarist and backing vocalist Benjamin Curtis, their latest solid effort doesn't quite live up to the hype of their first two albums. While the same experimentation is there, *Secret Machines* lacks the sprawling stadium-rock results of past endeavors. Nonetheless, the Machines take us on a trip worth talking about.

— Neelab Nasraty  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Deerhunter  
 ■ Microcastle  
 KRANKY



★★★★★

The album will never die. I don't care about iTunes' influence or the fact that no one pays for music anymore — there's still classic comfort and elegance in a thoughtful arrangement of songs whose sum is greater than its parts. Deerhunter's third LP *Microcastle* is album validation without indulgence, a hallucinogenic and reflective love letter to the Strokes, and one of 2008's bests. This time ATL's odd garage quartet ditches the overwrought ambient tracks that bogged down '06's *Cryptograms*, cleans up the noise (unless they needed it for dramatic effect) and embraces artistic concision that could only come from experience.

*Microcastle* fits together like a Lego kit, dependant on each piece to support the structure and imbue it with character. Intro segue "Cover Me (Slowly)" establishes a lethargic and contented tone of tremolo vox and lazy snare hits. Without it, the following "Agoraphobia" wouldn't have nearly the same hypnotic impact — its refrain of "Cover me/ comfort me" is deceptively simple but will wear out your brain from contagion, and the song's jangly guitar arpeggios don't overwhelm the vocals. Every role in DH is so attuned that nobody overpowers the rest. Although lead singer/guitarist Bradford Cox

may be Deerhunter's damaged visionary, guitarist Lockett Pundt contributes some low-end vocal mystique and sleepy-eyed bassist Josh Fauver collabs with precision drummer Moses Archuleta to create a driving rhythm section without excess.

And then there's the title track, creeping along for a couple minutes with Cox's croon and some bright strumming, before all four jump in to punch you in the skull over and over so that you're forced to headbang.

Although *Microcastle* has three-song cycles from Cox's oft-visited teenage persona, a batch of immediate gems that could all be singles

and a closer that saves all the real noise for the record's last minutes, Deerhunter's alienation and dread are best summarized by "Calvary Scars" sole lyric: "Crucified on a cross in front of all my closest friends." Georgia's lauded four-piece may have polished itself shiny with clean settings and charming melodies, but just below the sheen is a weirdness that most folks would never back. Watch yourself Radiohead, cause another compound word just threw the gauntlet.

— Chris Kokiousis  
 ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

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Margot and the Nuclear So & So's

▪ Not Animal

EPIC

★★★★



After their forgettable sophomore slump *The Daytrotter Sessions EP*, Margot and the Nuclear So & So's crash back into the barely contained chaos of drug-influenced instrumentals and acidic lyrics with a split double album. Due to band-label disagreements, *Animal!* indicates Margot's version and *Not Animal* denotes Epic's edition of the band's second LP. As the former is only available on vinyl for a whopping \$24.98, the downloadable *Not Animal* is preferred by the masses. And no wonder — listening to its crooning vocals, hyper electronic-acoustic-synth layering and cymbal-happy outbursts is like attending a crazed cosmic party to which everyone is invited.

Though vocalist Richard Edwards genetically matches Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard note for notoriously bland note, a gene or two from Conor Oberst infuses some much-needed desperation. Combined with broad lyrical strokes on "Broadripple Is Burning" — "And if my woman was a fire/ She'd burn out before I wake/ And be replaced by pints of whiskey/ Cigarettes

and outer space" — Margot captures the essence of suburban sprawl and alcohol-tinged anguish. A gorgeous acoustic intro on "Cold, Kind and Lemon Eyes" morphs into an otherworldly trip, layered first with smoke-fogged piano, then heartbeat drums and finally a crescendo to an orchestral climax. "Pages Written on a Wall" takes us to the circus, picking up elephantine trumpets, rollicking drum beats and a steaming electric guitar on the way.

However, not every track is a trip down the rabbit hole. *Not Animal's* suggestively titled "Real Naked Girls" and "Hello Vagina" wade through annoying feedback muck at a disastrously plodding pace. Still, Margot manages to speak in pictures we all understand — ex-lover vengeance, city isolation — conveying a vulnerability within the madness that could reach even the most closeted student study-holics.

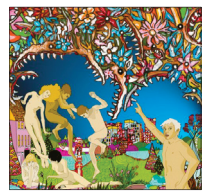
— Allie Cuervo  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Of Montreal

▪ Skeletal Lamping

POLYVINYL

★★★★



Ugly doesn't come easy to Kevin Barnes, non-fruit ringleader to Georgia gay-pride brigade Of Montreal. Despite his most furious and synth-frothing efforts to roughen up last year's *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*, its post-breakup freak-outs couldn't help but wiggle into all our happy places; a seizing 12-minute centerpiece, even at its peak of schizoid dissonance, had us rosy-cheeked and bobble-heading to an assault of nasally suicide notes.

Though he's apparently over that Nina bitch, Barnes' shift in persona from emotional wreck (albeit a sassy one) to drag-queen alter-ego Georgie Fruit (ever the sexaholic life of the afterparty) hardly marks a new willingness to just get us in the mood already, like we all know he could — no, this pretty boy will go down fighting, a prickly tumbleweed in spikes and cheesy heels. Barnes grasps for tension wherever he can, heaping opener "Nonpareil of Flavor" in a thick wall of fallout (*Skeletal Lamping's* padlock for the weak at heart), then hanging us helpless in the sweet hammock of "Touched Something's Hollow," only to break into a befuddling midalbum costume party that sees Barnes, ever the stubborn individual, coping a slew of outside stticks.

"Women's Studies Victims" (props for the song title) bottoms out with Cake raps and '80s shit-pop from the Rocky Horror

dungeons, followed by skeezy Jimmy Fallon falsetto on "St. Exquisite's Confessions" — which only momentarily reaches *Midnite Vultures* sexy status with lines like "There's so much anger and pain/ But come and see, there's still some gentle people fucking to 'Strawberry Letter 23.'"

Following the midalbum crisis, freshly determined to simultaneously coax and deter the dance party, Barnes struts out blowing grapefruity loads like never before. The greater second half of *Lamping* takes a new approach toward avoiding likeability — we will stroke our chin-hairs to his art, goddammit, and we will right well appreciate the reaches of his torment — by stuffing as many insta-orgasmic hooks as humanly possible into each others' every orifice.

The oft-imitated indie God kills two birds with one stone by spraying all pending attempts to cop his flow by hipsters-with-cute-instruments in acceleration-mud on his way into orbit, far too light on his feet to be followed by an untrained eye. This labyrinthal multimedia project may be composed of same-old Of Montreal signatures, but don't expect its verse-by-verse incohesion to come prechoreographed.

— Simone Wilson  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

# GRAND-THEFT SHOOTER NEEDS MORE THAN TALKIE AVATARS

► PRIDE, from page 11

first half-hour, the coarse texture that follows pulls it from its rut.

Keeping close to the chime of N.Y.'s asphalt jungle, the slang and machismo rubbed into the story gets old trying to be young faster than you'd think.

Although all three manage to pull off their lines with believable Irish accents (despite other second-rate Latino actors) the gun-drawn clashes between plainclothes cops and unarmed thugs oversaturates too many scenes in vulgar banter. Accompanied by grotesque tactics of coercion with household appliances and censured shadowing, the Grand Theft Auto appeal sullies any attempts at festival aspirations. Eventually succumbing to St. Patrick's Day fist-fights and 7-Eleven hostage hysterics, the controlled momentum that kept tension unravels into sensationalized violence by the film's frantic end.

While Peter Travis will undoubtedly bless Carnahan's movie posters with kind words (as he does for nearly every one of his films), "Pride and Glory" lacks the igneous cut and clarity Scorsese refined in his mean street slicks. Characters lack depth, personality and, above all else believable emotions. Even if Scorsese sometimes sacrifices the realism of characters for the personification of principles, they exist outside of the film's shitty situation.

When papa cop remarks to Ray that it's the nature of all things to leak (with the subtlety of J.K. Rowling) we're supposed to remember those lines and somehow wonder at the film's ability to weave such narrative techniques when leaks burst into floods. Instead, O'Connor takes a family doomed to fall apart, and inserting a camera midway, expects the audience to marvel at the razed collapse of a condemned house.

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# GREEK COLUMNS



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

## GREEK RECRUITMENT OFF TO A GREAT START WITH THE GREEK BLOCK PARTY

By: Danny Banks

Live music, tons of people, free food, and a bounce house...could you ask for more? Around 1000 people were in attendance to this year's Interfraternity Council's Block Party on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Attendees had a pleasant soundtrack by the band Electric Mistress and Orangello while mingling with other Greeks and potential new members.

Interfraternity Council member organizations set up their booths and, staffed with their members, were eager to socialize with other Greeks and catch up with friends. Besides being a social event, the Block Party was a great way to kick off fall recruitment for both fraternities and sororities by giving potential new members a taste of the Greek community on campus. The Block

Party happens annually in the Fall Quarter and the event's organizer, Jay Soomal, was confident that this year would be very successful. He even goes on to state, "I think the IFC Block Party this year was a great success and everyone had a fantastic time interacting with Greeks and prospective members. Not to mention I received many compliments from UCSD staff. I believe this year will be IFC's best recruitment at UCSD."



Greeks and potential new members mingling during the Greek Block Party.

## WELCOME TO THE GREEK COMMUNITY

By: Sarah Gray

Welcome to UCSD and congratulations to the class of 2012 for making the smart decision to come to sunny San Diego. Welcome Week kicked off the quarter eventfully, with campus Greeks among the overwhelming number of clubs and extracurricular activities tabling on library walk. While scoping the campus events, you may have noticed or even attended the Block Party - an all-inclusive social gathering held by Greeks at RIMAC field. Perhaps you were handed rush flyers on Library Walk after passing by dozens of girls in matching shirts at the Price Center tables. Or, maybe it was as early as the All-Campus Dance that you first met a member of the Greek Community. Although we compose a small percentage of the student body, it is hard to ignore the Greek presence at UCSD. With the help of heavy advertising, it is no wonder that recruitment was a major success for the Greek community this quarter, as each chapter now has a new pledge class to whom they have extended the benefits of membership.

Beyond the cutesy matching shirts, bold letters on sweatshirts, and large clusters of friends to eat and socialize with in Price Center, the Greek system boasts a myriad of leadership opportunities on campus. This can vary from participating in your individual chapter's Executive Board to the many Panhellenic and IFC positions, in addition to Greek Affiliates (Greek Clubs such as Greeks Gone Green). The UCSD Greek Community welcomes you to a group of men and women who exemplify what some may deem the best and brightest about this campus: a new form of UCSD involvement that spans from philanthropic and leadership opportunities to sporting and social events!

Fall quarter will mark the end of leadership board terms for our men's and women's chapter. This will offer the new leadership boards the chance to plan new member programs, organize recruitment, and introduce the chapter to other amazing forms of programming such as athletics, philanthropy, and scholarship. No matter what chapter you are in, there is always an opportunity for leadership roles to assist your brothers and sisters.

There are also new opportunities to get involved with many different Greek Affiliate Clubs and programs. One such club is Greeks Gone Green, whose sole purpose is to promote environmentally friendly activities through service events and educational programming. In addition to Greeks Gone Green, chapter members can participate in the two Greek honors and leadership societies, Order of Omega and Rho Lambda. Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (PHC) men and women can also receive training on how to better understand, prevent, and counsel victims of sexual assault through Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA). GASA is an organization created by Greek students in conjunction with the Student Resource Center to help protect and educate all chapter members about these important issues college students may face. Greek Intervarsity gives the opportunity for Greek students to expand and explore their spiritual life. While there are multiple opportunities for chapter members to participate in Greek organizations, many members are on college student council's, AS, work on campus, or are involved in other various clubs.

Those interested in sports and philanthropy have a plethora of opportunities to get involved starting immediately this fall quarter! Fall quarters kicks off Inter-Sorority Sports as well as IFC sports! Ranging from bowling, to swimming, to football, chapters come out to enjoy their favorite sports and to compete for ISS and IFC Sports Banner! The Sports Banner is a coveted award that all chapters fiercely struggle to secure. Each sports competition, scattered throughout the year, can earn your chapter points, getting you one step closer to the overall victory and the title of Sports Banner Champions in the spring.

Fall quarter boasts some marvelous ways to give back to the community! The Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk on October 19<sup>th</sup> raised large sums of money for breast cancer research with the help of Greek involvement. Almost every chapter at UCSD, SDSU and USD participate in the walk for this great cause. Multiple chapters will also be holding philanthropy events that will range from trick or treating for canned goods to a basketball tournament to raise money for Service for Sight. Each quarter the Greek Community comes together with mutual support to raise money for their National Philanthropies and for the local San Diego Community.

The decision to join a Greek organization can be a powerful and life-changing step for many individuals, one that may prove even more influential as an alumnus. Although most chapters have minimal mandatory time commitments, most Greeks find the possibility of having a full schedule appealing—offering an opportunity to work on their time management skills. Balancing these activities along with school can be a challenging aspect of Greek involvement, but the friendships you make and the overall Greek support system helps make even the most stressful situations manageable and a positive experience. Despite all the stereotypes, the Greek community's ability to enhance your college experience is undeniable. Not only can it offer you the notorious social life and alluring involvement opportunities, but it can bolster your academic career as well. The UCSD men and women's average GPA falls short of that of our men and women's GPA in the Greek system—so abandon any thoughts of Greek unintelligence—every chapter has GPA requirements for membership. When 36 of the 43 U.S. presidents and 30% of Fortune 500 executives have been Greek, you know there's got to be something good about it.

### IFC DATES

- October 22 - 24: AEPi Hunger Relief
- October 26: IFC Bowling
- October 26: Sig Ep Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) walk
- October 30: PIKE Fright Fest
- October 31: Sigma Nu Trick or Treat For Hunger
- November 1 & 2: IFC Tennis
- November 10 & 11: IFC Volleyball
- November 12 - 15: Community Service Week
- November 14: Sigma Chi philanthropy with San Diego Special Olympics

- December 1 - 4: IFC Football
- December 9: All Greek Study Break

### PANHELLENIC DATES

- October 19—21: ISS Football
- October 23: Pi Beta Phi and American Red Cross Blood Drive on Library Walk
- November 1 & 2: ISS Tennis
- November 5: Pi Beta Phi Speed Read (tabling on Library Walk).
- November 8: Anchor Slam
- November 10 & 11: ISS Volleyball
- December 9: All Greek Study

## GREEK SPOTLIGHT: ADAM TEITELBAUM

By: Lauren Shortliffe

It is not exactly an easy task to raise \$3,200 from the shallow pockets of college students in under two hours, yet somehow a solitary member of the Greek community was able to pull it off. Last spring, Adam Teitelbaum, the current president of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), executed his own one-man philanthropy event by creating an inter-sorority fundraising competition with a goal of raising \$1,500 for Invisible Children.

Previously notorious for his striking long hair, Teitelbaum capitalized on the widespread sorority interest in "purchasing" the rights to cut off his hair through monetary donations. The AEPi president visited each chapter's Monday meetings and spoke briefly about the organization and competition ground rules, promising to return at the end of the night and allow those who raised the most money to shave his head. By 9:30 PM, Teitelbaum more than doubled his fundraising goal—with each sorority chapter donating an average of \$300. Teitelbaum left the winning chapter with the greek letters "Chi Omega" shaved in his hair, and

an unmatched feeling of having given a part of himself to the invisible children of Uganda.

Invisible Children Inc. represents a global socio-political movement that aims to spread the story of the widely overlooked troubles of thousands of child soldiers and night commuters in Northern Uganda. The organization hopes to use the stories to educate and inspire the Western World to use their voice for change, while also improving the quality of life of those living in conflict and post-conflict zones.

Following the Monday meeting event, and in response to the incredible interest in the Invisible Children organization, Teitelbaum hosted a free showing of the original documentary film at Price Center Theater. Despite the fact that the showing was amidst finals season, roughly 50 people attended and helped to raise an additional \$300.

Teitelbaum remains amazed by how "quickly and selflessly each person contributed," and the magnitude of the event has left a significant impact on the Greek community, one that will hopefully swell throughout the UCSD community as a whole. For more information on this tremendous cause and how to help, visit [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com).

Congrats to the newest members of the UCSD Greek community!

### GREEK COLUMNS STAFF

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Any questions, comments, or errors? Contact us at [greekcolumnsUCSD@gmail.com](mailto:greekcolumnsUCSD@gmail.com).

Check us out on the IFC and PHC websites!  
[ifcucsd.org](http://ifcucsd.org)  
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# MITCHELL SOUND-ALIKE GROWS UP AND PLAYS AROUND

► **SONYA**, from page 10

cry, in fact, from performing original material.

"My own songs are a direct line to my heart and soul; but if it's [someone else's] really good song you can relate to, it can feel like your own," she said. "Lyrically, 'All I Want' feels like something I could relate to. You know — you hear a song on the radio, and you feel like that song is for you."

Eons later, in the cold, hard reality of 2008, the now 19-year-old Kitchell is bumped up a weight class to make room for the new class of impressionable young prodigies. And here lies the difference between child actors and child musicians: A big screen will dry them up and wear them out, but a studio can only hone an aging set of musical skills. Indeed, Kitchell's significant leap in age and creative interest is proofed all over September 2008's energetic *This Storm*, light-years more mature and equipped with Grammy-toting producer Malcolm Burn, who's worked with such girl power as Patti Smith and Emmylou Harris, to pull her from the child-star training wheels.

"Malcolm is a sort of genius," she said. "This was the first time I felt like I was really being an artist, because he was really supportive of playing around."

It shows — in her far more complicated poetic liberties, the pauses for much-needed tension, even the scrunch of her face in delivery. But she's entering a much harsher world of critics no longer trying to spare her pubescent, open-diary feelings: "This one garnered more negative response and that was harder for me," she said. "The bad ones make you feel like shit." She came into the game young and moldable, and for that, sounds a little like everybody — hit snappiness of KT Tunstall, hip shadows of Feist, off-kilt fringe-skirting of Nellie McKay. "I'm lucky enough to be able to write these songs," she said. "I'm writing them to share with people. We all feel these things, we're alone, life is beautiful and hard." Guess only time will tell if the coffee crowd stays true.

Sonya Kitchell will play live on campus at the Loft with the Slip on Oct. 27.



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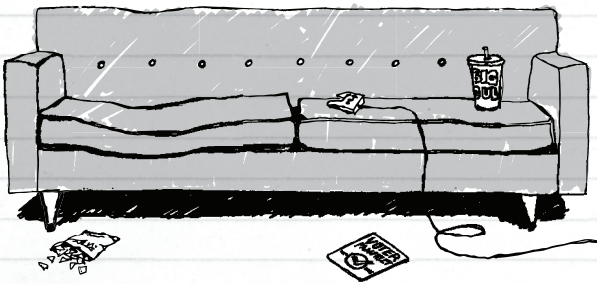
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# DARK HUMOR LIGHTS TRITE THEMES OF DEPRESSION

► **TOBACCO**, from page 10

dispirit the play — until the yelping prayers and hollering gospel tunes of sex-crazed preacher Sister Bessie (Catherine Curtin) resound. Purging the Lesters of their sins, she hypocritically — and nowhere near subtly — proceeds to seduce Dude (Sam Rosen), the youngest of the Lesters' 17 children, into marriage with the promise of a spanking new automobile.

Meanwhile, Ada struggles relentlessly to rein in her favorite daughter, Pearl (Mary Deaton), who manages to escape the burly embrace of her short-tempered husband, Lov (Chris Reed). When Lov, now out on the prowl, offers Jeeter monetary compensation for his daughter, Pearl hides in the recesses of her family's house, only to paradoxically expose the tenacity of Ada's character and Harding's powerful performance in her character's ultimate self-sacrifice.

Jeeter's impish whims, Ada's deadpan humor and Sister Bessie's unbridled sexuality combined with the dark humor that laces the plot come together to animate "Tobacco Road," an otherwise predictable account of a dysfunctional family weathering the Great Depression.

Clinging to institutions of the past, the Lesters remain perplexed with the changing present and suspended in its accumulating complexities — this, perhaps, is their fatal flaw.

Jeeter, for example, roots himself in family tradition, arguing that because of his ancestral claim to the land, he cannot forfeit it to the bank. However, present family dynamics slap him in the face without remorse. Dude condescendingly orders him, "Boy, you keep away from me when I tell you." Jeeter and Sister Bessie, similarly, though in theory, pledging themselves to Christianity regularly manifest their sexuality in public.

More than anything else, aesthetics disappoint in "Tobacco Road." While the sepia lighting of certain scenes render them picturesque, the lighting anachronistically converts the play's appearance to that of a classic Western. Similarly, Jeeter's asides to the audience, while most often providing comedic relief, end up being sprinkled and noncontiguous throughout the play, detracting from the plot and demanding a stretch of imagination to understand the implications of the play's incoherent staging.

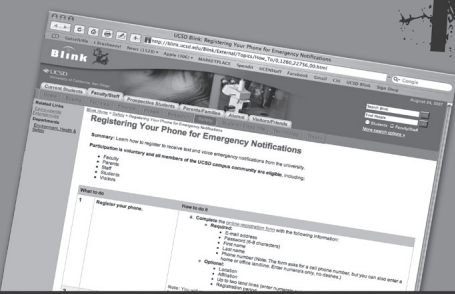
Toothless though they may be, the Lesters nonetheless bite off more of the Great Depression than they can chew. In the overdone tradition of Steinbeck, from their shambles and nothingness arises profound humanity. Despite its inherent triteness, "Tobacco Road" serves up a wide range of emotions that compensates for the Lesters' own lack of sustenance. As the current economic recession ensues, it serves as a timely reminder to tackle the present with integrity.



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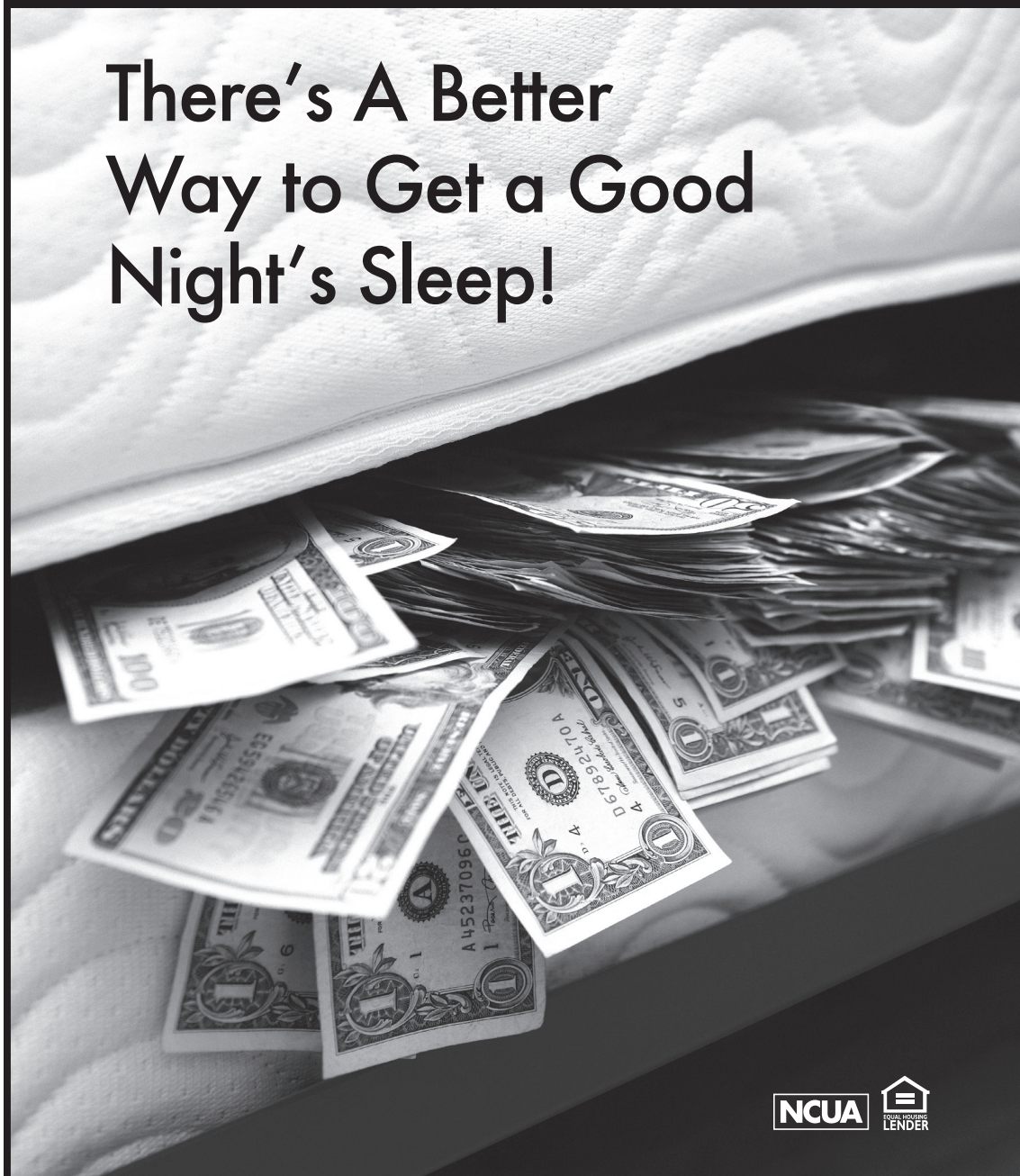
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## In Baseball and Politics, Youth Will Prevail in 2008

► **JOE**, from page 20

Phillies, Jimmy Rollins went the unsettling route when — while calling it how he saw it — the former MVP said that Philadelphia fans were a little bit fair-weather. While most sports fans would agree with this assessment, and add that Philadelphia fans are also kind of jerks and smell like wet garbage, it's usually not a great idea to insult the people you want cheering for you. McCain's anger has shown through during screaming matches with the press on his "Straight-Talk Express" (and "Air Straight-Talk"), debates with his opponents and whenever he sees youngsters using that damned text-messaging contraption.

The comparisons might also extend to the teams' managers and the candidates' running mates. Rays skipper Joe Maddon and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Joe Biden, in addition to sharing the greatest first name ever, share a wealth of experience in their respective fields. Furthermore, both seem to disregard their previous experience, Maddon with the Angels, Biden in the Senate and from previously running for president, because of decisions or speeches that seem a little off. On the other side, Phillies manager Charlie Manuel and Republican vice-presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin are both ... sexy?

All right, so that might be where the comparisons end. The World Series will definitely not get the same ratings as the debates or even recent "Saturday Night Live" episodes, and that's not a bad thing. Choosing the next leader for our country probably deserves a little more attention than who will become the next baseball team to visit that leader. Nonetheless, the Rays vs. Phillies is a World Series worth cheering for. It shows that a team in Tampa Bay with the 29th-lowest payroll and a team in Philadelphia that chose not to compete in acquiring players with other big market opponents can both make it to the final stages of the MLB season.

Truthfully, baseball has proven time and again that there is no magical formula to winning a championship. Getting hot at the right time can carry you far, and then a great pitching performance or an offensive exhibition on the other side can end your momentum in a heartbeat. Few would have predicted that these teams would meet in the end, even as the playoffs began, and anyone who thought the Rays would make it this far at the start of the season is a liar. Still, both teams have been able to overcome flashier squads, higher payrolls and better stories to make it here.

The Phillies have a dominant offense, even with Ryan Howard struggling thus far through the postseason. If Howard, Rollins, Utley and Pat Burrell all heat up in the next week,

all the facial hair in the world won't save Matt Garza. Though no pitcher is dumb enough to throw Matt Stairs the only pitch he is physically able to hit again (thanks Jonathon Broxton), the Phillies nonetheless have found great value in pieces like Jayson Werth and Shane Victorino that other teams thought they could survive without. Cole Hamels is the only legitimate ace in this entire series and has the ability to put together a Josh Beckett or Randy Johnson/Curt Schilling-esque performance to single-handedly keep his team alive. Unfortunately, Brett Myers is nowhere near as reliable and Jamie Moyer is so old that Moyer has probably already written down any "Jamie Moyer is so old" jokes that I could insert here in his papyrus notebook.

The Rays lack any bona fide offensive superstar, though Longoria looks like the Next Big Thing and BJ Upton has nearly matched his season home-run total (nine) with an AL record-tying seven in the playoffs. The Rays also rely on a staunch defense, with Akinori Iwamura making what has been a mostly seamless transition in his first season as a second baseman and Carl Crawford, Upton and the rotation of Fernando Perez, Gabe Gross and Rocco Baldelli adding up to one of the fastest, though sometimes mistake-prone, outfields ever. Scott Kazmir is looked to as the leader of the pitching staff, and though he hasn't gone deep in a game since July, it was only after he was pulled that Boston was able to produce anything in their miraculous game-five comeback. James Shields has been better overall during the season and Garza made the Rays trade of Delmon Young look even better with his MVP performance in the ALCS.

The matchup looks — on paper at least — like it should break the monotony of recent World Series sweeps. The Phillies bullpen looks in better shape, with Brad Lidge and his "bridge" of relievers providing experience. The Rays, on the other hand, have had a shaky bullpen at best. Yet, David Price gave fans of other AL teams reason to worry for years to come with his relief performance in game seven against Boston. If Maddon elects to send Price out there more and ignore Dan Wheeler, the Rays have a tough, if untested, relief corps. The delay that the Phillies had to endure might end up making a difference, as it did for halting the Rockies' surge last season. While most sports enjoy extra time to heal, sitting for a week might mess with the Phillies' momentum and lead to a slow start from Hamels. It's a crazy proposition to think the Rays could really win the World Series, but in this election season, it looks like the youth vote has it.

Joe goes with: Rays in six, Obama in '08.

## Tritons Primed to Make Noise at Conference Championships

► **CROSS COUNTRY**, from page 20  
the things we worked on the course at home was to be patient early on, so we could come in strong during the second part of the race."

On Oct. 11, the teams competed at home for the Triton Classic. Known for its high level of difficulty and woody environment, the UCSD course has provided excellent preparation for the championships.

"Mentally it's easier because while it's got some good hills in it, there's much less turning," senior and top Triton finisher Jake LeVieux said of the course at Glen Helen Regional Park. "You can see much farther in front of you — unlike our course at home — even as far as a quarter mile in front of you, and a lot of it is pavement. So it's a totally different feeling than racing at home."

With the cross country season winding down to its last few critical events, the race on Oct. 25 serves as a measuring stick for the Tritons.

"The [CCAA Conference

Championships] are going to be good for us because once we have this race, we'll be able to compare ourselves to how well we are doing in the region," LeVieux said.

The event also provides the Tritons with an opportunity to face returning opponents.

"The competition is going to be awesome because we've raced [Cal Poly] Pomona and Chico before," LeVieux said. "[Junior Jesse Morrill] is also going to try and race down one of the Pomona guys. I'm nervous and excited at the same time."

Marked as the final event before NCAA regionals, the conference championships supply the harriers with much-needed energy as they make their last dash toward the most defining races of the season — the NCAA West Regional and the National Championships, which are set for November.

Readers can contact Brianna Lee at [bmlee@ucsd.edu](mailto:bmlee@ucsd.edu).

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# Tritons Must Win Out to Make Playoffs

► **SOCCER**, from page 20

"It was a physical game and we kept our concentration when it was hard to," he said. "It was really a grind-it-out game and I thought our guys did a great job."

Choi pointed to strong training sessions prior to the match as a key reason for the victory.

"We have committed to winning our games in practice," he said. "Playing the No. 4 team in the nation with the season on the line motivated us to work a lot harder."

Fernandez agreed that the team has turned the intensity up a notch heading into the final parts of the schedule.

"Everybody is showing up to practice fired up," he said. "It has been a great environment."

The Tritons will have to use their newfound momentum heading into the final week of conference play. While the team will need a little luck, its hopes for post-season competition are still alive if it can win its last three matches.

UCSD will play its final home contest of the season against Seattle Pacific University on Oct. 25 in a nonconference matchup before the Tritons take to the road to finish up conference play. They will travel north to face Cal State San Bernardino on Oct. 31 and finish the regular season against Cal Poly Pomona on Nov. 2. The squad played both sides during its last home stand, beating Cal Poly Pomona 3-0 on Sept. 26 and falling to Cal State San Bernardino 3-0 on Sept. 28.

Readers can contact Brent Westcott at [bwestcot@ucsd.edu](mailto:bwestcot@ucsd.edu).

# Perfect Start to Fall Season Gives Tritons Hope for Spring

► **SOFTBALL**, from page 20

ing and refining their skills. "We emphasize simple hitting and simple pitching," Gerckens said. "We are trying to improve their fundamentals and help them develop muscle memory."

Three new pitchers and two new fielders came in this season to help fill the senior void. The freshmen will have to learn how to mesh with the rest of the older members of the team, as well as adjust to competition at the collegiate level.

Upperclassmen are also looking to use the fall season to their advantage, however. Junior catcher Nicole Saari is ready to improve upon a season in which she started all 56 games for the Tritons after being named the California Collegiate Athletic Association Freshman of the Year in her first season. To her, the fall games are all about becoming more proficient, coming together as a team and getting

pumped for the upcoming season. "I want to get better at hitting and make sure no balls get past me," Saari said.

Expectations are high as the Tritons have set lofty goals for themselves.

"I want to get to the playoffs and go to nationals this year," Saari said.

Gerckens is happy with what they have seen from the players.

"They have done a lot of good things," Gerckens said. "They have a lot of promise but also a lot of

**The seniors we lost will be hard to replace. We are looking for good leadership and with time we will be okay."**

— Patti Gerckens, head coach

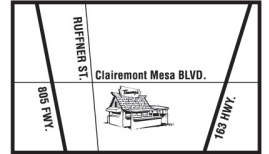
work to do." The two victories in the fall games have been a collective team effort. With a solid returning group from last season, along with some fresh faces, the Triton softball team is ready to make the 2008-09 season one to remember.

Readers can contact Hani Farah at [hfarah@ucsd.edu](mailto:hfarah@ucsd.edu).

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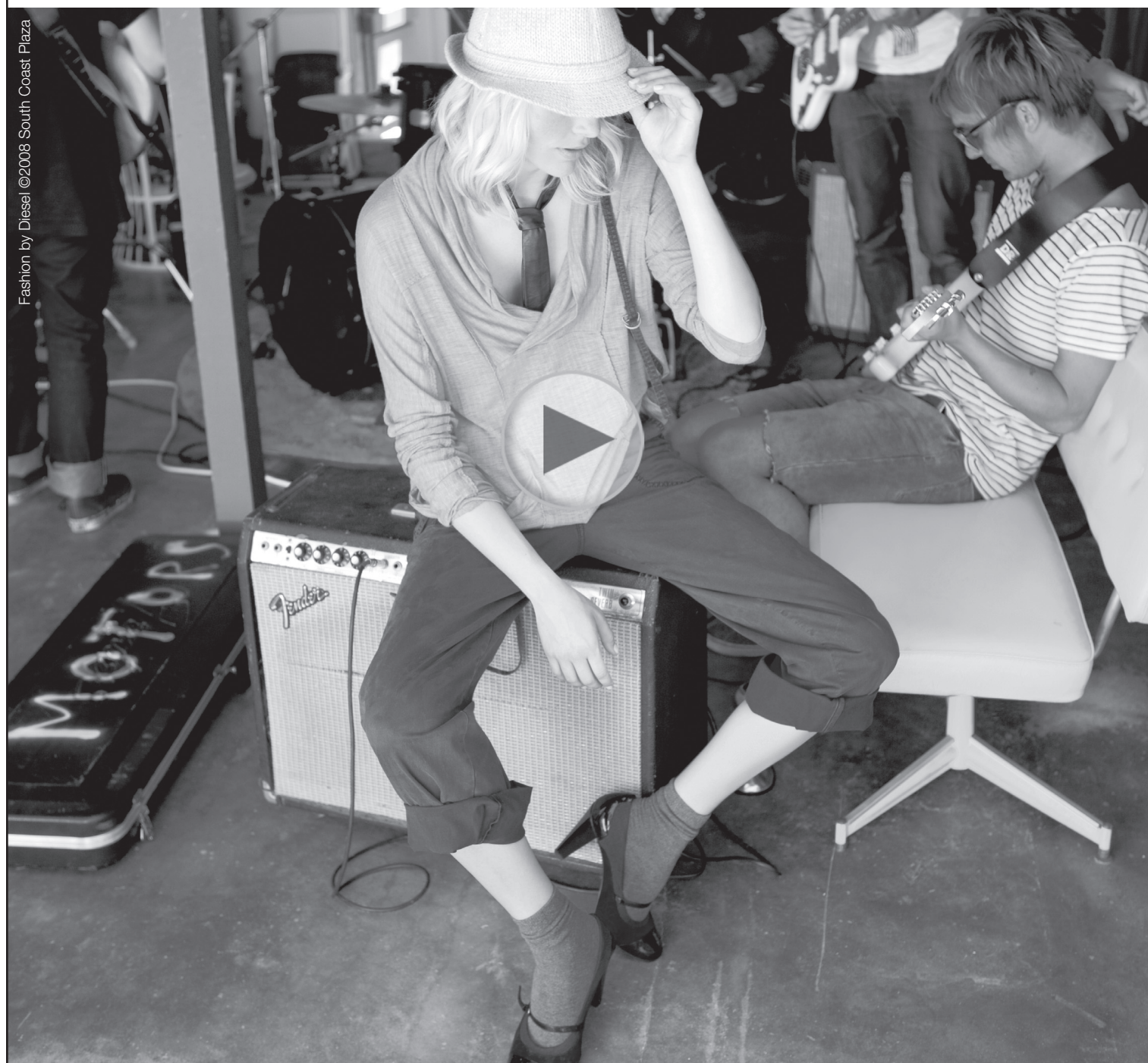
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After suffering a potentially career-ending injury, the senior midfielder returned to action for the first time this season on Oct. 19 against Cal State Los Angeles.



## Clutch Goal Keeps Playoff Hopes Alive

With their season on the line, the Tritons pulled out a 1-0 win over Cal State Los Angeles to stay in the playoff race.

By Brent Westcott  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

**MEN'S SOCCER** — The men's soccer team made its conference home finale count in a big way on Oct. 19, downing No. 4 Cal State Los Angeles 1-0 at Triton Soccer Field. Senior forward Tony Fernandez scored the game winner late in the second half, in a match that seemed destined to end in a scoreless draw.

The win moves the Tritons' overall record to 8-5-2 and their California Collegiate Athletic Association record to 5-5-2. The win was the first at home since a 3-0 triumph against Cal Poly Pomona on Sept. 26 and the second in the past three matches.

The afternoon clash resembled a typical CCAA match from the start, with both teams bringing physical play to the pitch. Chances were few and far between for both sides, but the Tritons capitalized on one of their opportunities with less than 10 minutes left to play. In the 83rd minute, senior forward Tom Caplan crossed a ball from the right side of the field into the box, where junior midfielder Tony Choi was streaking toward the goal. Choi made a great touch on the ball and dropped it back to a trailing Fernandez, who hammered the ball into the back of the net.



ANDREW RICCI/GUARDIAN

After struggling to score goals for much of the season, the scoreless game against Cal State Los Angeles late into the second period looked all too familiar to the Tritons. Senior forward Tony Fernandez was able to break the tie in the 83rd minute of regulation with the game's only goal to put UCSD on top.

The goal was the third of the season for Fernandez and his biggest score to date. Fernandez also led the Triton attack with two shots. Caplan, Choi and junior midfielder Shane Micheil added one shot each.

"The last time we played them we gave up a weak goal and we really thought we should have won that game," Fernandez said. "They were on our field and there was no

way we were going to let them get away with a victory."

Fernandez's goal was certainly the highlight of the match, but it was hardly the only reason for the victory. The Triton defense came up huge, led by senior goalkeeper Peter Akman, who made six saves to post his sixth clean sheet of the season. UCSD was out-shot 11-5 and the Golden Eagles held a stunning corner kick advantage of 8-0.

But the players in the squad dug their collective heels in on defense to keep Cal State Los Angeles off the score sheet.

Head coach John Pascale credited his team for standing its ground against one of the more talented teams at the Division-II level in a match that featured a total of 30 fouls and five yellow cards.

See **SOCCER**, page 19

## TAMPA BAY OBAMAS VS. PHILADELPHIA MCCAINS

The World Series has finally arrived and, contrary to popular opinion, Manny Ramirez neither plays for nor has played for either of the two teams. While a nation of Dodgers and Red Sox bandwagon fans aimlessly wanders, waiting to purchase either a new Evan Longoria or Chase Utley jersey, the Tampa Bay Rays and Philadelphia Phillies now enter the final stage of the MLB playoffs.

Watching the Rays rip up what looked to be another miraculous Red Sox comeback en route to their third World Series title in the last three years, many found comparisons of this squad to previous out-of-nowhere contenders. The Rays' worst-to-first approach seemed to rival that of the legendary 1969 New York Mets, or maybe a fel-



Cup O' Joe

Joe Tevelowitz  
jtevelow@ucsd.edu

low Floridian expansion team like the 1997 Marlins, or possibly what they were displaying was the hustle and tenacity of a team like the 2002 Angels. However, as we enter the final weeks of election season, maybe the best comparison for the Rays and fellow World Series participant the Phillies is to the two major-party (sorry, Ralph Nader) presidential candidates.

The youth and energy the Rays have displayed, downing battle-tested division opponents in the New York Yankees and the Red Sox to take the AL East crown, mirrors the surge that Sen. Barack Obama exhibited in passing former vice-presidential candidate John Edwards and former-first-lady-turned-politician Hillary Clinton in winning the Democratic nomination for president. The Philadelphia Phillies, like Sen. John McCain, also looked to be out of the race early on, lacking any of the big moves that divisional foes the Mets made in acquiring Johan Santana, or that Republican rival Mitt Romney made by harnessing the power of his magical underpants. Still, the Phillies were able to use the experience from passing the Mets at the wire last year and then took it a step further by not settling for a playoff appearance and riding three Cole Hamels victories to the World Series. McCain similarly relied on his experience from having faced off with President George W. Bush in 2000 to make it to the top of the Republican heap, rather than settle for the grating "graceful loser" role again.

Obama and the Rays share a tendency for overusing phrases that really don't make that much sense. In the case of the Rays, "nine equals eight" might sound nice with nine players, playing nine innings to get one of the eight playoff spots, but the education of young Tampa Bay fans (I'm sure they got some this season) is being put at serious risk. Obama's platform of "change you can believe in" would work, since there is definitely change we can't believe in. However, there is serious doubt that this politician, no matter how long he's been out of Washington, will truly change the entire American political system as we know it.

McCain and the Phillies both exhibit a straightforward, undeniable anger that can be uplifting — or unsettling — to their base. For the Philadelphia

See **JOE**, page 18

## PAST WINS BOOST TRITON CONFIDENCE

By Brianna Lee  
STAFF WRITER

**CROSS COUNTRY** — Set to sprint back into action this Saturday, the Triton cross country teams will travel to San Bernardino, Calif., to compete in the California Collegiate Athletic Association Conference Championships. With the competition coming from 11 different schools, the Triton harriers will race against a diverse field of runners. Both the men and women's teams rank among the top 25 in the nation in NCAA Division II, so the Tritons will bring elite competition to the event.

UCSD has fared well in each of its meets thus far, winning three team titles. Last month at Glen Helen Regional Park in San Bernardino, both teams swept their races at the Coyote Invitational as the Tritons posted dual first-place finishes. An easy confidence booster, the teams' preparation for this weekend's race was mostly a matter of fine-tuning technique.

"We continued with our training," head coach Nate Garcia said. "Essentially we just made some adjustments to get [the runners] ready for the highest level of competition."

According to Garcia, the runners' strategies will amount to jumpstarting their manpower when it matters most.

"We want to be in a position where we are the strongest team in the second half of races," Garcia said. "Some of

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page 18

## Tritons Rely on Rookies to Rejuvenate Squad

Fielding five freshmen, UCSD's softball team looks to improve on last season's disappointing playoff exit.

By Hani Farah  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**SOFTBALL** — With a perfect record two games into the fall season, the softball team has started off strong. The Tritons won both games of a double-header against Palomar College 6-4 and 2-0, and will host five more games this season. While the games in the fall season do not count in the overall standings, they are by no means unimportant.

Last year's team had its share of ups and downs. The Tritons had an impressive regular season run, winning 32 games and climbing as high as No. 8 in the national standings. However, the team was upset in the opening game of the NCAA Division-II West Regional Championships, losing 6-4 to Cal State Dominguez Hills. Top-seeded Humboldt State University later eliminated the Tritons 3-1. Even though last season did not end with UCSD hoisting a trophy, the team made strides throughout the campaign and looks to make this season even better, working hard in practice and playing hard in the fall season games.

Improvement is the name of the game during the fall season. Head coach Patti Gerckens stressed the importance of building fundamental skills and overall team play in preparation for the regular season. This season, the team has the challenge of filling the hole left by five recently graduated seniors. Replacing



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN FILE

The UCSD softball team features five new freshmen to replace graduated seniors including pitcher Melissa Ward, who was named to the All-West Region Second Team last season.

the contributions of the seniors both on and off the field will be tough, but Gerckens has faith in the team this year.

"The seniors we lost will be very hard to replace," she said. "We are

looking for good leadership and with time we will be OK."

Along with new leaders stepping up, the Tritons are constantly polish-

See **SOFTBALL**, page 19



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## PERSONALS

Miss Teen Louisiana lost her crown with 11 days to go in her reign when she was arrested for leaving a restaurant without paying and carrying marijuana. Sounds like a career as a Hollywood starlet beckons. (10/23)

Iran failed Friday to register what it said would be the world's largest sandwich in the Guinness book of World Records after people rushed forward and began eating it—before it was measured. (10/23)

# GUARDIAN SUDOKU

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