THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010

VOLUME XLII, ISSUE XXXIV

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

LA RIO A RI

WWW.UCSDGUARDIAN.ORG

REFERENDUM PASSED FAILED Would instate CPI-based fee, then adjust for inflation every year, to fund Price **TRANSPORTATION** Would create fee of \$25 per student per quarter to fund shuttles and buses on campus Would instate \$4.47 undergraduate fee per quarter to

UC BUDGET CRISIS

Library Seeks Student Input

By Angela Chen

UCSD Libraries are sending out surveys to gather student feedback, as they continue

GEISEL CUTS

reduction in 2008-09

14% reduction

in 2009-10

since 2008

reduction in hours

to slash library services in light of a 20 percent budget cut in the past two years alone.

According University Librarian Brian Schottlaender, the budget was reduced by 7 percent in the 2008-09 academic year, and another 14 percent last year, totaling a reduction of over \$6 million. Half of these reductions are permanent.

Library hours have been reduced by 12 percent in Geisel Library it now closes at mid-

night from Sunday to Thursday instead of 2 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. on Friday instead of 7 p.m. In addition, the various libraries have cut their book budget by \$1.2 million, and have cancelled almost 750 print subscriptions.

According to Director of Library Communications Dolores Davies, the libraries will use the survey responses to create a new strategic plan for 2010 that includes a mission statement, statement of values and a prioritization of services and operations. The old strategic plan, adopted in 2006, expired last year.

"A strategic plan is basically a document that sets forth an organization's mission, goals and strategic priorities," Davies said.

See LIBRARY, page 7





Students and faculty at the Campus Black Forum voiced their anger regarding a recent Facebook-vetted event called the "Compton Cookout," and the general lack of student sensitivity toward minorities on campus.

PARTY FOUL

Offended students and administration respond to racially themed frat cookout.

By Angela Chen • News Editor

n event invitation to a ghetto-Athemed party titled "Compton Cookout" has incited outrage among black students and supporters on campus, who held a Campus Black Forum on Tuesday night to discuss the issue. The forum was hosted by the Students for Affirmative Action Committee, a coalition of diversity-minded campus groups including the Black Student Union.

The party was held Monday — "in hopes of showing respect" to Black History Month — by a group of individuals affiliated with a number of fraternities; particularly, Pi Kappa Alpha. The event received notoriety when the Facebook

Elize Diop. The party called for males to **OPINION** We need to chat

– beersummit style. Page 4

RSVPed as "attending." The matter was brought to the attention of Chancellor

wear "XXXL" T-shirts and

"stunner shades," and for

females to dress like "ghetto

chicks" in cheap clothing.

Approximately 275 students

event description was published in

a note by Revelle College sophomore

Marye Anne Fox and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Penny Rue Monday night by e-mails from concerned students. Fox

See PARTY, page 7

Robbery Forces KSDT Radio off the Air

By Hayley Bisceglia-Martin

Deejays at UCSD's student-run station were dismayed Wednesday morning to discover intruders had broken into the KSDT office overnight and stolen at least \$1,700 worth of equipment.

The first person to notice the break-in was KSDT deejay Andres Fraire, who showed up at 7:50 a.m. to prepare for his 8 a.m. show, "The Omission." He concluded that the robbery had taken place sometime after 2 a.m., when a program named "Commitment to Excellence" ended and its hosts went home.

"I went into the studio to start my show, and I noticed that everything was missing. Our mixer was missing, our speakers _ pretty much

H 64 L 48

everything we have at that studio was gone, even the microphones," Fraire said. "And then I went into the hallway and I noticed our back door had been broken into, that that's how the thieves had gotten in.

According to KSDT general manager Meredith Wong, theft is not uncommon at the station.

This is definitely not the first time we've been robbed, but this is the first time we've been broken into," Wong said. "We have problems with our headphones being taken - that's sort of what a lot of our operating costs go toward, is the cost of replacing equipment that almost systematically goes missing."

Wong said the robbers probably jumped down 15 feet from the sec-

See **ROBBERY**, page 7



JOHN HANACEK/GUARDIAN KDST was robbed yesterday night around 2 a.m. Around \$1,700 of equipment went missing.

SPOKEN

Repentance, acceptance, this is what I plead/ To practice the things we do and tell others in need."

HIP-HOP ARTIST

FORECAST

H 61 L 48



NIGHT WATCH



SURF REPORT

THURSDAY Height: 3-4 ft. Wind: 2-6 mph Water Temp: 60 F

SATURDAY Height: 2-3 ft. Wind: 5-7 mph Water Temp: 60 F

FRIDAY Height: 3-4 ft. Wind: 4-6 mph

SUNDAY Height: 2 ft. Wind: 2-6 mph Water Temp: 60 F

Water Temp: 60 F

GAS PER GALLON

\$2.69 Gasco, Chula Vista 899 3rd Ave. & L St. \$3.51 Kwik Sto, El Cajon 2410 Fletcher Pkwy & Garfield Ave

INSIDE

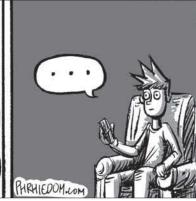
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SUNNY-SIDE UP By Philip Rhie









TWO COKES SHORT By Sam Pelle







SCIENCE AND **TECHNOLOGY**

Bee 'Stop' Signal Could Explain Colony Collapse Disorder

By Angela Chen News Editor

Scientists have discovered a sophisticated form of bee communication that reveals how honeybees warn each other of danger while foraging for food.

A team of researchers led by James Nieh, associate professor of biology and head of the Nieh Bee Laboratory, has spent the past two years recording the communicative behavior of honeybees. They discovered that bees have a specific "stop" signal used to alert other bees to the presence of danger at a food source.

According to Nieh, this discovery complements the knowledge that worker female honeybees perform a "waggle dance" to alert the rest of the hive to the exact location of food.

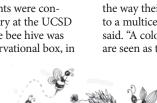
"We found the anti-waggle dance," Nieh said. "We discovered that bees actually have a stop signal for danger that tells other bees when not to go to a location to find food." When a bee is attacked while visiting flowers to find nectar, it performs a "stop" signal at the site of the attack by pushing up its head and vibrating its tail — at the rate of 380 times a second — for a tenth of a second.

"This is different from a general alarm," Nieh said. "It happens at the location where the bee is attacked, and it doesn't make anything new happen. It just alerts other bees to stop going there to look for food."

These experiments were conducted in a laboratory at the UCSD Biological Field. The bee hive was kept within an observational box, in which one glass

panel was removed and replaced by a camera that recorded the various reactions of bees to different stimuli.

The bees were attacked by natural invaders, pinched and sprayed by



YUIKO SUGINO/GUARDIAN

various natural pheromones that they found distracting.

"We compared the behavior before and after the stimuli and found that honeybees created this response at the specific food site during the presence of danger," Nieh said.

Nieh said the discovery is important because of the implications it has on understanding other organisms.

"Animals like bees and ants are considered superorganisms because the way their colony works is similar to a multicellular organism," Nieh said. "A colony is the body, and bees are seen as the cells."

Nieh said that, though superorganisms commonly use positive feedback reactions, there are few examples of them exhibiting negative feedback reactions which occurs when organisms perform an action to stop operations. For example, a negative feedback reaction occurs when the endocrine system signals the pancreas to stop the production of insulin after low bloodsugar levels reach normal levels.

"This discovery is the most

advanced example of negative feedback in a superorganism," Nieh said. "I hope that other scientists consider this example as a type of negative feedback that might exist in other organisms."

According to Nieh, this discovery could also help explain colony collapse disorder, or the disappearance of honeybees that began in 2006.

"There's been so much concern about there being less bees to pollinate flowers," Nieh said. "This discovery of how they signal when to stop going to a food source could go a long way toward explaining that phenomena."

The findings will be published in the Current Bio Journal on Feb. 23.

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



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Council Condemns Racist Party, Supports Free Speech

he A.S. Council had a lot on its hands this week as they discussed the "Compton Cookout" event, which ignited racial tension between black students and the Greek community, impeachments

New

KELSEY WONG

klw009@ucsd.edu

Business

and the yetagain proposed revisions to the Loft referendum language.

language. Newly elected Inter-Fraternity

Council president Robby Naoufal addressed the council and read the official IFC statement regarding the racially themed event that targeted black students during the President's Day weekend.

Members of the black community attended the A.S. meeting, but did not speak about the matter.

Campuswide Senator **Bryant Pena** motioned proposed a committee to draft an effective resolution concerning campus climate.

Councilmembers debated for too long about the number of representatives from council who would serve on the committee alongside the Black Student Union president and the IFC and Panhellenic presidents.

They agreed to prohibit President **Utsav Gupta** to sit on the committee due to fear of too much A.S. oversight.

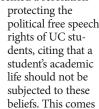
UCAB chair and AVP of Academic Affairs **Jordan Taylor** discussed the referendum he drafted to raise the University Centers fee to mirror the Consumer Price Index annual increase.

Taylor's referendum passed, and will go to the Graduate Student Association Monday.

During question time, Advocate General **Parminder Sandhu** asked Muir Senator **Ryan O'Rear** why his three submitted resolutions for removing AVPs from their positions did not pass in committee.

O'Rear said the motions were not seconded

AVP of Enterprise Operations **Rishi Ghosh** presented a resolution



in light of the 11 student protestors arrested at UC Irvine after a demonstration against Israeli ambassador Michael Oren.

Councilmembers voted to pass the resolution.

VP of Student Life Riscie
Hernandez and Revelle Senator
Arvind Satyanarayan rewrote the
language of the already-failed-incouncil referendum, and councilmembers took it to discussion.

Campuswide Senator **Katie Hall** voiced her support for allowing the students to vote on the issue.

"I vote yes to allow them to vote for themselves and to keep this dream alive," Hall said.

VP of Finance and Resources

Peter Benesch spoke in opposition,
"Eighty percent of students who don't
use the Loft are subsidizing for those
20 percent that do use it," he said. "It's
not essential; it's like going to a concert venue for free."

After a tense council roll call vote, Executive Assistant **Heather Lucas** announced that the Loft referendum, failed again with a 13-11-2 vote.

Warren Senator **Alyssa Wing** ended the meeting on a high note, as she explained her idea of announcing a councilmember of the week to "bring a warmth to this council that's missing."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Study: Brain Rejects New Stimuli When Sad

Researchers conclude that moods affect choices between familiar and unfamiliar experiences.

By Regina Ip STAFF WRITER

There are nights when an exotic new dish — like dosas or sashimi — sounds awesome, and then there are the nights when all you want in the world is a taste of Mom's meatloaf. Psychologists at UCSD have been investigating the reasons behind these choices by analyzing the effects of positive and negative moods on the decision-making portion of the brain

By understanding the way the brain reacts to outside stimuli, psychologists hope to find more effective treatments for depression and emotional problems.

Researchers already knew that people tend to prefer familiar stimuli, because repeated exposure to situations or objects creates a sense of security and mental attachment, and repeated exposure to situations or objects will increase the affinity a person has toward it.

According to UCSD psychology professor and project leader Piotr Winkielman, researchers have discovered that familiarity preference depends on whether someone is feeling happy or sad at the same time they are being exposed to the familiar or non-familiar stimulus.

"It contributes to a better

understanding of our emotions, and that's a good thing because we want to improve people's emotional functioning," Winkielman said. "We want to help people feel less sad, or if they feel sad, we want to help them deal with this. It's basically a better understanding of how emotions change our judgments."

In the one-year experiment that began in 2008, researchers repeatedly exposed UCSD student participants to random dot patterns that resembled star constellations. Then, to put the subjects in a good or a bad mood, psychologists asked students to think of happy or sad memories.

With these memories in mind, subjects were once again exposed to the patterns, and their emotional and psychological responses were measured through both self-reported ratings and involuntary physiological indicators of emotion. For example, skin conductors were attached to the subject's skin to detect sweat and facial electrodes to detected spontaneous frowns and smiles.

As the researchers predicted, the subjects who were thinking of

PHILIP LEONG/GUARDIAN

depressing

memories demonstrated a preference for the familiar through a higher rate of involuntary smiling.

By contrast, those who thought of happy moments while viewing the stimuli showed a greater positive response to the unfamiliar, demonstrating that those who were happy preferred novel things and new experiences to routine ones.

This helps explain a wide range of social situations, from a consumer's decision to buy one product over another, to the way a person forms an impression of their environment and chooses a political candidate, to the understanding of how children develop.

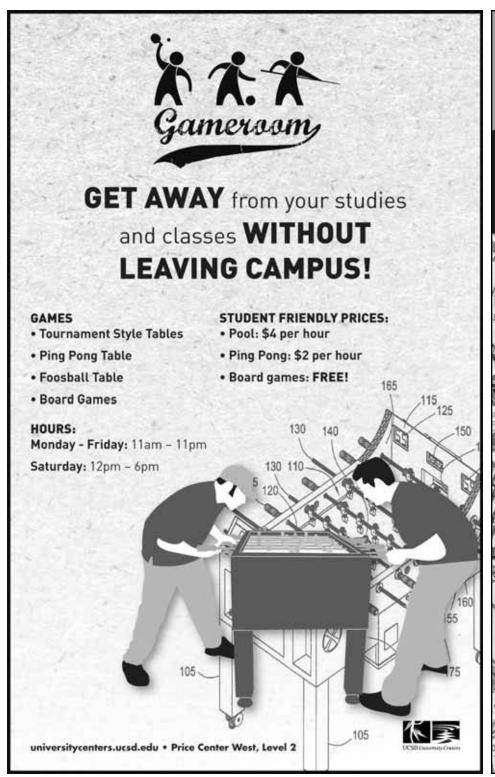
Given its extensive applications from marketing to political campaigns to parenting, this knowledge of basic human psychology can give greater insight into our decisionmaking processes.

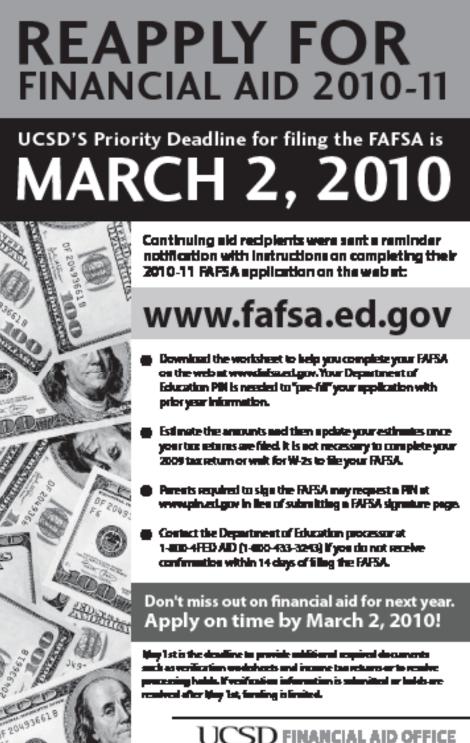
"There's a lot of interest in every-day persuasion contexts, from trying to help people respond to products or political messages," Winkielman said. "Also, in some clinical contexts, you want to understand how people who are depressive change their preferences for familiar or novel things or people who are manic who have highly positive moods — how they change preferences."

The research team, which also consists of graduate student Troy Chenier and scientists from

the University of the
Netherlands, will continue
to study how emotions
influence how humans
think, perceive and make
choices, as well as how these
processes manifest in the body
and the brain.

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





WEB POLL DO YOU THINK UCSD SHOULD ACCEPT MORE OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS?

34% Yes.
11% I don't kn

OPINION

CONTACT THE EDITOR: opinion@ucsdguardian.org

Props to Oklahoma's Office of Student Achievement for screening standardized tests for administrative manipulation; if schools are found cheating, they'll lose No Child Left Behind funding.

Flops to Shamsiddi Abdur-Raheem of Galloway Township for abducting his three-month-old daughter and throwing her off a bridge into a New Jersey river.



EDITORIAL

Time for a Sit-Down

In dealing with the now-infamous 'Compton Cookout,' a slap on the wrist won't beat a beer summit.

or the sake of finding another reason to party, themes can get understandably ridiculous. In our day, we've seen Robots vs. Animals, Librarians and Barbarians, Pedophiles and Children, the Church of Fierce and Marie Antoinette, to name a few.

That said, how a bunch of frat guys — apparently bored/stoned into ogre-ishly poor judgment one fine

WEB POLL
Do you think
the students
responsible
for the
Compton
Cookout
should be
punished?

afternoon in their Regents apartment complex — thought it a clever idea to plan a "Compton Cookout" in honor of Black History Month is completely lost on us. And, frankly, makes us embarrassed we

share the same campus. The Feb. 15 event was spread between several Regents condos, recreating a sort of "ghetto." Males were encouraged to wear "XXXL" T-shirts, and the Facebook invite instructed females: "For those of you who are unfamiliar with ghetto chicks-Ghetto chicks usually have gold teeth ... and wear cheap clothes - they consider Baby Phat to be high class and expensive couture. They also have short, nappy hair, and usually wear cheap weave ... They look and act similar to Shenaynay, and speak very loudly, while rolling their neck, and waving their finger in your face. Ghetto chicks have a very limited vocabulary, and attempt to make up for it, by forming new words

Event planners even promised to serve "dat Purple Drank- which consists of sugar, water, and the color purple, chicken, coolade, and of course Watermelon."

In response to the event, a spontaneous Campus Black Forum was called on Tuesday. The Thurgood Marshall Room in Price Center was packed with minority students and faculty, along with the few A.S. and Greek representatives brave enough to weather the outrage. Even the likes of Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Life Penny Rue and Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Life Gary Ratcliff showed up.

Above all, students expressed hurt. Hurt that a group of boys and girls with no personal experience as a historically oppressed people would find it in its interests to poke fun at economic disadvantage. The discussion led to much larger issues of racial misunderstanding and underrepresentation on campus, and hurt, of course, turned to anger, trying to find a target, somebody to blame — some admissions committee member who held the key to accepting more black students, or some A.S. councilmember who could pull the plug on outlets of hate speech under the council's jurisdiction (read: the Koala).

This is an extreme case because the theme maliciously links itself to a month meant to represent progress, but racial-stereotype parties aren't anything new; "South of the Border" is a popular one. It's also worth mentioning that the definition of "ghetto chicks" is copy-pasted from UrbanDictionary.com. Aside from the obvious moral distaste here, free-speech protection laws — and the fact that the party wasn't officially affiliated with UCSD — will most likely protect the perpetrators from harsh formal punishment. For reasons that we should be proud of, a bunch of kids throwing a question-

to do so.

In addition, no amount of listserv tsk-tsking from the chancellors or apologetic press releases from the Inter-Fraternity Council can hope to affect the obvious mental shortcomings of the bros in question. Chances are, they're racist for lack of exposure — not to mention a down-to-Earth schooling in modern-day race relations and how they've reformed. We're all products of our situation. The sad fact is, a mere 2 percent of the UCSD student body is black; the idea behind this particular party was obviously birthed from a lifetime of Lil Jon videos and Dave Chapelle stand-up — with which the droning, hyper-academic Dimensions of Culture reader apparently couldn't

Satisfying as it would be in painful circumstances such as these, restricting freedom of press or creating loopholes in admissions are obviously dangerous for other reasons. And even if the A.S. Council balled up and zero-funded the *Koala*, or the administration took the legally risky leap of expelling the students who planned this party, we would have essentially just expelled their misunderstanding to the outside (and bred resentment in the meantime). The world would still be plagued by their shortcomings. Southern California, in particular, is already rife with rich kids who have never held a conversation with someone on the other end of their privileged humor.

Campuswide Senator Bryant Pena has adopted the Compton Cookout and its campus-climate implications as his latest pet project. At last tions on campus — charged with taking "concrete" steps to mending racial divisions at UCSD.

But can another bickering boardroom really hope to permeate such a long tradition of ignorance? Plus, as Associate Vice President of Diversity Affairs Jasmine Philips put it, committee members "don't want, like, thousands of people showing up."

thousands of people showing up."

There is also some merit to
Campus Black Forum proposals
that students be required to take
more multicultural prerequisites,
but oftentimes the jargon and tightassed political correctness of diversity academics doesn't translate the
capitalism-locked racial disadvantage
and upper-class (mainly white) sense
of privilege that ultimately prevents
equality and understanding.
So we are inclined to say, at

So we are inclined to say, at the risk of sounding like President Obama, that maybe the administration can come in and ask the students who planned the event to simply sit down with those that were hurt by it (beer optional). It's a lot more difficult to maintain the cocky devil-may-care attitude when you've got someone who *does* care staring right back at you.

Hurtful stereotyping on this campus was a problem long before the Compton Cookout. It's hard to talk about in a way that won't send righteous free-speechers like the *Koala* into a self-important lather. They don't want to sacrifice their adrenaline rush or sense of power — or, god forbid, their First Amendment right

See **FORUM**, page 5

It's a Sad Pseudo-Reality: My Profile Is Me

t's recently come to my attention that, in the online world, only the fittest survive — meaning the portly wildebeests of the herd (me) will inevitably get trampled by User 12.0 and his gang of network-savvy junkies.

Everyone's favorite online distraction used to be a simple blueand-white screen that symbolized the leap to college coolness — or so I thought. But earlier today,



I signed onto Facebook to see a jungle of iPhone app-like shrubbery barricading the page's unfamiliar borders. Whoop-dee-doo, the Facebook team redesigned the site again — fitting almost enough group invites, status updates and fan clubs in one screenshot to make me minimize Firefox in defeat. Now that I think of it, let's not forget the weekly spam from hacker-happy predators who change our statuses to something like, "Kelsey Marrujo is ... Hey friends, check out this sketcharific link!"

This is not what I signed up for. Facebook was just supposed to make me popular with my dorm crowd so I could avoid becoming the girl who eats a Plaza burrito by herself. But what snuck up on me—and probably many more naive freshmen of yesteryear—is that online identities became almost vital to our social recognition. (That doesn't go for our parents' generation, which should never, ever resort to playing Farmville ... OK, Mom?)

As much as I hate to admit it, it's true. The Internet is making us its bitches. Not only does it possess us to trade valuable homework and outdoorsy recreational time for a few more refreshes of our news feeds (cue Disney villain theme song: "It won't cost much ... just your voice!"). It also traps us in a world that's kind of real, kind of fake — much like reality TV — forcing us to get to know both the Internet egos of our friends along with their everyday, slightly less glamorous 3-D personalities.

I'll sacrifice myself for sake of example. When my roommate of three years and I get into one of our quarterly bitchfests, I'm never sure when it's safe to wave the white flag and crawl back into our room. So what do I do? Sadly enough, I check her Facebook status to see if it has a negative or positive connotation. Something about looking forward to tomorrow? I'm in the clear. Something metaphorical about how she wants to rip up nearby objects? Time to brace myself.

Back in the day of Xanga blogs — don't pretend like you don't know what I'm talking about — all I had to do was spit some Internet slang ("wtf," "lol") and select an emoticon that best illustrated my mood to be a part of the fun.

Now, it's all about projecting a whole other image onto a techhungry crowd that wants to know whether "It's complicated" between me and Johnny, or if we've finally

See **REPORT**, page 6



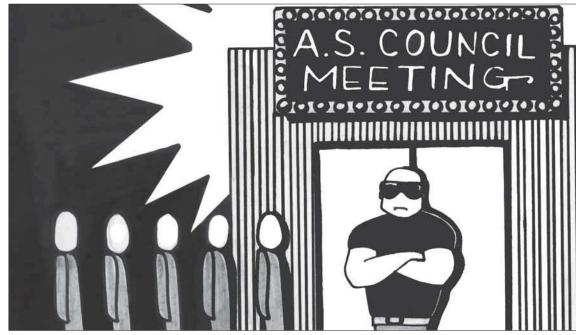
EDITORIAL

Anything Could Fly Behind Closed Council Doors

nyone who has spent time at an A.S. Council meeting is familiar with the routine nature of the council's weekly deliberations. Barring discussion of some particularly contentious issue (like racist cookouts, for instance), council meetings are, for the most part, free of controversy, consisting primarily of committee appointments, funding allocations, friendly chatter and nitpicky legislative debate — just the kind of thing you'd expect from your typical governing body.

Occasionally, however, councilmembers are faced with an issue they deem to be too sensitive for discussion before members of the public. On two separate occasions this year, a Guardian reporter assigned to cover the weekly A.S. Council meeting was asked to leave the conference room after councilmembers voted to close their meeting to the public. Referred to as "Executive Sessions," such private meetings are allowed under the council's Special Rules of Order, and usually take place when councilmembers wish to discuss "matters of personnel, existing or anticipated litigation, license or permit determination, threat to public services or facilities, labor negotiations, investments, contracts or real property negotiations."

Admittedly, the *Guardian* editorial board initially thought little of these occurrences, due to the fact that such powers were within the council's right. But earlier this month, members of the *Daily Nexus* — UC Santa Barbara's student-run newspaper — brought to our attention an alarming event that has reshaped our perception of this apparently routine council procedure. On Jan. 27, all members of the public were unexpectedly asked to leave a meeting of the UCSB A.S. Council. The meeting was closed



for approximately 90 minutes, after which time councilmembers refused to offer any explanation for the sudden expulsion of reporters, students and other onlookers — stating only that the discussion revolved around "pending litigation."

Assuming that their council had committed infractions of the Brown, Bagley-Keane, or Gloria Romero Open Meetings Acts — California state laws requiring legislative bodies to disclose basic information regarding the subject of any executive session — editors at the Nexus immediately launched a legal investigation into the situation. What they discovered, however, was that no A.S. Council at any UC campus is subject to any state-mandated disclosure law. Basically, the UCSB council's scant description of its recent secretive close- door session was acceptable under state law.

What this incident reveals is the extent to which A.S. Councils within the UC system are able to exploit their right to discretionary privacy. Though the student governing bodies at California State University and California Community College campuses are subject to the legal requirements of the Gloria Romero Open Meetings Act and the Brown Act, respectively, our own student leaders are inexplicably exempt from either law, allowing for potential abuses of private meetings to occur.

That's not to say our own council has regularly carried out shady dealings behind closed doors. During both of the instances when councilmembers voted to enter executive session this year and removed our reporter from their meeting, they provided adequate information as to the content of their private sessions,

courteously adhering to California's disclosure laws on a *de facto* basis.

As demonstrated by the actions of the UCSB council, however, such courtesy is not always exercised. The specific content of that Jan. 27 meeting still remains a mystery — but probably has to do with a rowdy retreat whose damages were patched in student fees.

To ensure that such abuses of power are avoided in the future, A.S. Councils within the UC System should be made to adhere to state disclosure laws. By reserving the right to hide their proceedings on a whim, councilmembers effectively disinherit the most essential characteristic of any democratic legislative body: transparency. With millions of dollars in student fees in their hands, it would be nice to know that our leaders are always accountable for their actions.

Now That It's Out There, Let's Understand It

▶ FORUM, from page 4

to be edgy pigs — to give a shit about the way it's affecting those not so lucky to have derived the same sense of jaded snarkiness from life. Racialhumor diehards argue that stereotypes are only funny because they're true. But there are different extremes; good racial humor is posed in a way that makes fun of racist people. And in the end, there's just no way one can understand the feeling of being a stereotyped minority without having been there. Even for those minority students that argue they're personally not bothered by the slurs — that's really great for them, but their comfort makes no difference if others still feel uneasy.

The cookout's humor is purely discriminatory, posed by an isolated social class with no real experience being poor or spat on by the system. (Admit it, PIKE — you're overwhelmingly white and loaded.) Even if planners didn't mean it maliciously, there's whole bunch of go-dumb invitees snickering at their laptop screens or Koala readers who misinterpret the satire (in the case that there is some) — who then think it's OK to be blatantly racist. No wonder there's no black students here. When the minority population at UCSD is disgusted to the point of not wanting to put up with this environment, cheap laughs seem a large price to pay.

No racial topic or slur should be off-limits or hush-hush, but it should all be understood; the concept of purple drank is funny, but it's also a product of a poor-stay-poorer national crisis. If that's funny to you, you're lucky. But at least grow the balls to defend your humor, face to face, to someone who's not feeling it so much.



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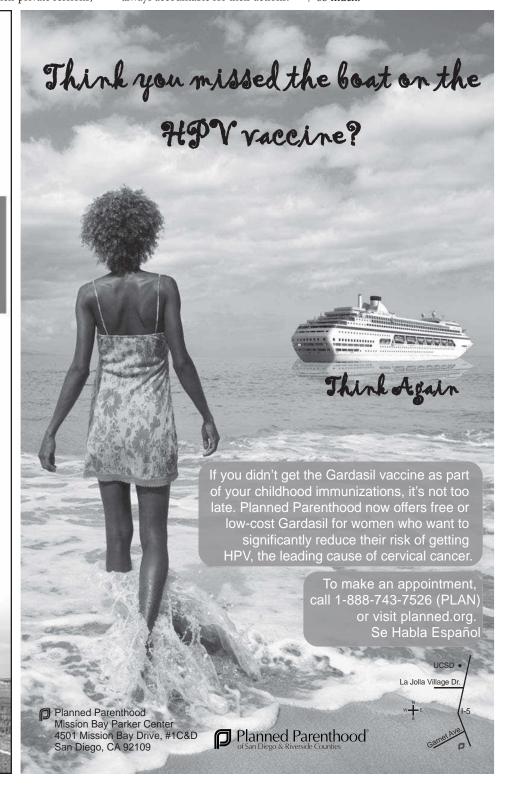


Wednesday, February 24, 2010 San Diego Campus 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday, March 6, 2010 San Diego Campus 10:00 am - Noon

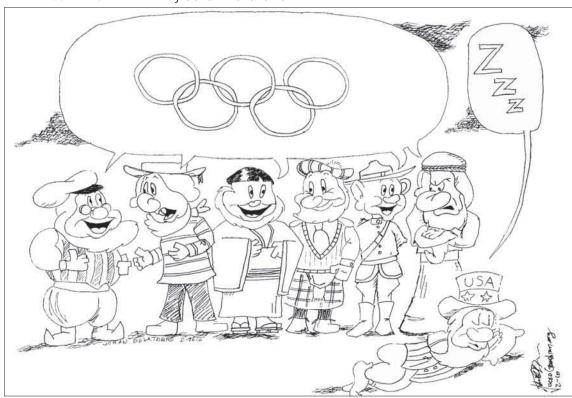
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DRAWING FIRE By Johan DeLaTorre



Emerge From Your Dark Corner and Find Real Friends

▶ **REPORT,** from page 4

stabilized our relationship. Fortunately for the world, not

But instead of

becoming more

outwardly social,

some of us now

rely so heavily on

online networking

become nocturnal

that we've

hermits.

everyone has the time and energy to keep pace with every little revolutionary update. I, for one, have yet to succumb to random "Fan Page" invites, even when everyone's notifications keep popping up to inform me — and the rest of the Facebook population — that my RA

from Matthews has encountered a lonely black sheep on his land. Well, good for him. Now he can brag to his virtual neighbors about it, kill one of his virtual livestock animals

and have a virtual feast.

We signed up for Facebook to make friends in a new place, but instead of becoming more outwardly social, some of us now rely so heavily on online networking that we've become nocturnal her-

It's cool to be a part of the online community, and I have to admit that

being able to keep track of people — a Facebook-friendly euphemism

for "stalk" — through tagged photos is quite a perk. But Facebook and its sister apps keep adding every possible combination of new feature (think 2011: Facebook's virtual Taco Tuesday, complete with friends' avatars in your bar of choice) to keep us hooked. And it's getting a little too virtual for me. I'm not saying I'm about to forgo my online ego and completely slip off the radar, but maybe I'll try to skip the login every once in awhile and take up a good noseful of real-live La Jolla fog. Because even the most introverted of UCSD nerds know how to enjoy a good beachside stroll - whether it's "socially dead" turf

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Compton Cookout' Is Not Worth Fussing Over Ambassador Footage

Dear Editor,

In my humble opinion, the UCSD administration's outrage over Pi Kappa Alpha's recent Compton Cookout is unwarranted. I do agree that such a party was a disgrace to the true meaning of Black History Month, and reflects the general (nonblack) populace's dismissive, or perhaps even accommodating, attitude toward racial inequality. However, I believe that the administration needs to take a step back to gain some perspective on the issue.

Fraternities throwing offensive and obscene parties is a hallmark in the long legacy of college Greek life. Youthful rebellion has long included participation in culturally inappropriate activities, such as pretending to know anything about the "ghetto," the real condition of American poverty, or the people who struggle every day to make ends meet.

Obviously, PIKE is made up of entitled young WASPs who just want to get fucked up and have fun. Instead of protesting some insignificant fraternity's barbecue bash, I believe that concerned UCSD administrators should focus their attention on real problems that the student body can endeavor to change. We, as a generation, see how the American political system is failing due to outdated bipartisanship. But instead of encouraging the student body to come together to protest and make real change, the administration has resorted to sending e-mails condemning inappropriate frat parties. Grow up, UCSD.

> —Jusneet Beasley Freshman, Marshall College

UCSD-TV Must Air

Dear Editor,

In response to the Feb 12. article "Israeli Visitor Draws Crowd," the Guardian failed to report on the introduction that was given by Peter Cowhey, Dean of the UCSD School for International Studies and Pacific Relations. In it he remarked that what he deemed to be "disrespectful" questions would result in criminal proceedings as well as academic repercussions. Upon trying to find the section of the video where this was said, I found that it had been edited out by UCSD-TV. It is appalling that UCSD-TV would cut this section (that had tremendous impact on the conduct and mood of the audience) from its broadcast, but it is far more appalling that such threats would be made in the first place.

This is supposed to be a university where free speech is protected and encouraged. Students should never have to deal with the threat of academic repercussions as a result of their political activity.

I would hope that UCSD-TV releases the full and unedited version of the event as soon as possible as to avoid negative publicity for alleged censorship.

-Amal Dalmar Freshman, Muir College

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

> The UCSD Guardian Opinion Editor 9500 Gilman Dr. 0316 La Jolla, CA 92093-0316

e-mail: opinion@ucsdguardian.org



Rue: Students Unlikely to Face Punishment for Party

▶ PARTY, from page 1

and Rue sent out a mass e-mail early Tuesday morning condemning the party as "a blatant disregard of our campus values?

"As soon as we realized it was not a hoax, we worked to respond as quickly as possible," Rue said.

We can't

control the

conduct of

moment of

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their own."

the day. They

ROBBY NAOUFAL

every

our members

Students attending Tuesday's forum said they were not directly targeting the fraternity, but were more concerned about the lack of awareness about diversity on campus. Currently, less than 2 percent — or 200 of the campus' 22,000 undergraduate students — is registered as black.

According to Warren College junior Cierra McCoy, the party is only a symptom of the lack of campus diversity. She said that black students not only have low acceptance and yield rates, but also low retention rates, as many of them eventually want to transfer due

to racism at the university. 'There's all this talk about improving student life," McCoy said at the forum. "Well, this is my student life. I don't give a damn if the National Guard has to walk me to my bio class,

transfer, and I will graduate." Other forum attendees, such as A.S. Campuswide Senator Bryant Pena, called for the expulsion of the individuals involved in planning the

I will make them do it, and I will not

However, Rue said that it is unlikely that the university will take direct action against these students.

"I do not believe there will be punishment as this still falls under the protection of free speech," she said.

She said the university would focus on diversity campaigns instead.

"I believe the best way to respond to this type of speech is more speech,

since it's our collective voices that show the resilience of the San Diego community," she said.

Both Director of Student Life Emily Feinstein — who is also the Inter-Fraternity Council adviser and Director of Student Involvement Emily Marx said the event was nei-

ther funded nor sponsored by a fraternity.

"The only fraternity link this has is that some of the organizers were Greekaffiliated," IFC president Robby Naoufal said. "We can't control the conduct of our members every moment of the day. They do act on their own."

Marx agreed.

'We found out that it is individuals who did this that it was multiple members of the same [apartment complex], and not fraternity-sponsored," she said.

However, Feinstein said the university is meeting

with the individuals involved — whose named have not been released — and that various Greek organizations will work with local and national chapters to educate them about the incident.

"I will do everything in my power to rehabilitate not just the Greeks, but [to] try to empower the entire community," she said.

Campuswide Senator Tobias Haglund, who is also a member of the IFC, denied allegations, — including Diop's — accusing PIKE of being a 'white frat".

"That is absolutely false," he said. "We pride ourselves on our diversity. Whoever made the comment was rightly upset and emotional, but PIKE is not a white frat."

PIKE issued an official statement today denying association with the Compton Cookout and condemning

Students also used Tuesday's

forum as an opportunity to speak out against controversial humor newspaper the Koala. They cited the most recent issue - which ridiculed the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated Haiti — as well as past issues that have repeatedly used the word "nig-

According to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Gary Ratcliff, the cookout and Koala content are both representative of prejudice on campus.

"The Koala is the journalistic equivalent to an arsonist," he said. ""It gets pleasure from the terror of others."

Ratcliff added that he would support withdrawing funding from the publication, though a recent A.S. proposal to alter media guidelines was unsuccessful.

"For 10 years I've seen cycles of Koalas injure students," he said. "I've worked with leaders to set up meetings about this issue. A courageous group went to the A.S. [Council] to talk about it, but [the council] got cold feet."

A.S. Associate Vice President of Diversity Affairs Jasmine Phillips said the university constantly marginalizes minorities; for instance, by asking the BSU to pay for its own yield program, which is designed to encourage minority students to graduate.

"The administration expects our organization to [shell out] for the yield [program] when it's their problem that they should be working on it themselves," she said. "We can't just keep planning — something needs to happen."

In response to the recent upset, administrators are launching a diversity campaign called "Not in Our Community," and will be holding a teach-in on Feb. 24 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Price Center East Ballroom.

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

Collections Budget to Be Cut First

LIBRARY, from page 1

The libraries are seeking input via a blog on the library Web site, white boards in the library lobby and meetings with faculty, students and administrators.

Davies said that the survey is meant to collect feedback on how the library can better serve students and which services are most important to them in the face of continuing budget cuts.

Laura Chipps, manager of the information desk and periodicals at Geisel, said the budget cuts have affected employees across the board.

"I've been here for a long time," Chipps said. "I've seen many budget crises, but none as severe as this one."

She said that 40 staff positions have been left unfilled or eliminated, although there have been no layoffs or resignations from the staff. Current employees are now responsible for these job duties.

"It's just more stressful for us overall," Chipps said. "People are start-

ing to retire, and as their places are vacant, the burden of responsibility is placed down [on] the rest of us. '

Schottlaender said that while there is no way to project future budget cuts, the book budget and vacancies would be the first services to be evaluated.

"Push come to shove, we'd look at our collections budget and see what we can trim from that," he said.

In addition, Schottlaender said that there are currently many staff vacancies in the circulation and transaction areas, and that the library will look into consolidating these positions instead of hiring more employees.

Davies said that, depending on the severity of budget cuts, the libraries may be forced to cancel more journal subscriptions and further reduce hours of operation next year.

The libraries are collecting input through the end of Winter Quarter.

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

Wong: Radio-Station Thefts Common

► ROBBERY, from page 1

ond floor of the Student Center behind Hi Thai into an enclosed area that connects to KSDT's back door, then smashed the glass to get in.

"Part of me thinks it's kind of funny, because they climbed down through the roof and smashed the back door window, and there are so many other windows that are more easily accessible," Wong said. "Maybe they thought it wouldn't be locked from down there."

Wong said that, though KSDT staff members are still attempting to take inventory of remaining equipment, they have already confirmed that microphones, speakers, a mixer and a phone patch were stolen.

KSDT will be off the air until Monday, when Wong hopes to have

assembled some old backup equipment. Until new equipment is purchased, deejays will be unable to take phone calls and forced to rely on old technology.

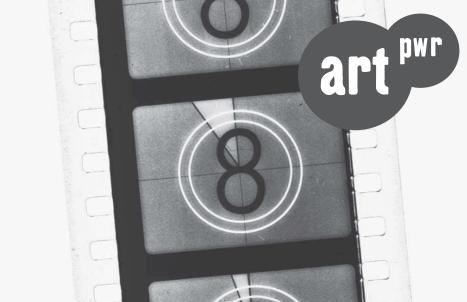
"We have an extra deejay setup that's enough to put on shows, but we're going to still have to make some replacements," Wong said.

The police are currently investigating the robbery. According to Wong, KSDT plans to increase its security measures to prevent similar incidents from reoccurring.

"I'm much more concerned with people seeing KSDT as a safe place than finding the criminal and serving justice," Wong said.

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





FEBRUARY 2010 FILM SUBMISSION WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 / 11:30 AM / FORUM, PRICE CENTER EAST

ArtPower! Film is extremely excited to present the first UCSD Up&Coming Film Festival Submission Workshop, led by instructor Larry Zeiger, award-winning writer, director, educator and jury panel member of high profile international film festivals.

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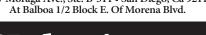


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TONIGHT

Big-band jazz and Parliament-vein funk might be an unlikely combo, but you might find both at once addictive — try out the RichardTater Funkestra at Porter's Pub, tonight at 9 p.m. Free.





Errors "A Rumour in Africa"



Wonderland

By Leila Haghighat STAFF WRITER

oe-eyed and whimsically French, Aurélia Thierrée has fallen down a rabbit hole into

the fantasyland of acrobatic illusions. "Aurélia's Oratorio" is a topsy-turvy dreamworld that would make Alice smile.

In just 70 minutes, Thierrée trapezes over circus acts while still leveraging a Barnum

and Bailey feel to create a kid-friendly spectacle. The only problem is that her world is cute at best. Somewhere between its vaudeville yore throwback and trapeze act, the show falls flat. It's sort of like when two red splotches on a canvas look like

nothing special, and yet, cost millions. Still, its foray into circus nouveau makes Thierrée's abstract and practically dialoguevoid performance an amusing new way to look at the world.

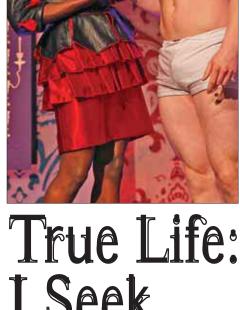
Irrespective of the show's own merits, performance is Thierrée's Aurélia's Oratorio birthright. She boasts a pedigree that's hard to match, a punch of cred-DIRECTED BY VICTORIA THIERRÉE CHAPLIN ibility for the show. The great-granddaughter of playwright Eugene $\star\star$ O'Neil, Thierrée strays

far from his trademark realism, indulging instead in a purely imaginative dreamscapes where clothes come to life. What she does inherit in "Oratorio," though, is the pantomime of silent film pioneer Charlie Chaplin, whom she is privileged to call Granddaddy.

Similarly, Thierrée's own parents have left an imprint on performance history, and it was in their surreal world of traveling circuses that she discovered her own calling as early as age three, touring as a walking suitcase entertainer. Jean-Baptiste Thierrée and Victoria Thierrée Chaplin (incidentally, the director of "Oratorio") started the world-renowned Le Cirque Imaginaire and Le Cirque Invisible, precedents for the more flamboyant Cirque du

Inspired by medieval drawings that depict the world upside down and inside out, "Oratorio" is a tightrope act that balances nonsensical images with large-scale dance numbers and a swiveling stage. The paradoxes that flood the production give rise to a distinct dimension where kites fly people, ice cream is scalding hot and feed-

See ORATORIO, page 11



I Seek Revenge

The Revenger's Tragedy

STARRING JOHNNY GILL & ROSS CRAIN DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY POTIKER THEATRE FEB. 11-FEB. 20

By Rebecca Erbe

icture this: Kim Kardashian appears on TV speaking Shakespearian. Ridiculous, right? Yet it probably wouldn't do much to the very basic plotline of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." If anything, maybe you'd relate to the old bard a bit more. At least, that's what director of this week's Potiker Theatre headliner Christopher Ashley thinks.

For his newest creation, he decided to place his version of "The Revenger's Tragedy" — a Jacobian play by Thomas Middleton in the context of reality television. Maybe it seems implausible that the 400-year-old piece could be translated into a decade-old medium, but turns out the Italian court — with all its backstabbing and power play — is perfectly suited to reality television's heightened egos and risqué affairs. Think of the engrossing Tragedy" as The Real World: Bard Basics.

And it's just as addicting as the real thing. Vindice is out to avenge the death of his fiance, who was murdered by the Duke when she denied his advances. With the help of his brother, Hippolito, Vindice infil-

See TRAGEDY, page 9

TRACKREVIEWS

'Me and the Devil' Gil Scott-Heron XL RECORDINGS

STARRING AURÉLIA THIERRÉE

MANDELL WEISS THEATRE

FEB. 3-FEB. 28

he track throbs with distorted bass as the hero swears revenge to an uncaring sky. Politicized flows like "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" might have earned Gil Scott-Heron the title Godfather of Rap, but the twisted synths in blues number "Me and the Devil" sound more like "Sin City" than 50 Cent. His voice ripped apart by age and cheap whiskey, Scott-Heron croons over a heavy backbeat until the fallen hero chambers a round for his revenge — then it's over. What Scott-Heron has crafted is genuinely disturbing, but there's no climax to break the track open. You'll have to pick up the album to find out how this cliffhanger ends.

> - Matthew Pecot Associate Hiatus Editor

'Fearless Love' Melissa Etheridge ISLAND RECORDS



Chex Mix of cliche, formulaic song struc-A ture and tired lyrics, Etheriages Tealicos
Love" rides her powerful voice all the way ture and tired lyrics, Etheridge's "Fearless to Alzheimer's. The plodding drums and annoying synth are a humdrum throwback to Alanis Morissette and every other female phoenix who rose above her ex-boyfriend's abuse. Needless to say, "Fearless Love" is a step down from the raw power of her "Piece of My Heart" cover and the honesty in breast-cancer survival anthem "I Run for Life." The track was made for hardcore fans or people with poor pattern recognition: If every Nicholas Sparks story seems original to you, wait until you hear the lows this song goes.

> - Bryan Kim Contributing Writer

'Romance is Boring' Los Campesinos! **WICHITA**



n their latest single, Los Campesinos! draw upon their typical grab bag of instrumentation to create a melting pot of unhinged guitar solos and energetic medleys. The ironic "Romance is Boring" boisterously replicates the entertainment of the best of the group's earlier work. Irreverent and cheeky lyrics uncage the track's breezy energy, stopping only for the occasional emphatic chorus, rau cus vocals juxtaposed with the banal scene

Catchy and concise, Los Campesinos! exude a bottomless energy, just beginning to hit their

- Imran Manji Staff Writer

IAG AND LOVE146 ART NIGHT

THE GREAT HALL / FEB. 20 / 7 P.M. / FREE

This Saturday, walk over to International House and check out "Art Night for Freedom," a fundraiser to end child sex trafficking worldwide. The International Affairs Group is teaming up with Love146 — a nonprofit organization for the abolition of child sex slavery and exploitation — to bring you a night of music, dance, spoken word, artwork and guest speakers ready to both educate students and support prevention programs in Asia, Europe and the U.S. So if you enjoy free food, live entertainment and want to make a difference in the lives of young people, this event is for you. (JB)

TERA MELOS

CHE CAFE / FEB. 20 / 8 P.M. / \$7

Making up for a quiet start to the quarter, the Che Cafe has just crammed its lineup full of everything underground, including space-rockers Tera Melos this Saturday. Be warned: One minute the guitar will float along in a pure lullaby, only to jerk you awake when the band switches to a spastic freakout, leaving you breathless before gliding back into nod-off melodies. Don't bother dancing, but grab yourself a patch of ground to sit down and uncork your brain — with all the high-flying decibels that they'll pack into the cozy Che, you won't find better spirit-guide gurus than Tera Melos. (MP)

exit strategy

MAUGER

THE LOFT FEB. 18. 8 P.M.

FINAL FIGHT

CHE CAFE FEB. 19, 7 P.M.

ROCK STAR THROWDOWN

PORTER'S PUB FEB. 20, 7 P.M. FREE

P.O.S.

THE LOFT FEB. 20. 9:30 P.M.

BLACKLISTED CHE CAFE

FEB. 21, 7 P.M.

LIAM BOOGAR

CAFE ROMA FEB. 22, 8 P.M. FREE

TONE ROAD RAMBLERS

CONRAD PREBYS CONCERT HALL FEB. 24. 7 P.M.

\$20

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES PRICE CENTER EAST BALLROOM

FEB. 24, 8 P.M.

KARAOKE

PORTER'S PUB FEB. 24, 10 P.M. FREE

ALBUM**REVIEWS**

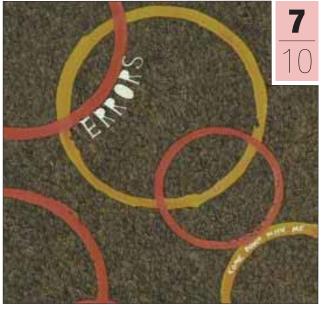
Errors Come Down With Me **ROCK ACTION RECORDS**

Electro-Pop Noise-Rockers Make Few Mistakes in Multifarious Mind-Melt

itchen-sink dance bands like Errors hit you the only way they know how, by teasing genres into an indie rave potpourri. Even with more fingerpicked post-rock and mellow breakdowns than Holy Fuck, nothing on Come Down With Me will mindfreak you to the point of hanging upside-down in Times Square. Still: 8-Bit, ambient, noise, italo disco, electro — all down.

First banger of note is "A Rumour in Africa," the stuttering, intricate single glued together by a vocoder-melting yell that sounds like a mechelephant in a sexy virtual safari. This exotic aural cut gives way to the Ladytron part-deux of "Supertribe," a clean, electro world with less outside genre influence, then slides into the minor-key minimal "Antipode", an emo-teen gamer theme with tinges of American Football.

After the breathy No Age ambience of "The Erskine Bridge," shit gets heavy: "Jolomo" robocops back to the reliable electro pulse that Errors seems to favor, gradually adding synth quirks until you're sassified. Closers "The Black Tent" and "Beards" gobble more Afro-guitar licks and drum hits, more math-rock



signatures, more of everything gourmet until you're stuffed like a Bellagio buffet.

The album reads like a bits-of-hits mix tape, lassoing subgenres until they're bound together in a well-researched

brown.

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

and diverse album. One word of advice, though: You gotta pick your favorite colors, dudes, otherwise it starts to sound like

- Chris Kokiousis

Nneka Concrete Jungle YO MAMA'S RECORDING CO.





Nigeria's Lauren Hill Doppleganger Spits Soul Over Unstable Beat

iven her soulful, conscious vocals and her ability to spit a rhyme or two, it's easy to write off neosoul/ hip-hop artist Nneka Egbuna as a Lauryn Hill copycat, even if she's emerging from the concrete jungle a decade after the miseducated Fugees member made it big. But a couple listens to the Nigerian-born artist's U.S. debut album Concrete Jungle will reveal that — at key moments - Nneka's delivery can reach past Hill's.

While Hill was the queen of versatility, perfecting soul, R&B, hip-hop and jazz in her own modern combo, Nneka blends these musical categories and adds a touch of her African roots on each track. Nevertheless, she manages the task with a lot less finesse than Hill.

The album kicks off with one of the few tracks Nneka spits on — her sing-song fluid flow shines on "Showin' Love," topping a haunting organ production from fellow German musician DJ Farhot. From the start, Jungle screams lessons at us: "Repentance, acceptance, this is what I plead/ To practice the things we say and tell others in need."

In ultra-intimate "Mind vs. Heart," Nneka replicates

the wiry pipes of Erykah Badu. But her voice gets twisted on single "The Uncomfortable Truth." The singer's raspy vocals cut through fat horns and a highly percussive beat through handclaps, shakers and an extremely present

DJ Farhot and Nneka fuse together effortlessly on breakout, "Heartbeat," where a tinkering piano fades in atop a steady kick. Nneka stutters a catchy hook to the beat of bass drum, playing heartbeat to the track's contemplative message.

Nneka's clearly got vocal chops, but she's nowhere near as polished as Hill in her heyday. On heartfelt acoustic ballad "Come With Me," the 28-year-old takes the loosely structured track and runs with it, flirting with some off-key detours along the way. And while her few smooth raps help give Jungle variety, they lack raw pas-

Still, it's not hard to see why Nneka is racking up fans in Africa and Europe. If her recent collaboration with the Roots is any indication, America's about to take a trip down memory Hill real soon.

Janani Sridharan

Grad Students Take the Cake in Techno Twister for the Ages



► TRAGEDY, from page 8

trates the Duke's palace in disguise and begins wreaking havoc among the royals. Adultery and murder run rampant, and Vindice is determined to bring the bloodline down, at any cost. Though the story reads as little more than a creative mash-up of Shakespearian characters and themes, it functions flawlessly in this production. With a familiar plotline, modern setting and language that rolls right off the actors' tongues, the play is digestible for all.

While each character ties the ensemble together, the cast standout is thirdyear masters of fine arts student Ross Crain, who captures both the comedy

and repellant ego of modern celebrities in his role as Lussurioso, the Duke's son.

But the real accolades go to the designers of "Tragedy" which, like the cast, is made up entirely of UCSD students. Seven digital video cameras are employed onset, in addition to those the television crew carries onstage. The footage from these cameras is displayed in real time on four set televisions and two scrim projections, allowing the audience to see the production of the play and consume it as a reality show. The camerawork is masterfully planned and executed, and the marriage between film and theater alone makes this play a must-see.



Celebrate Creativity!

Invitation to View Spring Film Spree Works

In addition, we invite you and your friends and family to join us on March 3, 8-10 pm

to view film spree submissions and classic short films at The Loft at UC San Diego.

UCSanDiego Extension

Spring Arts Spree

Call for Submissions: Spring Film Spree

Join UC San Diego Extension in celebrating the essence of short film.

Attention UC San Diego student filmmakers, of all levels, there's still time to submit a short (5 minutes or less) film to the Spring Film Spree contest. Rules and entry form are available at extension.ucsd.edu/filmspree

Winner receives a \$500 cash award, a voucher for a UC San Diego Extension course**, broadcast time on UCSD-TV for their film, and a featured link on the Spring Arts Spree website.

> **Important Dates:** Entries due by 5:00 PM February 22, 2010 Winner notification on February 25, 2010

For questions about eligibility, please contact the Extension department of Arts, Humanities & Languages at ahl@ucsd.edu.

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SCORSESE SCARES, SCORES

By Neda Salamat

t's post-WWII and as vets across the country massage their scar tissue, U.S. marshal Teddy Daniels (Leonardo

Shutter Island

& MARK RUFFALO

RATED R

STARRING LEONARDO DICAPRIO

DIRECTED BY MARTIN SCORSESE

DiCaprio) is ferreted to an alcatraz-esdque island off the coast of Massachusetts to locate the whereabouts of escaped patient-murderer (Emily Mortimer). Partnered with the ever-reverent Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo), Daniels embarks on investigation into the bowels of Ashecliffe peni-

tentiary. But he also has a secondary motive: to find the man who murdered his wife (Michelle

Williams) and disappeared on Shutter Island.

Aptly nightmarish, writer Laeta Kalogridis' adaptation of Dennis Lehane's novel throws plot twist after plot twist into a film glittering with cinematography. And literature buffs will

appreciate the ample foreshadowing subtly littered throughout the film. Like the psychiatric treatments practiced on the island, the film is boldly unconventional and never fails to shock.

Slow to start, "Shutter Island"s brutal opening scene eviscer-

ates introduction niceties, leaving a noticeably ill-fit melodramatic score in its wake. The script

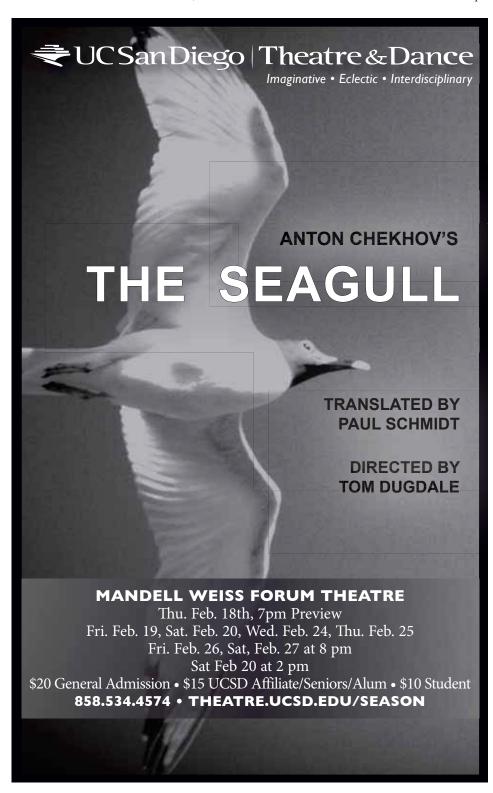
***1

is quick to recover though, as director Martin Scorsese's skill shines through the dementia, when Daniels realizes that there is something peculiar occurring behind the iron-laden walls of Aschecliffe. Repeatedly thwarted by everpresent head-shrink Dr. Cawley (Ben Kingsley), Daniel's lucidity falls to pieces faster than the hurricane-striken island that surrounds him.

Heavyweight DiCaprio once again earns his acting stripes as the hyper-paranoid Daniels, demonstrating a range of emotional complexity that keeps us trembling with aftershocks long after the credits have rolled. Not to be outshone, Ruffalo and Kingsley also keep the blood pumping in their supporting roles.

Demonstrating a thorough knowledge of Donnie Darko-type absurdity, "Island's" graphics team drenches their actors in gallons of rain water, burns them alive and showers them with petals. The gruesome and ghoulish is coupled with the ethereal and romantic in elaborate dream sequences, blurring the lines between sanity and madness. The violence and death, typified by horrific flashbacks to frozen piles of Holocaust corpses, while discomforting, is never exaggerated to the level of horror movie gore.

Although "Island"s success comes as no surprise due to past hits "The Aviator" and "The Departed" (also DiCaprio/Scorsese works), the film has much more to it than the trailers suggest. Like in any good Scorsese film, be ready to consume a heap of sociopathic characters, a monster of a plot twist and a sizable helping of East Coast drawl. Just be sure to check your sanity at the door.





Heartbreak, in Four Panels THEATERREVIEW

'm gonna be honest here and say that the request for this week's column has been a little more than awkward. I don't have anything to really say, since nothing's really been going on in my head besides my personal and professional (read: academic) life. But, having just fin-

Critical

ished drawing my latest strip, I figure that, since Critical Hit! is essentially a comic column these days, I should talk a little about my own

comic, Sunny-Side Up, and how it

Sunny-Side Up is basically a boymeets-girl story, and it's designed to be just as tumultuous as those meetings can typically be. It's sort of pseudo-autobiographical only in the sense though that I, like a lot of other guys in this world, met a girl that rocked my world. I just happened to be one of the few that decided to detail those events in the form of a story. So, the comic is essentially my series of unfortunate events, because they're the only ones I'm familiar with.

From the get-go, the story was never really designed to be very happy. Like life, it's supposed to be bittersweet. The arc that it's in right now was where I've always wanted the story to end up when I first started writing it, as it was the only thing I could ever think about. I admit that the point was to be unabashedly self-pitying. I mean, the way I saw it, I didn't want to be held back by rejection and embarrassment forever, and I figured the best way I could ever get over it was by publicizing it. Hence, the birth of

Here's the thing: whether any of us would like to admit it or not, we all want to feel significant. We all have something to say, and we're always looking for ways to be heard. I'm no different. I had just been stripped of my dignity, and, dammit, I wanted someone to fuck-

Hit!

ing listen to me. I wanted to bitch and moan I wanted to be pitied. But since everyone has their own problems to worry about, nobody really

gives a shit. Not even friends. So what's a guy to do? Obviously, make everyone else care.

Fiction, I've come to realize, is basically one of the many ways of making a lot people care about trivial shit, mostly personal. I've learned that, if you make your problems sound interesting enough, chances are, people are going to listen. So the tricky thing about fictionalizing my own personal events was trying to make them interesting. You can't just start with the drama — that's stupid. You have to ease into it. You gotta make the people care about your characters first. Then, as soon as they're getting cozy with them, you start taking it up a notch. Once you have them in a good place, BANG! You kick 'em in the ass with the dramatic tension. It's what I did with the comic

I started writing the story Winter Quarter of last year; I decided that I was gonna end it Spring Quarter of this year. This gave me five quarters to tell the story. I spent the first two quarters trying to get people interested in the characters or, at least, to give people a reason to look forward to it every week. I mean, I understand that there are *some* consistent readers in the school, so I figured the continuity of the story would be their little treat. Once the third quarter rolled around, Fall Quarter of this year, that's when I started cranking it up a notch. I got it to be super sentimental.

The point of the overt sentimentality was to exaggerate the emotions. If the emotions were exaggerated enough, then the drop would feel just as significant. That's the idea, anyways. I wanted people to feel that uneasy, cutesy feeling that they so despise so that, when it's at its most dispicable, I can fuck it up and really make people care. The goal was for people to pity these

That's about what's happening now. Or supposed to be, anyways. To be honest, I'm significantly less angsty than I was a year ago, and, actually, sorta resent drawing it. The only reason I still do it is to prove that I can commit to something. I mean, I still think it's kinda cool. But I'd really like to be done with it and move on. I dunno, my opinions on it are up in the air.

I will say, though, that the comic is supposed to be hopeful. I mean, it's not so obvious now, since it's at a very shitty place, but it was never supposed to be just bitter. Like the title, it's supposed to be very "Look on the bright side." It still has a quarter and a half to go, and, in that span, I want both those characters to come out of it being very different people. For better or worse. That's sorta how it is in real life anyways, so why shouldn't my cutesy, fictional characters be any different?

I have nothing more to say. If you want to follow along with the story, you can catch the comic in its entirety at www.PHRHIEDOM.com.

Frenchie Wows on the Trapeze



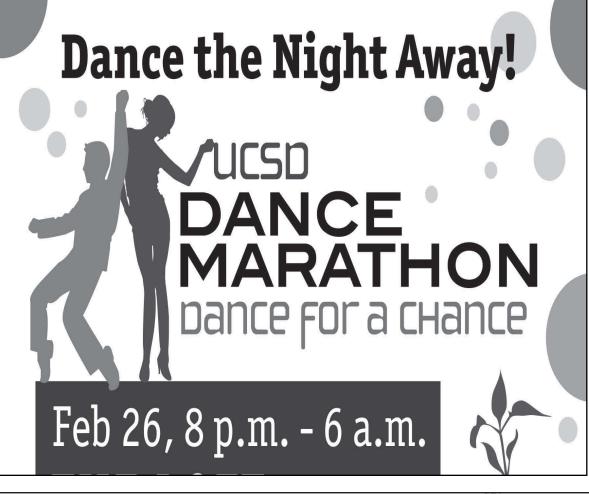
▶ ORATORIO, from page 8 ing babies with cigarettes in lieu of milk is kosher. A mouse scampers across the stage with a dead cat in tow, while Aurélia's lullaby is the rattling of alarm clocks, and roses go into a vase bud-down, stem-up.

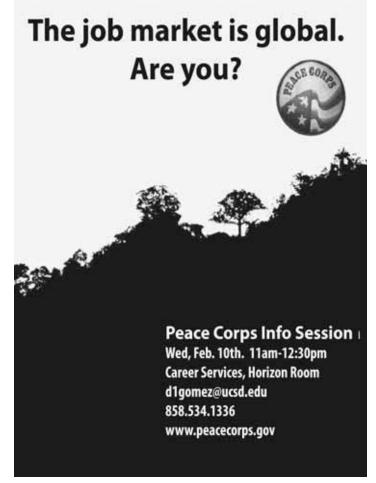
"Oratorio's" attempt at ingenuity comes to the forefront in the most memorable of its scenes when Aurélia finds herself behind a lace curtain, made of lace herself. As if in Eden, she muses beneath a tree until a lace snake comes along and she loses her leg. Swiftly, she pulls out her knitting needles and sutures herself back up. Aurélia then plays Ann Darrow to a King Kong of lace, who cradles her and then dies in a lace blizzard in an attempt to save

What this pastiche of juxtapositions and random tidbits amounts to is left ambiguous by the lack of a coherent storyline. The only apparent motif is dancing partner Jaime Martinez's reappearance as a man

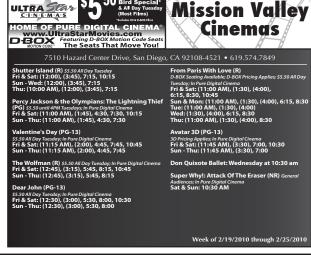
(or perhaps, a lover) in search of the mischievous Aurélia. In some of the performance's most enchanting moments, Martinez bends forward onto the stage with Aurélia's red pumps in place of gloves, dancing to salsa music. Later, Martinez transforms into a brilliant marionette puppeteer, who is dragged across the stage and beaten up by a floating coat.

Far from seamless, the magic tricks in "Oratorio" are, for the most part, readily transparent. But the point is not to decipher how the tricks are done. Thierée lets slip just enough for us to realize that there's a ladder behind the curtain and, more explicitly, that there are dummy limbs in her opening act. Instead, "Oratorio" invites us to a make-believe world with the airy tunes of a Yann Tiersen-esque soundtrack. We don't quite get caterpillars smoking hookahs and puffing vowels, but Thierrée's world certainly is a wonderland of sorts.











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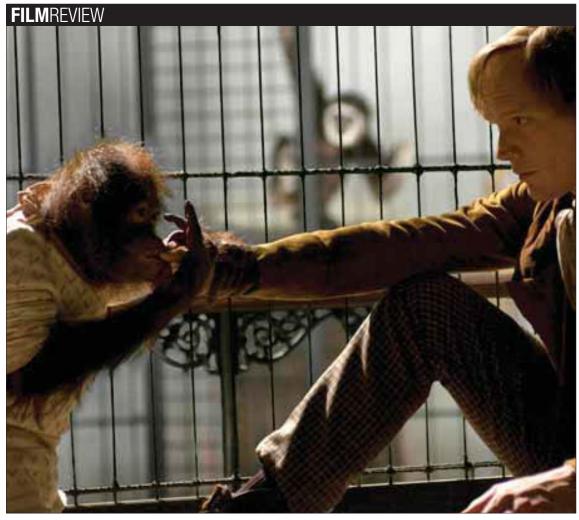
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DARWINTHEDOWNER

Tormented Monkey Man Isn't Everyone's Cup of Tea

By Rebecca Erbe

aul Bettany is currently all up in the box office — he's starring in two films at the moment.

Creation

JENNIFER CONNELLY

RATED PG-13

1:48

DIRECTED BY JON AMIEL

STARRING PAUL BETTANY, MARTHA WEST &

Chances are, you've only heard of "Legion," and that's beyond unfortunate. "Legion," his big-budget apocalyptic-angels flick, has turned

out to be an underwhelming bust, but "Creation" — an ode to Charles Darwin — is drawing a small, but intrigued, audience.

Truthfully, "Creation" definitely isn't for everyone. Bettany stars as British naturalist Darwin, but this isn't the young explorer setting out for the Galapagos you learned about in biology, nor the grandfatherly figure pre-

siding over modern science. Bettany's plays the Darwin that evolved from one to the other in the intermediate 20-plus years between his HMS *Beagle* excursion and the release of *On the Origin of Species*.

This Darwin is fraught with both anxiety about the death of his eldest daughter and how his theory will alter the world. He is constantly concerned that his

deeply religious wife will be destroyed when he releases his findings and "kills god."

 $\star\star\star$

Eventually, Darwin's research turns against him as he blames himself for his daughter's death: She was the genetically weak product of a union between first cousins. By the end of "Creation," our brilliant evolutionary pioneer is mad with grief, talking to

ghosts and refusing to work at all. Bettany plays his role with humble

perfection. While the pace of the film is decidedly slow and pastoral, he brings a quiet intensity to each scene as a man broken by his own intellect. Even notoriously stony Jennifer Connelly, Bettany's on- and offscreen wife, shines as the tightlipped and pious Mrs. Darwin.

An intimate look into the reclusive existence of a legendary figure in the scientific world, the story is told with surprising alacrity and intelligence, continuously reminding us that Darwin's ideas transformed society's concept of religion.

Historical drama is a genre that often struggles to find an audience, with the exception of epic money holes like "Titanic" and "Gladiator." But if you have the attention span to follow a film without explosions or gratuitous nudity, then you can do no better than "Creation." This film's subtle majesty will satisfy most well-trained palates.



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SPORTMANAGEMENT

Baseball Team to See First Conference Action This Weekend

▶ BASEBALL, from page 16

ing seven shutout innings, allowing four hits, no walks and striking out four batters. The win was Rossman's first of the season.

On Saturday, Gregorich was one of UCSD's many offensive contributors, going 5-6 with seven RBIs and five runs scored. Saul hit for the cycle in both games combined.

The first game featured 18 hits, with six players collecting multiple hits: Saul, Gregorich, Kehoe, junior catcher Michael Benton and sophomore outfielder Danny Susdorf all contributed as multiple-hitters. Leading 6-1 through six innings, the Tritons broke the game open with an eight-run seventh inning. UCSD cruised to a 15-2 win and set the tone for the day.

In the second game of the double-header — and the final in the series — Saul opened up the route by hitting a home run in the first inning. Gregorich singled and stole second base as Kehoe batted him in, putting UCSD up 2-0 in the first inning.

Senior right-hander Kirby St. John tossed four shutout innings, allowing just two hits on four strikeouts.

In the second inning, Albitz smacked a two-RBI single to center-field, giving the Tritons a 4-0 lead. UCSD then loaded the bases, and Gregorich promptly cleared them for a three-RBI double to centerfield, giving the Tritons a 7-0 lead. UCSD never looked back, and ended the



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN FILE

Opening the season with a stellar 9-1 record, UCSD now turns its focus to conference play this weekend.

game with a 16-0 win.

"We are preparing this week like we do every week of the season," Saul said. "Our focus does not change depending on who we play, and I believe this is one of our strengths as a team."

The Tritons open up conference play this week against No. 23 Chico State. According to Kehoe, he will maintain a high performance standard at practice this week.

"As a team, our practices are always intense and very productive, and we pride ourselves on showing up every day and getting better," Kehoe said. "Obviously, we have been doing a lot of things right, but as a team, we pride ourselves on getting better every day.

We are preparing for Chico just like we prepare for any other series. We know it's our first conference series, so it's obviously a meaningful series — but we aren't changing the way we go about anything. We just need to keep playing our game."

UCSD hopes to play off their momentum as they head into conference. They will first host the Wildcats, who are 4-0 overall and 4-0 in CCAA action, and who swept Cal State East Bay last week to begin their conference play. The four-game set begins on Friday, with first pitch scheduled for 2 p.m. at Triton Baseball Field.

Readers can contact Cameron Tillisch at ctillisc@ucsd.edu.

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Will Pujols and Holliday Start Juicing Under Coach Mac?

▶ **BLANC**, from page 16

crippled their early season potential in the past. Maybe a little zen and spring sunshine is all CC and Captain Jeter need to remain world champs.

2. The Dodger divorce court.

I sure as hell don't envy the PR guy who has to sit down all those diehard Dodger fans and explain why Mommy and Daddy are getting a divorce. This winter, Dodgers owner Frank McCourt and his wife Jamie went through a very public divorce. The clincher? Jamie also happens to be the team's CEO. As a result, Dodgers' ownership was neck-deep in litigation, ignoring the team's glaring need: improving its mediocre pitching staff. All the Dodgers needed was a solid offseason to seriously contend for the NL pennant. Instead, LA enters spring training with zero upgrades and a sad farewell from its 2009 ace pitcher. I wonder if McCourt will have to pay alimony to help keep Manny in a clean pair of diapers.

3. The Cuban capitalist.

The biggest headliner out of Cuba since Elian Gonzalez is Aroldis

Chapman, the left-handed defector with a 100-mph fastball. Chapman left his native country over the summer and established residency in the income tax-friendly nation of Andorra before inking a \$30.25 million, six-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds in January.

The 22-year-old Cuban phenom has the chance to boost a rotation that also features the young and promising Homer Bailey, Edinson Volquez and Johnny Cueto — making Cincinnati a possible sleeper pick in the NL East.

4. MLB ain't recession-proof.

More so than in any spring training prior, this year, there are numerous All-Stars out of work and searching for a job. Normally, each spring has a few over-the-hill players or aging stars who wait until the middle of spring to sign with a new team, but this year's AARP stragglers include players in their prime who are coming off solid seasons. Although Johnny Damon can keep blaming his unemployment on Scott Boras' insanity, the fact that he is still without a team would have been

unthinkable even just three months ago. Other players waiting in the bread line include Jarrod Washburn, Felipe Lopez, Russell Branyan and Jermaine Dye.

5. The return of the Mac.

In spite of what might be the world's most pathetic steroids apology, Mark McGwire now returns to the major league as the St. Louis Cardinals' new hitting coach. Cardinals skipper Tony La Russa brought his old Oakland bash brother into the clubhouse to mentor a group of talented young hitters and to oversee an offense that includes the otherworldly powers of Albert Pujols and Matt Holliday.

The real question is if La Russa will keep McGwire on the active roster to use as a pinch hitter. It's very unlikely, but weirder things have happened — like the steroids-era posterboy returning as a hitting coach.

I must be maturing as a sports writer; I just wrote a whole column on baseball without once mentioning my home team, the San Francisco Giants. Oops.





Board Games!!!

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PAGE 15

THE GUARDIAN

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2/16/10 Crossword Solution

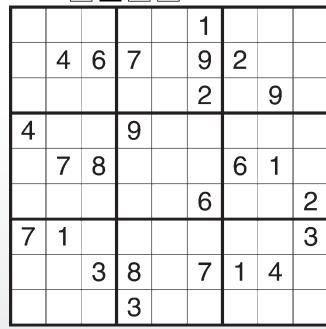
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SAFEERAS TAMES

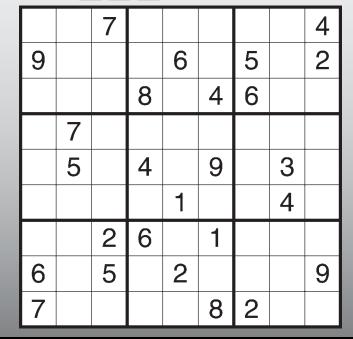


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Level: 1 2 3 4



Level: 1 2 3 4



Find the Sudoku solutions in this Monday's Classifieds Page



UCSD Pushes Offense to Level Series After Stumbling Early Against Chico

We have the

to show that

fight and heart

we want to win

we need to play

harder — with

better defense

— and execute

more consistent

PATTI GERCKENS

HEAD COACH,

SOFTBALL.

more to make

runs."

... As a team,

► **SOFTBALL,** from page 16

The next two games served as the comeback UCSD needed.

Gaito's complete game shutout on Saturday led the Tritons to victory. UCSD tallied a run in the first inning and tacked on three more in the sixth to claim its first

win of the four-game series.

infielder **Junior** Katrin Gabriel ripped a single and stole third on Eliades' sacrifice bunt. Gabriel would later reach home to give UCSD a 1-0 lead in the first inning. De Fazio's two-run double down the left field line gave the Tritons three insurance runs to ensure a win, while Chico was unable to make any sort of comeback in the seventh inning.

After pitcher's duels in the first and third games in the series, offense starred in the final meeting, as UCSD edged the Wildcats out 10-9.

UCSD lost momentum in the first inning but regained control in the bottom of the second. Chico put three runs on the scoreboard in both the first and second innings.

The Tritons responded in the bottom half of the second inning, sending seven players across home to take the lead 7-6. Lesovsky, Eliades and De Fazio scored the final three runs in the second inning off a Saari double to the left center.

"Our bats came alive today," junior infielder Sarah Woofter said. "It shows that our team is full of fire and heart, even if we are down 0-6."

Chico State took the lead back with three runs in the top half of the third inning but couldn't score the rest of the way.

After the first two Triton pitchers struggled to halt the Wildcat offensive onslaught, Gaito took the

mound and retired 16 of the 19 batters she faced, striking out four and allowing only three hits.

Trailing 9-8 in the bottom of the sixth, a double by All-American Lesovsky over the centerfielder, a sacrifice bunt by Saari and a single by Spangler gave UCSD the run needed to tie the game at 9-9. Freshman infielder Dyanna Imoto pinchran for Spangler — with a grounder from Haley scored the winning run for UCSD, 10-9.

"We have the fight and heart to show that we want to win since it could have been a long game, but in the end it

was going in our favor," Gerckens said. "As a team, we need to play harder — with better defense — and execute more to make more consistent runs."

UCSD's two wins handed Chico State its first two losses of the season, making them 4-2 over all, and 2-2 in the conference.

The women will look to keep the ball rolling, and make improvements before their next two games against Cal State Bernardino on Feb. 17.

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

Men's Tennis Players Take Arizona Tournament By Storm

► TENNIS, from page 16

Later that day, at 3:30 p.m., the players' momentum was halted when they were narrowly defeated 4-5 by regional rival: the No. 27 Brigham Young University, Hawaii.

However, the Tritons proved a stern test for the Seasiders, and held their own against the favored opposition. The teams split the singles matches, each side winning three.

Headlining the singles results for UCSD was No. 1 player Erik Elliot's thrilling three-set victory over Brigham Young's No. 1 — and No. 10 in the country — Rong Ma.

In the end, the Seasiders managed to take two of the three doubles contests to earn the victory.

However, the competitive nature of the match was a major improvement from the previous meeting between the two teams, and Nguyen said the loss still boosted the team's confidence.

"Last year, we lost to them 7-2," Nguyen said. "This year, we played them 4-5. They are ranked No. 2 in our region, and we were right there with them. That gave us confidence for the rest of the tournament."

Despite the hiccup against Brigham Young, the Tritons maintained an energetic spirit over the next two days, scoring decisive victories that included a 7-2 demolition of Western New Mexico University on Feb. 13 and an 8-1 drubbing of Montana State University, Billings the following day.

Against Western New Mexico, Elliot continued his impressive run at No. 1 in singles, following up his success against Brigham Young's Ma with a straight set 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 24 junior Yair Banuelos. Also contributing singles victories was Nguyen, who improved his season record 4-0 with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Western New Mexico's No. 4 Francisco Damasio.



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN FILE

Men's tennis capped off a successful Paseo Tournament in Phoenix, Ariz., with a 6-3 victory over Midwestern State, ranked at No. 25.

On Feb. 14, after dispatching Montana State by sweeping the doubles contests and taking five of six singles matchups, the Tritons faced their sternest test of the weekend: a showdown with No. 25 Midwestern State University.

After a grueling string of four matches in three days, the Tritons displayed exemplary fitness and depth of skill, upsetting the Mustangs on the back end of a doubleheader.

The Tritons won two of three doubles matches against their favored opponents, receiving victories at No. 1 doubles from No. 17 junior Armaum Emami and redshirt freshman Austin West, and at the No. 2 spot from Elliot and sophomore Jake Fellow.

In singles, No. 1 Elliot finished the tournament undefeated with his straight set victory, and wins at spots two through six from Nguyen — along with sophomores Sam Ling and Naveen Dixit — propelled the Tritons to a comfortable 6-3 win.

"It was important to come out strong from this tournament" Nguyen said. "It was huge to beat the No. 25-ranked team, after losing to No. 27. It gave us a huge amount of confidence to beat them, and was a nice highlight for the season."

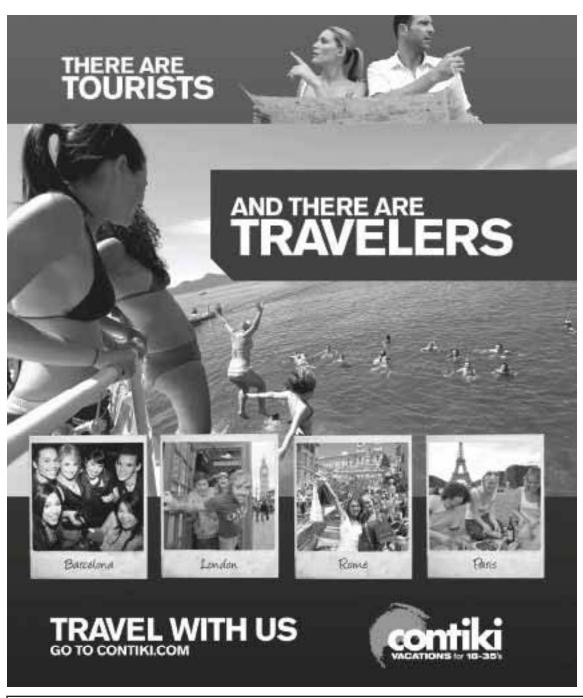
Steidlmayer says that beating ranked opposition is something the Tritons will need to get used to if they are to achieve success in the postseason.

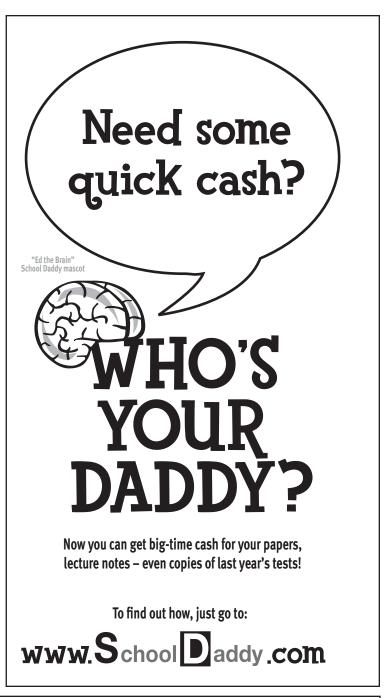
"We need to continue to have confidence that we can be a Top-20 team," he said. "I think this is a Top-20 team at least, and with a little bit more, we can definitely be Top 10. It's important that our guys believe that."

The team looks to continue its success story on the road against Azusa Pacific University on Friday, Feb. 19 — a match that was supposed to have been played on Feb. 6, but was rained out.

"We are going to practice, get some rest and look to take some momentum going forward," Nguyen said

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SPORTS

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

U.S. sailing recently claimed its first America's Cup victory since 1992, when the BMW Oracle defeated Switzerland's Alinghi. The America's Cup sailing event awards the oldest trophy in international sport.



HOTCORNER

VINCE NGUYEN | M. TENNIS

The junior captain compiled a 4-1 record at the Paseo Tournamnet held in Phoenix, Ariz., from Feb. 12 to Feb. 14. Three of his matches went to a decisive tiebreaker with Nguyen; he claimed victories in two of them.

Tritons Heat Up Phoenix

The men's tennis team tallied its first wins of the year, toppling ranked opposition at the Paseo Tournament.

By Vishal Natarajan SPORTS EDITOR

MEN'S TENNIS — The No. 35 UCSD men's team arrived in Phoenix, Ariz., on Feb. 12 for the three-day Paseo Tournament - hosted by Grand Canyon University— in search of a winning formula. Consecutive season-opening losses to the University of San Diego on Jan. 30 and Concordia University two days later had the team in search of

Three days in Arizona and five matches later, they seemed to have found some.

"We had a rough start," junior captain Vince Nguyen said. "We went back to train, worked a lot on doubles and felt pretty confident coming in."

On the Paseo Racquet Center courts, the Triton men translated confidence into results, upsetting higher-ranked Midwestern State en route to posting a 4-1 record all over a rigorous weekend that squeezed five matches into three days.

"It's good to get a lot of matches," head coach Eric Steidlmayer said. "That's something this group needs. We need the experience of playing this much."

At 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 12, the Triton players opened up the tournament in style, pummeling hosts Grand Canyon 8-1. Seven of the team's wins were in straight sets. Nguyen said a positive attitude and team camaraderie were instrumental to their success.

We all felt great out there," Nguyen said. "We competed hard from the beginning. Everyone was cheering each other on — yelling at each other every single point. It was very positive out there."

See **TENNIS**, page 15

SOFTBALL





DANIEL CADDELL/GUARDIAN

The UCSD softball team evened its season record at 3-3 — and 2-2 in the conference — after sweeping Chico State on Saturday, Feb. 13 at RIMAC Field. Sophomore Camille Gaito picked up both wins, improving her record to 3-1. She has maintained a 0.54 ERA through 26 innings pitched.

ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL

By Yvonne Chow • Staff Writer

The Tritons salvaged a series split against Chico, winning two straight games to even the series.

CSD's softball team rebounded with backto-back wins against Chico State after losing the first two games of a four-game series on Feb. 12 to Feb. 13. The Tritons hosted the Wildcats on their new field at RIMAC Arena, where they evened their record to 3-3 overall and 2-2 in the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

According to head coach Patti Gerckens, the team set the right tone for the rest of the season and overcame weak spots in both their defense and

"It's important that we don't want to fall behind early on in the season," Gerckens said. "These two wins help us stay very competitive."

In the first game, on Friday, UCSD's offense struggled to push through any runs: Chico's starting pitcher Kacie McCarthy pitched a complete 2-0 shutout. After allowing a run in the first inning, sophomore pitcher Camille Gaito pitched five shutout innings before giving up an insurance run to Chico in the final inning.

UCSD fared no better in the second game of the series, coming up short 6-7 despite a fierce rally in the seventh inning. The Tritons battled back from a 0-7 hole in the fourth with two runs in the fifth, thanks to consecutive hits by senior shortstop Mandi Eliades, junior outfielder Kris Lesovsky and senior catcher and team captain Nicole Saari.

Silenced in the sixth inning, UCSD's bats heated up again as the Tritons loaded the bases. Hits from sophomore outfielder Kellin Haley, Saari, junior infielder Jennifer De Fazio and freshman infielder Nicole Spangler drove home four runs, but a groundout ended the rally with UCSD down one run.

Saari said Friday's losses reminded the team to not take any opponent lightly - even one considered to be an easy win.

"It was a bad showing of our abilities, but our comeback shows we never give up," Saari said. "We just need to come out more focused, and see every team as important to give us that extra competitive

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Baseball Blossoms in the Spring

ow that the excitement from the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl victory is rapidly fading (just in time for Mardi Gras) and global warming is doing its best to melt the Vancouver Olympic games into a snow-free event, there are slim pickings in the sporting world.

The World Cup is still months away, no new Tiger Woods playmate has stepped forward for her 15 minutes and I'm frankly not very interested in Gilbert Arenas' new basketballweapons venture (the NRA-NBA).

So, as pitchers and catchers report to camp this week for the beginning of spring training, I happily welcome the official start of the 2010 Major



League Baseball season. Whether players spent their vacation time hibernating in million-dollar homes or toiling in the Dominican winter leagues, over the next two weeks, they will all convene at their training complexes in Arizona and Florida to play some long toss and take a few rounds of batting practice — as Opening Day 2010 inches closer and closer.

Here are five stories to follow as spring training begins. Pour yourself a tall glass of grapefruit juice and find some shade behind a cactus, because baseball's back

1. Can the Yankees stay dramafree?

New York followed its World Series Championship with a very un-Yankee offseason: lowering the team payroll, and passing on the market's marquee-free agents for Curtis Granderson and Javier Vázquez incredibly solid players without much flash. In the last decade, the Yankees have made dramatic and headlinefilling offseasons a habit, which have always added to New York's traditionally contentious spring trainings — and George Steinbrenner's hernia collection. But this spring, the boys in pinstripes roll into Florida without any of the distractions that have

See **BLANC**, page 13

CU FALLS VICTIM TO OFFENSIVE TAKEOVE

By Cameron Tillisch Senior Staff Writer

BASEBALL — Living up to their No. 3 national ranking, the UCSD baseball team swept a four-game series against Grand Canyon University from Friday, Feb. 12 to Saturday, Feb.

The Tritons dominated GCU both days, outscoring them 52-4 in the series. Three of the four games featured 15 or more runs from UCSD, yielding final scores of 6-0, 16-2, 15-2 and 15-0 and improving their overall record to 9-1. GCU fell to 3-5 overall.

The Tritons began the series with a Friday doubleheader, junior righty Tim Shibuya taking the mound in game one and shutting it down. Shibuya hurled seven shutout innings, allowing just three hits on eight strikeouts. The Wyoming native improved his earned run average to 2.65, and is now 3-0 on the season.

Three GCU errors were all UCSD needed on offense, as the Tritons scored five unearned runs in the fifth inning.

"During the GCU sweep, the entire team was clicking in all areas," junior outfielder Kyle Saul said. "Our pitchers only gave up four runs, and consistently pounded the ball down in the zone. Our offense put up 52 runs, and was relentless in our approach of driving the ball to right center field. As an offense unit, we wore down their pitching staff."

Junior designated hitter Aaron Bauman went 2-4 with two runs batted in in the first game, while junior third baseman Evan Kehoe collected three hits. Senior first baseman Brandon Gregorich — who was named the Wilson/California Collegiate Athletic Association player of the week after going 11-for-16 with 16 RBIs and two home runs against GCU — added two hits of his own.

The Tritons scored three unearned runs in the fifth inning as Bauman and Gregorich hit back-to-back doubles with two outs. Kehoe then stepped up to the plate and continued the two-out rally, whacking a single to put UCSD up 5-0. The Tritons cruised to a 6-0 win under the arm of Shibuya.

We played very well throughout the whole series," Kehoe said. "Our hitters did a great job with their plan at the plate — driving the ball the other way — and this helped us put up a lot of runs. The pitchers also did an excellent job pounding the zone and challenging their hitters. It was an all-around great series for the team."

In the second game of the doubleheader, UCSD exploded with 15 hits and 16 runs, putting up three four-run innings. Junior right-hander Daniel Simmons improved his record to 2-0, going 4.1 innings and allowing four walks, five strikeouts and only one earned run for two hits. The UCSD bullpen shut out GCU in the last half of the game.

UCSD was trailing 1-2 in the third inning before Bauman blasted a tworun shot to put the Tritons up 3-2. Saul, senior shortstop Vance Abitz and senior outfielder Robert Sedin each made two hits apiece.

The Tritons scored four runs in



KAREN LING/GUARDIAN FILE

The Tritons posted a 52-4 aggregate victory in their four-game series against Grand Canyon University.

the third inning, four in the fourth, four in the fifth and three in the sixth to pull away with a 16-2 victory.

After winning the first two games of the series, the Tritons aimed for

the same results in Saturday's doubleheader. Senior right-hander Matt Rossman started the first game pitch-

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