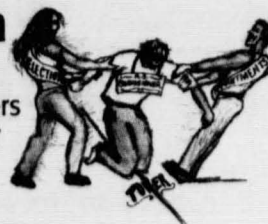




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Should A.S. commissioners be elected or appointed?
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THE UCSD GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2004

Albright participates in foreign policy discussion at UCSD



Travis Ball/Guardian

Madam secretary: Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke with IR/PS Professor Susan Shirk and Institute of the Americas President Jeffrey Davidow, whom both served in the State Department during Albright's term, on Feb. 13.

By **SHANNON ELIOT**
Staff Writer

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited the Institute of the Americas Auditorium on Feb. 13 to participate in a foreign policy discussion with two UCSD international affairs experts. Albright was joined by Susan Shirk, professor of political science at the Graduate School of International Relations/Pacific Studies, and Jeffrey Davidow, president of the Institute of the Americas.

Cosponsored by the IR/PS and the Institute of the Americas, the "Conversation with Secretary Albright" featured the former secretary of state's thoughts on notable political dilemmas, particularly terrorism, nuclear proliferation in North Korea and the war

in Iraq, among other issues.

The auditorium was filled to maximum capacity, and prospective attendees were redirected to an overflow room with live video broadcast of the talk.

Albright began the dialogue by claiming that the major problem of this century thus far has been terrorism. She proceeded to present her view on how the Bush administration has handled the issue.

"President Bush has divided the world into those who are against us and those who are with us, which I think is an overly simplified way of looking at what is becoming an increasingly complex international system," Albright said.

When asked about government intelligence and American knowledge of Osama bin Laden prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks,

Albright said that the United States "did know Osama bin Laden was a danger to us" and former President Bill Clinton was "very cognizant of the danger of terrorism and had made statements and taken actions to fight terrorism."

According to Albright, Clinton had set up a series of structural approaches within the American government to deal with terrorism at the beginning of his administration. Clinton added to the budget of the CIA, tripled the budget of the FBI and set up offices in the White House which coordinated anti-terrorism activity, she said.

Albright said that it is not simply the possession of crucial intelligence documents that prevents attacks, but also how that intelli-

See **ALBRIGHT**, Page 3

Lewd conduct suspect apprehended by police

Nonaffiliate recognized by victims, ordered out of campus

By **MARNETTE FEDERIS**
Associate News Editor

posite released by UCSD Police Department and printed in the *Guardian*.

UCSD Police apprehended a 21-year-old male non-affiliate on Feb. 12 who was believed to be responsible for the series of acts of lewd behavior in which the suspect approached female students for a foot massage and used the victims' foot to rub himself in the groin area.

Officers arrested the suspect at the RIMAC lobby after a Physical Plant Services groundskeeper reported seeing the man giving a female student a foot massage. The groundskeeper approached the student to inform her that he had recognized the suspect from a com-

According to crime prevention officers Alan Jenkins and Kristeen McCollough, the groundskeeper saw the suspect heading in the direction of RIMAC after leaving the student.

"He was not arrested at the scene, which is why he is not being identified, but he has been identified in a photo line-up by several of the victims," McCollough said.

The suspect is not affiliated with UCSD and was ordered off campus for seven days. Multiple criminal

See **SUSPECT**, Page 7

Students rate UCSD 15th worst MCAT site

Testing sites rated for proctors, comfort, noise and desk space

By **GAËLLE FAURE**
News Editor

Kaplan Test Prep has rated UCSD among the 15 worst locations in the nation for students to take the August sitting of the Medical College Admission Test.

Kaplan's 2003 "Test Site Rater" surveyed 2,124 students taking the August 2003 MCATs for proctors, comfort, noise, desk space and overall experience.

UCSD was ranked 172 out of 187, up from fourth-worst location in August 2002.

San Diego State University ranked much higher, coming in at 69th place.

Other UC campuses lagged further behind San Diego State but still ranked higher than UCSD, with UCLA at 164th, UC Berkeley at 129th and UC Davis ranking highest of the UC cam-

Grading test sites	
San Diego State	69*
UC Davis	124
UC Berkeley	129
UCLA	164
UCSD	172

*rank out of 187 sites
Source: Kaplan Test Prep

puses at 124th.

Students taking the MCAT at UCSD's August sitting were placed in Peterson Hall in both lecture halls and smaller rooms.

"It was really loud ... and the desks were small," Earl Warren College senior Matthew Rustici said. "It would be nice to have a big desk because you're flipping back

See **MCAT**, Page 7

U.S.-China relationship examined

Experts discuss future economic impact

By **SHANNON ELIOT**
Staff Writer

The U.S.-China Economic Security Review Commission and approximately 20 experts on Chinese business and technology convened at Great Hall on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 for two days of hearings sponsored by UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations/Pacific Studies.

The hearings consisted of the experts' views on China's capabilities in the production and development of high-tech goods and

services, particularly in the areas of biotechnology, nanotechnology, telecommunications, energy computing and information technology.

"The goal of our field investigation is to examine closely the changing trade and investment patterns in the East Asian region due to China's economic growth. Crucial to this issue is China's emergence as a major player in the production of high-tech goods and services, and its increasing involvement in advanced research and develop-

ment in many fields," Commission Chairman Roger W. Robinson, Jr. said in his opening remarks. "Assessing the implications of these developments is at the heart of the Commission's mandate."

Established by Congress in 2000, the commission was created to investigate the national security implications of the United States' trade and economic relationship with China.

The field investigation began

See **IR/PS**, Page 7

WEATHER

Feb. 17 H 72 L 52	Feb. 18 H 67 L 46
Feb. 19 H 65 L 47	Feb. 20 H 60 L 45

SPOKEN

"... peace is a matter of necessity and not choice."

— **Madeleine Albright**, former U.S. Secretary of State

SURF REPORT

Feb. 17 Wind: NW 10 kt. Wind waves: 1 ft. or less Swell: 4 ft.
Feb. 18 Wind: S 5 kt. to 10 kt. Wind waves: 2 ft. Swell: 5 ft.

BRIEFLY

GSA passes resolution supporting UCSA lawsuit

The Graduate Student Association unanimously passed a resolution supporting a lawsuit against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger...

The cuts included \$100 million in education funding. Specific education programs affected by the cuts were UC outreach programs and the UC Labor Institute.

A rally sponsored by A.S. External Office will also be held at noon on Feb. 17 at Price Center to protest the cuts and to address the 40-percent tuition increase for graduate students.

Petitioners of the lawsuit argue that the governor violated state law when he lowered the Vehicle License Fee without enough money in the General Fund to offset decreases.

The GSA resolution addresses issues of access to education, the governor's immediate cuts and the proposed fee increases for graduate and professional students.

According to the resolution, the GSA recognizes "the importance of access to higher education" and that the K-12 outreach programs help provide access to underrepresented students.

The resolution also points out the fact that the state has increased prison spending by 204 percent since 1980, while higher education spending has only increased by one percent.

The UCSA is a student coalition representing 190,000 students in the University of California to the UC Board of Regents, the UC Office of the President, the state legislature and the state governor.

Passport Day will serve students, faculty, staff

Passport agents from the Clairemont Community Service Center will be available...

at the International Center Lounge on Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to assist students, faculty and staff members who would like to get a United States passport.

Applicants must have a proof of citizenship and a driver's license. Documents that will be accepted through the event include an original or a certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate or the original naturalization certificate.

Passport photos can also be taken during the event for a \$5 fee.

Individuals who are 16 years old or older must pay a \$55 application fee and a \$30 processing fee.

Those who are 15 years old or younger must pay a \$40 application fee as well as the \$30 processing fee.

For more information, call the Service Center at (858) 581-4111, or visit the website at http://www.sandiego.gov/servicecenters/locations/clairmont.shim.

University of California records 439 patents in 2003

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reported that the University of California recorded 439 patents in 2003, becoming one of the leaders in the nation's universities in developing patents.

The report includes a preliminary list of American universities receiving the most patents for invention for 2003.

UC research and development has been part of the state's economic growth and, according to the UC Office of the President, has been a key factor in several clusters including biotechnology, telecommunications, information technology and electronics manufacturing.

In the biotechnology, one in six publicly traded firms nationwide was founded by UC scientists and 85 percent employ UC alumni. One in six firms in technology and networking was also founded by UC scientists and 57 percent employ UC alumni.

UC research is expected to grow through to 2011, which would add \$5.2 billion and more than 114,000 jobs in California, according to the UCOP.

ETCETERA ...



Sunday, Feb. 8 10:50 a.m.: A 63-year-old female nonaffiliate suffered cuts and abrasions to both hands and chin after tripping over a bollard cap at Biological Grade.

4:31 p.m.: A 45-year-old male staff member suffered loss of consciousness at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Monday, Feb. 9 12:45 a.m.: Officers arrested two 18-year-old male students and one 19-year-old male student at Scholars Drive South and Scholars Lane for multiple counts of vehicle tampering.

4:05 a.m.: A 41-year-old male nonaffiliate was ordered off campus for seven days after creating a disturbance at Lot 309.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 11:17 a.m.: A student reported the theft of a wallet from Marshall Apartments.

6:11 p.m.: A 19-year-old female student suffered a cut hand after hitting an object at Marshall Apartments.

7:02 p.m.: A 50-year-old female nonaffiliate suffered difficulty breathing at Porter's Pub.

9:22 p.m.: Officers arrested a 50-year-old male nonaffiliate at Gilman Drive and Mandeville Lane for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 9:04 a.m.: An 18-year-old female student suffered loss of consciousness at Marshall Apartments.

12:18 p.m.: A 21-year-old female student suffered a head injury after falling from a ladder at the Craft Center.

12:30 p.m.: A 58-year-old female nonaffiliate suffered a head injury after falling at Lot 603.

1:51 p.m.: A 33-year-old female staff member suffered a head injury after falling at Plaza Café.

5:55 p.m.: A 35-year-old male nonaffiliate was ordered off campus for seven days after causing a disturbance at Center Hall.

7:50 p.m.: An 18-year-old female student attempted suicide at Pacific Hall.

9:01 p.m.: A 25-year-old male student suffered an injured ankle after falling at Galbraith Hall.

Thurs. 5:48 p.m.: An 18-year-old female student reported a lewd act in public at Pepper Canyon Apartments.

10:25 p.m.: Students reported the theft of computer games at Atlantis Hall.

Friday, Feb. 13 8:04 a.m.: A staff member reported vandalism to the pool rooms at the Del Sol Apartments.

10:00 a.m.: A 19-year-old female student reported a lewd act in public at Price Center on Feb. 12.

12:54 a.m.: A 19-year-old male student reported alcohol poisoning at Discovery Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 15 10:40 a.m.: Officers arrested a 19-year-old male student for misuse of a handicap placard at Lot 504.

1:28 p.m.: A student reported the theft of two tires and two rims at Lot 208.

2:31 p.m.: Officers arrested a 22-year-old male nonaffiliate for being drunk in public at Marshall Field.

Albright: Former Secretary of State discusses Iraq, North Korea

continued from page 1... Albright said. Another topic that was touched upon during the discussion was that of the North Korean nuclear weapons.

Albright said that United States and North Korean relations have been tense for years as the United States, frustrated with North Korea's refusal to disarm itself of its nuclear stockpile, refuses to recognize North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

"I think [Kim] wants recognition by the United States, and punishing him with the hope that he will implode is not an answer to dealing with what is the most dangerous place in the world at the moment," Albright said.

Midway through the program, Shirk asked Albright whether or not President Bush's actions with Iraq were a mistake.

"I understood the why, but I didn't understand the why now," Albright said. "I was willing to believe there were still weapons of mass destruction because in 1998, when the inspectors left, not all weapons there had been accounted for from the Gulf War.

Albright also said that peace is necessary. "I thought this was a war of choice, not of necessity," Albright said. "But I now feel equally strongly that peace is a matter of necessity and not a choice.

Albright said she felt the United Nations should be brought into Iraq. "While I think that [the Bush administration] has set an exit strategy based on artificial deadlines, and while I would not have done this war, I also think that now that there is this chaotic situation, it is our responsibility not to cut and run."

Albright closed the discussion by giving some words of advice to young women aspiring to careers in foreign policy.

"Ultimately doing foreign policy, I think, is one of the most exciting things in the world. The more women there are, the better it will be for all of us because we will be able to support each other," Albright said.

On Jan. 23, 1997, Albright became the 64th secretary of state, making her the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States government.

Both Shirk and Davidow previously served in the State Department under the tenure of Albright. Shirk served as deputy assistant secretary of East Asian and Pacific affairs, while Davidow had served as assistant secretary of state for Latin America as well as ambassador to Mexico.

After the conversation, Albright signed copies of her recently published autobiography, "Madam Secretary: A Memoir."

Location of new Price Center grocery store debated

By CHRISTINE PAE Staff Writer

The University Centers Advisory Board discussed grocery store alternatives on the Price Center expansion agenda on Feb. 9.

According to UCAB Chair Justin Williams, the referendum for expansion calls for an allocated space of about 3,500 square feet for a grocery store at the Price Center and about 4,500 square feet of bookstore expansion.

Williams noted that a venue with a space of 3,500 square feet is not adequately viable as a grocery store for students.

Some UCAB members said that while the current plan of offering a grocery venue at the Price Center, the presence of another grocery retailer at Sunshine Store is unnecessary.

Williams noted that a venue with a space of 3,500 square feet is not adequately viable as a grocery store for students.

Some UCAB members said that while the current plan of offering a grocery venue at the Price Center, the presence of another grocery retailer at Sunshine Store is unnecessary.

"The bookstore had ideas of making [Sunshine Store] more of a grocery store, but two potential grocery stores is not a good idea for University Centers," Williams said.

UCAB members discussed the possibility of having two grocery stores, and some said that would create unnecessary competition that would not benefit students.

"When you're here on campus at a university, [business] enterprises deal with razor-thin profit margins. It's really hard to operate a service with competition," A.S. Commissioner of Enterprise Operations and A.S. representative to UCAB Jeremy

Cogan said. "That's why [we] don't have two different people selling coffee or two different pizza places in Price Center."

One option the Sunshine Store is exploring is a farmer's market idea.

"Right now we're only in the talking stages of it, but the reason why we're looking into that is to offer fresh produce for students," Sunshine Store manager Bonnie Harmon said.

Harmon also said that pursuing a farmer's market option is complicated because it deals with the involvement and consultation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

UCAB discussed the related issues of parking and shuttle stops. Cogan said parking availability is important in the business of Price Center, particularly for a grocery store where students would have to carry bags to and from their cars or homes.

Some students agree that a campus grocery store would benefit on-campus residents who do not have cars.

"It would be better to have more options," Thurgood Marshall College junior Katie Carlson said.

Currently, UCAB is only in the discussion stages of the matter and is considering approaching a "request for proposal" for UCSD Bookstore and other grocery store operators.

Williams said that opting for a grocery retailer that is operated under the bookstore is a better option because he felt Sunshine Store already offers adequate retail and would settle a competition split between two potential grocery stores.

"This would be a smart, easy solution to solve these problems," Williams said.

UCAB will continue to investigate both options and has developed a grocery subcommittee to adopt an ideal plan and present it to the expansion architects.

UNIVERSITY CENTERS WEEK SEVEN

Blockbuster films in the Price Center Theatre for only \$3.00

THE G LIST UNIVERSITY CENTERS WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT. MONDAY FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22. LOVE ACTUALLY FREE MOVIE. TUPAC: RESURRECTION. loveactually. TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17 7 & 10pm. THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 7 & 10pm.

LAST LECTURE SERIES. Professionals speak about life experiences in a relaxed setting.

WED, FEB 18 ARTHUR DROGE Literature GALLERY B • 12pm FREE PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS

GAMEROOM TOURNAMENTS. Test your skills every Friday at 4pm \$2 ENTRY FEE

LADIES 9 BALL FRI, FEB 20 PC GAMEROOM • 4pm PLAY TO WIN GIFT CERTIFICATES

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 858.822.2068 or VISIT http://theuniversitycenters.ucsd.edu

Elections VS. appointments

Appointments will make positions less political

Slate politics have done little to put students first at UCSD when it comes to assembling an A.S. Council that represents their interests and rights in campus affairs.

PRO

Instead of drawing together many supporters of a cohesive platform, slates are too often comprised of a few qualified individuals who have coalesced under the same banner for their own political reasons, only to stuff the remainder of the slate with inexperienced and unqualified individuals who serve as little more than seat fillers to round out the slate's ticket.

For this reason, many members of the A.S. Council supported recent bills proposing that the selection of commissioners be determined by the president's appointment instead of the warped version of the democratic process this campus calls ASUCSD elections. Legislation to appoint the commissioner of student advocacy passed overwhelmingly on Jan. 21 (only one councilmember voted against). And while a vote to allow the appointment of the commissioner of athletics failed to meet its two-thirds requirement at the Feb. 6 council meeting, it still garnered enough backing to win a majority.

The A.S. Council aptly recognized the need to build a council around qualified appointed commissioners, much like the executive cabinet of the U.S. government, who are charged with performing jobs for all students more than representing a specific constituency. The A.S. senators are responsible for representing a certain undergraduate cross section by being assigned to a specific college and class, and vote according to the constituency they represent. Commissioners do not vote on legislation but are allowed to submit bills before the council — mainly pertaining to the services their respective offices provide to all undergraduates.

ASUCSD voters would be denied the privilege to directly elect a commissioner if they became appointed, but the electorate would see a welcome shift in how presidential campaigns are run. Candidates for A.S. president would have to include in their platform that they have set plans for each specific office. By forcing a presidential candidate to take a more developed stance than the usual emptiness on the direction each of his or her cabinet offices would take, the A.S. elections will see more contention about issues, hampering the grip slate politics have recently had on the substance of A.S. elections. In addition, the frightfully long list of positions appearing on the ballot will be reduced, and students who may care about one or two issues will be more likely to vote for a competent presidential candidate if they are aware of

his or her extended influence on their issues.

Putting all speculation aside about how A.S. elections would be affected by commissioner appointments, it is even more crucial to point out that commissioners would be chosen on merit and not foolish slate politics. The councilmembers had the foresight to see that selecting a qualified student advocate is an utmost priority to protecting student rights, showing strength by approving the same proposal that failed among undergraduate voters in last year's A.S. elections.

A.S. Commissioner of Athletics Jordan Cross reiterated the need for reform when supporting the changes to how his post is selected. "I am concerned that if this position

becomes one of a popularity contest, students will ultimately lose," Cross said. "I think it would be a disgrace to our students, athletes and school to tie this position in with slate politics."

The shenanigans linked with slate politics are not always specific to one party, but last year's Students First! squad was a remarkable example. Kevin Shawn Hsu, Harish Nandagopal and arguably a few others were obviously qualified to carry the torch for 2003-04, but the slate's organizers resorted to offering many senate and commissioner positions to students that appeared incapable of fulfilling their offices' responsibilities. Candidate Vivianne Pourazary, for example, was so unqualified for the post of A.S. commissioner of student advocacy that she admitted ignorance to UCSD's Principles of Community, and asserted that she would not defend a student reprimanded by the administration for hate speech on Library Walk because it "violated other students' rights" — a claim refuted by the U.S. Constitution, which protects such speech but does not include any right to protection from such material.

Pourazary ran the race uncontested only to fall to disqualification with the rest of her slate. She was, however, replaced by the Gallagher-appointed Jeff Boyd, experienced from serving both in the Office of Student Advocacy and on the Student Regulations Review Committee. He has served with the integrity and aggressiveness demanded of

See PRO, Page 5

BY EVAN MCLAUGHLIN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Student body has already demanded right to elections

They just never listen.

The A.S. Council doesn't listen to its constituents, even when they vote overwhelmingly — by a 2-to-1 margin, in last year's A.S. elections — to reject the council's irresponsible idea of taking away the student body's right to vote for its representatives.

Last year, the ballot featured a question asking whether the ASUCSD commissioner positions should be changed "from being elected in the A.S. elections to being appointed by a committee." By 1,557 votes to 869 votes, the students' answer was "no."

And yet, here we are again. The A.S. Council and the six college councils have already robbed us of our right to elect the commissioner of student advocacy — arguably the most important commissioner — and then they tried to commit the same offense against the

ballots printed and distributed across campus. What more does the council want? An educational, full-length animated feature in the vein of School House Rock?

By its logic, any protests from the student body are illegitimate. If the students disagree with the council's actions, it's not because they genuinely understand the issue and think the council's doing a bad job, it's because they are "confused."

The students sent a strong message last year — one that the council should heed — and with good reason.

Allowing commissioners to become appointed drastically decreases their responsiveness to the electorate. The senate rubber-stamps most appointments without significant debate — last year's appointment of Ernesto Martinez as commissioner of academic affairs was a perfect example of a "rubber-stamp" vote. Although Martinez did an adequate job, the senate's unwillingness to challenge his appointment in any measurable way does not bode well for future appointments.

Imagine a scenario where the appointments committee recommends an anti-affirmative action, pro-Proposition 54, Ward Connerly-loving student to be commissioner of diversity affairs. He'd cruise through the senate's rubber-stamping session with no problem, but would not stand a snowball's chance in hell of getting elected by the student body. The campaign process weeds out the fakers and the frauds, giving the electorate a chance to see who is really best for the job. Candidates submit themselves to the campus media: the *New Indicator*, *California Review*, *UCSD Guardian*, *Student Run Television* and *Warren College Television* all publish or broadcast election-related material as the candidates are campaigning. Candidates visit student organizations to campaign for votes, opening themselves up to questions and criticism by dozens of students.

However, none of these organizations are allowed into the closed-door, unpublicized meetings used during the interview process. As a result, the only people who really know the qualifications of the candidates are the select few councilmembers who comprise the appointments committee. That is unacceptable.

Even though slates sometimes fill a commissioner position with an unqualified candidate in order to get votes from the candidate's friends, the potential for corruption is still less than it is with a system of appointed commissioners. The A.S. president can offer commissioner appointments to multiple influential supporters, like dangling a carrot in front of a donkey. A slate runs only one person for each office during an election. If the position were appointed, the slate could secretly promise the position to multiple people, getting support from all of them.

Commissioners are given furnished offices in Price Center and are paid over \$2,000 for their services. The potential for corruption is too high. Although the A.S. Council has already dropped the ax on the commissioner of student advocacy, the college councils can still stop A.S. Council in its tracks by refusing to ratify any future constitutional amendments that try to take power away from the students.

CON



office of commissioner of athletics.

They ultimately rejected that one, but this issue will rear its head again. Some council members have consistently stood up for the students' rights to elect their leaders, but

others in the council will forget that the students have already rejected the idea, and they will end up switching the other commissioners to appointed pawns as well.

In attempting to explain away the student body's wholesale rejection of unelected commissioners, councilmembers have claimed that last year's referendum failed because the "wording was bad," according to minutes of Warren College Student Council's Jan. 29 meeting. In reality, the wording was pretty clear:

"This legislation would change the selection of the eight ASUCSD commissioner positions from being elected in the A.S. elections to being appointed by a committee ... Do you approve of the following amendments to the A.S. Constitution that would change ASUCSD Commissioners to be appointed positions?"

The council's willingness to assume that the student body is too stupid to read this simple paragraph is disturbing and represents an elitist attitude that has no place in a college-level student government.

Furthermore, last year's ballot question received substantial media coverage, including three articles in this paper explaining its ramifications, as well as the thousands of sample

BY DANIEL WATTS
OPINION EDITOR

Prosperity becomes too much of a good thing

Returned Yank



Chris Taylor

I stared on in disbelief as the woman yelled at both my manager and me about the length of time it took to produce her coffee. The point might be valid, considering the cost of a café latte these days, except that there were 30 people in the enormous line in front of her. Obviously it was going to take a while. That did not console her. She was bent on making a scene over how she was wronged because she decided to come to the coffee shop and wait in a long line for an overpriced luxury.

For all our country's achievement, there is a very disturbing undercurrent of whining. One might dare say it is an epidemic that Americans love to whine about the tritest of offenses. The prime example is the coffee shop. Coffee is undeniably a luxury. No one needs coffee, but to hear some people complain, one would think they were fighting tooth and nail for a life-or-death cause of national security.

It is fitting, unfortunately. Any country living with as much prosperity as this one will be prone to such behavior. As pundit George F. Will so accurately phrased it, our country's biggest health problem is obesity, caused by an overabundance of cheap, fattening food. What other civilization has had to complain about its people's waistline? No country has ever been able to overfeed everyone consistently, but we have turned

this abundance into a health hazard.

Not to be limited to excess food, the United States is extremely competent at improving many aspects of the "quality of life" for its people. Americans have the most innovations, the most advances and are arguably the most comfortable people in the world. The number of leaps forward in technology, medicine and even in the amount of freedom we possess should in theory make U.S. residents the happiest people in history. The United States should be just a stone's throw away from utopia.

However, are people any happier? Or better put, is society any better of a place? The answer is very arguably "no."

Many philosophers, politicians, activists and policy-makers have attempted to move society toward utopia, or at least toward an incremental bettering of society. The United States may be the best example of progress, regardless of how one might view its policies.

Unfortunately, in terms of utopia, the United States is a miserable failure.

However, this is not a rant — so typical of university students — on how U.S. policies are evil. It is more arguable that the problem does not lie with the policies but rather in the definition of happiness and, subsequently, people's reaction to that excess "happiness."

Marxists and other socialists argue that it is our love of materialism that bores a hole in our

hearts. They are only half right. It is absolutely true that materialism will not buy happiness. However, the other reason that Americans are no happier than other countries' people is that people simply cannot be happy for any sustained amount of time, regardless of luxury.

As might be intuitive, those with too many advantages are spoiled, unable to understand real problems, such as close proximity to war, famine or other disasters that cause major shifts in the direction of society. Therefore, try as they might, many Americans cannot comprehend the disasters occurring in the world today and thus settle for complaining about shallow issues such as coffee.

One might argue that at least we have freedom. And it is true, above all other things.

Interestingly enough, though, too much freedom can have the same effect as too much materialism. When people don't realize how free they are to say and do as they please, they can even take freedom for granted. As folk songwriter Ellis Paul sang, "Freedom can numb you." When people have too much freedom, society will produce situations like the students shredding *The Koula*, stomping on free speech, because they have no idea what it is like to have their own free speech squelched.

At UCSD, we have it so good, in fact, that many students desperately cling to radical activism and causes because they are the closest thing they have to actual involvement in issues of sub-

stance. This is the story of all universities: intelligent but impressionable students who realize how comparatively trite their problems are and leap in the direction of any meaning. At least they are trying.

Unfortunately, since student life at UCSD is amazing compared to other universities and life in other countries in general, students resort to exaggerating every problem and protest in order to sound more important. In this sense, they desensitize people to their cause, because they will always be "yelling about something." Then, the non-activists, fed up with the guilt trips, will return to their decidedly unimportant problems and the university is back at square one.

In the end, it is our country's greatest virtues that fuel our greatest flaws: insularity, lack of depth and grand capacity to whine. Unfortunately, the solution, taking away these freedoms and luxuries, is unacceptable. In other words, the goal and theme of the United States are extremely admirable and under no circumstances should they be compromised. The solution is to accept these problems as a byproduct of freedom and comfort.

It should be understood that any abundance of wealth, happiness or "easy living" does not create a perfect society, but instead, creates whiners. This is the unfortunate end to anyone looking for utopia. Not only is it impossible, it is possibly the worst thing a society could want. Misanthropy, anyone?

This returned yank can be reached at chris_in_cork@yahoo.com.

Pro: Slate's disqualification had a silver lining

continued from page 4

ness demanded of his position, sticking to his guns about changes to the Student Conduct Code and fighting tooth and nail to see his position become an appointed one.

Many councilmembers have recognized the success of this year's appointees. Jordan Rosenfeld, the Eleanor Roosevelt College senior senator, spoke out in a Feb. 9 news article: "This year, most of the commissioners were appointed," Rosenfeld said. "If you speak to people who are familiar with the history of [the] A.S. [Council], they will tell you that this year's commissioners have been the strongest and most effective that [the] A.S. [Council] has ever had."

The 2003 A.S. elections and the subsequent disqualification of the Students First! slate gave undergraduates two opportunities to examine the credibility of their governing body. The first, witnessed immediately, was that the elections committee showed a backbone by adhering to the election bylaws and enforcing their decisions, regardless of allegiances to the slate that appointed them. Second, the removal of disqualified candidates allowed the president to select the best-qualified individuals, not the ones running on the most visible slate. Associated Students will be employing superior leaders, services and policy proposals if the council continues to pass legislation supporting the appointment of commissioners.

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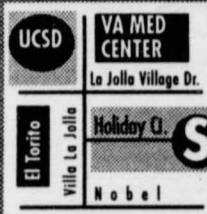
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Steven Schick
UCSD Professor of Music

"Uneasy Dreams: A Percussionist and His Changing Body"

Percussion music is often played on a junkyard of large and sometimes bizarre objects. From car parts to bass drums, steel drums to tin cans, percussionists are forced to negotiate large and awkward instruments both musically and physically. Because physical movement is so central to playing percussion instruments, the percussionist's art is often as much sculpture and choreography as it is music. In fact in so many ways the percussionist's body—the genesis of all movement—is his or her real instrument. Yet, at least among musicians trained in the European traditions of classical music, it has been largely ignored. That is until now. The reconsideration of the role of the body in playing percussion will start with my own increasingly middle-aged body as a means to look at physical expressions of music as well as the advantages and liabilities that come with aging as an artist.

Feb. 18, 2004, 7:30pm

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Ceremonies are more than mere 'expression'

Editor:

How does the *UCSD Guardian* publish a pro/con opinion article with both sides arguing the same opinion — and then follow up the article with a letter to the editor perpetuating the same opinion again?

The *Guardian's* "Separate graduations, equal students" (Feb. 9, 2004) attempt to cover a fair debate on ethnic graduations insults progress toward a racially conscious campus and, even worse, does so in a divisive manner. Rather than offering multiple arguments on issues of race, the Feb. 9 paper offered two narrow opinion pieces framed under the same conservative rhetoric where both pro and con assume that "ethnic graduations" lead to "segregation!"

I'm concerned with the misguided effort of writer Logan Goh, representative of the pro side of ethnic graduations. Ultimately, he is not in support of the basic idea of cultural organizations' graduation ceremonies. Rather, his support is a reductionist argument for free speech misleading the entire social value of cultural organizations:

"Ethnic graduations should be allowed to go on because they are undesirable. When policies that truly address the problem have been implemented and succeeded, and when true cultural integration is seen and felt in UCSD, then nobody will want to attend an ethnic graduation."

Why is someone who obviously knows little of these graduation ceremonies and is actually against them ideologically writing the pro

The *Guardian* welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than 500 words, typed, double-spaced and signed. 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 Student Center or e-mailed. Send all letters to:

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in larger, hectic and rushed graduation ceremonies.

This should be a concern since minority applications to the University of California have significantly dropped and K-12 outreach funding has been eliminated in addition to cuts in education across the board. The last ceremonies I attended celebrated the accomplishment of first-generation graduates of groups whose lower graduation rates signify the larger barriers marginalized identities face in higher education — economic constraints, subtle and blatant racism and discrimination and the lack of identifiable environments of shared identities, languages and experiences.

These ceremonies complement the graduation process by establishing not only shared histories and cultural sensibilities, but because these groups also share a future in which marginalized ethnic groups grow into the professional world together.

Students of color promote anti-racist, pan-ethnic coalitions with resources such as the Cross-Cultural Center as an integrated space to gather diverse and shared interests that would otherwise be threatened.

I sincerely hope the editors realize this unfair mistake. Student cultural organizations and their supporters who attend and work for these ceremonies deserve a fair argument. Fair speech includes those who stand for a particular idea to represent these ideas themselves, not a series of articles in which one poses as support for ethnic graduations when it actually outrageously condescends them instead.

— Mark Marcelo
Thurgood Marshall College Senior
Kaibigan Pilipino member

Suspect: Man apprehended at RIMAC

Several incidents, some going no further than a normal foot massage, were reported to the police following the release of the composite.

Revelle College freshman Karen Rossmassler, who was

could take a look at the soles of my feet," Rossmassler said. "... It seemed pretty legitimate — it's not really unusual that someone comes up to you to ask questions, but it seemed a little strange in the back of my mind. I noticed that he didn't have any papers with him, and you'd think that you would need to write something down if you were really doing a study, but he was polite about it."

She said the man just looked like he was lost at first, and that afterward she felt it was a "little creepy."

"It's disturbing that something like this happened on campus, just because we think that our campus is generally safe," Rossmassler said. Jenkins said that this case was the most unique in his years of experience as a police officer, the closest being an incident involving the theft of women's shoes.

— Additional reporting by Gaëlle Faure, News Editor

“It's disturbing that something like this happened on campus, just because we think that our campus is generally safe,” Rossmassler said.

— Karen Rossmassler, Revelle College freshman

approached by the man but declined the foot massage, said she plans to report the incident.

"He told me that he was doing some study on foot reflexology and he asked my height, weight and shoe size, and asked if he

MCAT: SDSU rates higher than UCSD

and forth a lot between the Scantron and the booklet."

The small desks at Peterson Hall contributed to only 60 percent satisfaction with the UCSD site's desk space.

"The ideal test conditions for a test site would be a comfortable desk with adequate space in a quiet room at a comfortable temperature," said Justin Serrano, executive director of Kaplan Test Preparation. "The validity of standardized testing rests on standardized testing rests on standardized testing conditions. This is why students need to educate themselves about their choices of location."

For Thurgood Marshall College senior Kendra Lesar, who was placed in one of the smaller rooms, desk space was not the worst problem.

"My biggest complaint was that someone's phone rang in the middle," she said. "The proctors were pretty nice, but they weren't incredibly strict, which is probably why somebody's phone rang."

Proctors were rated 3.8 out of

five from 2.9 in 2002, when there were many complaints about disorganized proctors.

"The proctors this year were fair and nice," said Thurgood Marshall College senior Amir Nejad. "They were a little bit behind schedule, but not anything [too detrimental]."

Nejad, who took the MCAT twice — once at San Diego State University in April 2003 and once at UCSD in August 2003 — said he preferred his experience at UCSD.

"Everybody wanted to go to SDSU because they had heard it was better ... but it ended up being tiny tables with construction going on outside," he said. "At UCSD, the chairs were hard and the desks were also small, but at least it was quiet."

Nejad added that although UCSD desks were a bit smaller, they were spaced out, so students felt like they had more room.

UCSD was rated 3.1 out of five for quiet and comfort and 3.4 for overall experience.

"Overall, good planning is key to improve conditions of testing

sites," Serrano said. "Also, hold the test in a comfortable location and make sure that there won't be major distractions ... around the test site."

Serrano stressed the importance of students choosing high-quality testing sites as essential in the process of applying to medical school.

"A 90th-plus percentile score can make up for an average GPA, but not enough for a lower GPA than a school normally accepts," Serrano said. "There is almost always enough time to prepare for the test, whereas when you are ready to take the exam, there is not much more to do for you GPA."

Kaplan also rated LSAT sites in its Test Site Rater. While UCSD is not an LSAT test site, the LSATs were offered in October 2003 at other San Diego area locations, including San Diego State University and California Western School of Law. Out of 307, San Diego State University ranked 214, while California Western School of Law ranked higher at 178.

IR/PS: Congressional commission comes to UCSD

Panel two, focusing on China's trade and investment with its neighbors, featured the views of three professors, all members of the IR/PS faculty. Panels three and four turned to China's technological capabilities, particularly in the fields of biotechnology and telecommunications.

"China's large, increasingly affluent and health-conscious population presents a huge market opportunity for biotechnology-oriented companies in developed countries," said Greg Lucier, president and chief executive officer of Invitrogen Corporation.

The Commission's activity closed on day two with a panel titled "China's role in Asia." The fifth and final panel featured expert insight into China's relationships with other prominent Asian powers, particularly Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan.

Susan Shirk, a professor of political science at IR/PS, spoke about China's growing interest in multilateral cooperation. "While the evidence of China's growing interest in multilateral cooperation with its neighbors is clear, interpreting it is more difficult," Shirk said. "What motivates the Chinese embrace of Asia-Pacific regional multilateralism? Is it a credible signal of China's peaceful intentions or a Bismarckian strategy to grow stronger without provoking others to combine against it?"

The commission's trip to UCSD was its second field investigation outside Washington, D.C. The first was on Jan. 30 to Columbia, S.C., where the impact of trade with China on the U.S. manufacturing base was examined.

“The rise of China, in my view, is the economic and geopolitical event of our age. It is bringing two centuries of global domination by Europe and, subsequently, America to an end.”

— Robert F. Ellworth, commissioner, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission

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PERSONALS

It was a sad Valentine's Day for Barbie and Ken, who have split up. A "spokesman" for the couple stated that they needed "time to spend some quality time apart." In addition, a new . . . oh, hell with this. (2/17)

Same old shizzle, different awards show. Remember how fresh the throwback jerseys were a few years ago? Come on clones, give it a rest. (2/17)

Yesterday was the President's Day Holiday. It's the time of year when we honor Abraham Lincoln, who freed 20% off the price of sectionals at the Sofa Factory, and George Washington, the father of the Macy's White Sale. (2/17)

Edouard: Dink-dink. Dink-dink... (2/17)

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Swimming champs crowned Women's team places first; men take third

By **EVA HOFFMAN**
Staff Writer

At this year's Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Championships, the UCSD women's swim team reclaimed the conference championship title, while the men's team placed third. The four-day meet took place at Belmont Plaza in Long Beach, Calif., from Feb. 11 to Feb. 14.

After winning the meet in 2002, the Triton women fell to UC Davis last year. This year, they beat UC Davis by over 200 points. UCSD finished with 1,391 points, followed by UC Davis with 1,118 and University of San Diego with 1,041. Both UC Davis

and USD are Division I teams.

In the men's competition, UC Davis surpassed defending champion Cal State Bakersfield (1,445) with 1,468 points. UCSD's final point total was 1,145.

Further honor was bestowed on UCSD when head coach Scott McGihon was chosen as the PCSC Championships Coach of the Year for his work with the women's team.

"That's really more a reflection of the team's accomplishments than of anything I did. If they don't swim well, no one gets any awards," McGihon said. "To me, that's really more team-of-the-year than coach-of-the-year."

The UCSD women dominated

the meet from the second day onward. The first day included only relays and diving, and UCSD got off to a weak start, trailing UC Davis and Pepperdine. However, the team bounced back with several fast swims on Feb. 12, the first day of individual competition, and amassed a 150-point lead.

Sophomore Sophie Levy won the 500-yard freestyle in a time of 4 minutes, 59.11 seconds. Senior Denise Bogard placed second in the 200-yard individual medley (2:06.07), and freshman Emily Harlan claimed third in the 50-yard freestyle (23.67). The Triton women were able to maintain their lead on the third day with eight top-eight finishes in individual events. Among these was sophomore Rosanna Delurgio's win in the 100-yard breaststroke. Her time, 1:02.92, tied her own PCSC record.

As usual, Bogard was right behind Delurgio, earning a 1-2 finish for UCSD. Bogard's time was 1:03.48.

Another big point-scorer on the third day was freshman Susan Bell, who came in third in the 400-yard individual medley (4:33.03).

UCSD finished off the meet with a bang, claiming 10 top-eight individual finishes on Feb. 14.

Delurgio and Levy each earned another conference title. Delurgio triumphed in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:16.74). Winning the 1,650-yard freestyle, Levy broke UCSD's longest standing record.



Jennifer Downs/Guardian file

Salisbury's stake: Louisa Salisbury and the Triton women's swim team captured the crown at the Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Championships.

See **SWIMMING**, Page 14

No. 19 baseball splits conference opener UCSD and Cal State Los Angeles win two games apiece

By **COURTNEY FIELD**
Senior Staff Writer

The 19th-ranked UCSD baseball team opened the California Collegiate Athletic Association season with a four-game series against Cal State Los Angeles from Feb. 12 to Feb. 14. The Golden Eagles took game one, 13-3, and game three, 15-11. The Tritons won games two and four by scores of 11-1 and 4-2, respectively.

UCSD head coach Dan O'Brien knew that the competition would be strong against Cal State Los Angeles this weekend.

"We didn't play our best baseball this weekend and came away with a split against a pretty good team," he said. "[But] we did have several guys step up when the team needed it, and that is the sign of a good team."

Cal State Los Angeles scored early and often in game one. They put up one run in the first inning, two in the second and four in the third. The runs in the top of the second came off a two-run home run from Eagle first baseman Justin Brewer, who had two hits and four RBIs on the day.

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David Ung/Guardian file

Sister kiss: UCSD's Ryan Leake and his teammates went 2-2 over the weekend to open up league play against Cal State Los Angeles on Feb. 12 through Feb. 14.

Women's tennis remains undefeated Visiting UCSD defeats Cal State Bakersfield, 7-2

By **ANGELA LIN**
Staff Writer

The UCSD women's tennis team celebrated Valentine's Day by defeating host Cal State Bakersfield in its 2004 California Collegiate Athletic Association opener on Feb. 14, giving the Tritons an undefeated record early in the season. The 7-2 win improved the UCSD's record to 3-0 overall.

The Tritons' two losses came in the No. 1 singles and doubles positions. The 'Runners' Katalin Nagy defeated senior Julie Westerman in a close 6-7 (7-5), 2-6 match. Nagy then teamed up with Leah Espericueta to defeat Westerman and No. 2 singles player junior Jasmin Dao, 8-6, at No. 1 doubles.

"Nagy was a very strong player so it was definitely a tough match. The first set was very close, it came down to a tie-breaker at the end," Westerman said. "But in the second set, she stopped making errors, began hitting more winners and placing her shots better."

Tritons were able to finish the rest of their matches without a problem. Dao defeated Espericueta in a quick 6-1, 6-1 at No. 2 singles. No. 5 and No. 6 singles players Kristina Jansen and Katie McKee both posted 6-0, 6-0 scores against their opponents.

At the No. 3 singles position, Leigh Roberts defeated her oppo-

nent, Glenda Love, 6-4 and 6-0, and No. 4 singles Marissa Hilker defeated Marti Hoyt in a quick and painless 6-1, 6-1 match.

The doubles line-up fared well also: No. 2 doubles sophomore Tara Siddiqui and freshman Kristin Bronowicki defeated their opponents, 8-3, and at No. 3 doubles Roberts and McKee pulled out a swift 8-0 victory.

"[Cal State] Bakersfield had one very strong player, but that's all that they could rely on," Westerman said. "The rest of their line-up didn't match up very well, so they didn't have anything else to fall back on."

Through the entire line-up, the Tritons allowed Bakersfield only 25 game points, 14 of them against Nagy. The Tritons were able to rely on the depth of their lineup to defeat the Roadrunners, a strength that the team will count on throughout the rest of its season.

"The key is to just play your own game and not to worry about your opponent," Westerman said. "We just need to implement everything we've worked on and we'll be fine."

The Tritons traveled to Los Angeles to play Cal State Los Angeles on Feb. 16, but results of that match were unavailable at press time. UCSD will be playing at home for their next match on Feb. 19 against Western New Mexico.

Torrey Pines hosts the 2004 Buick

Golfer John Daly wins on first playoff hole

By **ANU KUMAR**
Associate Sports Editor

The annual Buick Invitational draws golf fans from all over Southern California because of its world-class field. Spectators come to La Jolla's Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course expecting the PGA Tour's finest talents like Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Phil Mickelson to battle for the tournament lead on the fourth and final day of the tournament.

However, this past weekend's 2004 Buick Invitational didn't have defending champion Woods in the final group on Sunday or even on the first page of the leaderboard. This year's tournament didn't even have Singh's name on the third- or fourth-round list of starting times. Singh, who had come to La Jolla riding a streak of 12 consecutive top-10 finishes, missed the one-under-par cut line after the second round that narrowed the original tournament field of 156 to 84 golfers. The third fan-favorite, Mickelson, made a birdie on his final hole of the second

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Softball continues to roll in CCAA play Tritons sweep Chico State, split a doubleheader with Aggies

By **JOE SPANO**
Senior Staff Writer

UCSD continued its California Collegiate Athletic Association dominance this past weekend, winning two against Chico State on Feb. 13 and taking one in a doubleheader against UC Davis on Feb. 14, who is tied with the Tritons for first place in the CCAA.

The Triton offense exploded right off the bat in the first game against Chico State. UCSD scored in every inning except the second and won 15-4. Every starter had at least one hit and scored at least one run as well.

"We played really well — our bats were working great in the first game, we started hitting right

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 15



Carina Weber/Guardian file

The road less traveled: UCSD had a successful road trip, sweeping Chico State on Feb. 13 and going 1-1 against UC Davis on Feb. 14.