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ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNY PARK

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UNIVERSITY CENTERS

STARBUCKS TO REPLACE ESPRESSO ROMA

An 11-4-0 University Centers Advisory Board vote gives the green light for UCSD to start negotiations to bring the coffee giant to campus.

BY LAIRA MARTIN EDITOR IN CHIEF



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SANDERSON / GUARDIAN

ROMA SAYS GOODBYE

Espresso Roma, pictured on Wednesday, Dec. 4, will be renovated and replaced with a Starbucks Coffee as soon as contract negotiations are completed. READ OUR TAKE ON THE DECISION TO BRING STARBUCKS TO CAMPUS IN OPINION, PAGE 4.

A Starbucks Coffee cafe will replace Espresso Roma Cafe in Price Center, pending a contract negotiation after an 11-4-0 vote Tuesday by the University Centers Advisory Board.

After beating out Java City eco-Grounds in the vote, University Centers began drafting a business plan with the popular coffee chain.

UCAB Chair Sammy Chang was not allowed to participate in the vote but said that the addition of Starbucks would bring added revenue to University Centers including Price and the Old Student Center.

"I would venture to guess that with the current

UCEN budget crisis, Starbucks produces much more revenue for University Centers, and that may be one of the driving forces [behind the vote]," Chang said.

The popular coffee chain will donate \$5,000 in scholarship funding annually, according to Chang.

Some students have expressed concerns over the corporate chain's addition to Price Center due to reports of unethical practices that violate the mission of UCSD's Fair Trade Advisory Committee as sponsored by former Chancellor Marye Anne Fox in 2009 and enacted in spring of 2010. The committee agree-

See **STARBUCKS**, page 3

CAMPUS

Police Still Looking for Stabbing Suspect

An alleged transient is on the loose after attacking a student on Monday evening.

BY MEKALA NEELAKANTAN NEWS EDITOR

The UCSD Police Department is continuing its search for a suspect after a student was cut in the neck near Center Hall on Monday night.

Subscribers to UCSD Emergency Status alerts received a notification Monday night warning affiliates not to engage anyone involved. According to Police Department notifications, the student was cut in the neck at 7:16 p.m. on Monday at the intersection of Gilman Drive and Meyers Drive.

"UCSD police is looking for a stabbing suspect," the alert read. "Do not contact the suspect, call 911."

A police report sent to all students and staff said that the suspect "approached the victim from behind and possibly used a sharp object to cut the victim's neck."

Thirty minutes later, the victim reported the incident to UCSD police.

The report described the stabbing suspect as a 50-year-old white male of medium build with long, dark hair and a bushy, white beard, wearing a "green sweater over gray and white camouflage shirt and pants" and carrying a tan backpack. He was described as a transient who left the area headed in an unknown direc-

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Our take on this holiday season's best buys, from Jane Eyre fanatics to bacon lovers and Game of Thrones fans.

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VERBATIM

"If the 'smart bra' does not already seem strange by name, you'll definitely get weirded out by its purpose."



- Lauren Koa
Technically Speaking
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UNIVERSITY CENTERS

Price Center Evacuated Due to Two Separate Fires

Twin bathroom fires forced fire crews to clear PC East and West on Tuesday afternoon for over an hour.

BY ALEKSANDRA KONSTANTINOVIC ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Price Center East and West were evacuated Tuesday afternoon after trash can fires in two separate bathrooms set off smoke alarms throughout the building at roughly 2:30 p.m.

A source heard from a maintenance worker the smoke that filled the building was coming from two fires in bathrooms on both the first and second floors of Price Center.

Police officers later determined that the smoke came from two trash cans that had been set on fire in the bathrooms in Price Center East.

According to the source, evacu-

ees were initially allowed back into Price Center, but when another smoke alarm went off, they were told that it was not a drill and were instructed to evacuate again.

Fire trucks were seen headed toward campus shortly after 2:30 p.m.

The source reported that evacuees would be escorted back into Price Center to retrieve their belongings but would be required to exit the building once again.

According to workers at Tapioca Express, Price Center was reopened around 3:45 p.m.

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TRANSPORTATION

Students to Vote on Fee Increase Next Quarter

A proposed \$52 raise on fees would fund transportation.

BY ZEV HURWITZ MANAGING EDITOR

Students will vote on a referendum next quarter that will potentially raise student fees to help resolve the transportation crisis. A.S. Council approved the language for the \$52-per-quarter fee increase referendum at their meeting Wednesday night, only a few days after the Graduate Student Association approved the same bill.

A.S. President Andy Buselt told council at its weekly meeting on Wednesday evening that students would be able to vote on the referendum in a special election to be held during Week 8 of Winter Quarter 2014, which is Feb. 24 to Feb. 28, 2014.

The vote to approve the referendum to go to students passed 20-0-3; Physical Sciences Senator Sierra

Donaldson, Marshall Senator Kathleen Maguire and Muir Senator Matt Pavon abstained.

At a Nov. 13 A.S. Council meeting, Revelle Senator Soren Nelson said the results of the Transportation Task Force survey showed student support for a referendum.

"More than 60 percent [of respondents] marked either 'support' or 'strongly support' [for] a fee referendum, and so that was sort of our go-ahead to continue with the referendum," Nelson said. "We're confident that we have a lot of support behind the referendum."

Additional reporting by Gabriella Fleischman and Allie Kiekhofer.

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JENNY AND THE JETS

By Jenny Park



FLEETING THOUGHTS

By Irene Chiang



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

San Diego Students to Survey Sidewalks for Damage

BY ANDREW HUANG
STAFF WRITER

Two dozen engineering students from UCSD and San Diego State University will be hired to walk through the San Diego streets beginning mid-December to take note of places that need restoration or replacement in accordance with the San Diego City Council's sidewalk assessment plan.

The city of San Diego has about 5,000 miles of sidewalk, much of which is cracked, worn out and in need of repair. A few roads lack any sidewalk whatsoever. According to the plan, these cases present a danger to pedestrians.

California state law holds home and business owners responsible for fixing the sidewalks outside of their own properties, but there is little incentive for them to do so. Furthermore, San Diego is legally accountable for falls caused by deteriorated sidewalks, although lawsuits against the city are

often difficult to win and offer relatively low payouts, according to attorney Darren Pirozzi.

"The end result is that we have crumbling sidewalks that are trip hazards and liabilities for the city, and yet we apparently have no actual responsibility for replacing them," City Council President Todd Gloria said in the Voice of San Diego.

Many interest groups pressured the city council to take action.

In response, city council voted on June 10 to allocate \$1 million into next year's budget for a comprehensive sidewalk study. In its report, the council planned to hire local engineering students, along with two junior engineers, to travel along the sidewalks with GPS equipment. They would track areas that are broken or missing and also determine causes of the damages and estimated costs of repairs.

Unfortunately, the city was unable to hire students fast enough, which caused a six-month delay in the plan.

"It's the hiring process. It takes some time," transportation official

Hasan Yousef said to the Voice of San Diego.

Once the background checks are complete and recruitment is finalized in mid-December, the students will cover about a mile per day. They will start in San Diego's older neighborhoods where sidewalk damage is the most severe, according to city spokesman Bill Harris.

"Those are the areas where we think we're going to have the greatest areas of repair and maintenance needs," Harris said to the Voice of San Diego.

The study is expected to take a year to complete, finishing in early 2015. During this time, the city council promised to bring up current sidewalk policies for investigation and debate.

"Ultimately, we want to revamp the policy in such a fashion that it works," Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure Councilman Mark Kersey said.

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CORRECTION

In the Dec. 2 issue of the Guardian, the news article about UCSD professor Mario Molina was incorrectly attributed to Gabriella Fleischman. The article was written by staff writer Karen To.

THE GUARDIAN CORRECTS ALL ERRORS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EDITORS. CORRECTIONS CAN BE SENT TO EDITOR@UCSDGUARDIAN.ORG.



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Former J-Board Member Visits Council, Incites Tears

Things started out juicy at last night's council meeting, but they slowly wound down to the usual level of (un)excitement.

The tension and scandal commenced when former Judicial Board member Tanner Smith called Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life and overseer of A.S. Council operations Gary Ratcliff a "shit-bag" and accused Associated Students

Director Heather Belk and A.S. Advisor and Daily Operations Manager Hayley Weddle of being paid by the administration to spy on councilmembers.

"I have come here to publicly out and shame them," Smith said. "Remember, you don't need them. They need you, and your money. Students have the power."

These accusations came two weeks after formal disciplinary action was brought against Smith and 10 others for what he described as his use of free speech at Founder's Day. Belk and Weddle were both named on the list of witnesses against Smith.

Smith ended his rant by saying, "Heather and Hayley, fuck you. I hope you remember this for a long time."

After Smith left the podium, Weddle exited the Forum in tears.

To ease tensions, Council decided to move into a five-minute recess, which turned into a 10-minute recess to eat potluck food — even politicians can't help but eat their feelings — which, unsurprisingly, lasted longer than 10 minutes. When council returned to order, it was determined that Smith's public input would be discussed at a later time.

AVP of Enterprise Operations Irene Chang then made a special pre-

sentation proposing to transition A.S. Lecture Notes to an online service called GradeBuddy. If it means we'll feel better than UC Berkeley, whose A.S. Lecture Notes service went bankrupt and was discontinued last year, why not? Kidding. Maybe.

President Andy Buselt announced two projects slated for Winter Quarter 2014: a bike path to be constructed alongside Library Walk and a Graffiti Art Park at the Student Center.

AVP Concert and Events Sarah Harley then announced that a Sun God Festival survey is up and running. She said that the survey results would be taken into serious account when deciding who performs at Sun God, so if you want a say, take the survey! (Psst! Do me a favor and vote for The Naked and Famous.)

After almost a year of arguing and promoting changes to confront the transportation crisis, a transportation referendum was passed without a single objection or complaint, and brushed over so quickly I hardly realized it had passed. Congrats for passing the referendum, council, although its language was as ambiguous as the discussion was brief.

Council then moved on to bylaw revisions, passing several motions that aimed to improve council's efficiency. An ironically inefficient amount of time was spent voting on whether to continue discussing or move on to a non-binding vote, then casting a non-binding vote, and then vote, finally.

And, at long last, Council finally found a second Revelle Senator, just in time for the quarter to end. To the new Revelle Senator, enjoy three weeks of no work. That's all from me for this quarter; good luck on finals to you all, and have a great break.

NEW BUSINESS

GABRIELLA FLEISCHMAN
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Survey: 71 Percent of Students Wanted Starbucks on Campus

► STARBUCKS, from page 1

ment ensures all businesses that sell coffee, tea and sugar to be fair trade-approved. On March 3, the committee voted to expand the university's policy to include products verified by third parties such as C.A.F.E. Practices. According to Krista Mays, chair of the Fair Trade Advisory Committee, both Starbucks and Java City meet the current UCSD fair trade policy.

A.S. Council Social Sciences Senator Colin King, who also sits on UCAB, was one of the four dissenting votes.

"We believe that equal verifications should be an unbiased third party, and C.A.F.E. Practices is funded by Starbucks," King said. "The one thing UCAB administrators said to counter that argument is that [C.A.F.E. Practices] teams up with Conservation International which is technically the third party verifier."

"Their board of directors is composed of an ex-CEO of Starbucks ... and people that sustainability advocates on this campus don't believe should be associated with the university, so we don't think we should be associated with Starbucks."

Although Java City meets the overall fair trade criteria to satisfy UCSD's agreement, only a portion

of the coffee they sell has the proper certification.

"Unfortunately, the UCSD policy only allows [fair trade] verified and certified which means Rainforest Alliance [certification] is not yet a part of that policy nor is organic," Chang said. "[All] Java City coffee cannot be used or sold at UCSD, which means Java City is not that profitable and that may be another reason [for the vote]."

On Nov. 20, ASUCSD passed a resolution unanimously calling for a stronger enforcement of the UCSD Fair Trade Policy. Associate Vice President of Environmental and Social Justice and Fair Trade Committee member Jillian Du voiced support for the resolution at Tuesday's UCAB meeting.

"We feel that it invalidates a very strong student campaign of five to six years," Du told the Guardian. "The administration has been pushing its own agenda since last year to favor Starbucks coming in for the profit. We are very disappointed with the UCAB vote, particularly because they had a strong, sustainable option, and they did not give it adequate consideration."

"We will continue fighting to restore UCSD's fair trade policy to its original strength."

According to UCEN Director

Sharon Van Bruggen, a 2012 survey of 1,571 respondents (95 percent of which were UCSD students), showed that 71 percent of respondents supported bringing a Starbucks location to campus.

A Spring 2013 referendum that would have raised student fees \$11 per quarter to help fund close UCEN's budget deficit and improve and maintain UCEN operations — namely in Price Center and the Old Student Center — was rejected by student voters. As a result, UCEN has struggled financially to maintain its current daily operations.

"It was mentioned during the discussion that it would lessen the burden of the referendum, which is true — it would lessen it by a little bit — but there will still need to be a referendum to get UCEN out of the deficit which has been going on for years," King said. "I feel like the Fair Trade Policy needs to change, and people are currently working on that with the result of the UCAB discussion."

No official date has been set, but remodeling could begin within the next 12 months.

Additional reporting by Aleksandra Konstantinovic and Zev Hurwitz.

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UCSD Police Believe Stabbing Attack Was Isolated Incident

► STABBING, from page 1

tion.

The victim was taken to a local hospital. According to ABC 10 News, he sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

Shortly after the incident, students spoke to ABC 10 News regarding safety on campus.

"I take the bus here Monday

through Friday, and I never think twice about my safety," UCSD student Albert Trujillo said. "It's just what is normal, and it's on campus, and there's a lot of people around, so it's crazy that it happened."

University Executive Director of Marketing, Media Relations and Public Affairs Jeff Gattas said that any information should be reported to UCSD police, who are continuing to

investigate the incident.

"We believe it was a random attack," Gattas said. "We've received lots of tips, and are continuing to look for tips."

Information about this incident should be reported to the UCSD Police Department at 858-534-4357.

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

A “Grande” Change

After years of financial hardship and decreased revenues, University Centers Advisory Board rightfully voted Espresso Roma out and Starbucks Coffee in.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNY PARK



Recent Attack Emphasizes Need For Effective Campus Security

At UCSD, we are used to security. We stroll casually through campus long after sunset, and the blue emergency call boxes remain largely untouched. Yet, after Monday night's stabbing at Center Hall, which sent one student to the hospital, we will all be looking over our shoulders and locking our doors. In its aftermath, the attack should be a compelling wake-up call for administrators to step up campus safety.

Given that UCSD's on-campus population exceeds 24,000 at any given time, it is worrying that there is such a sparse police presence. Although parking empty police cruisers in the middle of Ridge Walk may deter speedy skateboarders, only actual officers patrolling the campus paths will prevent scary incidents in the future and provide quicker incident response. Only nine law enforcement officers actively work away from the desk; two of them specialize in confiscating errant bicycles. This shortage is not helped by the fact that officers rarely make it to the periphery of campus — nary is a police officer ever seen around Eleanor Roosevelt College or

Earl Warren College.

University administration should also reevaluate its priorities and make sure actual safety matters come first. Rather than placing surveillance cameras and foot patrols in obscure Mandeville halls to avoid occasional graffiti artists, enforcement should be distributed around campus to keep students out of harm's way. The new traffic lights on Gilman, Voigt and Library Walk indicate that there is some funding being appropriated for safety — those in charge should ensure that it is spent on the most effective measures.

Campus lighting is also a pressing issue. Several areas, such as the Sun God Lawn or the sinister forest between Geisel and Marshall, are eerily dark after 6 p.m. Though we get periodic emails asking us where we think lights should be placed, the administration needs to take some more decisive measures to resolve the problem. Halfhearted attempts to communicate the issue to largely indifferent students are not helping — a cursory inspection of campus dark spots and prompt

construction is the only appropriate course of action.

There are other potential strategies that the university can pursue moving forward. As the campus continues to develop with projects such as the bike paths, efforts should be made to maintain well-lit walking routes and bright open space. The university should also work to publicize the various services available to students. Community Service Officers and A.S. Safe Rides can help us out in a jam, but their usefulness is marginalized if their existence remains relatively unknown. It doesn't help that students often feel rather awkward calling CSOs and rather elect to trek around campus by themselves. UCSD management needs to make a concerted attempt to communicate the resources available and make the most of them.

Although the horrible stabbing was the first such incident in recent times, the university should make sure that it prioritizes student safety. We hope that we won't have to see any more violent events before some positive change is instituted on our campus.

Tuesday's University Centers Advisory Board vote that paved the way for the closing of Espresso Roma marks a few major milestones for Price Center. Besides the obvious predisposed popularity of the new tenant (a small coffee and tea chain called “Starbucks”), Price Center will finally be able to stop investing in one of its biggest money pits. Apart from the UCSD Bookstore-owned Perks Coffee Shop, Roma was the only traditional coffee place in the center of campus.

For a variety of reasons, Roma's popularity with the coffee-consuming constituency never really took off to a point where it was consistently turning a profit. Housing and Dining Services began selling several select Starbucks brews in most of its places and markets a few years ago while other spots on campus like Fairbanks Coffee, Peet's Coffee & Tea and the Mandeville Cart have given students on the go enough reason to pass up on Roma. As a result, the business has never really been able to capture our hearts (or wallets) and its past time for it to be laid to rest.

There is no question that Starbucks will change the financial and social landscape of Price Center. The proximity to Geisel Library and its centrality within Price Center — let alone its massive international marketing supremacy — will attract far more patrons than Roma ever did, which will help Price Center maintain its operations. The added traffic will help breathe new life and energy into Price Center and may drive more social meet ups and study groups to take place there.

Some opponents of the move to bring Starbucks to campus have cited the Fair Trade issues that come with the coffee giant and say that a Starbucks on campus will violate the Fair Trade agreement championed by former UCSD Chancellor Marye Anne Fox in 2009 and enacted in 2010. Cafe Roma — as well as all other coffee-sold, exclusively Fair Trade products in accordance with that agreement — and some are worried that a Starbucks on campus will violate it. However, after the agreement was updated earlier this year to allow Fair Trade certification by third-party organizations, both Starbucks and the other finalist to replace Roma (Sacramento-based Java City Eco-Grounds) qualify as “Fair Trade” as mandated by the UCSD agreement.

Whether UCSD needs to revisit its commitment to Fair Trade policies is irrelevant in conversations because of the dire financial issues University Centers has been facing. In 2012, budget cuts mandated the closure of the Crafts Center in the Old Student Center and UCEN has repeatedly

See **STARBUCKS**, page 5

Not So “Smart” Technology, After All

TECHNICALLY
 SPEAKING

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I consider myself very far from a Luddite, but new ideas for wearable smart devices have become both annoyingly unnecessary and weird.

Samsung has already sold 800,000 pieces of its new Galaxy Gear smartwatch and Google is in the process of making its Google Glass follow-up. We haven't developed a need for these products, yet so many of them continue to hit headlines as revolutionary new gadgets that will change our lives. The industry's shift toward creating wearable technology is not gamechanging; many of these products actually reflect how much streamlined laziness society is starting to allow.

Technology research firm Gartner Inc. predicts that by 2016, the wearable technology industry will be worth some \$10 billion, but I may lose all faith in humanity if I ever see smart earrings made with the purpose to whisper what the weather will be like tomorrow, or smart toilet paper to dispense itself in the restroom.

If the “smart bra” does not already seem strange by name, you'll definitely get weirded out by its purpose. The bra's prototype, designed and developed by Microsoft, is built with physiological sensors that researchers intend women to use to “track emotional moods and combat overeating.” The sensors in the bra would warn women through a message on a mobile app to remind them of their diets before opening the refrigerator.

Though the bra technology was not developed to become a commercial product, the fact that the industry has shifted towards making technology to control our actions is alarming and assumes that we no longer have the agency to make decisions ourselves. This type of invasive technology also loosely reminds me of AUTO, the evil steering wheel in Wall-E that made all the humans stay on the space shuttle for years and get terribly fat.

Wearable technology is not without its safety controversies either; they force the government to make new legislation to enforce common sense. A month ago, a San Diego resident was issued a ticket for driving on the freeway while wearing Google Glass. The police officer charged her for distracted driving because of the nature of Glass and its many multi-tasking abilities. The woman argues that her Glass was not activated and is now fighting the case, but the safety concerns regarding those that drive while wearing Glass are not unwarranted. Glass makes it harder for enforcement to catch people who choose to watch a video on YouTube or surf the web while driving, which leads me to wonder why we're spending time to implement additional legislations to keep the roads safe, just to allow a product that isn't saving lives or finding a cure for cancer.

If the wearable technology industry is really going to explode into billions of dollars, I'd like to see some products that can actually be useful for health and medical fields. But for now, call me a 70-year-old woman who can't cope with changing times; no one really needs these new kinds of wearable technology.

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

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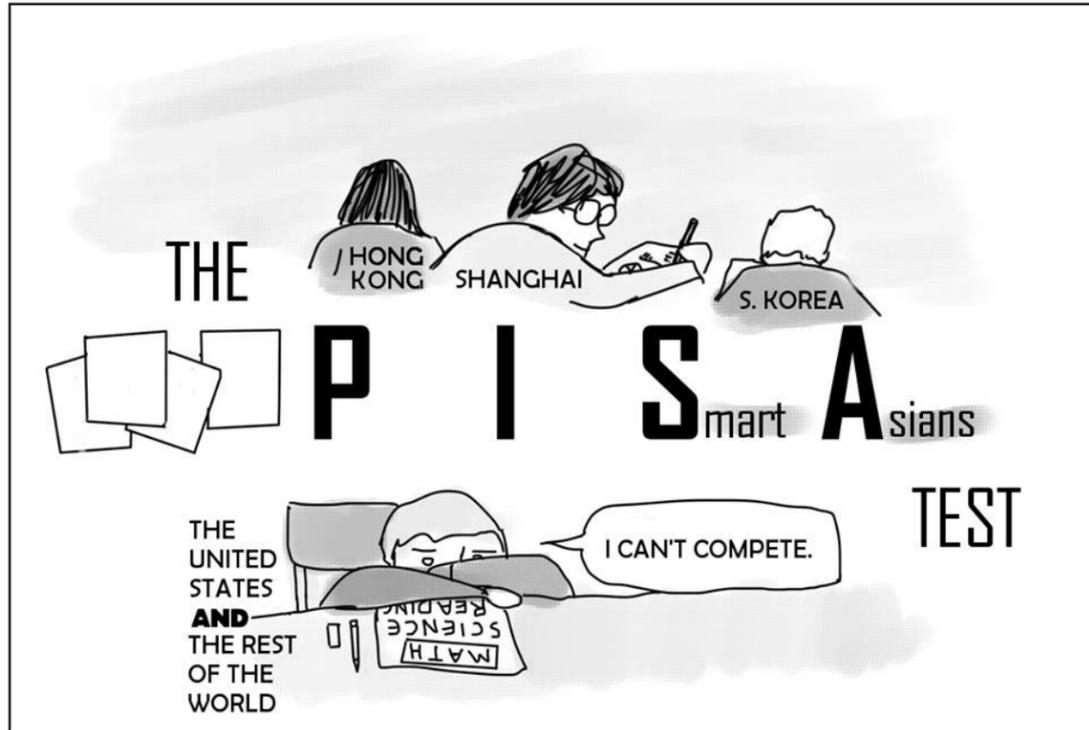
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HALCYON DAYS By Christie Yi



Price Center To Benefit From Starbucks' Financial Stability

► **STARBUCKS**, from page 4

demonstrated a need for more funding to maintain and expand Price Center operations. A Spring 2013 referendum to raise student fees to pay for would have reopened the Crafts Center and possibly opened up more 24-hour areas of Price Center. Unfortunately for UCEN, students rejected the \$11-per-quarter fee increase with over 61 percent of voters saying “Nay” or abstaining. As a result, money becomes a bigger factor for UCAB, and a common solution to the money and failing Roma problems came in Tall, Grande and Venti varieties. Starbucks’ mission on campus will not only be to put cof-

fee in your mouth, but to help Price Center find its financial footing.

A.S. Council’s unanimously passed Nov. 20 resolution to increase Fair Trade enforcement on campus seems to be a veiled dig at Starbucks’ impending presence on campus. Additionally, nearly all the public input at Tuesday’s UCAB meeting seemed to support Java City (or rather, oppose Starbucks) but UCEN Cannot afford to let Fair Trade supersede fiscal responsibility in this case — particularly when Starbucks is still certified by an approved third party.

Those unhappy with the decision to put Starbucks on campus are in the minority. According to UCEN head Sharon Van Bruggen, an over-

whelming 71 percent of respondents to the 2012 University Centers Retail Survey were in favor of adding the coffee giant to campus. The addition of Starbucks also reflects a big-picture effort by UCEN to make Price Center more of a one-stop shop for student needs and services — demonstrated with the early 2013 opening of Salon 101 and the planned 2014 opening of the D’Lush lounge next to Sunshine Market

Contract negotiations between Starbucks and UCEN will need to be finalized before the crowned siren makes her way to Price Center. But Roma needs to be shown the door as soon as possible, and Starbucks is the right choice at this point in time to replace it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pacific Conflict Stems From Past Tensions

Dear Editor,

As the 72nd Day of Infamy, this next Saturday, approaches [sic], there has already had a very limited debate in Japan, and the Liberal Democratic Party-led government has decided to remilitarize. Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden have urged China to withdraw its newly declared air defense identification zone.

And our woman in Tokyo, Caroline Kennedy, stipulates that the two governments will not allow China to change the status quo in the East China Sea — the Senkakus — by use of force. However, neither she nor they have alluded to Japan’s new secrecy law, which imposes a stiff sentence on whistleblowers. Ms. Kennedy make some assuring remarks during her Sept. 19, 2013 confirmation hearing: “In my books on the Bill of Rights and the Right to Privacy, I sought to engage young audiences in the debate over our fundamental rights and to give them the tools and understanding to advance and defend our liberties ... I first visited Japan in 1978 with my Uncle, Senator Kennedy, and was deeply affected by our visit to Hiroshima.”

The first female United States Ambassador dispatched to Tokyo enjoys a close relationship with President Barack Obama, having co-chaired the President’s successful 2012 re-election bid. The 55-year-old envoy, an ex-attorney said that she feels proud to “carry forward my father’s legacy of public service. This appointment has a special significance as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of my father’s Presidency ... I am conscious of my responsibility to uphold the ideals he represented — a deep commitment to public service,

a more just America and a more peaceful world. As a World War II veteran who served in the Pacific, my father had hoped to be the first sitting President to make a state visit to Japan.”

“Our countries,” said Ms. Kennedy, “are bound by deep political, economic, cultural and strategic ties and our partnership has a global reach. We share a commitment to freedom, human rights and the rule of law. Japan is the world’s third largest economy, our fourth largest trading partner and the second largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States. Also, Japan is home to 50,000 U.S. troops, the Seventh Fleet and 170,000 American citizens. As the United States rebalances toward Asia, our alliance with Japan remains the cornerstone of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region, as it has been for more than 50 years.”

It’s necessary to reemphasize a couple of points. One is that tensions between Japan and China are higher than at any time since the end of World War II. The issue of the Senkaku islands, although unknown to most Americans, is very high on the agenda of both Japan and China. There have been incidents of significant tension in that region, and there has been movement of Chinese ships there and a military presence. Do you share my concern about this situation? MS. KENNEDY: It’s a matter of grave concern.

— Richard Thompson
UCSD Alumnus '83

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What Came True

1 A Sun God Festival lineup that includes names that we actually recognize.



Illustration by *Khanh Nguyen*

This year, A.S. Concerts and Events nailed the Sun God Festival. We applauded the team for getting up and coming hip-hop artist Kendrick Lamar, disc jockey Porter Robinson and indie-rock band Portugal. the Man at Sun God 2013.

2 No more "mullet clothing."

The mullet-clothing trend could not have died any sooner; the high-low skirt trend is out and the '90's are back in. Say hello (again) to crop tops, high-waisted everything and flannel plaids tied around the waist. It's officially acceptable to go thrifting or borrow (some of) your mom's old clothes.

3 A replacement for Espresso Roma.



Illustration by *Jenny Park*

We wanted Espresso Roma gone, and it's officially on its way out. The University Centers Advisory Board voted Starbucks to replace Cafe Roma in Price Center 11-4-0. Bring on the Frappucinos!

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE GUARDIAN WROTE A WISH LIST OF THE THINGS WE WANTED TO SEE IN 2013. WE DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING WE WANTED.

What Didn't Happen

1 Better food at dining halls.



Illustration by *Jeffrey Lau*

We wish we could say UCSD got better dining hall food this year, but since Plaza Cafe died and was replaced by an Incredi-Bowls food truck, we can't. We guess we'll forever live in the culinary shadow of UCLA.

2 Modest tuition hikes.

Illustration by *Jeffrey Lau*

We asked for modest tuition hikes, and we got none at all. Last month, UC President Napolitano announced that our tuition would stay at the same rate for another year. Keeping a UC education affordable should always be a top priority. Let's hope we can keep this consistent in 2014.



3 A.S. Council held more accountable for how it spends money

It seems like Council will never get out of the woods. Council was able to have the smallest over-allocation in the budget, but still put money in the wrong places. What we want is money for our student orgs, not money to fund freer pancake breakfasts.

4 A catchy song that isn't "Call Me Maybe."

Illustration by *Elizabeth Wang*

Instead of the bubble-gum innocence of "Call Me Maybe," we got twerking teddy bears (courtesy of Miley Cyrus), a distasteful ode to date rape in "Blurred Lines" and too much "Summertime Sadness."



5 Greek housing and, generally, more fun at UCSD.

With new fraternity Beta Theta Pi and sorority Alpha Omicron Pi joining us this year and our current housing overflow problem, it's time to get more conversations for Greek housing going.

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Weekend

A&E EDITOR: JACQUELINE KIM • ENTERTAINMENT@UCSDGUARDIAN.ORG
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10 *christmas gift guide*

11 *guardian goes global*

The Holiday Issue

13 *and more...*



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY LEE / GUARDIAN

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON STARRING MARTIN FREEMAN, IAN MCKELLEN,
RICHARD ARMITAGE RELEASE DATE: DEC. 13TH

Loyal Tolkien fans were unnerved when director Peter Jackson ended “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” without including some pivotal events from the book. Now, the time has come for Jackson to pay up in the form of “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,” the second in a three-part movie series based on Tolkien’s novel.

In the first film, Thorin (Richard Armitage) and his company, Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen), set out to reclaim the dwarves’ homeland. Their wayward encounters left a trail of vengeful enemies in their wake. Bilbo, the hobbit who at first refused adventure, will find himself becoming an unlikely hero. Meanwhile, old rivalries will ferment into the likes of war.

“The Desolation of Smaug” is a multitude of unfurling tales. Precision archery, a dragon and battles between agile elves and ferocious foes can only improve the underdog story at the heart of this film.

BY RAQUEL CALDERON STAFF WRITER



ILLUSTRATION BY REBEKAH DYER / GUARDIAN

INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS

DIRECTED BY JOEL AND ETHAN COEN STARRING OSCAR
ISAAC, CAREY MULLIGAN, JOHN GOODMAN
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 6

Greenwich Village, 1960s: an enclave of America’s counter-culturists. Implicit yet often overlooked during these times, however, are the struggles faced by the offbeat residents of this New York City neighborhood. And never ones to shy away from portraying a grim reality, directors Joel and Ethan Coen present “Inside Llewyn Davis,” a drama detailing a week of fictional folk singer Llewyn Davis’s (Oscar Isaac) life in The Village. The film ebbs and flows with Davis as he braves the harsh realities of his career, elucidating the cruel, tumultuous world in which he exists.

The film already received the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, and considerable praise has been awarded to the cast, including Carey Mulligan and John Goodman. The Coen brothers seem to have created another brutally honest film, taking a poignant look at a talented but fatefully unlucky and underappreciated man.

BY ETHAN FUKUTO CONTRIBUTING WRITER



PHOTO BY JEFFREY LAU / GUARDIAN

OUT OF THE FURNACE

DIRECTED BY SCOTT COOPER STARRING CHRISTIAN BALE,
CASEY AFFLECK, WOODY HARRELSON
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 6

“Out of the Furnace” will prove to viewers that age can’t stop an older brother’s natural instinct to protect his little brother. As a poor, blue-collar factory worker in the Rust Belt, Russell’s (Christian Bale) tough life only gets harder when his brother Rodney’s (Casey Affleck) gambling debt leads him to work for a deranged drug lord, DeGroat (Woody Harrelson), but when Rodney disappears, Russell will stop at nothing to find him.

This will be director Scott Cooper’s sophomore film after “Crazy Heart,” and he is leading a talented cast of Oscar winners and nominees. The film also features Forest Whitaker as Police Chief Barnes, Willem Dafoe as Rodney’s bookie John, Zoe Saldana as Russell’s girlfriend Lena and Sam Shepard as Uncle Red. This will be a thriller that brings the audience along a haunted man’s journey in America’s crumbling Rust Belt to save his younger brother.

BY DEVON MUNOS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WINTER PREVIEW



AMERICAN HUSTLE

DIRECTED BY DAVID O. RUSSELL
STARRING CHRISTIAN BALE,
JENNIFER LAWRENCE,
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 13TH

What’s more American than a con?

After last year’s “Inherent Vice,” director David O. Russell comes back with his latest effort, “American Hustle.”

The film is inspired by the 1970s, in which an inquiry unearthed federal corruption and phony foreign investments (“American Psycho”) plays an FBI agent (Bradley Cooper). Investigating the matter, the world of deception, which is dangerous. Bale portrays a man of integrity and immorality. Jennifer Lawrence (“Joy”) as Bale’s wife is a source of relief and a femme fatale.

“American Hustle” is a con, but raw emotions and are what propel the story — part social commentary, part

BY EMILY BENDER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

DESIGN BY AMBER

MOVIE W 2013



ILLUSTRATION BY LYNN HAO /GUARDIAN

AMERICAN HUSTLE

DAVID O. RUSSELL
CHRISTIAN BALE, BRADLEY COOPER,
AMY ADAMS
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 18

American than a well-orga-

ear's "Silver Linings
ector David O. Russell is
"American Hustle."
the ABSCAM scandal of
airy of stolen property
on, shameless bribery
ents. Christian Bale
a con man working for
per, "The Hangover").
e two are drawn into a
is as alluring as it is dan-
n in limbo between moral-
r Lawrence ("The Hunger
refreshing as both comic

ments on political corrup-
character relationships
- part crime investigation,
rt relationship drama.

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

& SARA SHROYER



ILLUSTRATION BY ELYSE YANG /GUARDIAN

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

DIRECTED BY BEN STILLER STARRING BEN STILLER,
KRISTEN WIIG, ADAM SCOTT, SEAN PENN
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 25

From rescuing cats out of exploding buildings to jumping out of helicopters into the sea, Walter Mitty's life is anything but ordinary — except none of it is real.

Based off of a short story by James Thurber, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" depicts a man (Ben Stiller) whose mundane life is constantly interrupted by his daydreams. When Mitty's job at Life magazine is threatened, he embarks on a global journey in search of a missing photograph. With dreamy, jet-lagged, panoramic shots of his adventures, the film invites viewers to determine whether Mitty's escapades are real or a product of his imagination.

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" boasts a cast known for comedy (Kristen Wiig, Ben Stiller and Sean Penn), who will provide much-needed comic relief in contrast to the serious undertones. The film promises a heartwarming story of an imaginative man who finally learns to take initiative.

BY SALENA QUACH CONTRIBUTING WRITER

HER

DIRECTED BY SPIKE JONZE STARRING JOAQUIN PHOENIX, SCARLETT
JOHANSSON, AMY ADAMS, ROONEY MARA
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 18

"Her" is a love story, but it's not between two people. Instead, the film, directed by Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich"), follows Joaquin Phoenix falling not for a woman but for a computer operating system that sounds a lot like iPhone digital assistant Siri. Except this Siri has Scarlett Johansson's voice, so no one can really blame him.

The story is set in futuristic Los Angeles, where ultra-advanced computers have personalities so rich that people like Phoenix's character become enamored with them. It's portentous, or, perhaps, indicative of where society already is — a place where a romance between a human and computer is believable. Regardless of the philosophical-cultural-technological aspects of the story, the fact that such a bizarre premise is even a viable feature film is a testament to the acting talents of Phoenix and Johansson and the directing talents of Jonze. Hopefully, Johansson wins an award for "Her," so that we actually get to see her — not just hear her — at the ceremony.

BY SEBASTIAN BRADY SENIOR STAFF WRITER



ILLUSTRATION BY HERRICK ONG /GUARDIAN



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY PARK /GUARDIAN

SAVING MR. BANKS

DIRECTED BY JOHN LEE HANCOCK STARRING EMMA
THOMPSON, TOM HANKS, PAUL GIAMATTI
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 13

Most people don't know that "Mary Poppins" didn't start out as a Disney production. "Saving Mr. Banks" is the story of Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) in 1961 as he fights for creative control over "Mary Poppins" with its author, Pamela Travers (Emma Thompson). Directed by John Lee Hancock, whose previous film "The Blind Side" was a heartwarming success, "Saving Mr. Banks" will surely follow the trend.

Despite initial apprehensions of casting Hanks as Walt Disney, the two-time Oscar winner embodies the spirit of Disney with a jolly charisma. Contrarily, Travers is acerbically guarded, but beyond her snarky, caustic disposition, a human quality emerges from her love for Mary Poppins as a character and story. From the cast's humorous arguments with Travers to heartfelt moments that provide a family-friendly ambience, "Saving Mr. Banks" will prove satiating for audiences fascinated by a unique story that adds dimension to Disney culture, which will surely impress its target audience: Disney fanatics.

BY CHRISTIAN GELLA CONTRIBUTING WRITER



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY LEE /GUARDIAN

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

DIRECTED BY JOHN WELLS STARRING MERYL STREEP,
JULIA ROBERTS, EWAN MCGREGOR, CHRIS COOPER
RELEASE DATE: DEC. 25

Every family has more complex relationships than meet the eye, and "August: Osage County" is a film about ripping the covers off, exposing every secret and then getting through it all together. Violet (Meryl Streep) is mother to three daughters who are reunited after their father's (Sam Shepard) death. Violet has a blunt personality and a pill-popping habit.

The oldest daughter, Barbara (Julia Roberts), is struggling to pull her life together, while younger daughter Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) is crushing on her cousin and baby sister Karen (Juliette Lewis) shows up with a new fiance.

"August: Osage County" will make your own family feel much less crazy than you think it is. In a home with so much tension, a meltdown is inevitable. So if, during the holidays, you feel overwhelmed by your own family, look no further than this film to lift some stress off your shoulders.

BY DEVON MUNOS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

1 **BOOZY CHRISTMAS**
BY TEDDI FALLER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2 **JANE AUSTEN LOVERS**
BY THUY PHAM STAFF WRITER

3 **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**
BY ANNA STERN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

4 **BACON LOVERS**
BY AVI SALEM CONTRIBUTING WRITER

5 **GAME OF THRONES FANS**
BY HILLARY DAKIN STAFF WRITER

1

DRINKING GAME

"LIGHTS, CAMERA, BOOZE"
\$14.95, BARNES & NOBLE

Nothing says "Merry Christmas" like drinking games to your favorite movies, including "Mean Girls," "American Pie" and "The Hangover." Complete with movie-themed cocktails, "Lights, Camera, Booze" will help you catch up with your friends over winter break and get belligerent along the way.

COCKTAIL SHAKER

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\$24, URBAN OUTFITTERS

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2

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CLASSIC JANE AUSTEN NOVEL, PERSONALIZED
\$25, USTARNOVELS.COM

Has your friend written "Mrs. Darcy" all over her copy of "Pride and Prejudice," even though she knows that he'll never be hers? Well, now it's time to make her dreams come true by personalizing a Jane Austen novel to add to her collection — and her heart. Novels are available in either ebook or paperback form.



BANDAGES

JANE AUSTEN BANDAGES
\$5, MCPHEE.COM

If George Knightley isn't conveniently nearby to kiss your boo-boo away, slap on a quote and imagine him in your mind. This package of 15 plasters (the British word for Band-Aids, in case you didn't know) feature images of Jane Austen and quotes from her popular works. They come in a reusable tin and are latex-free.



BOOK SCARF

PERSUASION INFINITY BOOK SCARF
\$42, STORIARTS ON ETSY.COM

If you're a Jane Austen fan, you probably have all the books and memorized all the quotes. But are they wearable? This handmade, super-soft cotton jersey knit scarf is the exact cream color of a well-worn book and is printed with the original text of "Persuasion." With the holiday romance abound, maybe someone will come closer to get a better look at what is written there.

3

MUGS AND TEA

ARTSY MUGS WITH TEA
\$20, CAFEPRESS.COM

An easy, cheap Alice in Wonderland gift would be a themed mug and a box of tea. Cafepress, which specializes in personalized clothing and accessories, features thousands of adorable Alice mugs — and most are under \$20. Tea to go with the mugs is an easy purchase at any supermarket. We suggest a choosing festive flavor, such as Stash Tea's "Christmas Morning Black Tea" or "Holiday Chai Tea."

4

CANDLES

BACON CANDLES
\$12.95, HOTWICKS.COM

What better way to enjoy the holidays than with the delightful scent of bacon wafting through the house? Bacon-scented candles are the perfect holiday gift for friends or family who can't get enough of that sizzling bacon smell that to lure them out of bed on a lazy Saturday morning.

POETRY

BACON POETRY
\$13, THINKGEEK.COM

They say the pen is mightier than the sword, but bacon is mightier than both of those things. For those who believe in the power of the written word, give the gift of a magnetic bacon poetry set. You will have over 200 bacon-related words (some good ones include smoky, dripping, and meaty) to choose from to create delectable poetry for your fridge or any other magnetic surface.



RINGS

GAME OF THRONES RINGS
\$20, FAMILYHOUSESTAMPIN ON ETSY.COM

For the cute couple who watches "Game of Thrones" religiously every week, buy this set of engraved rings, printed with the words, "My sun and stars" and "Moon of my life." Matching rings reinforce a couple's love and offers a way to share their love for the show.

LETTER OPENER

LETTER OPENER
\$20, HBO.COM

A sword-shaped letter opener is the ideal gift for business-minded "Game of Thrones" fans. Buy this to remind them of their favorite show while they're too busy going through the mail. This is also the perfect gift for any fans who like owning tiny swords.



5



WORLD TOUR

BY TEDDI FALLER CONTRIBUTING WRITER
ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY PARK & LEO BUI

Pomegranate

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Most people think of vodka when they think of Russians, but Pomegranate will introduce you to magical new sets of spice combinations familiar to our friends across the Pacific. Located in North Park, Pomegranate offers a cozy atmosphere and filling food for a relaxing — but also culturally interesting — dinner. Once inside, parking can be a little frustrating at first, as there is no restaurant-owned lot, but street parking is plentiful along the surrounding blocks.

When you walk in, Pomegranate's dimmed lighting will barely allow you to make out families dining, couples on dates and business meetings in progress. All the tables have beautifully unique lamps — one

lamp even uses a cowboy figurine as a lamp stand. The most noticeable decorations in the restaurant are handwritten messages from past customers that cover the walls, ranging from Russian sayings to food recommendations and even a drawing of a dog smoking a cigar.

After you've been seated, a server will bring you a bread basket with garlic-flavored olive oil to dip and green, thyme-flavored butter to spread. While you fill up on bread and deceptively delicious green butter, Pomegranate's salad sampler platter (price varies depending on party size) is a great group appetizer that features Russian coleslaw, cabbage salad and a potato salad, among others. This will work for those

friends who want to order every last item on the menu, but can't afford to do so.

Three dishes at Pomegranate are ideal to introduce the amateur epicurean to the Russian palate: the borscht, a beet soup with beef (\$9); the stroganoff, beef cooked in a sour cream sauce and served over pasta (\$17) and khachapuri, a Georgian cheese pie (\$7.50). Luckily for vegetarians, the borscht and stroganoff dishes can be made vegetarian or vegan (meat is substituted with mushrooms), and the Khachapuri is vegetarian already.

At first, the vegetarian stroganoff (\$14) looks to be a steamed vegetable salad with some sour cream, but laying at the bottom of the bowl is

a concoction of vegetable juices and Pomegranate's "secret" house mix of Russian spices, in which thyme is a prominent flavor. It comes with a side of rice and a baked potato for added starch.

For meat eaters looking for something more adventurous, the golubtsi, two cabbage rolls stuffed with ground meat and herbs (\$15.50), will fill you up — and then some. The rolls, which are smothered in a thick cheese sauce, take up the entire plate.

Before you enter a food coma, though, try a dessert, namely, the Babushka Surprise (\$7) — a honey-baked apple stuffed with dried fruits and walnuts and served with fresh plum and apple slices and a scoop

of ice cream. If you want to go with something untraditional, try the Toad Sweat ice cream (\$6). It's not made of toads, but it will make you sweat like one; its vanilla ice cream with cayenne pepper-infused chocolate sauce to make it spicy.

Pomegranate doesn't just serve great food; it also provides a wonderful environment. Before you leave, ask the bar for a Sharpie and write a little something on the wall. Maybe a new customer will discover it, or maybe it will remind you of your last visit for the next time you give into your cravings for Russian-Georgian cuisine.

READERS CAN CONTACT
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Orientation Leader: Applications available at revelle.ucsd.edu. Apply by January 31.
Transfer Orientation Leader: Applications will be available at revelle.ucsd.edu Spring Quarter.



Muir

House Advisor: Applications available at <http://muir.ucsd.edu/studentlife/involvement/index.html>. Apply by January 16, 4:30pm.
Orientation Leader: Applications available on Port Triton. Apply by January 24 at 4:30pm.
Transfer Orientation Leader: Applications available on Port Triton on January 25. Apply by February 14 at 4:30pm.



Marshall

Resident Assistant: Applications available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apply by January 16.
 RA information session will be held December 4 and January 8 at 4:00pm in Ocean View Lounge.
Orientation Leader: Applications due January 24 by 4:30pm in the TMC Dean's Office.
Transfer Orientation Leader: Applications available Spring Quarter. Contact tmctransfer@ucsd.edu for more info.



Warren

Resident Assistant: Applications available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apply by January 16, 2014 by 4:00pm.
Freshman and Transfer Orientation Leader: Applications available January 13, 2014 at warren.ucsd.edu. Apply by February 7, 2014 by 4:00pm.



Roosevelt & International House

Resident Assistant: Applications available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apply by January 16.
Orientation Leader: Applications available on Port Triton. Apply by January 27 at 4:30pm.
Transfer Orientation Leader: Applications available on Port Triton. Apply by February 3 at 4:30pm.



Sixth

Resident Assistant: Applications available at reslifeapp.ucsd.edu. Apply by January 16.
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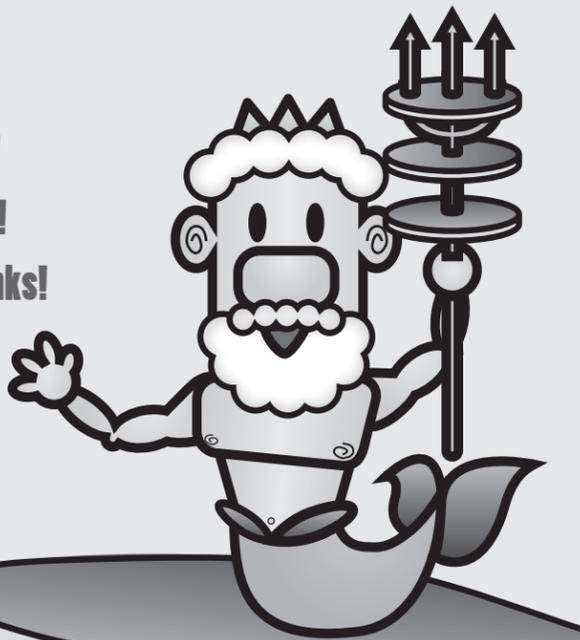
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Error in Programming

Let's talk about sex, baby. I'm kidding. We're talking about computer science majors, literally, the opposite. I would love to give them my Triton Side-Eye, but even peripheral vision is pushing it.

It's worth stating that CS majors are total geniuses; I'll be the first to admit I could never. That doesn't mean they aren't freaks. I've had the great misfortune of taking a computer science class during my time at UCSD, and it wasn't even the easiest one (it was the second). One tearful call to my mother and a hasty major change later, I am now in the position to talk about my scars. Luckily, my scars aren't covered in grease, unlike several of my lab partners, who "weren't available to work with me anymore" after we completed one project. Seriously, computer science was so not for me, and thank Lorde.

Computer science is apparently the new "super-major," which I understand, since smartphone applications continue to be such a big thing. Good for apps. It's fitting that computer science majors are so involved with technology, because I'm not convinced they are actually people. I have, after all, spoken to more than one of them. A conversation with a computer science academic, is crazy surreal. They speak in the same way they use programming languages: succinct and unsettlingly impersonal. Perhaps things would have gone differently for me if I had mentioned "Grand Theft Duty," or whatever it is the kids are playing these days; apparently, I was stupid enough to enter a conversation asking them about their day.

I realize I'm not one to talk about stereotypes, considering that old Whitney Houston performances make my gay nipples so hard they could cut

diamond, but I'm sure as hell finding a way. You would, too, if you spent hundreds of hours in a dungeon (formally the computer labs), wincing through the smell of Monster Energy drinks and unwashed Old Navy hoodies just to convincingly nod like you understand what's going on, your ever-changing orgy of lab partners doing

all the actual work in the meantime. Thanks for doing that, by the way.

The most horrific part is that

these few actually leave their rooms to work on projects. Many program their little hearts away in the comfort of dorm rooms that never see the light of day. The ones I have encountered are, in all likelihood, the most normal ones. My editor told me that typing in all caps is a "no-no," but oh my god — we are breeding a generation of robots who control the way we navigate the world with technology, and that should terrify you. At a certain point, a cool Silicon Valley office — colorful plush chairs and all — isn't going to inject enough humanity into these people to let them produce vibrant technology that doesn't merely masturbate over a screen-laden world.

Again, these people are geniuses. If you know a computer science major, rip their hands away from the computer and drag them outside to smell the goddamn roses. "Smell the goddamn roses" is perfectly sufficient instruction. We could all probably stand to do it a little more ourselves. Seriously though, lend these souls a helping hand. San Diego is one of the most amazing cities in the world if you appreciate it. Tell them to leave their running shoes at home — I know you guys aren't running anywhere — and join the world they, indeed, have a very good chance of improving.

TRITON SIDE-EYEING

KEVIN FUHRMANN
LIFESTYLE@UCSDGUARDIAN.ORG



FILM REVIEW

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE



With more complex characters and darker themes, "Catching Fire" shines brighter than its predecessor.

Directed by Francis Lawrence

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson

Rated PG-13

Release Date Nov. 22

"The Hunger Games" was a child's play. In "Catching Fire," what little innocence was present in the first film is long gone as Katniss begins a gradual — but inevitable — descent into apathy. Through intricate plot layers, new director Francis Lawrence ("Water for Elephants") creates richer and rounder characters than the ones found in the books.

This time around, the Games are more terrifying than ever, as Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) are thrust back into the arena with past victors. Now facing experienced killers and certain death, Katniss is willing to do anything to keep Peeta alive.

Despite this thrilling premise, "Catching Fire" still suffers from an unnecessary love triangle among Katniss, Peeta and Gale (Liam Hemsworth), which distracts viewers from the gravity of other events. After "winning" the Hunger Games the first time around, Katniss is unable to escape the traumatic aftermath of inadvertently killing 22 people. She suffers from hallucinations, unable to hunt without imagining that the animals she kills are real people.

Because the plot focuses on

Katniss' mental state, the romantic story falls flat — attention shifts from forced puppy love to the politics of the Games and the impending revolution in the districts. With each lingering look and kiss, the chemistry between Katniss and Gale feels less and less organic. While Lawrence and Hutcherson's performances are nuanced and moving, Hemsworth's performance is forgettable. For a movie that thrives on desperation and suspense, the subplot inescapably slows the first half of the movie down.

The movie picks up speed when it takes us into the inner mechanisms of the Capitol. As they did in the first film, avid readers will appreciate the additional scenes between President Snow (Donald Sutherland) and the new Head Gamemaker (Philip Seymour Hoffman) in the Capitol. Although not in the books, the scenes provide insight into the calculated moves from Snow.

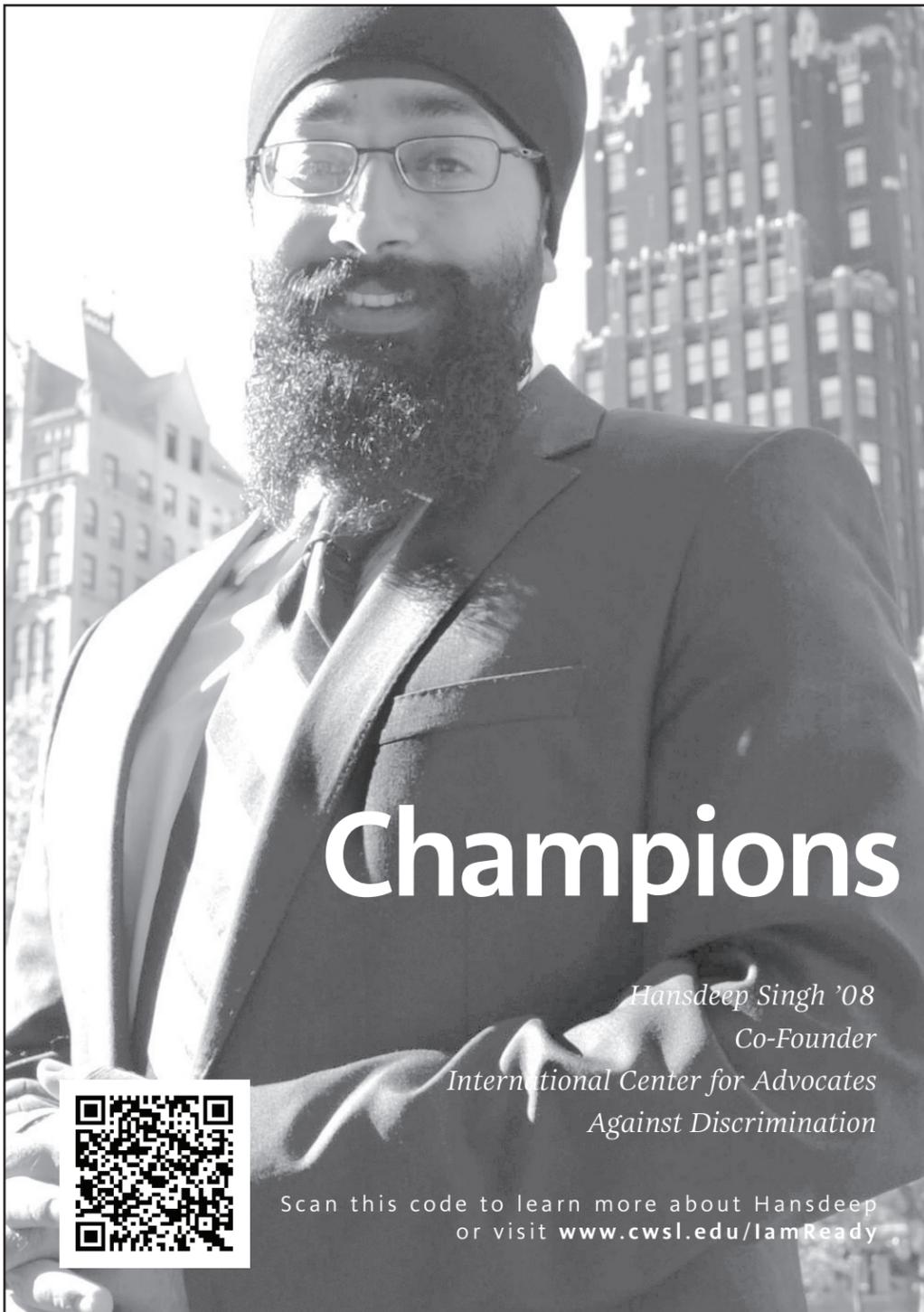
One short scene near the beginning best illustrates the absurdist world Katniss lives in. A Capitol schoolgirl tells Katniss what she wants to be just like her when she grows up: a tribute in the Games.

A normal child would dream to be a doctor or novelist or lawyer, but this child, blind to any other options, vows to kill other children — she believes it to be a respectable achievement. The movie uses the stark disparities between our world and Katniss' to draw out emotional despair from audiences: We can congratulate ourselves on being different from these characters, but the movie reminds us that we have the capacity to be equally barbaric.

By the time the Games roll around, we are so invested in characters from the past films that we don't expect new ones to be well-developed. However, when tributes and past victors Finnick Odair (Sam Claflin) and Johanna Mason (Jena Malone) are introduced, they elicit non-apathetic emotions from Katniss like no other character can. (Katniss' face when Johanna strips naked in an elevator can only be described as GIF-worthy.)

Overall, "Catching Fire" excels in producing unique character arcs. The film successfully unravels dark truths about human instinct — in and out of the battlefield.

— SALENA QUACH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



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SUDOKU

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

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

Level: 1

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

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BASKETBALL

Basketball Roundup

BY RACHEL UDA SPORTS EDITOR

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The UCSD women's basketball team went 2-0, improving to 4-1 this season, at the fourth annual UCSD Thanksgiving Classic, Nov. 29 to Nov. 30.

Senior guard Megan Perry was named to the five-man all-tournament team, while senior forward Erin Dautremont earned the tournament's most valuable player award.

UCSD begins conference play this Thursday, Dec. 5, on the road against Humboldt State.

Nov. 29

UCSD 62, METRO STATE 61

The UCSD women's basketball team went into extra time for the second time in just four games in its 61-62 overtime win against Metro State Friday, Nov. 29.

Senior forward Erin Dautremont's play on the block propelled the Triton attack. Scoring a game-high 26 points, on 8-for-12 shooting, Dautremont — a four year starter, who had a couple of quiet games at the start of the season — was also perfect from three-point range, scoring four for four.

The Tritons trailed through most of the game but were able to push into overtime when, with six seconds on the clock, Dautremont sunk both of her free throws, tying the score at 54-54. UCSD controlled the game after the break, going up in the first minute off a jumper by junior guard Miranda Seto, followed by a three-pointer by Dautremont in the next possession.

"It takes a lot of character for our team to step up and to do what we did tonight. It takes defensive stops back-to-back. It takes working every possession," Dautremont said to the UCSD athletics department. "We've got a good lineup out there that's ready to go every night."

Nov. 30

UCSD 52, AZUSA PACIFIC 50

The Tritons still managed to pull out the win in their last game of the tournament, even without the aid of junior starting guard Miranda Seto, which forced senior guard Megan Perry and junior guard Stephanie Yano to play the full 40 minutes, UCSD had contributions from around the roster.

"Everyone has to contribute every single play and every single possession, and I think we really did that tonight," Perry said to the UCSD Athletics Department.

Perry led the Tritons with her first double-double of the season (11 points on 12 rebounds). Junior forward McKennan Bertsch also had a good game, scoring eight points and nabbing eight rebounds, while Dautremont chipped in nine points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nov. 30

UCSD 77, ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY 59

Freshman guard Adam Klie led the Tritons in scoring last week in UCSD's 77-59 win against the Academy of Art University.

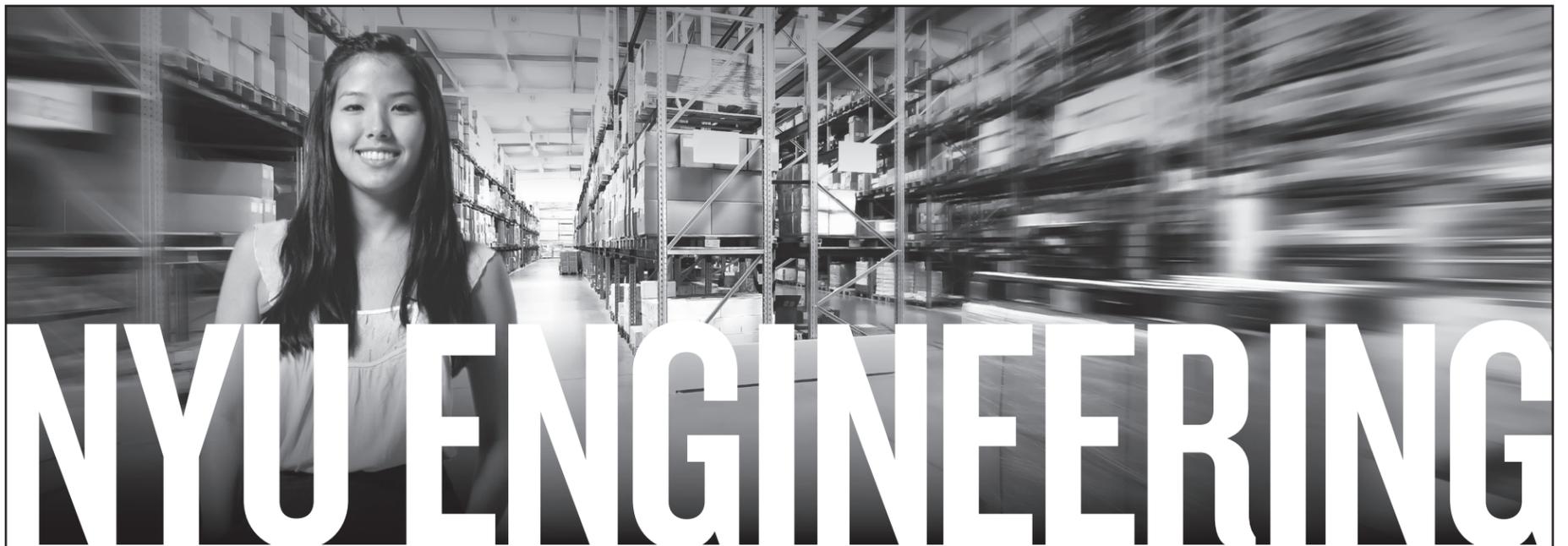
Coming off the bench, Klie — of Anchorage, Alaska — racked up 19 points on 6-of-9 shooting, while grabbing eight rebounds. Senior starting point guard James McCann chipped in 14 points, while 6-foot-11-inch sophomore forward Drew Dyer picked up 15 points.

"Klie is a talented kid, a strong, athletic kid," UCSD head coach Eric Olen said to the UCSD Athletics Department. "He's done a great job of just coming in and working hard every day. He picks things up really quickly, he competes all the time and always works to get better."

The game was never close, as the Tritons went into the second half with a seven-point lead that they quickly extended into double digits.

With the win, the Tritons improve to 3-1 as they head into California Collegiate Athletics Association conference play this Thursday, Dec. 5, when they will face a tough Humboldt State squad who finished second in the CCAA with a 15-7 record.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: RUDA@UCSD.EDU



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SPORTS

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UPCOMING UCSD GAMES

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	12/05	VS San Bernardino
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	12/05	VS Humboldt State
MEN'S BASKETBALL	12/05	VS Humboldt State
MEN'S WATER POLO	12/07	AT NCAA Tournament



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

PHOTO BY ALWIN SZETO/GUARDIAN

POSTSEASON Push

UCSD HEADS TO THE NCAA WEST REGIONALS STARTING THIS THURSDAY, DEC. 5.

BY RACHEL UDA SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 12 nationally ranked UCSD women's volleyball team will play its first NCAA West Regional game this Thursday, Dec. 5, against Dixie State on the campus of Cal State San Bernardino.

Going in as the No. 3 seed, if the Tritons beat Dixie State this Thursday, they will face the winner of Friday's match-up between No. 7 Alaska Anchorage (21-9) and No. 2 BYU-Hawaii (24-1).

The trip up to San Bernardino will mark UCSD's eighth consecutive postseason berth, while Dixie State will be making its first ever NCAA appearance.

UCSD has yet to face nationally unranked Dixie State (17-9 overall, 14-6 in the Pacific West Conference) this season. But UCSD head coach Ricci Luyties said that he's confident in his side — which includes four all-conference selections: junior middle blocker Sara McCutchan, sophomore setter Heidi Sierks, sophomore outside hitter Danielle Dahle and junior opposite Caitlin Brenton.

"From what I've seen of [Dixie State], they look like they're a good all-around team," Luyties said on Triton Talk, a weekly online talk show. "We're going to have to play well for sure. We're going to have to have a lot of people have good games, but I think across the board we stack up pretty well against them."

Though the Tritons have lost just five games this season, Luyties remains wary

of Dixie State's outside hitters Shannon Young and Maddie Rex, whom he lauded as "athletic" and both "able to move the ball around well."

Young and Rex both have over 250 kills this season and seem to be Dixie State's main offensive threats.

But UCSD assistant coach Sean Cahill said the Tritons should be the winning side on Thursday if they can get good performances from their middle blockers, McCutchan and sophomore Kameron Cooper.

"If our middle blockers play like they were in the beginning of the season, then we should be in pretty good shape," Cahill said. "If we play together, and we play our style of volleyball, nobody should be able to touch us."

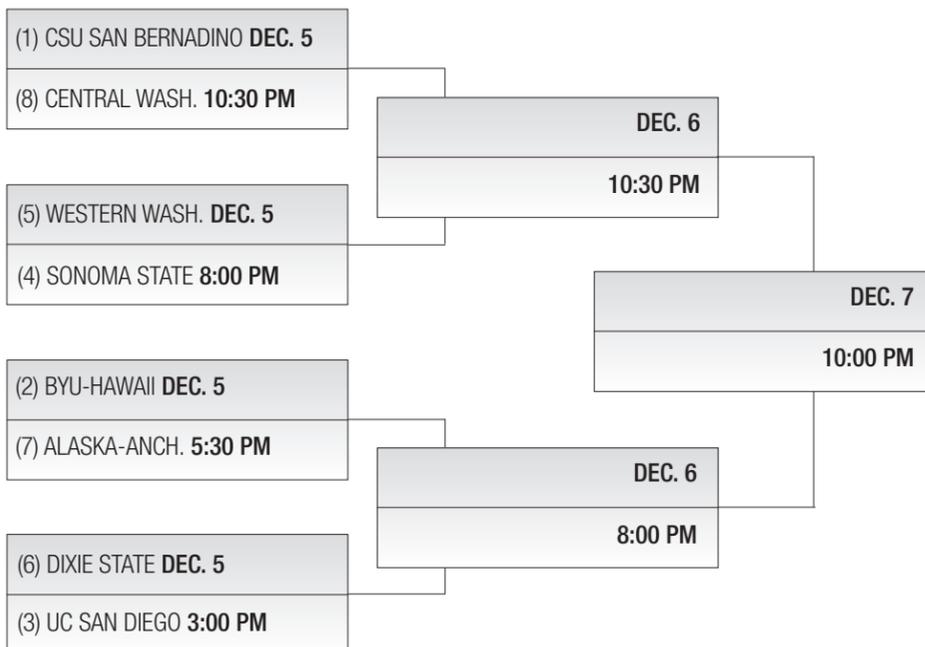
Assuming the Tritons beat Dixie State, UCSD will face BYU-Hawaii, the team that knocked the Tritons out of the NCAA Tournament last season. Cahill said that the coaching staff has already started scouting second-seeded BYU-Hawaii.

"We know that BYU-Hawaii has a good setter and a couple of middle blockers," Cahill said. "They've had a very good season, but, again, I think we're the more balanced team."

The West Region title match is set for Saturday, Dec. 7 at Cal State San Bernardino.

CONTACT: Rachel Uda RUDA@UCSD.EDU

NCAA WEST REGIONAL BRACKET



VOLLEYBALL



SARA MCCUTCHAN
ALL-WEST REGION



CAITLIN BRENTON
ALL-WEST REGION



HEIDI SIERKS
ALL-WEST REGION



DANIELLE DAHLE
ALL-WEST REGION

WOMEN'S SOCCER



CASSIE CALLAHAN
ALL-WEST REGION

MEN'S SOCCER



ANDISHEH BAGHERI
ALL-AMERICA



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