

THE GUARDIAN

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Thursday, January 24, 2008

The Student Voice Since 1967

APPOINTMENT PUTS MARSHALL COUNCIL AT ODDS WITH PROVOST

Havis defends makeup of new search committee, but concedes to inclusion of additional student rep.

By Sam Huang
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After several Thurgood Marshall College councilmembers criticized Marshall Provost Allan Havis for allegedly cutting corners in choosing the search committee to replace an outgoing dean, Havis authorized a student subcommittee last week that will appoint a third undergraduate representative to the contentious selection panel.

One week after Marshall Dean of Student Affairs Ashanti Hands left UCSD on Jan. 11, Havis met with a group of TMCC members to justify his selection of the two student representatives on the search committee that will field candidates to replace her. The councilmembers accused Havis of bypassing standard application and interview processes with his selection, saying that excluding the student body from the process was detrimental to the committee's purpose.

Havis responded by greenlighting an additional subcommittee that will elect a third student representative to the selection board, which consists primarily of staff and faculty from the six colleges.

The two students on the current search committee are TMCC Chair Lana Blank and Marshall senior Prince Ghuman, an intern at the dean's office. While some councilmembers said they anticipated Blank's appointment due to her council position, they expressed concern over the addition of Ghuman, who was chosen after a Marshall dean recommended him for the position.

"We wanted a person of the Marshall students at large so that they could represent the student perspective," said Kyle Samia, A.S. Council Marshall senator. "For Prince Ghuman to work in the student dean's office and to get this privilege is unfair. Just because he works in the dean's office doesn't make him more invested in Marshall College than any one of the other Marshall chairs."

The council was initially concerned because such committee appointments are usually done in a more democratic manner, Blank said.

"We were frustrated because normally appointments go through a

See **MARSHALL**, page 7

Committee: Sun God Safety Foremost Concern

By Charles Nguyen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

During committee meetings aimed at re-evaluating both the Sun God festival's specific operations and broader purposes, administrators and campus programmers are prioritizing student safety issues that could mark a swath of changes to the daylong event and the evening concert itself.

The annual festival is a massive financial and logistical undertaking that attracts tens of thousands to campus with its nighttime concert, and costs nearly \$250,000 in security, technical staff and artist booking fees.

In the first meeting of the planning committee charged with discussing and possibly implementing changes to the event, members focused on parking and transportation issues. Transportation and Parking Services officials gave an initial approval to proposals to shut down Hopkins Parking Structure during the concert, using the site as a temporary entrance to RIMAC field. Brian Ross, assistant director of campus events for the University Events Office, said that the solution was reached in a large-scale effort to emphasize safety at the concert.

"The committee wanted to do something other than debrief past errors," he said, referencing problems of overcrowding, which instigated disorderly activity at last year's event. "We want to highlight specific plans of action, like opening the parking structure so we don't have thousands of students pouring down Ridge Walk to get into the concert."

The committee's next meeting will concentrate on issues of advertising and marketing, Ross said, which UEO hopes will help shift students' perceptions of Sun



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN FILE

Last year's Sun God concert posed many structural and safety problems for organizers, who are currently investigating ways to streamline the event.

God from a day of rowdy unruliness to one of community building and campus relationships. Numerous complaints about the event's linkage to alcohol were raised in an in-depth report released last quarter.

The report listed a barrage of grievances from every campus department regarding the concert's impacts on UCSD. Several subcommittees, dubbed "steering" bodies, were commissioned to discuss the report's recommendations. The planning committee, whose membership is composed of A.S. councilmem-

bers, council programmers, UEO officials and UCSD administrators, was commissioned to pick through the subcommittee's proposals to determine which ones it should implement.

Several councilmembers have voiced concerns over the report's breadth, especially the plausibility of massive changes such as barring all students unaffiliated with UCSD from the concert and scheduling

See **SUN GOD**, page 3

University House Gets Stay of Demolition

LOCAL NEWS

Pressure from state senators convinces UC regents to defer vote to raze historic La Jolla chancellor's house.

By Danielle Warren
STAFF WRITER

UCSD officials' plans to demolish the historic University House were once again interrupted Jan. 14 after state legislators and other advocacy organizations submitted last-minute letters of opposition.

Since it was deemed uninhabitable in 2004, the university and several local parties, including historians and various American Indian groups, have clashed over what to do with the structure and surrounding property.

Campus officials believed the wait would finally end last week, when the UC Board of Regents was scheduled to adopt its reduced-scope construction plan during the Jan. 15-17 meetings at UCLA.

UCSD's reduced-scope plan included reusing, when feasible, structural elements of the original adobe house, including remnants of the walls, ironwork and tiles. The plan also included an extensive historical archival record.

However, letters from Sen. Denise Moreno Ducheny and Sen. Christine Kehoe, asking for the matter to be deferred until more discussion takes place, forced the regents to postpone actions on the item.

"I became involved because local tribes, the La Jolla Historic Society and members of the community let me know they had concerns about a historic site being razed," Kehoe said.

Ducheny said she became concerned when it appeared that UCSD had ended negotiations with the local groups.

"UC officials also appear to have cut short discussions with tribal entities and may not have completed consultations that could result in feasible project changes to satisfy both tribal and university needs," Ducheny said in a Jan. 11 letter.

Bringing Down the House

JAN. 2004	UC President Robert C. Dynes asks for a structural and seismic assessment of the property.
NOV. 2007	University House is placed on the National Register of Historic Places, delaying its demolition.
JAN. 2008	UC Regents defer a vote on leveling house after receiving letters from two state senators.

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Courtney Coyle, an attorney representing one of the tribal entities concerned about the project, faults the university for poor communication with the community since the project began.

"There have definitely been some deficiencies in the process," Coyle said. "It was only in the last couple of months that any substantive outreach or progress was made with the tribal communities."

However, Executive Director of University Communications Dolores Davies said the university has made every effort to keep communication open with all constituencies.

"We have been and will continue to be responsive and have an open dialogue with all members of the community," Davies said in an email.

UCSD is now proposing that UC President Robert C. Dynes, among other officials, meet with the interested parties to discuss the situation and formulate a project that will be mutually beneficial to all involved, Coyle said.

"The goal should be that options could come back to the regents not for action but for their consideration for thinking about at the March regents meeting in San Francisco," she said.

The house, added to the National Register of Historic

See **HOUSE**, page 7

NEW POLICY COULD PUT CAP ON 'W' MARK USE

By Justin Gutierrez
STAFF WRITER

An Academic Senate committee is asking for campus input on revisions to UCSD's current course-withdrawal policy, which members hope to change so that students are allowed to withdraw from a class only once.

The Committee on Educational Policy — the body heading the revision — began discussing the current course-withdrawal policy more than three months ago. Members analyzed different policies from other UC campuses, such as a stricter one at UC Irvine, which requires a formal petition when requesting a withdrawal from a class after the add/drop period has passed.

Currently, UCSD does not require any petition to withdraw from a course, and a student can use TritonLink to drop a class repeatedly for an indefinite number of academic quarters. The unguarded accessibility of this option has consistently frustrated professors, said physics profes-

See **POLICY**, page 3

HIATUS

The Mixtape Messiah

Forget Chamillionaire, Lil Wayne stacks more onto his musical canon with a new EP.

page 8



SPORTS

Foiled in Atlanta

Fencers run into problems against the nation's best competition at the North American Cup.

page 16



INSIDE

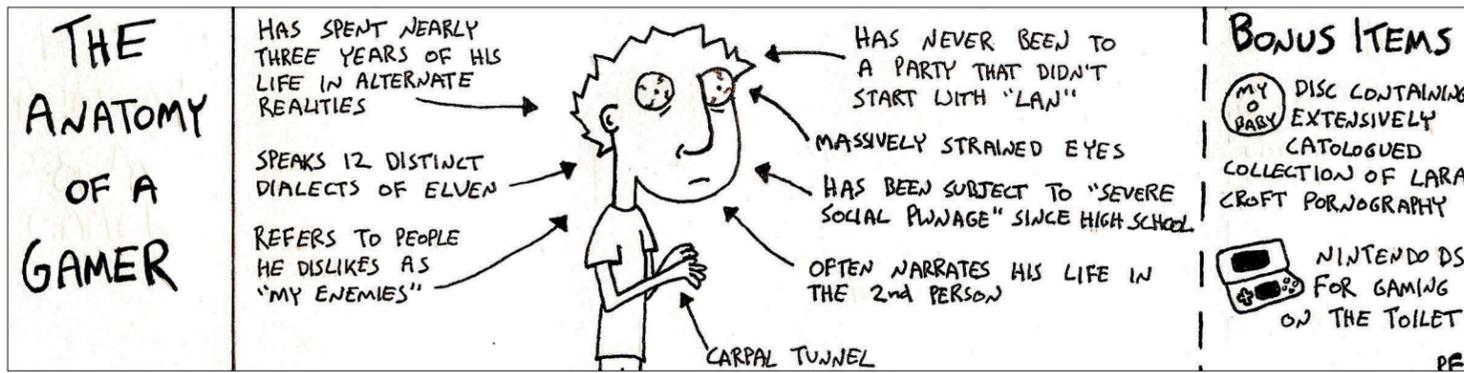
New Business.....	3
Column.....	4
Album Reviews.....	9
Druthers.....	12
Classifieds.....	13
Sudoku.....	13

WEATHER

	
Jan. 24	Jan. 25
H 56 L 47	H 58 L 45
	
Jan. 26	Jan. 27
H 56 L 41	H 59 L 43

POORLY DRAWN LINES

BY REZA FARAZMAND



CURRENTS

Quicker Therapy Gives New Hope to OCD Patients

Campus researchers may have made groundbreaking progress on cognitive-behavioral therapy last week when they demonstrated that as little as four weeks of daily treatment can produce significant changes in brain activity in obsessive-compulsive disorder patients.

Past studies have shown that cognitive-behavioral therapy causes a decrease in elevated activity along the frontal-subcortical circuits of the brain. However, these studies examined changes over at least 12 weeks, the standard duration of OCD treatment, making the discoveries of the most recent four-week study notable.

"First of all, we discovered significant changes in brain activity solely as the result of four weeks of intensive cognitive-behavioral therapy," Sanjaya Saxena, director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders Program at the UCSD School of Medicine, said in a press release. "Secondly, these changes were different than those seen in past studies after a standard 12-week therapeutic approach using SRI medications or weekly behavioral therapy."

The therapy, known as "exposure and response prevention," gradually eliminates patients' obsessive fears or worries by desensitizing them to the objects or tasks that provoke them.

"This is the primary kind of therapy used for OCD," Saxena said. "It teaches patients to pay attention to their internal experi-

ences and tolerate scary thoughts without having to act on them. They learn that nothing terrible happens if they refrain from their usual compulsive behaviors."

After a four-week session, the 10 OCD patients in the study showed substantial improvements in symptoms as well as depression, anxiety and overall functioning.

Regents Choose New Leader of Budget Sector

In response to the recommendation of UC President Robert C. Dynes, the UC Board of Regents appointed Patrick J. Lenz as its system-wide vice president for budget on Jan. 17. His appointment will take effect no later than Feb. 25.

Known as one of California's most knowledgeable experts in higher education funding, Lenz has served as the California State University system's assistant vice chancellor for budget and held various positions with the California Community Colleges, including working as the system's executive vice chancellor.

In his new position as vice president for budget, Lenz's responsibilities include developing, approving, communicating and implementing the university's operating and capital resources acquisitions, allocations and long-term budget plans.

Dynes said Lenz will be a great asset to the university, especially considering the state budget challenges it faces this year. Executive Vice President Katherine N. Lapp added that having Lenz on board will allow the university to pursue its ongoing effort to improve budget management and representation.

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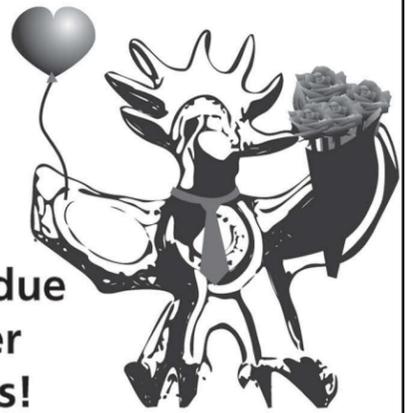
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Mental Health, Budget Issues Among Councilmembers' Chief Concerns

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs **Penny Rue** was the guest of honor at last night's A.S. Council meeting. Despite some initial liveliness on Rue's part, the soggy weather outside foreshadowed the serious conversation between Rue and councilmembers about new budgetary concerns and the state of UCSD's mental health services.

Rue joined the meeting in a fashion uncharacteristic of most administrators, wearing a bejeweled crown seemingly drawn straight from the props bin of a Disney movie set.

"I come to you today as the very recent winner of the office spirit contest for Spirit Week," she said to applause, before setting the crown aside for the rest of the meeting.

She first courted a question from Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Long Pham** about UCSD's plan to respond to a proposed \$400-million funding cut to the UC system.

Pham raised the regents' suggestion to cap enrollment as a means of preventing an increase in expenditures. Rue played down the impact of a cap on undergraduates, saying that UCSD was already approaching its growth potential in that area and would instead focus on growing its higher-paying graduate student population.

Earl Warren College Senator **Kenneth Wong** asked about how the budget cuts could affect student life, and Rue seemed confident in allaying fears about a downturn in state funding.

"If we're adept, it will really not be that obvious to students," she said. "We can delay filling vacancies ... there can be a lot of savings that way."

Sixth College Senator **John Cressey** changed the subject to improving on-

campus mental health services.

Rue prefaced her response by observing that, unlike the situation at most other college campuses, students here are diagnosed with anxiety more frequently than with depression. According to Rue, anxiety responds well to a "mind-body approach," so UCSD would benefit from the creation of a wellness center that is currently in the early planning stages.

Rue explained her theory of a "triage plan" for treating students in which they begin at the peer advisor and guidance counselor level before meeting with psychologists, based on severity of their mental health afflictions.

All Campus Senator **Meghan Clair** was the first to challenge Rue's mental health philosophy, saying that a month long waiting list to see a psychologist was unacceptable. Rue considered Clair's suggestion of an "open door" psychologist in earnest but said that funding constraints would prevent it from becoming a reality.

Arts and Humanities Senator **Samantha Peterson** also questioned Rue about the overwhelmed mental health services at UCSD. Peterson recounted a personal experience about the difficulty of seeking help at UCSD, a quest that ultimately resulted in a one-week hospital stay.

"There's no reason that service shouldn't be available to us," she said. "I spent an entire quarter trying to get an appointment, and it got more and more urgent. It's a ridiculous mess of bureaucracy over there."

Amid this council's most poignant moment so far, Rue offered to speak with Peterson individually about solving UCSD's deficiency in mental health services.



New Business
Michael Bowlus
mbowlus@ucsd.edu

Rue: Sun God Operations Have Reached 'Tipping Point'

► **SUN GOD**, from page 1

it earlier in the year; the latter proposal was made by the Student Policy & Judicial Affairs department to ensure that cases of student discipline could be acted on by the quarter's end.

At this week's A.S. Council meeting, Sixth College Senator **John Cressey** said that the council could not support the costs of implementing all of the report's recommendations. Thurgood Marshall College Council Chair **Lana Blank** said that while she found the report to be impressively thorough, some of the proposed changes are "very drastic." Former council President **Harry Khanna** publicly voiced his specific qualms over changing the concert date, which he said would make attendance problematic for alumni.

UEO Director **Martin Wollesen** said the report's most extensive proposals, such as the date-change, are suggestions for the future and not necessarily bound to this year's concert, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. He added that changing the date of this year's event would adversely impact other departments that have already planned around it.

"The report is a black-and-white example of Sun God's complexity, and how it's inextricably tied to every single facet of student life and a multitude of campus nodes," Wollesen said of the document, the first ever to delve into concerns raised over the concert. "We want to systematically grapple with the issues highlighted in the report, and use it as a jumping-off point to mold future Sun God events."

Officials said the committee's paramount concern is preserving safety. Last year's concert saw a spike in the total number of arrests and citations, with many of the instances related to alcohol, illegal substances and nonaffiliates; the report found that 44 percent of arrests were nonaffiliates.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs **Penny Rue** said that she hoped to see role of nonaffiliates in Sun God's problems reduced. She said she acknowledges both the challenge of implementing the report's every proposal and the fact that the concert was reaching a "tipping point."

"A lot of college celebrations have seen a trajectory similar to Sun God," Rue said. "It starts as a home-grown event and develops to a point where its infrastructure is overwhelmed. But we believe it can be reined in."

Rue added that many simple changes, such as not placing exits and entrances in close proximity, would streamline event operations and ensure basic safety. However, she specifically took issue with the large presence of plainclothes officers during Sun God, but said that the police department had flexibility in how it executed its safety measures.

"Sun God is about pride, and how it draws in students," Rue said. "Unfortunately the number of students who have near-death, abusive experiences is scary. So this committee will have to find that balance — how do we have a safe Sun God that doesn't invade the student's experience?"

A.S. Assistant Vice President of Programming **Kevin Highland** also said that the committee would have to play a delicate balancing act when deciding which proposals to implement.

"While everyone would like to have their way, the administration we have worked with are well aware of the trade-offs that will occur with the implementation of some recommendations," he said. "I feel that they are more often than not willing to accept a compromise if it contributes positively to the campus as a whole."

Readers can contact **Charles Nguyen** at charles_nguyen@sbcglobal.net.

Revision Could Be Instated by Spring Quarter

► **POLICY**, from page 1

sor and CEP Chair **Kim Griest**.

"There are a small group of students who will repeatedly retake a class, which is to the disadvantage of other students," Griest said. "They leave a lot of empty seats in classes which would have been filled by students who are willing to see the course through."

The revised policy would allow a student to withdraw from a course only once. The next attempt at the class would have to be taken full-term for a letter grade.

Although the revision could take effect as early as Spring Quarter 2008, the CEP agreed that the policy should not be retroactive, and previous withdrawal marks taken in a course should not count against a student until the revision is enacted.

"Students can take any number of courses and receive as many 'W's' in them as they want, as long as they do so before the policy revision takes place," said A.S. Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs **Long Pham**, the senate's student representative.

Before any revision takes place, the CEP will send a brief overview of the proposed change via e-mail to UCSD students, staff and faculty, allowing two to four weeks for comments.

"When the policy takes effect will depend on how long the comment process takes," Griest said.

The policy revision will first be brought up to the Academic Senate, which will decide whether to implement the change. The proposed change would then be presented for campus review.

Readers can contact **Justin Gutierrez** at j3gutier@ucsd.edu.

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Third Student Rep. to Judge Narrowed Candidate Pool

► **MARSHALL**, from page 1
group selected of students," she said. "There was no application process or interview conducted. It was not a process that we felt was democratic since committee selection was made by the administration and not the students."

Havis, however, called the decision process routine.

"We're just following and adhering to searches of other colleges," he said. "It's the same protocol. There's nothing unusual happening."

He defended the current group against the council's criticisms, saying that he is confident in its ability to select a qualified dean.

"Selecting search committee members for a staff appointment can never satisfy all interested," Havis said. "But we do feel this is a diverse group representative of many perspectives, and we are encouraged about the energy that this search committee is bringing to this project."

However, Samia said Havis neglected to inform Marshall students that Hands would even be leaving. In addition, he said similar appointments are typically made after the council has been contacted.

"In my personal opinion, the provost should have told us what was happening, and we would have been able to appoint a student, but he didn't do that," Samia said. "And because of the fucked-up problems that happened, Marshall Council has to be more reactive. He almost overstepped the normal way the thing is done."

While the subcommittee's creation represents an understanding between Havis and the council, some councilmembers still express concern that the body — headed

by A.S. Associate Vice President of Student Advocacy Neetu Balram — will only have a nominal role in the ultimate selection process. The third student representative, selected by the student subcommittee, is only allowed to participate in table discussions after the general search committee has reduced its applicant pool to three candidates.

"I originally didn't know how input from [the student subcommittee] was going to translate to the general committee," Blank said. "There's no guarantee of what the third representative says has any bearing. The fact that they only work with the top three candidates is only putting power in the hands of the original committee."

Havis said he disagreed, contending that the third student representative would have "a significant bearing" on the process, despite the fact that he or she will only participate on the last day of the general committee's deliberations.

"I feel positive that we will have an insightful, wise, comprehensive, diverse search process utilizing and integrating many important components and perspectives," he said. "We have to do what we have to do as an institution. It's hard to replace good people, but we will do our best to get another great dean."

Despite the newfound compromise, some councilmembers remain wary of the exchange's wider implications.

"The provost just doesn't understand the process yet," Samia said. "It's just the process that he's just trying to learn and be sensitive to. He just needs to learn how to interact with students in an administrative capacity."

Readers can contact Sam Huang at samhuangc@gmail.com.

Groups Dispute Cost of House's Renovation

► **HOUSE**, from page 1
Places in November, is situated on a sacred American Indian burial ground dating back to almost 10,000 BC.

The dispute over what to do with the house has centered on the desire of historians and American Indian groups to preserve the historical and cultural resources of the house and burial grounds.

University officials have not viewed refurbishing the house as a feasible option.

"The 2004 Work Group reports the university did show that renovation would be even cheaper than building a new structure," Coyle said. "Either they or the donors just didn't want to do it. It wasn't a question of could they do it."

The university did consider the option, but deemed it very likely that once a remodel was initiated, additional structural problems would be identified and the construction cost could significantly exceed initial estimates, Davies said.

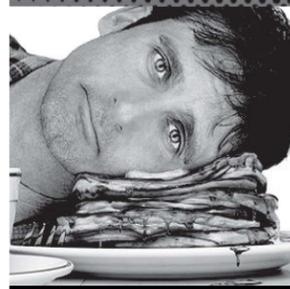
LJHS board member Don Schmidt said the university's proposed demolition would not be able to prevent damage to remains in the burial ground.

All parties expressed optimism about the outcome of the scheduled dialogue in March.

"[UCSD] students really need to know about [the house]," Schmidt said. "It is part of their heritage. It is part of their history. I just hope the university and the regents move forward on preserving the house and the site, and continuing the dialogue with the greater community."

Readers can contact Danielle Warren at dwarren@ucsd.edu.

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EDITORIALS

Programming Shouldn't Drown in Open Floodgates

The first of many Sun God Planning Committee meetings is a sign of things to come; whether that's good or bad for students will be up to A.S. councilmembers. Specifically, the council's programming department will decide what to do with the Sun God 2008 Planning Report, 22 pages worth of inextricably muddled content. It will be a heady task, as that content is as effusive as it is broad — every campus department had its say, and those voices range from intense complaints to light grievances.

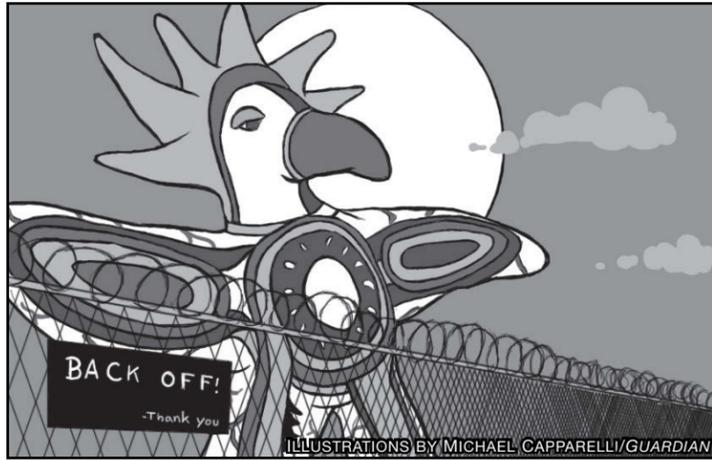
The filter to be used in prioritizing the flurry of proposals is safety, council programmers say. It is the extent to which basic safety bows to basic entertainment that is most at question; a stronger officer presence encourages safety (and is undoubtedly supported by the campus police department), but does it ruin Sun God's free-spirited ambience? This is where negotiation, bartering and back-and-forth dialogues will be key in preserving students' love of their treasured daylong event.

So far, the negotiating parties appear to have sturdy heads on their shoulders. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Penny Rue took a much-appreciated stance against undercover officers during this week's A.S. Council meeting, supporting councilmembers' sentiment that uniformed officers would make Sun God safer, while plain-clothed officers lead to a backward route of enforcement. Officials from the University Events Office have

proclaimed a "tied at the hip" partnership with council programming, which gives them much-needed authority to rebuff complaints from administrative departments used to strong-arm student voices.

Programmers, UEO and Rue are correct in admitting the near unmanageable nature of this era's Sun God. It is a colossal undertaking that reared its ugliest angles last year, when entrance lines collapsed, ticketing operations imploded and the number of arrests shot upward. The problems in 2007 heralded a perfect time to re-evaluate the festival, though it has opened the floodgates to on-campus departments, allowing them to throw every stick and stone at UCSD's defining event.

Because of the report's depth and breadth, the programming department must be wary of its own boundaries and powers: What boundaries will it set to festival changes, and what power does it have to snub departments that believe their changes should take priority? The answers vary. Councilmembers love to voice programming's autonomy over its events, but administrators have muscled past that "Students have rights!" argument before. Baseline issues such as safety can give administrators a possible tool to regulate Sun God's basic operations — changing the date of the festival, for example, is an unconscionable proposal. Yet another concern is the programming department's approach to marketing and advertising, part of its



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL CAPPARELLI/GUARDIAN

attempt at changing the overall image of Sun God. But that image should be self-evolving and self-perpetuating, not a product of UEO, programmers and administrators.

Though there are problems that require some form of committee attention, and soon. The rising profile of nonaffiliates at the concert is causing multiple roadblocks. While completely restricting nonaffiliate access to the concert is extreme, it may be the only way to ward off the shockingly violent behavior of kids that have no concern for a campus that is not theirs.

So as the committee meetings progress, only time will tell what our children's Sun God will look like — hopefully just as fun, just as community-oriented and just as wild.


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Journalist Helps Season Bright-Eyed Columnist

It's a good thing that I don't really like money. As a budding college writer, if I were to pursue any plans of becoming a professional journalist, my future would not exactly guarantee a six-figure salary and a cushy 401(k).


 Seasoned to Taste
Jake Blanc

jblanc@ucsd.edu

As the Internet continues to flourish, offering the average person access to information that 20 years ago was available only via magazines and daily newspapers, the future of print media is in question.

Last week I had the great opportunity to have lunch with Evan Thomas, the managing editor of Newsweek, and was able to pick his brain on the upcoming presidential election, the current state of American politics and, most applicable to me, his thoughts and advice to the next generation of journalists.

Speaking to a crowd of a few hundred people the night before in Price Center Ballroom, Thomas addressed the issue of declining subscription rates for his magazine and the dynamic role that online news outlets have played.

He spoke to the fact that online advertising is much cheaper than it is through print media, which has caused Newsweek to see many of its traditional sponsors pull the plug. According to a report of the State of the News Media, the three biggest newsweeklies — Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report — lost a combined one million subscribers over the last 15 years.

As one of the top men at Newsweek, Thomas seemed a bit dejected when discussing the bleak future of print media and the troubles it poses for his publication. But as an accomplished journalist, he will not bear the burden of journalism's future — he will be long retired by the time technology finally twists the knife into print media.

So between forkfuls of my spinach salad and mango cheesecake, I made a point to ask him what he

See TASTE, page 5

Second Audit Would Help Ensure Preuss' Integrity

It's not often that the views of two opposing groups share significant crossover, let alone converge on a point salient to both parties.

However, such is the case following the audit of UCSD's Preuss School, where both allies and detractors of ex-principal Doris Alvarez are advocating a second, more exhaustive look into the charter school's high-profile grade change scandal.

With so much at stake — including the future of the school's students, which hinges upon the school's reputation — it's difficult to construct a convincing argument as to why administrators should not commission additional investigations into the matter.

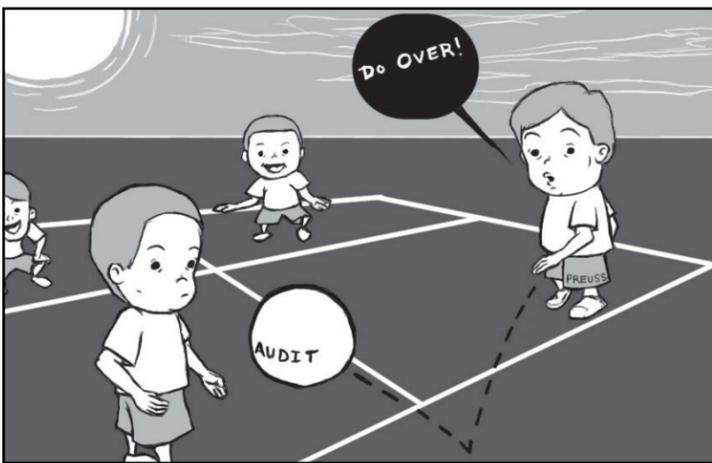
Based on overwhelming evidence collected by campus auditors, it's unlikely that any further statistical analysis — a method advocated by five UCSD professors — will do much to minimize the impact of the 427 grades found to be altered. While they are correct in stating that the analyzed grades did not constitute a random sample of all marks at the school, it appears — in

light of testimony by former registrar's assistant Julianne Singer — that the grade changes themselves were not haphazard, and mostly targeted toward Advanced Placement class grades.

The group's argument seems centered around the possibility that the changes amounted to chance error, although powerful evidence presented by Singer and others suggests this is little more than wishful thinking. Even if no other Preuss grades are found to be inaccurate, it would not lessen the severity of the situation as a whole, or make the administration's proactive response any less of a necessity.

Nonetheless, UCSD's recent commitment to administrative transparency at Preuss is reason enough why the school should consider granting the professors' request.

The campus will be unable to recover from the scandal so long as any questions are left unanswered, and advocating further analysis should not pose any risk if the audit is as sound as university officials claim. In the scientific community, the best theories



are the ones that survive rigorous peer review, and an issue so hotly contested could only benefit from an ultimate consensus about what happened and what should be done to remedy the problem.

By having the school's operations investigated by an external consulting firm, UCSD is making appro-

priate steps toward resolution and closure.

Allowing other parties to examine the evidence and reach their own conclusions — be they statisticians or members of the Academic Senate — would only demonstrate UCSD's renewed push for enhanced accountability.

Marshall Provost Rejects Council's Comments in Appointment Decision

Havis bypasses the standard application process, selecting representatives without student input.

By Silhan Jin
STAFF WRITER

SIX COLLEGES — For over 30 years, Thurgood Marshall College's motto has been "to develop students as scholars and citizens." This stems from the college's philosophy, which seeks to foster not only students' academic excellence but also social responsibility.

However, the recent conflict

between Thurgood Marshall College Council and Provost Allan Havis looks to be just another instance in a long list of administrative neglect.

But perhaps this attitude from the administration is really a tool to gouge the social responsibility out of students.

UCSD undergrads are notoriously apathetic, and it's only reasonable for administrators — like Havis — to undercut the importance of their involvement.

So when Ashanti Hands, Marshall's dean of student affairs, resigned last quarter, Havis thought little of student input when he created a search committee to find her replacement.

He chartered the group over winter break — when most students were

away for the holidays, and appointed Marshall senior Prince Ghuman and TMCC chair Lana Blank to the com-

Perhaps this [uncaring] attitude from the administration is really a tool to gouge the social responsibility out of students."

mittee without a proper application and interview process.

TMCC couldn't express its frus-

tration quickly enough. Though councilmembers said Blank's appointment was expected, they were upset with the other appointee. Ghuman, who was chosen without the council's knowledge or input, was selected simply based on his work in a Marshall dean's office.

Trouble erupted as Havis refused to recognize his error; meanwhile, Ghuman remained missing in action.

The disagreement escalated when Marshall administrators refused to reschedule the search committee's first meeting because of a conflict in Blank's schedule. According to Marshall Senator Kyle Samia — an outspoken advocate of TMCC — Havis told Blank that the first meeting wasn't vital, further implying

that her presence and input were not important.

Samia and Blank both took offense to this, saying that it is not up to the administrators to decide which meetings are important for students to attend. And they're right; Havis has already stepped extensively on the toes of UCSD's most active students — he isn't even pretending to care about their opinions.

"It's one thing to schedule [a meeting] when I have work or student government," Blank said in an e-mail. "But when I have class [it] seems completely unfair. Administrators can change their calendars and move meetings but my job is to be a student and I cannot

See APPOINTEES, page 6

Excessively High Activity Fees Put Strain on Strapped Students

By Aleks Savovic
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — Recently, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a budget that would severely limit state funding for the University of California.

Lawmakers in Sacramento, who admit that the state's deficit has increased to about \$14 billion, have said that state spending on academia needs to change in order to prevent even more fiscal irresponsibility.

Unfortunately, with projected state cuts to the UC system hovering near \$300 million, the viability of offering the current variety and quality of academic programs in the future is now in question. But the cut in state support also means that student fees will inevitably balloon once again.

This is precisely why university leaders should start showing that they care about students by mak-

ing activity fees required only for students who actually benefit from their merits.

With education fees increasing seemingly by the day, the boon of an activity fee lost its persuasion long ago.

While in the beginning of their academic careers students may have found the prospect of using the school's resources attractive, education's heightened cost has mitigated those prior benefits.

Toward the end of every quarter, students notice that the bill for the upcoming quarter includes standard expenses such as registration fees, books and parking. If not waived, there is also a fee for student health insurance.

But then, from the abyss of monetary figures, there emerges a set of fees that would appear quite distinctive within the context of a learning environment.

I'm talking about RUCCI: rec-

See FEES, page 6

With education fees increasing seemingly by the day, the boon of an activity fee lost its persuasion long ago."

Unstable Future Weeds Out Wishy-Washy Writers

► TASTE, from page 4

thought I, as a starry-eyed, optimistic college student, should do about any urges to join the journalism workforce. Being careful to avoid turning me off to the career, he chuckled slightly to himself before giving me some advice that seemed stressed and cautious.

"Find yourself a small newspaper that will allow you to write what you are passionate about; make sure it's something that you really care about," he said.

That's it? Here's one of the most celebrated journalists in the entire nation, and he tells me essentially the same thing that my kindergarten teacher told me when I told her that I wanted to be a pro baseball player: Follow your heart.

I don't know if I was expecting him to offer some piece of sage wisdom that would show me how to be a successful journalist, but I had hoped that any advice from such a prominent writer would contain something a little more concrete.

After the lunch was over, I kept thinking about what he had said about the perils of print media as well as his advice to me as a journalist, and I realized that the two things are perfectly intertwined. Writers of previous generations were never assured lucrative

careers, but they were safe knowing they held a basic monopoly on news, and that if they worked hard enough they could eventually earn a decent living.

With less job security, aspiring writers are now forced to follow Thomas' seemingly vague, but very

Writers of previous generations were never assured lucrative careers, but they were safe knowing they held a basic monopoly on news."

crucial, advice and should only venture into the field of journalism if it is truly what their hearts tell them.

Taking the chance of major financial gain out of the profession will create a pure breed of writers who are writing only because they honestly believe that a virtuous and dedicated media is a fundamental component of a working democracy.

If journalists can attain the same

standing in society as teachers — very noble yet underpaid — a more informed American public will be created. My mother has been a public school teacher for almost 30 years now, and my father apparently took Thomas' advice decades before it was ever given, dedicating his life to working as a journalist and political activist covering grassroots social justice movements.

Although both are unbelievably smart and capable people, my parents chose to follow their hearts and took on careers that directly made the world a better place. My parents will be proud of me no matter what I choose to do, but I feel a lot better knowing that being a part of a new generation of journalists would serve a truly positive role in the world.

Maybe Thomas was just giving me a cliché answer, and maybe he was just blowing me off to hurry on to a more important meeting — or maybe his advice actually was sincere.

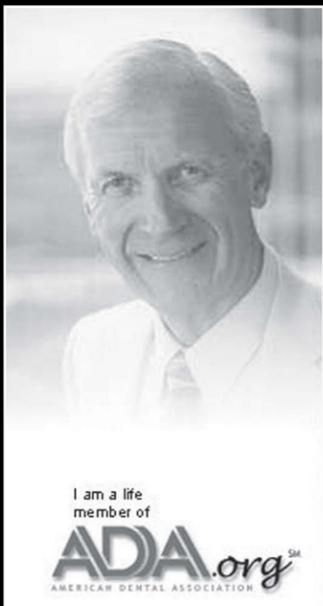
Nobody is in a better place to understand the magnitude of the threat to print media and journalism than he is, and maybe he just wants to make sure that his beloved profession is continued by people whose hearts are in the right place.

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Concert Costs Pose an Unnecessary Burden During Budget Crisis

► **FEES**, from page 5
 reation, university, campus, college and ICA activity fees.
 It's reasonable to assume that RUCCI covers the necessary upkeep expenses for UCSD recreational facilities and entertainment programs.

But should students who never utilize these entities be obligated to pay up? For some, attending a free-to-UCSD-students Kanye West concert really isn't a priority. So should these students still be required to pony up their monetary resources just to remain on the UCSD roster?

Budget wise, the state is facing red almost across the board. And with the current fluid condition of the national economy, California's fiscal problems stand only to worsen before they improve.

Yet, within the context of rising living costs, a looming national recession projected at better-than-even odds and now an increase in UC student fees, it appears as though the educational marginalization of middle- and lower-income Americans is expanding.

In essence, people pay enough merely to live properly in California, and it brings the population no comfort knowing that its offspring

will be forced into deeper debt, courtesy of an educational program that charges fees beyond its immediate purpose: education.

With costs rising, it is now imperative that administrators consider sending RUCCI out to pasture, with the intended effort to continue making UCSD education uniquely affordable relative to this university's academic reputation.

Admittedly, the activity fees mentioned only amount to 15 percent of the big kahuna — the education fee. The ability to afford a couple hundred dollars may be less of an issue for some students than for others. But, ultimately, the concerns of the latter set of students are just as important as those of the former.

Note that the idea is not to simply shut down RIMAC Arena, to stop the yearly Sun God festival or to limit cash for star bands to play at UCSD. No, the real premise

is that activity fees should only be paid by students who acknowledge that they will participate in UCSD activities. Furthermore, students who indicate that they will never participate in fee-based extracurricular events should not be required to pay for RUCCI.

Only then can validation come to an efficient solution to the subjective problem of activity fees coupled with increased education fees.

Besides, the magnitude of students opting not to pay for these fees is likely to be small, as the majority of students would probably realize that they would utilize the recreational facilities at least once weekly. In short, students who do wish to work out at RIMAC need to know that they will be paying for their caloric-reduction plan.

As for those more keen upon the Cobb-Douglas function, they'll be happier knowing they are not paying for an investment they'll never

realize.

In terms of enforcement, a sticker could be applied to each UCSD identification card, which would allow only those students to use RIMAC — similar to the Parking and Transportation Services sticker allowing students to travel within a set radius of UCSD. This kind of implementation would be simple and effective.

Additionally, students who waive their activity fees could purchase tickets for a specific event they wish attend at the nonaffiliate rate. This way students are in control of their activity spending and the university will still take in revenue for its services.

But whatever the program may be, the point is to minimize the adverse effect that activity fees may have on talented, yet financially strapped, current and prospective UC students.

California is as diverse financially per capita as it is with respect to individual talent. It would be a shame for a university to impede the budding talent by heightening the importance of financial ability.

Readers can contact Aleks Savovic at asavovic@ucsd.edu.

“Activity fees should only be paid by students who acknowledge that they will participate in UCSD activities.”

For Admins' Attention, Students Must Give to Receive

► **APPOINTEES**, from page 4
 change my class schedules.”

But then again, from an administrative point of view this may appear as a further example of students' indifference.

Luckily, after a long debate, Havis and TMCC finally reached a compromise. They decided to add a separate search committee, predicated on the idea that it would provide a fresh perspective to the views of the existing committee.

The only downside is that this new committee will not have voting powers, and will be able to only offer recommendations.

Though the council attempted to convince the administration of the importance of voting power for the new committee, Havis wouldn't compromise further.

Last year, a similar situation occurred during a review of Marshall's Dimension of Culture writing program, when the council wanted student participation in an important curriculum committee. The council's request was rejected, however, and students were instead offered a spot on a separate committee without voting rights.

These two instances, in addition to the dearth of Warren College Student Council involvement in the recent general education requirement changes, are unfortunate examples of administrative disregard.

However, blame for the lack of communication also falls on students.

Out of UCSD's approximately 22,000 undergrads, only a small minority is active through student councils and organizations. Additionally, voter turnout for issues like referenda and student representatives — which directly affect students — is relatively low.

To administrators, this implies student apathy, prompting them to disregard the few students who actually take an active interest in school government.

As students see that they must stand up and force UCSD administrators to take their opinions seriously — the way TMCC members are attempting — they are pushed to develop into responsible citizens.

So is there a method to what appears to be administrative madness? Involved students can only hope.

Unfortunately, the average student does not have the time or the resources to keep themselves updated on new and upcoming policies and procedures. Some are too busy, while many are simply disinterested.

But responsible on-campus citizenship doesn't always have to start and end with bureaucracy. It also includes the simple act of participating in school activities, or voting in A.S. Council elections.

On UCSD's apathetic campus, students need to work hand-in-hand with administrators in order to have their opinions considered. University leaders have a long history of stubborn disinterest in student input — the situation with Havis is no exception — but if students are ever going to get their voices heard, they need to tone down the complaining and start working toward a mutual understanding. Administrators are never going to respect student suggestions when they know they can get away with ignoring them.

You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar, and students need to take the hint: If they want to catch the attention of administrators, they need to get involved.

Until then, the administration's attitude will not change.

Readers can contact Silhan Jin at sijin@ucsd.edu.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

THE BEST SONGS
IN HIATUS
THIS WEEK
**boss
ditties**

The Mars Volta

- "Aberinkulo"
- "Ilyena"

Super Furry Animals

- "Into the Night"
- "Run Away"

HARDCORE VS. CASUAL = GAMING FTW

I find it surprising that a gaming column for the *Guardian* has yet to exist — the gaming industry is one of the fastest growing markets in the world. Though I don't consider myself an expert in the field by any means, I thought it necessary that I somehow contribute as someone passionate and willing to write about my favorite hobby. I didn't start this column to play nice to gamers, or to attract more people to gaming; the purpose is to discuss aspects of gaming culture that deserve to be noticed. For example, crappy over-hyped releases will get bashed and under-hyped gems will be praised. For this introductory article, I specifically want to address two main types of gamers: the hardcore and the casual. As a disclaimer (the only disclaimer you'll ever get), I'm a cynical gamer with strong opinions, so take what I say with a grain of salt.

Everyone has their own image of the typical hardcore gamer, but I personally don't have any problems with World of Warcraft players, or those cosplay types at every anime convention that look like cracked-out Halloween kids. The problem lies with the competitive gamers. See, unlike their role-playing counterparts, these assholes suck the fun out of games. I don't join Halo matches to get insta-killed for the two seconds I get to step on the map. I play these games online so I can enjoy that familiar single-player experience with other people — hence the term "multiplayer." But multiplayer just doesn't fucking work; there's no reliable difficulty scaling. Ideally, the match-making system implemented in every console game is supposed to bypass this problem, but it's almost always broken and it doesn't apply to online PC gaming. Ultimately, I'm left to play matches against people with way too much time on their hands. Though I should put the blame on inconsistent matchmaking, I blame every hardcore gamer for being so damned good. Fuck you all.

On the other end of the spectrum lie casual gamers, the people too pretentious to admit that they play games. I don't know how many times I've seen someone pull out Brain Age on the DS and claim that they're not playing a game, but rather enjoying a "brain-enhancing experience." If you're holding a mobile gaming device with a gaming cartridge inserted into it, you're playing a fucking videogame. This faction is too ignorant to understand what makes a game a game, and to make matters worse, they can't discern good games from great ones. I've seen people at game conventions waiting in lines longer than the reproductive organs of horses to play Wii Sports. Wii Sports isn't even a game; it's a tech demo. I guess I'm more afraid than angry at these casual gamers for what they represent, which is the potential future of the industry. If big-name developers start making titles continually geared toward the casual gamer, will we lose our epic blockbusters? With the rise of games like Wii Fit, a glorified jazzercise mat that's currently the most popular title in Japan, I sure as hell don't want to find myself five years from now "playing" Pilates with Mario as my instructor, as pictured.

Despite my problems and concerns with these two gamer types, I can't be completely cynical and claim that they are both detrimental to gaming. If anything, the hardcore and casual gamer provide the foundations on which the medium can grow. I'm glad that some people love games enough to want to play them like a part-time job, and I'm glad that more and more people are gradually becoming interested in games, whatever form they may come in. As long as people are willing to enjoy the pastime for what it is, then our industry will have no choice but to prosper. So I say, rock on, gamers, rock the fuck on.



Critical Hit!

PHILIP RHIE
prhie@ucsd.edu



WAYNE'S QUICK LEAK SMELLS STALE

By *Andres Reyes* Staff Writer

Lil Wayne
• **The Leak**
CASH MONEY



Lil Wayne has been something of a feature slut this past year, appearing on tracks with almost every mainstream rapper in hip-hop, as well as releasing countless mixtapes (including the highly entertaining *Da Drought 3*) easily adding up to several albums' worth of material.

Still, he has yet to drop his highly anticipated sixth solo album, *The Carter III*.

So in comes *The Leak*, a puzzling EP released December last year to very little fanfare or promotion.

The Leak is supposed to be a mini-compilation of Lil Wayne songs that serves as a precursor for his upcoming album.

The only thing is, a leak is supposed to create a buzz; an interest in the artist's project, and in order for that to happen you would need to leak quality material (or at least entertaining in some form or fashion). No one in Lil Wayne's camp seemed to remember that last bit.

Instead, what we're left with is a pretty

accurate portrayal of what Lil Wayne seems to be right now: all over the place, unfocused, rapping like a maniac and slightly boring. The most exciting track is easily "I'm Me," where Wayne does what Wayne does best: rap about himself, how much weed he smokes and how he makes much more money than you — and it sounds pretty damn fun.

Too bad he can't keep the same spirit going for the rest of the EP. "Love Me or Hate Me" and "Talkin' 'Bout It" are some of the most boring Weezy tracks in recent memory, as WF Baby phones in his verses over mediocre beats. "Kush" is a fun little track, but it's nothing noteworthy or extraordinary, especially considering the standards Wayne has set for himself. "Gossip," the track Lil Wayne debuted at the B.E.T. awards this past year, is pretty ridiculous. The track runs around how much Wayne has done for hip-hop, yet how little he has been appreciated, which is particularly hard to believe — especially since Wayne has been on the cover of magazines, every remix in the past year and pretty much lauded from all circles.

The Leak is a joke, the material is sub par and its timing is odd. More puzzling still: Who the hell is going to buy a crappy five-song EP nowadays anyway?

Hey Mr. Mixtape, Take Your Mic

HOW LIL WAYNE
PUT HIS STAMP ON
TRACK STACKS

By *Charles Nguyen* SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With James Brown long gone, the title of "hardest working man in showbiz" might as well be passed on — and who's a better candidate for that crown than Lil Wayne, mixtape master and urban poet extraordinaire? Traditionalists might cry blasphemy, but here's a few facts to set ya'll straight:

Weezy hasn't had a solo album release in two years, but has musical canon as long as his Cadillac.

He's gotten every critic riding with him, from *Washington Post* pundits to MTV's "hip hop brain trust."

By producing track after track, and then some more, Lil Wayne's career has diffused across hip-hop's often cluttered landscape.

While most rappers only give us the means to bob and weave, Weezy's effusive lyricism has a more imagistic moving power, plopping us on his street corner one second, in New Orleans' trashed ghettos the next, then throwing us toward Capitol Hill the second after that.

Best thing about Lil Wayne is, the man picked a new, previously underutilized way of maximizing his rep: mixtapes. In the last year, Lil Wayne single-handedly boosted the mixtape game, making appearances on a roof-high stack of tracks while spitting out some diamond-studded ones of his own.

So while we all hunker down for *Tha Carter III* (which, judging from *The Leak*, could very well burn his career hard), here's a look at the best tracks from Weezy's most acclaimed mixtapes of the past two years: *Dedication 2* and *Da Drought 3*.



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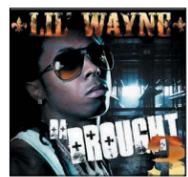
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Gritty Streetside Copycat Takes Classics into Custody

► MIXTAPE, from page 8

Da-Drought-3



1. Seat Down Low: Wayne starts this cut with his trademark sideways humility, first proclaiming T.I.'s standing as his brother and "the king," and then going on to crown himself as "the best rapper alive." Rap's cutthroat characters need a lesson from Wayne, who knows tearing down peers doesn't mean shit toward advancing your career. Backed by those Mannie Fresh's beats that hearken divinity and trumpets that open clouds, Wayne rides heavy on the track that made T.I.'s *King* one of 2006's best solo efforts.

2. Get High, Rule Tha World: Reaching far back into '90s classics, Weezy turns Nas' pairing with Lauryn Hill's "If I Ruled the World" on its head. Wayne's lyricism gets gritty ("I been shot two times/ Just wipe that off") as often as it gets ridiculous ("And I never miss a game, no Shaq O'neal/ More like Brett Favre"). Shout-outs to Favre and put-downs to Shaq always make for a winner.

3. N.O. Nigga: Any chance to see Young Jeezy's romp redone is welcomed. And of course, as the prime example of the listener's rapper, Lil Wayne is happy to oblige, slamming the song with the type of grunting rap that will have any head bouncing. His metaphorical side kicks in with a sweet declarative line: women share him like oxygen.

4. Put Some Keys on It: Wayne wrecks Rich Boy's 'Lac by way of Polow Da Don's addictive beat production and a barrage of pop culture references. Only this creatively conscious rapper can put Michael Jordan, Tonya Harding, Norbit and Orbitz shoulder-to-shoulder in one, outstretched breath. And it's Wayne's undeniable musicality that makes us love every strung-out verse.

5. Don't Stop Won't Stop: Let's face it — Young Gunz were undeserving of the original pop-tastic beat. Wayne recoups the shame by partnering with the silky Nikki Menaj, whose flow is just as smooth when she's repping her fine-ness as when she's calling herself Hermione. And yes, that means there's a Harry Potter shout-out.

Dedication-2



1. Canon (AMG Remix): An all-star list converges on this cut, which blasts off with a hailstorm of Weezy spitfire. Freeway washes the song over with more of his hallmark yelling, which fits perfectly in this fervent, wildly executed song. There isn't rapping in this head-pounding ditty — the mic flails around before it smashes like glass against the concrete.

2. Riding with the AK: Wayne preserves the Southern swagger of the Purple Ribbon All-Stars, whose "Kryptonite" thudded many a rear-view, bumped many a woofer and lifted many a trunk. Currency and Mac Maine bookend the song, but Weezy chokes the middle with speedy verve, professing the best gun-toting love since Tupac rapped about making a girlfriend out of his piece.

3. Welcome to the Concrete Jungle: In this cut, Dipset's youngin' urbanizes a dinky-dink cowbell beat with those lovable "yeps" and his pervasive fluidity. It's a fitting lead-in for Wayne, who pours over his take on the streets with a sharpened tongue: "I won't stop cappin' 'til ya wings start flappin'! And you, you just an angel in the street full of gangstas."

4. Georgia Bush: What Kanye does, Lil Wayne can always do better. Instead of blabbering like a fool next to a dumb-struck Mike Myers, Wayne chooses the route of song to take stabs at the ignominious Dubya. The New Orleans native's briskly agile flow meets perfectly with Ray Charles' suave, making for a hellishly passionate assault of beefs on Bush. Then mid-song, Weezy grabs Tupac's classic "Ambitions of a Rider" beat and whips up some even fresher Bush bitch-outs.

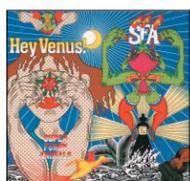
recordings

Super Furry Animals

Hey Venus!

ROUGH TRADE

★★★★



Enveloped by undulating swoons — oddly reminiscent of the Beach Boys on a spacey, psychedelic trip — it's easy to understand why the appeal of *Super Furry Animals* has endured over a decade of mind-bending invention. The nonsensical neon album cover of their eighth installment, *Hey Venus!*, is alone a reflection of the Welsh beasts' ever-burgeoning imagination. Their latest explosion of sunshine-y doowop and bongo beats is a rainbow spectrum of weird, as if the awe-inspiring aftermath of some LSD-incited storm.

Although the album starkly fluctuates between tambourine-backed harmonies and sophisticated piano grunge, the tunes serve to narrate the romance of a rural girl with big-city ambitions. "The Gateway Song" is a 43-second crack of Brit-bubblegum, with frontman Gruff Rhys jokingly assuring that it "brings you on nicely to the harder stuff." Indeed, what follows are the Motown-inspired

"Run-Away" and jazzy, lo-fi "The Gift That Keeps Giving" (a throw-back to 2000's experimental *Mwng*). But we aren't truly blasted into electric shock until "Into the Night" turbo-charges the record with its Turkish twanging and techno swells of keyboardist Cian Ciarán.

The only stumble in the band's audacious strut is the borderline-annoying and largely pointless "Baby Ate My Eightball," which badgers us with a stream of high-pitched la-la-las. But the elegant "Let the Wolves Howl at the Moon" more than compensates for this forgettable slip. "Wolves" is a hollow and blues-y waltz to the album's close. And while its chorus escalates: "For the end/ it comes so soon," we are reminded that, for every Furries finale, there awaits a new pitcher of creative juice to be squeezed from the pop powerhouses.

— **Sonia Minden**
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

The Bigger The Hit The Harder They Fall.

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recordings

Vampire Weekend

■ Vampire Weekend

XL

★★★



It's hard to back a band that sings about Louis Vuitton and Peter Gabriel unironically, but then again, I don't live in Williamsburg, N.Y. The collegiate boys of Vampire Weekend cop traditional South African style and fit it into a three-minute academic pop box. This "world" sound has been branded innovative and cool in a new context, even if it amounts to a half-baked, ska-Strokes approach with occasional djembe beats.

First strike: Ska tends to share a space with bagpipe jazz and Christian rap as a genre with no redeeming qualities. Thankfully, *Vampire Weekend* leaves the fluttery trumpets behind, but curiously saves the awful chord jangles (see "A-Punk").

Second strike: This album isn't going to age gracefully. A few days after the first listen, its trashy references are still embarrassing, and the college theme still an overdone shtick. What happens when the four grads grow out of their campus fascination? Can they be sweater-tied scholars forever? Maybe lead singer Ezra Koenig will get a teaching degree and write as a professor for their second album.

And strike three: There's hardly an appropriate listening environment for this disjointed debut (besides Urban Outfitters and trust-fund yacht parties). Song parts often stand jarringly alone, as in new wavy number "One (Blake's Got a New Face);" the band can't manage to blend afro indie-lite with Walkmen rock bombast, so it shuffles between the two awkwardly, selling both short.

That's not to say their bookish antics never pay off: opener "Mansard Roof" embraces minimalism well, with sparse but effective drum hits, symphonic/tropical keys and mandolin-style guitar strums. Koenig's dynamic range and quaint melody on the track hints at a potential his group may or may not have. One thing is certain: if it weren't for music blogs, Vampire Weekend would've spent an extra few months in the oven to everyone's benefit.

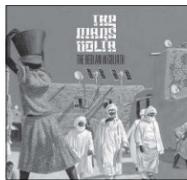
— Chris Kokiousis
ASSOCIATE HIATUS EDITOR

The Mars Volta

■ The Bedlam In Goliath

UNIVERSAL

★★★



Put your Adderall away, babies, or Mars Volta's latest effort will give you a motherfucking heart attack. If you're not down with extensive instrumentals and electronic layering so heavy Jesus couldn't identify half the shit they play, then stay as far away from Mars Volta as you can get. The barrage of intense noise is so mind-numbingly thick that you'll either want to punch a fucking hole in the wall or do a hit of acid and run naked through Balboa Park. After numerous musician turnovers and member deaths, the group's latest installment, *The Bedlam In Goliath*, is a twisting voyage into the band's apparent "haunting."

Totally theme-based, *Bedlam* relates the tale of the group's haunted Ouija board, picked up by guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez on a trip to Jerusalem. In addition to providing the guys with oodles of lyrics and creative juice, the poltergeist's overzealous ways apparently led to the flooding of several homes and the disappearance of entire tracks. Bullshit or not, the resulting fiasco of pulsating beats mixes electronica, mechanical warble and Indian chant into a buffet of sound.

The over-processed feel of *Bedlam* is at times delightful, like trying to identify all the individual components of a delicious dessert. You dig through awesome guitar riffs, looping insane lyrics, synthesized bell chimes and the grounding presence of hectic drums. All that is Mars Volta is here in abundant experimental shifts, shoving more and more shit into every second of every minute of the album. But unless you're on speed, listening to *Bedlam* in one go is like having musical schizophrenia, the lyrics usually lost in the clamor of Middle Eastern chaos.

Though successful in its avant-garde mess of rock 'n' roll, *Bedlam* fails to create truly stand-out tracks. The songs tend to blur unless you hunker down next to the speakers and Google the lyrics. Singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala's voice can also get pretty high in the register, becoming a Weird Al Yankovic-like whine. Thankfully, Bixler-Zavala reins in his sonic pitch for most of the album, and the instruments get to hog the spotlight. The take-home message of *Bedlam* is not how beautifully crafted anarchy can be, but whether you enjoy the in-your-face-ness of track after track of kooky RPG lyrics and pandemonium is really up to you.

— Autumn Schuster
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Cat Power

■ Jukebox

UNIVERSAL

★★★



Soft, dramatic and slow — Cat Power's (AKA Chan Marshall) mostly new cover-based album slinks up on you like an unexpected Prince Charming at a dive bar. Drink in one hand and joint in the other, Marshall whisper-croons her thick-bodied soul version of songs by artists like Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday and Marshall's own lyrical crush, Bob Dylan, into your ear.

But like any true shitty bar hook-up, what starts out as novel fun ends up fading with the first few drops of startling sobriety. Marshall starts out strong, with a version of "New York, New York" that Frank Sinatra would be hard-pressed to recognize, setting the mood for *Jukebox* as an intriguing tweak of classics into full-bodied, countrified blues numbers as only she can do.

Even if Sinatra couldn't pick his song out of her musical lineup, the modifications enacted by the vet-

eran songstress are gritty and moving. She takes the grandstand out of New York and replaces it with a city that kicks your ass while it takes your name, infusing the old adage "I want to be a part of it" with a blush-worthy sensuality.

She tackles some old material in the form of her grownup take on "Metal Heart," a song originally heard on 1998's *Moon Pix*, this time around pushing a wise intensity into the fragile lyrics of yesteryear.

But the best moment of *Jukebox* happens when Marshall blatantly adores Dylan via the only original track on the album, "Song to Bobby." It's a frank admission of balls-out long standing Dylan-love: "Giving you my heart was my plan/ I wish I could tell you." With her paper-thin voice backed by the Dirty Delta Blues, she creates a relaxing mix of covers that diverge from 2000's *The Covers Record*.

But the gusto she injects into her country ballads and tunes of idolatry get lost around the middle and end when she tackles James Brown and Dylan. Rather than reinventing the magic of folk or R&B, she executes the verses almost too faithfully, maintaining the heart of the tune but dragging the music down in her own tragedy-soaked voice.

To both a benefit and a detriment, Marshall immerses herself in the music, slowing it all down to toil through another artist's work in her own melancholy fashion. By the end of the album, it's hard not to mentally check out and head bob as the long journey comes to a close and the music's lethargy peaks. Though a passionate collection, *Jukebox* is a slow-jam parade of hits that soothe more often than they stimulate.

— Autumn Schuster
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

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PROPAGANDA TRACED TO TORTURE PORN

By Josh Christensen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Some of the Internet Movie Database's keywords for "Saw"-in-cyberspace "Untraceable" include: snuff, torture, serial killer and *shirtless male bondage*. At least if super-MILF Diane Lane isn't your draw, you're not left on the sexual gratification lurch. You get enough of both in another crime-thriller knockoff about the dark side of curiosity.

Told from the perspective of a cop single-mom doing her part to stop illegal downloads, the movie comes across like the Motion Picture Association of America's "Piracy is Theft" commercials. But instead of asking, "You wouldn't steal a purse, would you?" the question is "You wouldn't log on to a snuff site if it would help kill the victim, would you?" For most of us, sadly, the answer is a firm yes. The movie opens with FBI cybercops employing every trick in the Gestapo/KGB manual of yesteryear to bust a 12-year-old

boy for hacking credit cards to buy toys. The kid is whisked away from his family before dawn. Everyone gives each other high fives. Dubya would be proud. Immediately after little Billy is behind bars, a real criminal emerges.

Someone is torturing a cat and broadcasting it online with streaming video. Agent Marsh and her online dating sidekick Griffin Dowd (Colin Hanks) want to shut this sicko down, but can't because his transmission is — dramatic pause — untraceable! Desperate for more computing power, the heroes beg their superior for access to the National Security Agency's big-guns super computer.

But their boss doesn't mind a few tortured cats, ignoring their concerns until a man turns up on the site, tied to a bed frame with the Web site's logo, Killwithme.com, etched on his chest. As they gather around the monitor to watch, the victim is injected with a serum that prevents blood from clotting. As more people visit the

site, the dosage increases until he bleeds to death.

From there the chase is on to catch the killer. Each new victim draws more attention from the press and a complicit American audience can't help but watch. As the viewers increase, the victims die, faster and faster, while the killer absolves himself of blame. The message is made even clearer in an FBI statement to the press, "We are the murder weapon!"

"Untraceable" fails not for copy-cattening genre icons or for leaving out the gratuitous nudity, but for overreaching political statements. The Web site only allows American web-goers, obviously commenting on the amoral popularity of shock videos like "Faces of Death" that crowd the Internet. Less obvious, but no less pretentious, are the fascist overtones. There's a strong desire to condemn the film's glorification of belligerent FBI actions, but when the audience cheers at the most offensive moments, it's hard to deny how



effectively our American police state is portrayed.

No one who sees this movie is there to hear good storytelling. Like the audiences of "Hostel," "Saw" or any other torture-porn entertainment, these people buy tickets to revel in gore. And they get plenty. Not quite as inventive as "Saw" tortures, our latest cyber killer (yes, they've coined a new crime) burns one man alive with heat lamps, boils another in sulfuric acid and — most disgusting of all — snares a kitten in a rat trap only to watch it slowly die. Lulu the cat was clearly animatronic, but that doesn't mean you can't cry for her.

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"War/Dance"

KEN CINEMA / OPENS FRIDAY

Nowadays, documentaries set in war-torn regions of Africa are a dime a dozen. With the increasing attention on the continent (albeit very, very slowly), you might look at "War/Dance" with a "here's another one" mentality. What you'll be missing — and what sets this story of musical hope apart from its counterparts — is the brilliant choice by directors Sean Fine and Andrea Nix to focus not solely on the

violence in Northern Uganda. Rather, they close in on the hope its displaced and orphaned kids find in music and dance as a vehicle for personal and, by proxy, national peace, as they journey to their nation's capital to compete in its annual festival. The film, an Oscar nominee and winner of Best Documentary at Sundance, will open at the Ken Cinema for one week. (CM)

Yeasayer/MGMT/Calico Horse

THE CASBAH / JAN. 25 / \$12

Two highlights from Brooklyn's glut of buzz-rockers bring their own kind of party to the Casbah this Friday. Yeasayer celebrates a post-apocalyptic rave fueled by tribal jam sessions, and MGMT makes an arena-sized tribute to pop history that transcends the group's ultra-modern sheen. The former's single "2080" details the awful truths of the present day through a soaring chorus and sidestepping guitar arpeggios; it

reaches its peak when the vocal hollers and rumbling drums beg for people's attention. MGMT just wants to take pop craft to its next logical step, not reinvent the song, and "Weekend Wars" polishes classic glam-rock themes 'til they glow. Local up-and-comers Calico Horse introduce the night with a confessional indie ambience, an organic and reverberating take on traditional guitar-bass-drum instrumentation. (CK)

art ^{pwr}

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A	T	A	D	T	U	N	E	Y	I	P	E	S
M	R	R	I	G	H	T	A	N	G	L	E	S
P	O	K	E	A	T	L	Y	R	E	T	R	E
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Find SUDOKU solutions on next Mondays Calendar section

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Tritons Crush Cross-Town Rival Toreros



ERIK JEPSEN/GUARDIAN FILE

The men's swimming and diving teams performed admirably against the Division I Aggies, winning five meets total, including both diving events on Jan. 20.

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► **SWIVE**, from page 16

contests, while the women also took three events of their own.

The women's swimmers showed that the USD Toreros could not keep up with them as they won 12 of the 14 events in the matchup. The Tritons even took first and second place in several events, including the 200-yard freestyle relay. Freshman Anju Shimura and junior Shannon Simonds were the top two finishers in the 200-yard freestyle, while junior Erinn Deters and Simonds placed first and second, respectively, in the 100-yard freestyle. Deters also won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.60, while Simonds won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:12.98. Shimura also won her second event, the 200-yard backstroke, in 2:08.65. Junior Jennifer Sims won both of her events with a 58.48 in the 100-yard butterfly and a 2:07.78 in the 200-yard butterfly while sophomore Karla Holman took the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:13.30.

The Triton women made amazing individual showings, but they also dominated as a team. They won the 400-yard medley relay with a powerful combination of Shimura, Bohn, Sims and Deters that finished in 3:59.97.

The women divers did just as well as their swimming counterparts, as the Tritons took second, third and fourth in the three-meter diving with sophomore Jennifer Lappe, senior Amanda Mason and sophomore Danielle Niculescu. The Tritons ended the meet against USD with a solid victory of over fifty

points.

"Coming from [Loyola Marymount University], we did awesome against USD," Shimura said. "We did a total 180 and came into this meet with a completely different mentality."

The team traveled to the Schaal Aquatics Center in Davis next to take on the Aggies. Although the men lost a close match and the

"This weekend we asserted that we are the best team in San Diego."

— Aubrey Panis,
junior swimmer

women lost badly in points, the team won several events, and the divers had a great meet.

"Davis is a Division I team with scholarships and a full team," Sims said. "We just wanted to have a good meet as a team and show Davis that we are a threat."

The Tritons swept both the men's one-meter and men's three-meter diving, placing first through fourth in both events with senior Andrew Skewes winning both events and sophomore Kevin Sullivan, senior Jeff Bryant and senior Aaron Cantu following close behind. The Tritons also won six other events as a team, three for the women and three for the men. Freshman Brandon Maryatt

won the 100-yard breaststroke for the men with a time of 59.71. The men's team also swept the 400-yard individual medley, filling all four top spots. Junior Steven Hardy won the event with a time of 4:19.42, followed by junior Kneif Lohse, junior Dan Gluvers and freshman Kyle Begovich. The men also took first and second in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a team of sophomore Todd Langland, Maryatt and sophomores Greg Goodell and Dan Perdw, with a winning time of 3:11.82.

On the women's side, Sims won two events, the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard butterfly, in 58.68 and 2:07.25, respectively. Shimura also won an event for the women with a leading time of 2:07.04 in the 200-yard backstroke.

Finishing the weekend with one win and one loss, the Tritons only have one more meet to prepare for the Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Championships and NCAA Division II Championships.

"This weekend we asserted that we are the best team in San Diego," junior Aubrey Panis said. "It was exciting and we have a lot of motivation going into conference championships."

The Tritons' last home meet will be Jan. 26 against UC Irvine and Cal Baptist University. After that, the team will head to Long Beach for the PCSC Championships in February in what will be the Tritons' last chance to qualify swimmers and divers for nationals.

Readers can contact Casey Armstrong at carmstro@ucsd.edu.

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Referendum is a Waste of Money Without Fans

► **ATTENDANCE**, from page 16

the meantime, only a grassroots movement by UCSD fans can strengthen sports programs at UCSD. Considering that students are paying well over \$300 a year toward athletics, one would think they would take a more active role in on-campus sports.

More home fans will translate into more wins, which will help build up the championship tradition, bringing in more top recruits and leading to a very bright future for Triton athletics. UCSD can try and lure the best talent to its program, but who would want to go to a school where your hard work and skill aren't respected or even noticed by the student body?

Lately there has been a growing movement on campus to bring a football team back to the school. While it would be great if the university were to have a football team again after a 40-year hiatus, it is by no means feasible anywhere in the near future. Clinging to false hopes of forming a football team gives those students personal justification for not attending games of the few dedicated teams that the school actually has. If even the smallest frac-

tion of the almost 3,000 students in the "Bring UCSD a Football Team!" Facebook group were to attend a Triton game once a week, the attendance at home games would skyrocket.

While money from the referendum does its best Ronald Reagan impression, slowly trickling down through Triton athletics programs, UCSD students must take it upon themselves to improve school sports from the bottom up. And if bolstering UCSD sports and spirit is not enough of an incentive, then maybe this is: Each student is paying this fee regardless of how the teams perform, so not being active in the Triton sports program means that, essentially, you are wasting your money.

Without the strong fan support, UCSD teams are merely a few students running around a field — regardless of how much more money may or may not be behind them. If the school is ever going to have a chance at competing on the same athletic level as the other top-tier universities that UCSD students claim to be on par with academically, then each student must realize their dynamic potential and put their (referendum) money where their mouth is.

Women's Rugby Set to Start League Play

By Matt Croskey
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

CLUB SPORTS — This year's edition of the UCSD women's rugby team is admittedly a little younger and a little smaller than its fellow competitors, but that hasn't held it back.

Competing in what has been considered the fastest growing women's sport in the nation, UCSD has helped forge the way for West Coast teams. The sport is profoundly more popular back east, where teams receive more funding and have larger squads.

Despite the roadblocks it has faced, the UCSD squad has built a reputation for itself and now competes against Division I foes Arizona State and UCLA in the SoCal League.

But before league play gets underway, the Tritons traveled to Stanford University on Jan. 19 and 20 to compete in the Stanford Invitational and get one final tuneup. As last year's national runner-up, Stanford headlined the 16-team field, which included many other top teams in the west.

Team president and captain Kim Wise said the team made great strides competing at such a high level and was proud of the team's fourth-place finish.

"Everyone played really well this weekend and the rookies really stepped it up," she said. "We're a young team this year, and we lost some key players during the matches. Had a few things worked the other way, we could've come away with some more wins."

UCSD opened up against Chico State and the Wildcats downed the Tritons 10-5, but the results weren't considered official, according to Wise.

"Chico was playing its alumni so the game didn't really matter," Wise said. "It was more of a friendly match and a warm-up."

After the opening match, the Tritons faced UC Berkeley in what grew into an

80-minute grudge match. UCSD was forced to play shorthanded for the better part of the match when two players went down with injuries. Despite the disadvantage, the Tritons played with a vengeance but came up short in the end, losing 15-14.

The injuries played a large role in the heartbreaking defeat, as the Tritons spent more time playing defense instead of trying to advance the ball.

"If we had had one more person, we could've won," Wise said.

UCSD didn't let down; the rookies helped the Tritons shut down out-of-state foe Oregon State 39-0 to close day one with a victory and gain momentum heading into the second day.

On the second day, the Tritons faced rival UCLA and tournament host Stanford and came away with a split decision. UCSD took home a promising win against conference rival Bruins and will look to build off the confidence that came with the victory.

The afternoon match against the Cardinal was a different story. Wise said that while the Tritons were excited to play a team that expects to make the national tournament, it's intimidating to play such a great program.

"They were one of the best teams in the nation last year and have a great program," she said. "It was a close match but they are just a good team. We really learned a lot about our team from playing them and we are excited to move into our regular season."

The Tritons will head east next for a friendly match against the University of Arizona and a conference match against Arizona State University. Wise said the team is confident that they can come away with two victories and build some momentum heading into its matchup against UCLA.

Readers can contact Matt Croskey at mcroskey@ucsd.edu.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

W. BASKETBALL

vs. San Francisco State
The No. 20 Tritons will be playing in front of a Spirit Night crowd at RIMAC Arena and will look to start the festivities off with a win when they take on the Gators.
Jan. 25 @ 5:30 p.m.

M. BASKETBALL

vs. San Francisco State
The Tritons will put their perfect home record of 7-0 on the line when they host the Gators in the second game of the Spirit Night doubleheader.
Jan. 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
vs. UC Irvine, Cal Baptist
Jan. 26 @ noon.

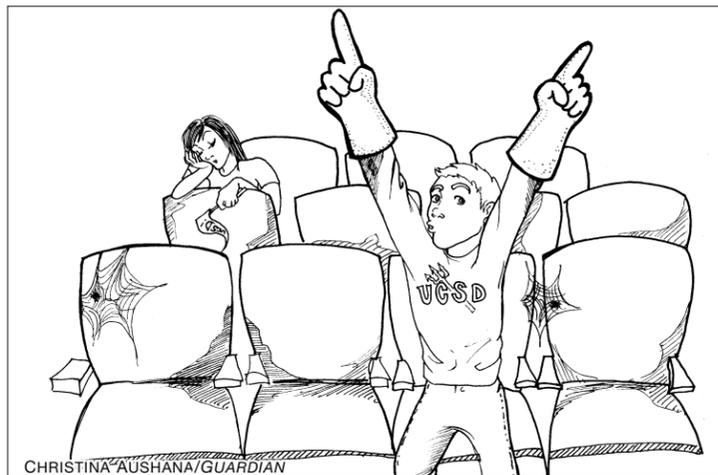
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M. Basketball
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vs. Grand Canyon
Jan. 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

M. Volleyball
vs. Princeton
Jan. 30 @ 6:00 p.m.
vs. Pepperdine
Feb. 1 @ 7:00 p.m.

Baseball
vs. Western Oregon
Feb. 1 @ 2:00 p.m.

Visit www.ucsdtritons.com for full schedules.



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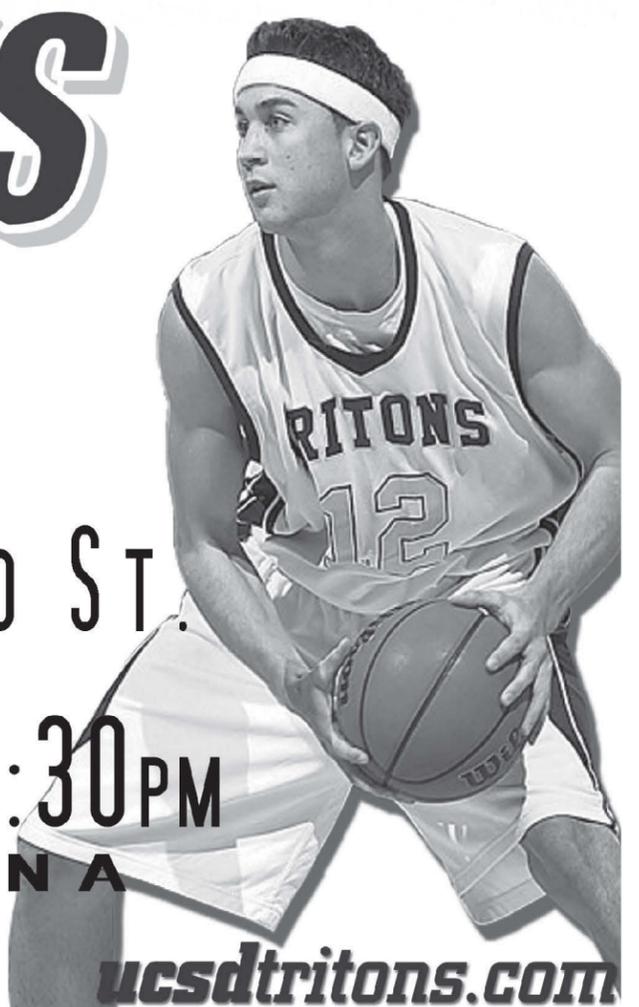
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Armstrong coached UCSD for the last 26 years, winning three D-III national titles and over 300 games. He retired this season and will be replaced by ex-Stanford assistant Jon Pascale.

Cup Competition Foils UCSD Fencers

By Jake Blanc
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

FENCING — UCSD sent a select group of its top fencers to Atlanta this past weekend for the 2008 North American Cup, where they faced their toughest competition to date. However, due to the meet's unusual format, the sub-par results will in no way affect the Tritons' NCAA standing, because the NAC was an open competition where fencers were represented individually, with no points going to any type of team tally.

Although the Tritons have participated in this format of play before, most recently at the UCSD-hosted Bladerunner competition, NAC posed the unique and unsurpassable challenge of fielding a huge number of participants, all of whom were rated extremely high in U.S. Fencing's qualification ratings. In fencing, the top three divisions, A, B and C, signify years of commitment and an abundance of talent, with the lower divisions, D and E, encompassing newer, less experienced fencers. All NAC participants held at least a C rating.

Senior foilist Emily Lipoma expressed the common sentiment of the team — one of resigned frustration — but made a point to focus on a silver lining from the trying competition.

"Overall, it was pretty disappointing; actually in every way it was pretty disappointing," Lipoma said. "However, we were exposed to some very good fencing from all over

North America and were able to see many of the top U.S. fencers fight for the top."

NAC consisted of an opening round of pool play, in which each fencer dueled to five touches against six other participants. From the open pool, the qualifying fencers then moved into more selective direct elimination rounds. The extremely talented and large field of competition at NAC made passing even the first round of pool play very difficult for the Tritons, and many of UCSD's fencers were sent to the sidelines before entering direct elimination.

In men's epee, there were an astounding 281 entrants, and with so many top-notch fencers, tournament rules only permitted 75 players to move from pool play to direct eliminations. Freshman Jed Bassein led the way for the UCSD epee squad, finishing a relatively respectable 136th. Competing in the junior division of the meet, sophomore Sean Blum placed 88th out of a pool of 187 fencers. On the men's side, freshman sabrist Zach Jones advanced farther than any other Triton in the top division of sabre pool play and direct eliminations.

Since NAC operates separately from the NCAA rankings and standings, the meet served as a personal challenge for individual fencers, allowing those who did not meet their personal expectations to use the competition to polish their skills. Sophomore foilist Florance Lee, who did not advance past pool play, real-



WILL PARSON/GUARDIAN FILE

While many of the Tritons had trouble with more experienced opponents, the fact that most players didn't advance will not affect UCSD's NCAA standing.

ized that the negative outcome of the meet could be turned into a positive outing for future team competitions.

"Being in Atlanta helped me realize that I have a long way to go in terms of improving myself," Lee said. "But that's good — it gives me something to work toward."

Although Lee and senior Chelsea Ambort did not escape the general pool play, Lipoma made it into direct

elimination after placing 75th in the first round of competition to make sure that UCSD women were represented in the latter rounds.

"We knew that because of how many fencers were C-rated and above that we were going to be going up against some of the top competition in the nation," Lipoma said. "Samantha [Rojales] had a bout against an actual Olympian, and even though she didn't

get any touches in, she still held her own. Looking around the room you saw the absolute top clubs, coaches and names in the fencing world."

UCSD will take next week off before heading to the Northwestern meet on Feb. 2 when NCAA team competition will begin again.

Readers can contact Jake Blanc at jblanc@ucsd.edu.

Ice Hockey Cruising After Early Season Problems

By Janani Sridharan
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

CLUB SPORTS — The UCSD club ice hockey team is rolling after a slow start, crushing its last two opponents. The Tritons faced Loyola Marymount University on the road, winning the contest 10-4 on Jan. 18 before dominating University of the Redlands on Jan. 19 with a 12-3 blowout victory.

UCSD currently holds an 8-5 record, reaching that mark with a rollercoaster of an early season. After starting out 2-0, the Tritons ran into problems, particularly against San Diego State, losing to the Aztecs twice early in the season. The Tritons also suffered tough losses to UC Davis and UC Irvine, giving the Tritons a 5-4 record in the first half of their season before winter break.

UCSD returned after the break with intensity, posting a 6-5 win over Northern Arizona University on Jan. 12 before its two wins last weekend.

"Our game against NAU and past two games over the weekend are the best hockey that we've played," freshman forward Stephen Lockwood said.

In their second game against University of Redlands this season, the Tritons posted an easy victory.

"We played well in the game while missing three of our top scorers," junior captain Ken Yamashita said.

UCSD started out strong against LMU, scoring four straight goals before the Lions could answer back. The Tritons led for the entire game, never allowing LMU a chance to come back in the contest.

"LMU is a Division II team and we beat them," Yamashita said. "The win should give us a boost in rankings."

Junior forward Chris Bachman had a team-high four points in the game, including a hat-trick. Sophomore forwards Kenny McCubbins and Michael Frederick added three points each.

Bachman's return to the team is one reason why UCSD has had greater success as of late. Bachman came back to the team recently after missing the first half of the season.

"Bachman returned from playing junior hockey out east," Yamashita said. "He has been one of our top-caliber players since his freshman year."

In addition to Bachman's return, the team's younger members have also become more comfortable playing with each other, ironing out kinks that nagged the team earlier in the season.

"Our team chemistry is great and we're all comfortable with each other," Lockwood said. "We trust each other on the ice and have really bonded."

According to Yamashita, there was confusion early in the season because of the players' and coaches' limited experience working together, which hindered the Tritons in the early games.

"We got a lot of problems and confusions straightened out and have been able to relax and concentrate," Yamashita said.

While relaxing is important, UCSD is now focusing on the postseason.

"Our goals are to get a high seed in the playoffs and make [it] into the top four teams in our region so that we can go to nationals," Lockwood said.

UCSD will next face UC Irvine on Jan. 25. The last time these two teams squared off the Tritons took a 7-4 loss to the Anteaters on Nov. 30 at Irvine. UCSD will follow up that game against Fresno State on Jan. 26.

"We have a debt to settle with Irvine," Yamashita said. "It's definitely a winnable game. We need to come out strong and beat them. We also have a debt to settle with Fresno because of last year's hard, physical game against that team. We won that game but [Fresno] doesn't respect us as a team."

Readers may contact Janani Sridharan at jsridhar@ucsd.edu.

Swivers Handle USD but Struggle With D-I Aggies



MIKE CHI/GUARDIAN

The Tritons beat USD 176-124 on Jan. 18, the seventh straight year the Torero swimmers have lost to UCSD.

By Casey Armstrong
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SWIMMING & DIVING — This past weekend was another busy one for waterbound Tritons. The women led off the weekend on Jan. 18 with a home meet against the University of San Diego and came away with a dominant victory, winning all but two swimming events with a final

score of 176-124. To end the weekend, the Triton men and women traveled to UC Davis on Jan. 20 to test their skills against the Division I Aggies. The men's team was competitive, but couldn't come away with a win in the end, losing to the Aggies by a slim margin. The men won five events total, including both diving

Triton Teams Need More Fan Support

On the eve of Spirit Night, the year's most popular celebration of Triton sports, it is essential to take a step back and, instead of talking about beloved collegiate athletes, look toward the crucial sixth man of our school sports teams: UCSD students.

Aside from the historically popular games throughout the year, like major water polo games or the Triton Jam,



**Blanc
on Base**

Jake Blanc

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the majority of the UCSD sporting events go unwatched, save for players' family members and a select group of loyal students, usually fellow Triton athletes. Any athlete can attest to the boost that a packed house brings to a game, and few things in life compare to the unimaginable feeling that comes from clinching a crucial win and having a throng of fans erupt in cheers. Although attendance at sporting events is up a small margin from last year, there are still a horrendously large number of empty seats at most games. The fact that almost 10,000 students showed up at the polls last year to pass the sports referendum but some Triton sporting events don't even get 10 spectators is ironic, to say the least. Why is it that students were willing to put time and energy toward approving a fee increase but they cannot spare a single moment to attend events that are the direct beneficiaries of their money?

It will take years for the far-reaching goals of the referendum to set in, so in