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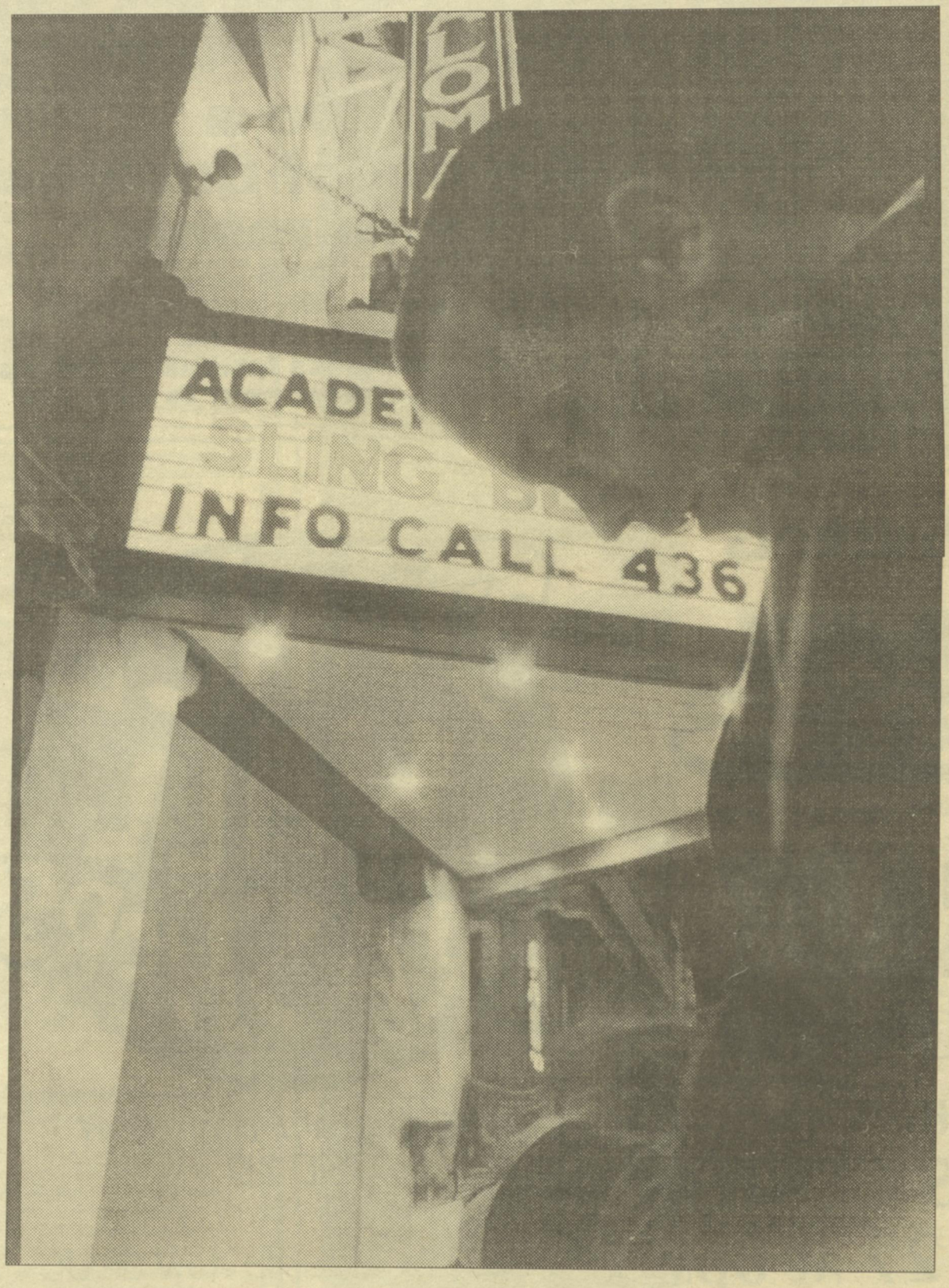
VISTA

Serving the USD Community for 34 Years

Volume 34 • Number 11
April 24, 1997



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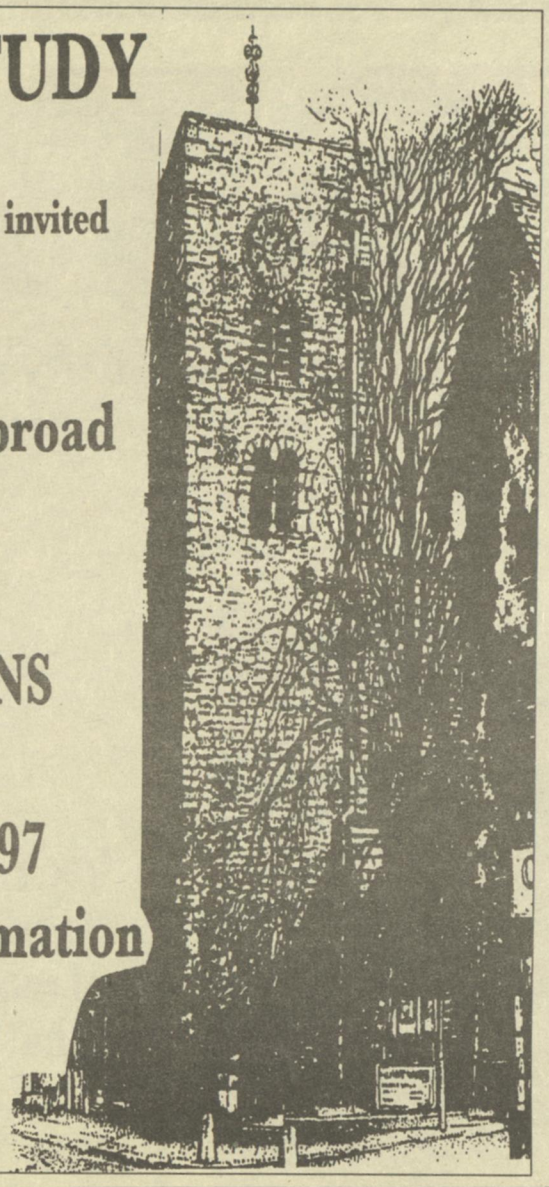

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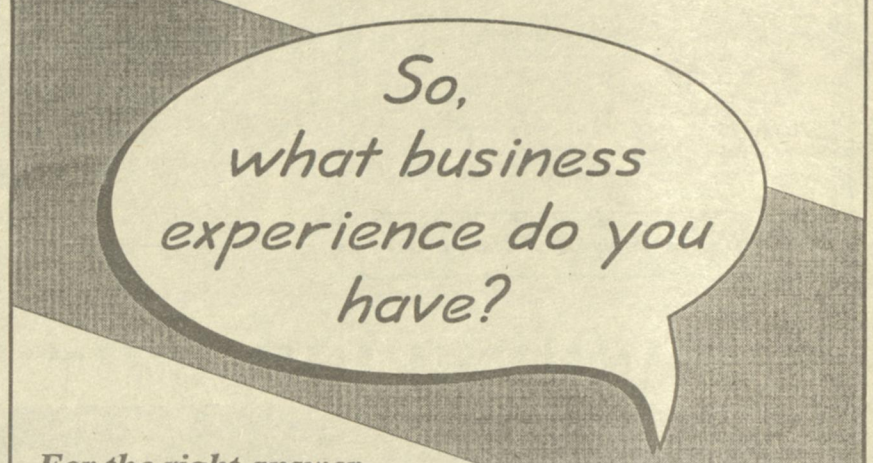

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The *VISTA* is located in the lower level of the Hahn University Center, in the Publications Office (Rm. 114b). Staff meetings are held every Tuesday at noon in the office and all are welcome. Copy, press releases and letters to the Editor are due noon, the Friday prior to the following publication. All general calls and voice mail messages should be directed to the VISTA front desk (use the 260 prefix if calling from off campus), ext. 4584. Questions regarding advertising should be referred to Dennis Viera at ext. 4714.

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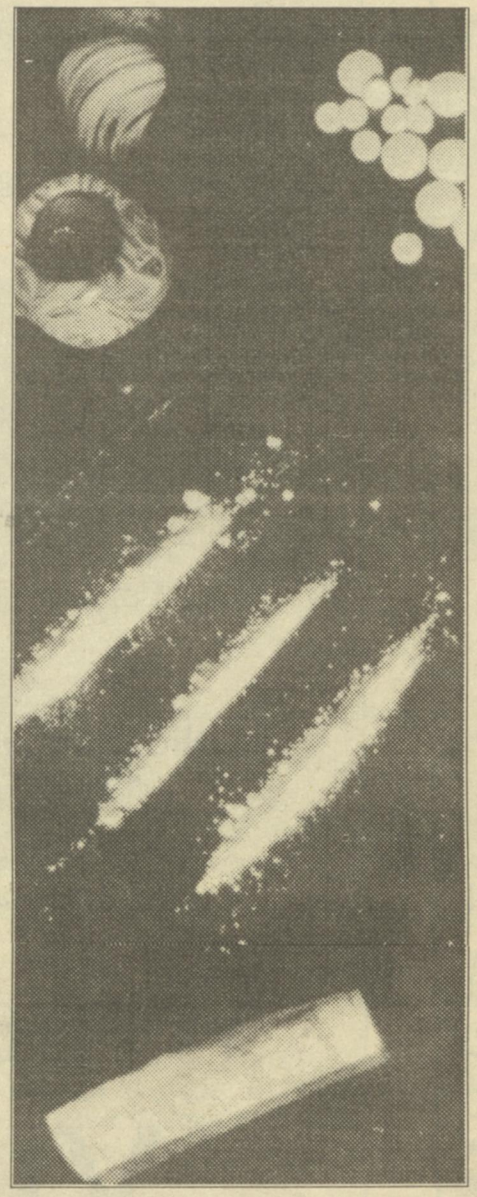

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compiled by Alejandro Lara

News in Brief

WORLD

Netanyahu Indictment Is Ruled Out

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu escaped indictment in an influence-peddling scandal Tuesday, with prosecutors saying they lacked evidence to try him on fraud and breach of trust charges despite his "puzzling" conduct.

Netanyahu, his reputation and credibility damaged, still faces a political crisis that reduces the likelihood of progress in the limping peace process with the Palestinians.

Opposition leaders urge him to step down and call new elections, and coalition parties were considering whether to bolt.

The prosecution's 52-page report was critical, but fell short of the political earthquake predicted after police recommended charges last week.

"The decision is to close -for lack of sufficient evidence- the case against the prime minister," said Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein at a news conference.

NATION

Clean-Air Plan Fuels Backstage National Fight

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration's controversial plan to toughen national air pollution standards has sparked a behind-the-scenes eruption of opposition from government agencies, with one predicting that the proposal could bring California's economic recovery to a grinding halt, administration documents disclose.

The documents reflect wide disagreement within the government over the plan, which was unveiled Nov. 27. Among other things, the internal memorandums and letters question the plan's scientific basis and complain that the Environmental Protection Agency did not allow sufficient time for broad discussion within the administration. Similar complaints have been made in the public campaign against the air pollution program.

EPA officials responded that the comments reflect the routine "waffling" that accompanies any difficult, far-reaching government decision, and that they are being taken into consideration before the agency decides, by July 19, whether to adopt the proposed standards or revise them.

The proposed standards were developed under the pressure of a federal court order directing the EPA to determine whether new knowledge about the health effects of air pollution dictated updating the government's program.

STATE

Court Fight Stalls Auto Insurance Reform

SACRAMENTO — A legal hold placed on a voter-approved law aimed at uninsured motorists appears to have simultaneously frozen a long-awaited overhaul of the way insurers calculate auto insurance rates.

Proposition 213, approved overwhelmingly in November, bars uninsured motorists, drunken drivers and fleeing felons from collecting secondary damages, such as those for pain and suffering sustained from auto accidents. The measure was written, qualified and financed by Quackenbush and his political operation.

This month, San Francisco Superior Court Judge William Cahill blocked enforcement of the provisions affecting uninsured motorists.

Cahill's ruling almost certainly jeopardizes a Sept. 1 target date for the insurance industry to convert to a new rating system mandated more than eight years ago by Proposition 103.

That landmark initiative ordered insurers to substitute individual driving records for ZIP codes as the dominant factor in determining what California's 20 million motorists must pay for coverage. The estimated reduction under the new system in San Diego urban area would be 5.7 percent.

Editor's note: The VISTA News In Brief is compiled from newswire reports

The VISTA is now accepting applications for the 1997-1998 staff

The following positions are available:

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Chief Design Editor
Cheif Copy Editor
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Heritage week celebrates Chicano culture

JENNIFER VARSAK
Staff Writer

CARIDAD SANCHEZ/ACHA

Chicano Heritage Week will take place April 28 through May 2.

If your Spanish language skills ended the day you walked out of Spanish 3 class or if eating a burrito is the extent of your experience with Mexican food, that's all about to change.

MEChA and AChA present "A Week of Culture and History" to celebrate the third annual Chicano Heritage Week.

Student coordinator Caridad Sanchez said in the midst of Propositions 187 and 209, , "The term affirmative action sparks a negative connotation towards minorities. This celebration helps show that minorities are not a liability but are, in reality, an important part of United States history."

MEChA is a national organization which began in the 1960s. A chapter was established on the USD campus five years ago.

"Chicano Heritage week is part of an international, collegiate movement. Some schools have a Chicano Heritage Month," Mariana Gomez, a MEChA member, said. "We hope to build up to that in the future."

AS Social Issues and Cultural Arts are also sponsoring the week of events. The week begins with Teatro Ixcali, showcasing Chicano theater, on Monday evening. On Tuesday, Jesus Nieto, a professor at San Diego State, will give a motivational presentation.

The Wednesday event combines Chicano and gay and lesbian issues concerning discrimination. A panel of gay and lesbian Chicano speakers will discuss what it is like to live within a community ingrained with macho male stereotypes.

The newest film starring Cesar Chavez will be shown on Thursday evening in the UC, and Friday evening will be the grand finale with Noche de Atole.

Noche de Atole is a night of celebration which includes performances from area Chicano artists, Mexican sweet bread and atole, a traditional Mexican drink. The celebration will take place in Traditions this year.

"MEChA is known on the USD campus as well as around the San Diego community for this event," Gomez said.

All of the events during the week are free of charge and are open to the public.

"In fact, we encourage students of other backgrounds to attend the events. It will give them an opportunity to get a different perspective on the history they have been taught," Sanchez said.

see **HERITAGE** *on page 9*

Harvard professor to give Dempsey Memorial Lecture

DAVIN HECKMAN
Special to the VISTA

The Joanne T. Dempsey Memorial Lecture will be held Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in USD's Manchester Executive Conference Center. Dr. William Alfred, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University, will speak about his "Experience with American Drama."

Dr. Alfred has taught literature and playwriting for many years. In addition to being a skilled professor, he is an accomplished playwrite and poet who has tried to unite the "theater of entertainment" with the "theater of contemplation."

His critically acclaimed works include the plays *Agamemnon*, *Hogan's Goat* and *The Curse of an Aching Heart*. His philosophy on writing is simple and sublime.

"I wouldn't write plays if I didn't think people could change. That's what plays are about," Alfred said.

The Joanne Dempsey Memorial Lecture Fund has been established, not only as a memorial, but as an attempt to bring some of the creativity and enlightenment for which the late Dempsey was known at USD to the entire community. Dempsey passed away in 1990, leaving an undeniable mark on those who knew her.

Dempsey graduated from Newton College of the Sacred Heart in 1968, and went on to study the English Renaissance at Harvard University where she earned her Ph.D. In 1980, she came to the University of San Diego where she taught for 10 years. She cared deeply for her students, and her love for them showed in the energy and attitude she brought to the classroom. She was a source of great inspiration for students and faculty alike.

SENIOR WEEK

Graduates gear up for week of glory

TINA ASMAR
Staff Writer

The "Daze of Glory" are right around the corner as the Class of '97 enjoys USD's first ever Senior Week which will take place from April 25 to May 2.

The week's events were organized by the Senior Week Planning Committee in conjunction with the Senior Senators.

"There was a sign-up sheet [to join the planning committee] at the first Senior Happy Hour," said Colleen Engel, a senior senator and committee member. "We wanted to have a really energetic group working on the week."

According to Engel, Senior Week is intended to unite the students of the senior class, as well as be a time of celebration.

"[The planning committee] wants seniors to feel connected to the University and to their class," Engel said. Senior Week will give people the chance to do that."

The week kicks off with a concert featuring Save Ferris and Dance Hall Crashers followed by happy hour at the Pennant. Other events include the "Caribbean Sunset" barbecue followed by happy hour at the Barefoot Bar, "Senior Day at the Beach," dinner at Planet Hollywood, Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day, Foam Dancing and Senior Appreciation Day.

The "Daze of Glory" will come to an end with the annual Senior Banquet on Friday, May 2.

"It [Senior Week] should be a lot of fun. It's a good chance to make some final memories with our friends," said Chris Haase, a committee member.

Senior Dante Tossetti plans on attending senior week because it will be similar to the excitement of freshmen orientation.

"I think it's going to be great," Tossetti said.

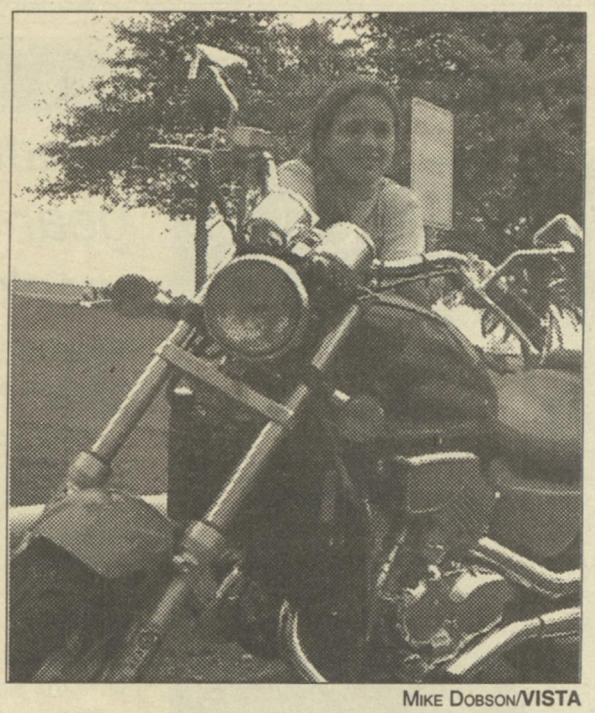
Sponsors for the activities include AS and local businesses.

Seniors can pick up a schedule of the week's events in the AS Exec Office.

TheHotSheet

by Rodel Divina

A USD personality shares some insights on being a motorcycle rider.



MIKE DOBSON/**VISTA**

Sophomore Meghan Suddes

lists the Top 5 advantages of owning a motorcycle.

Until the new parking structure makes 1,000 parking spaces available next year for those who drive to USD, finding that elusive parking spot will continue to be a daily routine. But according to sophomore Meghan Suddes, the stress of looking for parking can be eliminated if you own a motorcycle. She says that "there are a number of parking spots designated for motorcycles throughout campus, and they are never taken."

Meghan says that easily finding a parking space isn't the only advantage that comes with owning a Harley-Davidson Sportster 883. Meghan lists five other advantages of owning a motorcyle.

1. It's all about loud pipes, tattoos and guys calling you babe.

2. Two words: good vibrations

3. For all the ladies, it just happens to be a babe magnet.

4. Thought you were cool with that guy sittin' in the front seat of your Beamer? Try having his arms wrapped around your waist!

5. It's hard to get power like that between your legs from any other bike.

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The Parking Space

Graduation Parking and Public Safety Tips

• Graduation weekend (Friday night through Sunday night), guests can park in any white or yellow-lined campus space that is not marked "reserved." For guests attending the Sunday graduation luncheon, please park on the west end of campus, east campus will be too congested — the tram will be able to transport you in from the west to the east entrance. If your guests want to park on the east end of campus, have them come in the entrance by the Alcala Vista Apartments off of Linda Vista Road, they can park by these apartments. For guests with a handicapped placard, come in through the Child Development Center entrance on Via Las Cumbers and Park in the Field House Lot for graduation day.

• Graduation morning, guests must be seated inside the stadium by 8:45 a.m., otherwise guests will be caught outside (without a seat) because the graduation procession will be in progress.

• Valley residents should not consider moving out a graduation weekend. You will interfere with preparations and processions for one of the three graduations on campus that weekend.

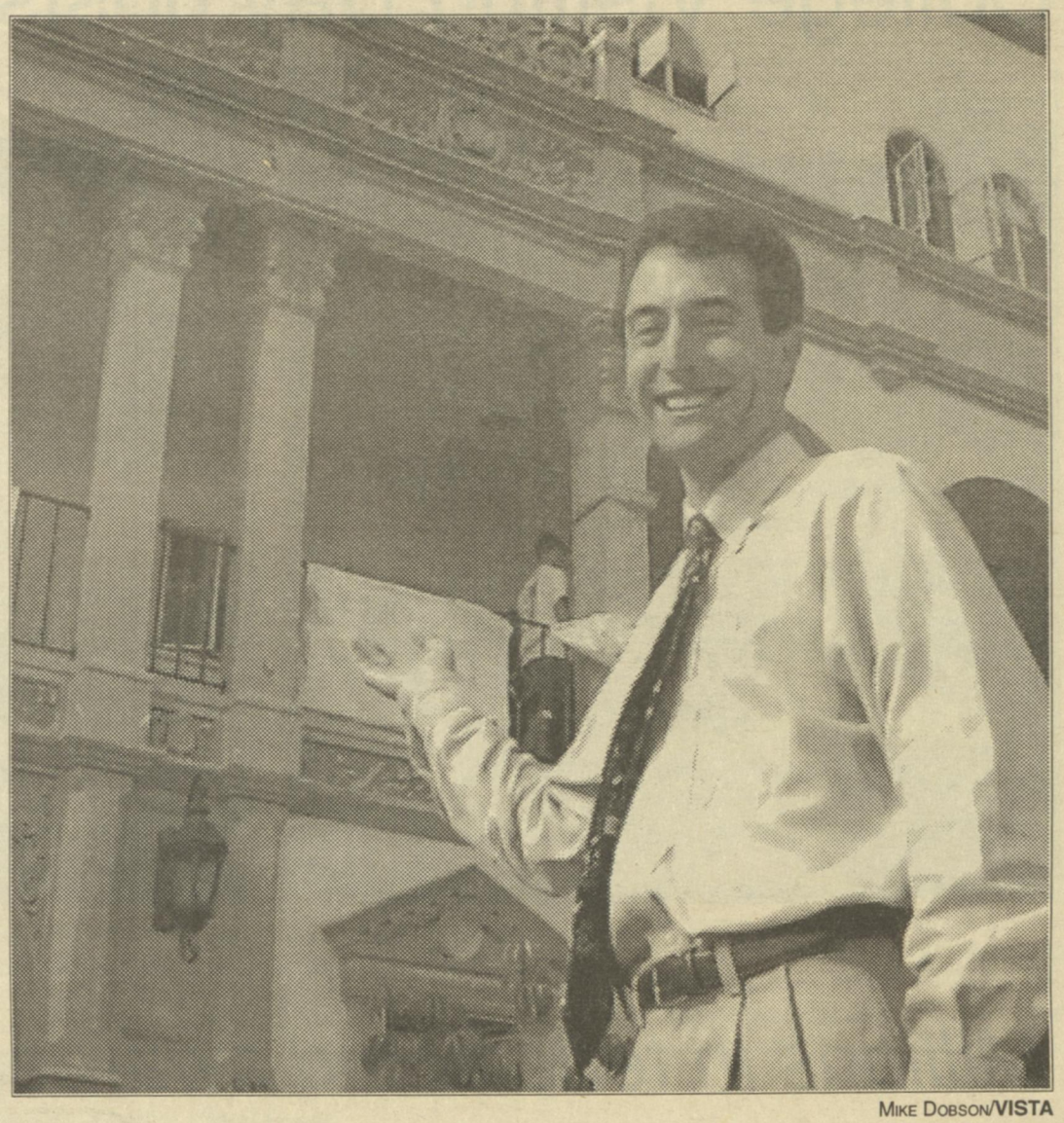
• Graduation Public Safety Tips: You may want to advise your guests to bring their own bottles of water to keep hydrated during this 3 to 4 hour-long outdoor ceremony. An ambulance will be on-site for medical emergencies.

(a public service announcement from Public Safety and the VISTA)

Q & A

ELIZABETH HIMCHAK
News Editor

Senior Matthew Allen is the 1996-97 Tourero president and was one of the key individuals responsible for planning College Visiting Day last weekend. While he is involved in many activities, his favorite is flying airplanes. Allen is a sociology major from Elk Grove.



MIKE DOBSON/VISTA

Tourero President Matt Allen shows off in front of Maher Hall.

1. What do you do as Tourero president?

The Tourero president is in charge of the Toureros [who] function as an auxiliary staff of the Admissions Office. Our main responsibility is the tours [given] throughout the week and on the weekends. [We give tours] Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and noon and we give special tours [at other times]. We also work with the Admissions Office in coordinating and planning College Visiting Day.

The Tourero president is responsible for putting together the agendas for each meeting and for making sure that each of the [officers] are following through on their job requirements. The president is also the contact person between the other clubs on campus, the Toureros and the Admissions Office, so there's an intermediary function as well.

2. What is your favorite aspect of being a Tourero?

I think my favorite thing is actually giving the tours. It's so much fun visiting with the prospective students. They come from different areas, high schools and interests. They are showing an interest in USD just by coming for a tour and I think that's wonderful. It also makes your day when you see people come for College Visiting Day and they say, "Matt, you gave my tour, I loved it, I've been admitted to the University and decided to come." That's always the best feeling because you know you did your job and you did really well on your tour. That makes it all worth while once College Visiting Day comes around.

3. What is one of your favorite memories of being a Tourero?

I have so many of them ... The tours that are really unusual stand out. One of my favorite memories is having a bunch of third graders on a huge special tour on a Saturday at 10 a.m. It was raining and lightning outside, so we had umbrellas ... They were doing construction at the fountain and the kids were sliding through the different areas. Needless to say, by the end of the tour the kids were all muddy and everyone was slopping wet. I always look back on that and laugh because you never know what [can happen] on a tour.

4. When visitors ask you what your favorite part of USD is, what do you say?

I say that my favorite thing is the atmosphere on campus; that's what brought me here. The atmosphere includes everything from the attitude of students and faculty to the small class sizes, the personal friendships that you make and the willingness of faculty to meet with students. Somebody always asks, "So you're not known as a computerized number on campus?" and [I say] "No we're not," ... which is really good to know.

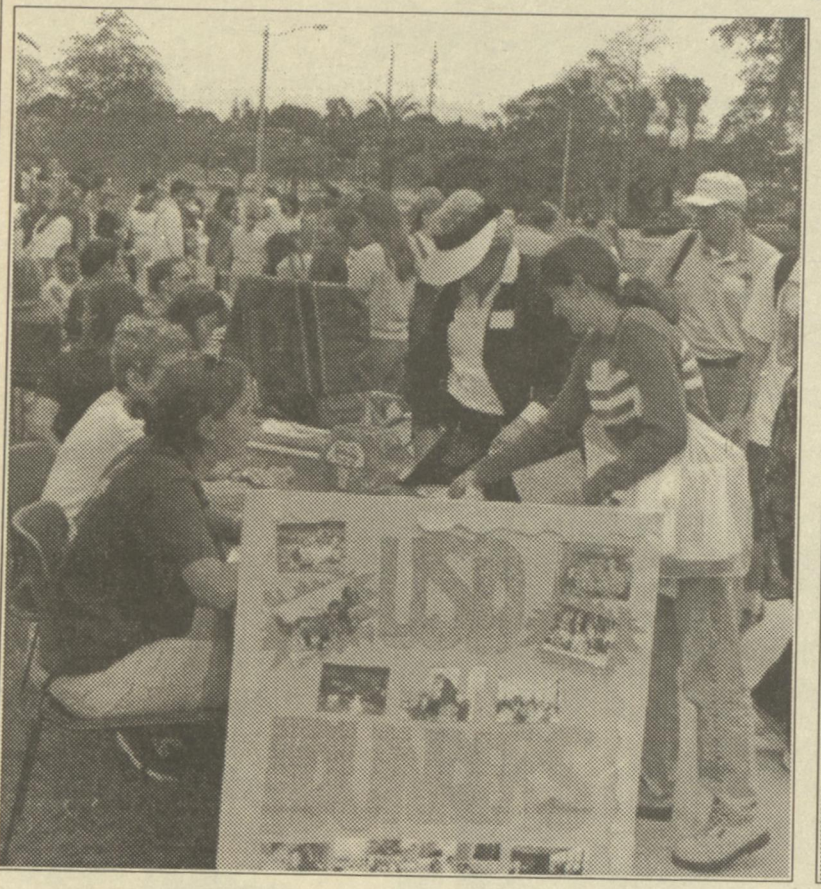
5. What other activities have you been involved with during your four years at USD?

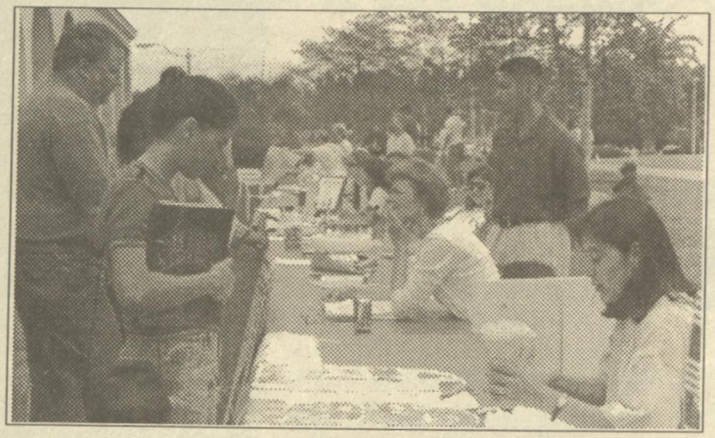
I started with the Emerging Leader Program. I've been involved with the Sociology club and Associated Students. I am on Senate [for Toureros] and have been an I.C.C. representative for the Sociology club. I've done a lot of work with the Admissions Office [as] a Tourero. [I also] had many opportunities to work with the debate on campus. I worked with the Bank of America committee [which] selected a high school student to attend the debate. We gave two tickets [to the student] who submitted the best essay on questions [he or she] would ask the candidates. [I also] did some work with Public Safety the week of the debate. [I'm involved with] University Ministry as a Minister of Hospitality and this year I started singing in the choir [each week at one of the daily masses]. I was also on the senior gift committee.

see **MATT** *on page 9*

I think my favorite thing is actually giving the tours. *It's so much fun visiting with the prospective students. They come from different areas, high schools and interests. They are showing an interest in USD just by coming for a tour and I think that's wonderful.*

College Visiting Day hosts another success





Almost 1,500 visitors from across the nation attended USD's annual College Visiting Day sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Saturday. The prospective students and their families went on tours, attended information sessions and learned about USD life. Over 100 student gave tours or helped with the various activities. Above, visitors spoke with students at the activities fair in the afternoon, while others toured the campus.

-ELIZABETH HIMCHAK

PHOTOS BY ANNA COWAN

Millions in federal aid awarded to students who lie

ADOLFO MENDEZ
College Press Service

While education officials have always known some college students falsify documents to get Pell Grants, it's only recently that they have been able to determine the extent of the lies.

A new study reveals that more than 100,000 college students received Pell Grants during the 1995-96 school year who should have never received the free federal money.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General, college students lied about their family income to get the award money. Worse yet, the Inspector General's office reported that colleges, by themselves, have no way of discouraging the practice.

"We knew some people were lying, based on our past criminal investigations where we have found that students had lied," said Patrick Howard, director of student financial assistance programs for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Education. "We just had no idea of the magnitude."

Just how large is the problem? The Inspector General's report found thousands of students are lying and costing the government millions as a result.

Working with the Internal Revenue Service, the Inspector General's office compared family incomes reported on students' financial-aid applications with those reported on their parents' federal tax records.

The audit showed the government gave $109 million more than they should have to at least 102,000 students in 1995-96 because students either failed to report or underreported their income.

In addition, at least 1,200 students who claimed to be veterans were not. The result, according to the Inspector General's Office, was that they were granted independent status, which most likely increased their eligibility for Pell Grants. Students in this category were awarded more than $1.9 million in Pell Grants, which are supposed to go to needy students.

The audit also referred to four unnamed students who stood out because they had "the greatest income discrepancies" between their tax forms and student-aid forms. Three of the four students received full Pell Grants; the other was awarded a grant slightly below the $2,400 maximum.

The parents of the four students reported family incomes to the IRS ranging from $646,720 to $1,306,913. During the same period, three strudents reported zero earnings on theri student-aid applications and the fourth reported just over $7,000.

"At this point, we cannot go after them criminally, although we would love to," Howard said. "It's part of our agreement with the IRS."

That agreement only allowed the Department of Education to report how the widespread fraud is. It did not allow the department to reveal the names of the students either to the public or the schools where the Pell Grants were applied.

Currently the department relies on colleges to verify that students submit accurate data on their student-aid forms. Federal law requires colleges to verify key eligibility information for at least 30 percent of their students who receive federal aid.

"Sometimes people submit fake 1040s. There are marketing companies that are in the business of producing fraudulent tax returns," Inspector General Thomas Bloom told legislators in March. Bloom testified during a hearing before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Leslie Gray, a freshman at Harold Washington College in Chicago, agrees that the Department of Education should work with the IRS to pull records as will. "I think they should," said Gray. "Those people [students who lie] take money away from people who don't have any money for college."

She said she was surprised by the IRS audit. "That makes other people, like me, look bad," she said.

Many financial aid officers said the audit caught them off guard too. Cathy Kavanagh, associate director of financial aid at the University of Delaware, says she's never seen Pell Grant fraud in 10 years of working at the university. "I was surprised by the IRS audit," Kavanagh said. "From our perspective, we review every Pell Grant applicant."

But even verification methods aren't full-proof, since students can bring in false returns, Kavanagh acknowledged.

While the Department of Education plan may solve the problem, Kavanagh was concerned. "As a taxpayer, I would be concerned about confidentiality," she said. "It depends on how they would use the information."

WeeklyCalendar

A schedule of campus and community events

TODAY

"The Idea of Immanent Transcendence"

Dr. Tu Wei-Ming will speak on "The Idea of Immanent Transcendence" in Room 107 of Solis Hall, Thurgood Marshall Campus of UCSD at 8 p.m. Admission is free, the event is part of the Eugene M. Burke C.S.P. Lectureship on Religion and Society. Call Pat Buczaczer at 452-0285 for more information.

"My Experience with American Drama"

"My Experience with American Drama" will be the topic of guest speaker Dr. William Alfred, Harvard University's Albert Lawrence Lowell professor emeritus. The presentation is in Manchester Conference Center Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Contact the English Department at 260-4783 for more information.

TOMORROW

AS Concert Series

A ska concert featuring "Dance Hall Crashers," "Save Ferris," and "Unsteady" will take place in the Sports Center at 8 p.m. Admission is $5 for students, $10 general admission. Contact the UC Box Office at 260-4901 for more information.

"Piano Trio Concert"

A "Piano Trio Concert" in the Founders Hall French Parlor featuring Dr. Irina Bendetsky and guests will be held at 8 p.m. There is a fee for admission, contact Fine Arts at 260-2280 for more information.

THIS WEEKEND

Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair

The 12th annual Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Linda Vista Road, one mile north of USD between Comstock and Ulric Street. For more information or volunteer information, contact Chris Noyne 874-3842.

San Diego Public Library Spring Concert Series

The final concert of the San Diego Public Library Spring Concert Series will be held Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library. The concert is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the Library's Music and Art Department at 236-5810.

"Team Camp-Out Program"

The San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Greater San Diego Inner-City Games offer this program for at-risk youths. The next program is April 26-27. Call 694-3429 for more information.

THIS WEEK

"Chicome Cihuatl: Seven Women"

"Chicome Cihuatl: Seven Women" is on display in Founders Gallery Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The exhibit closes April 26. Contact Fine Arts at 260-2280 for more information.

NEXT WEEK

"How We See Our World Shapes What We Do"

Dr. Richard Elliot will speak on "How We See Our World Shapes What We Do" from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 1 and Thursday, May 8 in Maher 209. The program is sponsored by the Institute of Christian Ministries of the University of San Diego. The pre-registration fee is $20, the cost at the door is $25. Call 260-4784 for more information.

"Mad Forest"

The undergraduate production of "Mad Forest" by Caryl Churchill will run Wednesday, April 30 through Saturday, May 3 at 8 p.m. in Shiley Theatre. Tickets are $5 for students, $7 general admission and will be available from the UC Box Office beginning April 23. There will be a free pizza reception with cast and crew following the May 3 performance. Call 260-4901 for ticket information.

Conference on Language Learning Disabilities

The first annual "Language Literacy Link - Late to Talk, Late to Read, Early to Fail" conference will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 3 in the Manchester Conference Center. The USD School of Education, National Dyslexia Research Foundation, and Scientific Learning Corporation are sponsoring the event. The one-day event will feature workshop sessions on a variety of topics related to language learning disorders in infants and pre-schoolers. Costs of the program are: $30 for professionals, $20 for pre-school parents, and $15 for Early Childhood Education students, including breakfast and lunch. For more information, call 1-800-231-0959.

MATT

continued from page 7

6. What do you plan to do after you graduate?

After I graduate I will be working at the Sacramento Executive Airport doing what they call line service [for] private and corporate planes ... I started working there last summer and I've been renting planes from there for the last three years. I'm [hoping] to be back [at USD] in January for the Masters in International Business program. It's something new they are starting next year. In two years you can get your MIB as well as your MBA ... You do a year at USD and then a year at another school, so I'm looking forward to that.

7. How did you get interested in flying and when did you get your pilot's license?

I've always loved flying. It's been like a passion. I'm just totally at home in an airplane. That's the other atmosphere, besides USD, that I absolutely love. I started my flight training when I was 16 and I got my license ... in the summer of my freshman year.

8. What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to go running, hiking, backpacking, skiing, horseback riding [and] do anything outdoors. I also love to read, so if I can take a book and a flashlight in my backpack I am set. I like a variety of books, [such as] mystery, action, Tom Clancy and anything to do with airplanes or flying. I have a wide range of interests.

9. Now that CVD is over, how do you think it went?

I think it went really well. Everybody was amazing, from all our volunteer tour guides to our Toureros, the RAs, our Toureros ... [who wore] green shirts and were our extended staff for CVD and the Admissions Office. They did a fantastic job ... and the feedback has been wonderful.

10. If a prospective student asked you for a reason why he or she should go to USD, what would you say?

I would go back to the friendly atmosphere on campus. I'm thinking back to College Visiting Day when it was mentioned that USD ranks nationwide among the top 27 schools that are known as family-oriented colleges and [USD] really is. Parents are always involved on campus. You really get to know your peers, [the] faculty and staff. I also mention on tours that everybody has a unique preference, [but] I think it is important that they ... took a tour because that's when they really get a feel for USD ... Each school is different. Everybody has a different fit they are looking for [and] it's important to always keep your options open. I think USD offers a lot of options for students, from all our clubs ... [to] all the possibilities in the San Diego area. We live in city that has information and activities all over the place ... There's so much to do here and ... so many things for students to get involved in.

11. Where would you like to see the Tourero program expand in the next couple of years?

I think ... things are going really well. [Membership] has picked up and I think [it's] going to remain at a constant rate. But, I think the thing that is needed most ... [is] an overnight program. A lot of other universities in the nation have [one] and we get a lot of calls from interested students who would like to stay overnight ... That would be the key thing from prospective students' points of view.

HERITAGE

continued from page 5

Planning for the event began early this semester. MEChA has about 60 members at USD and their advisor is Dr. Gail Perez of the English Department.

Sanchez said that another reason for the week is to give Latino students a chance to celebrate their family roots and history.

She also said this event spans the border, with Chicano Heritage events taking place in Mexico as well as in the United States.

ARE WE HIGH ON LIFE AND *LOW* ON AWARENESS?

TRAVIS BURCH
Staff Writer

Earlier in the semester I mentioned my aversion to the political apathy so prevalent in this country and the danger that follows from it.

It is an estimable endeavor to try to pinpoint the reasons for our indifference if we are to increase political awareness.

One obvious factor that causes a general lack of interest can easily be identified: drugs. A successful democracy cannot last if its citizens are more concerned with getting high and snorting drugs. If we want to spend our free time engulfed in a mindless stupor rather than cope with what the nation faces, we should turn over the reigns to a dictator. Let's let him make our decisions so we can have more time to poison our minds and spirits.

We can't as a nation permit eachother to numb our brains with mind-altering substances, while the problems of the nation compound.

Those of you who have led sheltered lives might ask if there really is a cause for alarm. That answer is a resounding yes.

Drug use is reaching epidemic proportions and having cataclysmic consequences not only on the nation as a whole, but to us as individuals. We shell out 13 billion dollars a year to fight the so-called war on drugs.

Consider the following statistics from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Between 1992 and 1995, overall drug abuse among 12 to 17 year olds rose 105%.

If you think that these contaminating substances are remote only to "other" schools, you are sadly mistaken. I transferred to USD last fall from Humboldt State University, a small school nestled in the redwoods of northern California. I left that school because its campus was polluted with dirty people, too much rain, and too much drug abuse.

What I found here was a better dressed student body, a better climate, but unfortunately, a student body that all too frequently succumbs to drug use.

How will those of us who loathe drugs overcome this problem? The answer is a top to bottom purge of the undesirable factors that contribute to drug friendly environment.

This starts with the office of the President. We need a president that denounces drug use, not makes a mockery of marijuana use with jokes about inhaling.

We need a federal government that promotes interdiction and strong law enforcement, not a laissez faire criminal justice system that lets users and dealers off easily.

We must also do away with state laws that not only legalize drugs, but undermine the federal governments' already feeble attempts.

Laws and punishment will not be enough however, they are only one means to an end. The other mean must involve us, the citizens. We must revive the strong "just say no" message in our school that once had dramatic results. We must not treat drug use lightly, we should strive to attach a stigma of unapologetic disgust to those who use drugs to prevent others from making the same mistakes.

Our schools must stress the terrible consequences that drugs can have on our bodies, minds, spirits and families.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to utilize our mass media resources to get the message across.

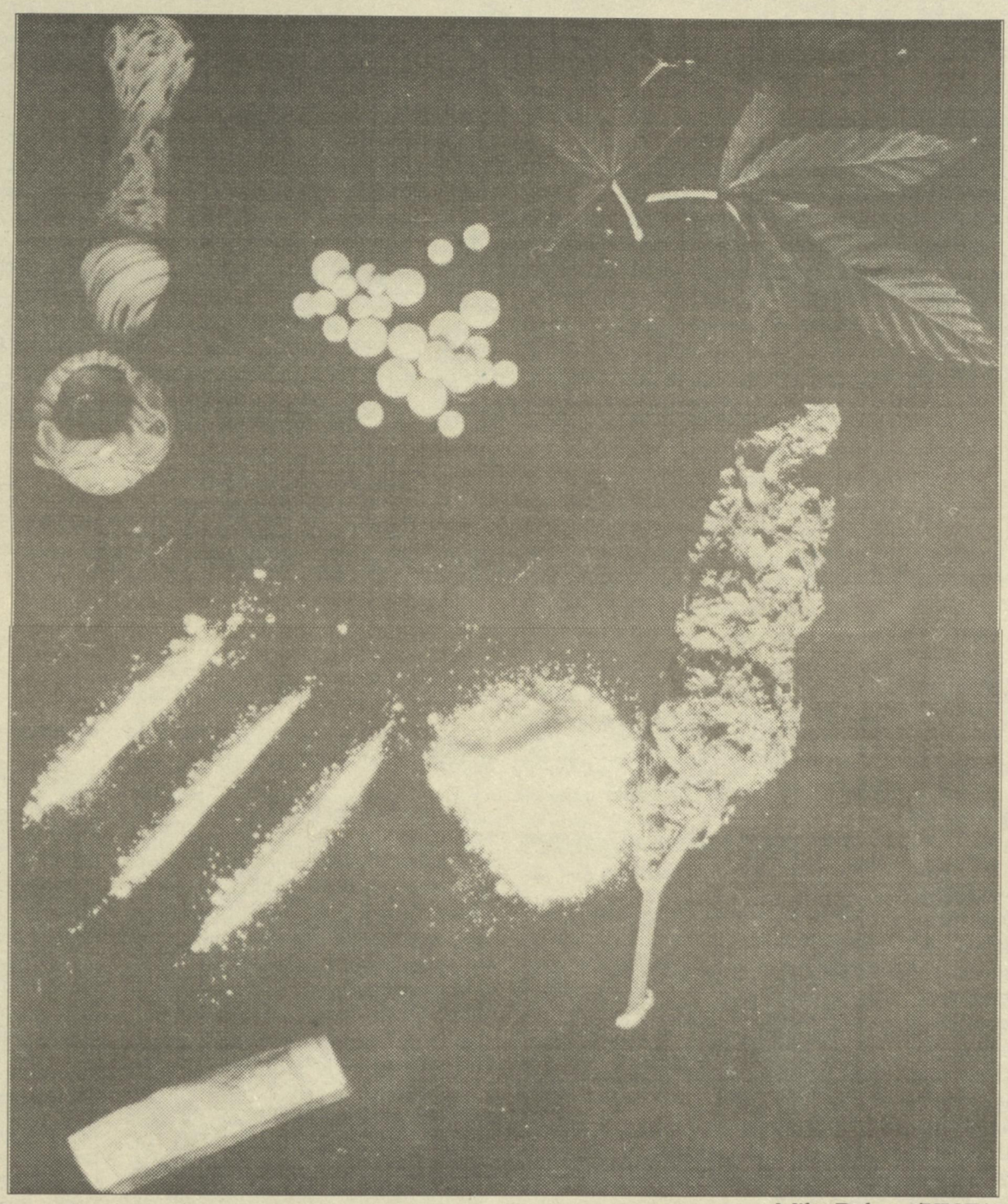
Musicians and actors can be used to vocalize a disdain for drugs. Newspapers, radio stations, and billboards can all be utilized to bring home the message.

Hand in hand, the local governments and school boards should join up with the federal government to produce better results.

Perhaps the opportunist in me should be snickering at the growing drug use. With the growing use of drugs, I preciously maintain my brain cells while my peers continue to expend theirs on degenerative chemicals.

With this in mind, a premium will be put on intelligence and those with the most brain cells should have great paying jobs with lifetime job security.

This is exactly what worries me. If a nation lacks motivation, brain cells are certain to fall to a more disciplined people. The nation that chooses to do so may not have to use brute force or military power, but rather need only to wait until we collectively pass out and displace us as the world power.



Mike Dobson/**VISTA**

L&S

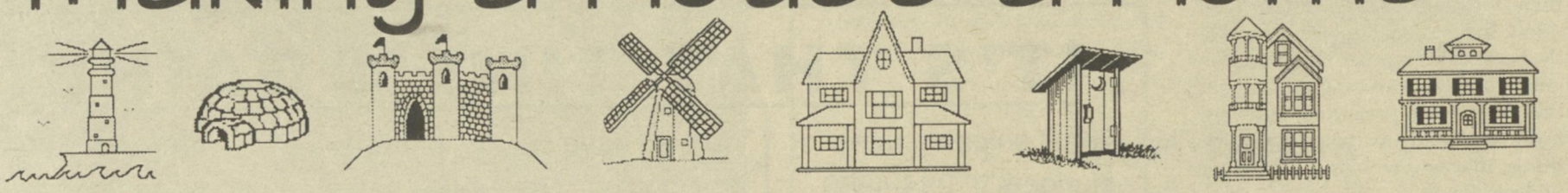
LIFE & STYLE

This feels like home...

Home is where the heart is. It's a place to hang your hat, **where** you return after a long trip, **where** your dog runs to greet you, **where** your parents tuck you in. Therein lie the parameters of humanity's ideal abode. The Cleavers would be quite happy. To look at the *what* is a deeper inquiry. A home could be a thatch hut just as easily as it could be a block structure with a lawn and a two car garage. In the most common sense, a home is shelter. Yet it is much more than that. It is memories and love. It is not only full of furniture and non-stick cookware but of 'remember when's,' and 'those were the days.' Home is youth and age. It bears part of the individual's personality and identity. Turn the key in the lock and one gets times of sorrow, happiness, and love. When the individual is asked, 'what is home?' they may answer in the ideal sense. Yet idealism isn't what needs to be recognized. What does is reality. Reality of home is contained within one's heart and soul, their dreams and memories, whether they be joyous or frightening. Home is a part of us all. Home is where the heart is...

—— Andrew Martin

Making a House a Home



AUDRA MARTIN
Life & Style Editor

At the close of each year, students prepare to scatter; Some go back to their family house, some move to start over in new cities andsSome simply move to another house, or make room for new roommates. "Homes" seem quite transient in youth, and many people never even apply the term for their college housing.

The move back to or away from home can cause problems if you've accumulated too much or too little furniture or home accessories. For both problems, vintage and antique stores are practical places to visit if you need to make your money stretch.

The scene: You are a graduating senior and plan to travel. Or maybe you will be moving into a furnished place and want to sell your old furniture instead of store it.

If you need to get rid of furniture, consignment stores can be a good way to get the best offer for your furniture without having to worry about placing an ad somewhere. Consignment stores are as close to one-to-one selling you can get these days. In this type of store, the store owners let you display your furniture in their store, and then they keep part of the selling price. The standard keeping price is 40%, but not all stores are uniform. Even if you don't sell in these stores, a visit is a good way to get an accurate appraisal of what your items are worth.

What can be even more of adilema is having the reverse situation.

The scene: You are making the big move from campus or home. Or you have a roommate who's leaving and taking all of the furniture.

Moving from a furnished to an unfurnished apartment requires the fast acquisition of cheap, durable furniture. Most cheap furniture has a low price due to unrefined looks or cheap materials. It is much better to buy an ugly but sturdy piece than one that looks nice but is probably not that well structured. Cheap furniture that isn't an eyesore can be found, but you must know what you're looking for and where to look. Again, consignment or antique stores are a good place to shop. You can usually find beds or tables made from quality wood for the same price of a new item in a cheaper material like melamine.

If you'd rather buy new, you can also try outlet stores. Don't overlook furniture because its "ugly." You can go to a fabric outlet store and hide an ugly table under interesting fabric. Or you can paint it yourself. Art stores sell stencils that are easy to trace, and can turn an ugly piece into a focus piece.

If you don't want to get that complicated, but want something more ornate than paint, sponging is a good technique. You can just buy two or three colors of paint you like, and different shaped sponges.

Another option for furniture is to cover it in laminating paper (the kind that used to cover grade school books) that looks like tile. It is very cheap, and if you put it on carefully to avoid air bubbles, you can hardly tell that it's laminating paper. Target and art stores sold some that appears to be tile.

The scene: You have your furniture, but it still is not "home." You are staying somewhere temporarily and you feel like a stranger. In either case you can enhance the room by finding creative alternatives. Knick-knacks and decorative devices, as inexpensive as you want, can make you feel like your house is a true expression of yourself. Here are some alternatives to popular items that can help you make your house a creative haven.

•Instead of beer can pyramids try scavenging vintage and antique stores for antique shot glasses or German Beer steins. They make interesting conversation pieces. (If there isn't a compelling story behind them, make one up)

•Standard lacquer black wall clock

•Making an hour glass with a unique bottle from an interesting thrift store (You shouldn't have trouble finding sand.)

•Picture frames decorated with magic markers or ribbons

Taking the cover of CD out of case and replacing it with a collage of pictures

•The success pictures with inspiring scenes (that everyone has)

•A picture of someone in your life you admire

•The baby pictures (babies popping out of flowers or alphabets)

•A white canvas that your friends can paint on when they come over

The scene: When you live somewhere that makes you proud, you will be more inclined to entertain. Since your home is the last and first thing you see, a positive, eclectic environment will help you assure the day will be happy.

Here are some places you should check out if you're looking for cool second-hand furniture that will help you give your home an eclectic ambiance:

1. Retreads 284-3999
2. From Time to Time 284-6795
3. Hunter's Home Furnishing 295-1994
4. We-R-Fabrics 755-1175
5. Karen's Consignment Gallery 225-8585
6. Discount Fabrics 282-6920
7. Upholstery Fabric Outlet 477-9341
8. Ruth's Antiques and Things 222-2232

other wise

by r.reid machado
rmachado@acusd.edu

-Mom, why should I "Say know to drugs?"
-Well, what do you mean?
-Well today at school we learned that we should just say no to drugs, but I really didn't understand why.
And you promised that "Because I said so" couldn't be used as an answer to my questions anymore, because I am older now and can understand more, remember?
-Yes... I remember.
-So then...why?
-Well, first of all, drugs are illegal...and we should always obey the law.
-But slavery was legal, and so was selling women. Laws change. I don't like that reason; it's too shifty. Shouldn't there be another one? Let me ask this then...why are drugs against the law?
-Now that's a good question, and at the heart of the matter. Drugs are illegal because they are no good for your life. They harm your mind and your body and end up making you do things that you wouldnít have done without them.
-They harm my body?
-Yes...they make you unhealthy over all.
-They harm my mind? How do you mean?
-Now, I just told you how. Pay attention to what I say or I am not gonna talk about this anymore. Drugs make you do things that you wouldn't have done without them.
-But isn't that true of a lot of things? I wouldn't have asked you to take me to buy my new dress, or the lip stick that I'm wearing right now...if I did not see them in the advertisement.
-Whoa whoa slow down now. Think for a second. Advertisements don't *make* you do anything. They only give you an option. You are free to do whatever you want to do.
-But what about your wrinkle cream? Why do you want to wear it? Why is it bad to have wrinkles?
-Because wrinkles, lilí missy, are not very beautiful. And we all *want* to be beautiful, right?
-But why aren't they beautiful?
-I don't know, they just aren't. Hey, I thought you wanted to know about drugs here, not commercials and beauty. I don't have time to explain all of reality to you.
-Okay. Okay. You said that drugs hurt my mind right?
-That's right.
-Well what about television? You say that that isn't good for me either. And that I can only watch it for a little while. And if drugs hurt my body...well then... what about sugar? And and tap water? Oh yeah, and drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes too. You say that all these things are bad for me. But these things are not against the law. Why not?
-First of all, these things are only really 'bad' for you if you use them excessively. Too much of anything isn't good.
-But how do I know when is too much? How do you know?
-Well, it comes with experience and, well, living. You learn what is best for you as you go along.
-That still doesn't explain why alcohol, cigarettes, and tap water are legal, and drugs aren't.
-So you know, sweety, alcohol and cigarettes *are* drugs. They are addictive you know.
-That's right, they said stuff about addiction today too. Now I am really confused. If addiction is bad, if it ruins your life like they said...then why are some addictive things legal and some are not? And what about tap water?
-Hmmm...now I am not quite certain of how to say this. You see, sometimes people need to make their own decisions. Some people like to drink— like me, I have a glass or two of wine after work. Some people smoke cigarettes occasionally too. Too much is bad. And with drugs, I mean the illegal ones, its sometimes really hard to only do them sometimes. They make you feel so good that sometimes some people want to keep doing them all the day long. And then there's a problem.
-Can't that be true of all addictive things?
-Yes actually, it is true. And I know what you're gonna say next...but go ahead and say it...
- Why are some addictive things okay and some then illegal? Why are some things for our deciding, and others decided for us? What about couch potatoes? And what about people who can't buy bottled water?
- I am just gonna have to say... I don't know. I guess the best thing for us to do is just to talk about each drug individually as you come to have questions about them. Each one is differ-

see OTHER *on page 16*

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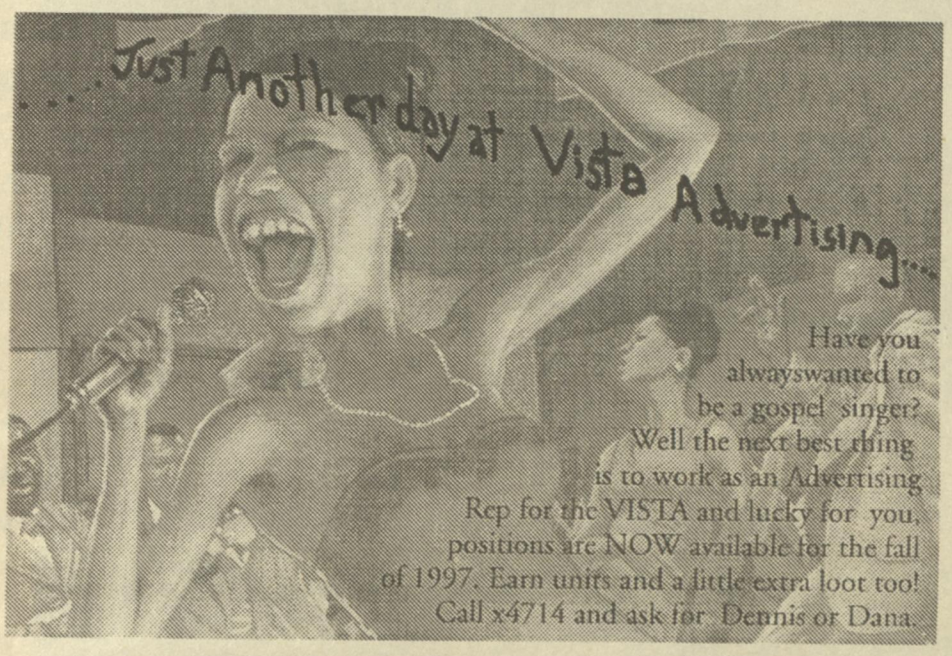

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heybaby,

what'syoursign?

Taurus
(Apr. 20- May 20)

If someone asks you what you've been up to lately just say, "Oh, ya know... stuff."

Gemini
(May 21- June 20)

It might be about that time of year to ask your professor if there's any extra credit stuff you can do. You know why? Because you need it.

Cancer
(June 21 - July 22)

Although it may seem like things suck right now, it's okay because at least you're done with your thesis.

Leo
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

You need a new pick up line. Try a more direct approach such as, "So, you want to see my ceiling?"

Virgo
(Aug. 23- Sept.22)

You will meet the guy or girl of your dreams this week and think you are in heaven, until you find out they are five.

Libra
(Sept. 23- Oct. 22)

Good week to ask, "Wait, what happened to all the trees?"

Scorpio
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Disregard the stop sign at the bottom of the hill this week. No one parks in that lot anyway.

Sagittarius
(Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

You may either find yourself doing the walk of fame or the walk of shame this week. Depending on what you drank, of course.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22- Jan. 20)

Carry a jar with you wherever you go this week. If anyone asks, "What's in there?" just say, "It's my appendix."

Aquarius
(Jan. 21- Feb. 18)

If your lips appear to be getting bigger and bigger, you know it's time to get off the e.

Pisces
(Feb. 19- Mar. 20)

So what if your burger doesn't taste so good. What do you expect? It comes out of a drawer.

Aries
(Mar. 21- Apr. 19)

Be cool and work for Life & Style next year. If you're lucky, you can write the horoscopes.

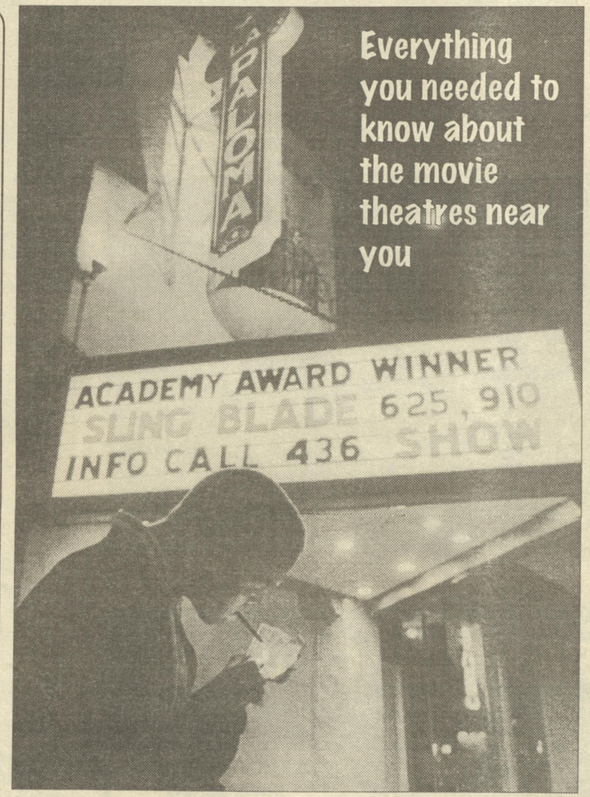
JC's guide to the movies

Guide by Jonathan Chen

Photo by Hector Roberts

AMC 20 Mission Valley

General Info	Mission Valley Center Phone: 296-6400
The Cost	General $7.50 Matinee $4.75 Twilight $3.75 Student Discount $4.75 Special Discount: MovieWatcher- This is how it works: each ticket is worth two points, you need six points to get the actual card. Then you'll get a free, small popcorn for 10 points, free ticket for 20 points, free small drink for 30 points and free ticket for 40 points. Wow, you mean to say that all I have to do is spend $142.50 and I get a free popcorn and drink? Well, it's better than nothing.
Parking Info	Outdoor lot and parking structure, valet available on weekends.
The Low Down	This jumbo theater has rejuvenated the once anemic Mission Valley Center. The line can get ridiculously long after 4:00 p.m.



AMC La Jolla 12

General Info	At I-5 At Nobel Phone:558-2234
The Cost	General $6.75, rest is the same, use VONS card to get a coupon for free popcorn. Special Discounts: MovieWatcher
The Low Down	Use the underground parking structure to get closer to the theater. Sport City Cafe, Super Crown and an arcade are nearby.

Mann Hazard Center 7

General Info	In the Brickyard at Hazard Center Phone:291-7777
The Cost	General ~~$7 Matinee~~ $4.50 Twilight $4.50 ($5.00 weekdays) Student Discount ~~$4.50~~ (except for special engagement) Special Discounts: None
The Low Down	While everyone is going to AMC 20, this theater has done little to attract audiences. They don't show the newest blockbusters and student discount is only offered for really old movies. You can't get a bite to eat either since it's located in a business area.

Landmark Hillcrest Cinema

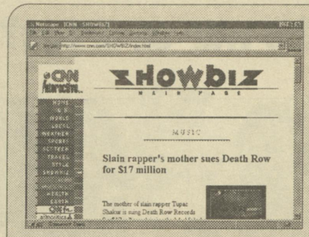
General Info	3965 5th Avenue Phone: 299-2100
The Cost	General $7 $4.50 for first showing of any movie on Saturdays and Sundays. Special Discounts: "Discount Card"- $25 for five admissions, but only two can be used at one time. Good for six months at all Landmark theaters.
The Low Down	Half the stores and eateries have closed in this lagging shopping plaza. Still, this is the place to go to find "art" films such as "Sling Blade," "Chasing Amy" and "Das Boot." The absence of bargain matinees and student discounts really hurt the business.
Other Landmark Theatres	Cove- 7730 Girard Ave. La Jolla, 459-5404; Guild- 3827 5th Ave. San Diego, 295-2000; Park- 3812 Park Blvd. San Diego, 294-9264; Ken Cinema- 4061 Adams Ave. San Diego 283-5909

United Artists Horton Plaza

General Info	In The Horton Plaza Mall Phone:234-4661
The Cost	General $7 Matinee $4.50 (all shows before 6:00 p.m.) Student Discount: None Special Discounts: None
The Low Down	The theater provides a four-hour validation. Best way to go is probably to catch a flick before 6:00 p.m. and hang out at the mall afterwards.

Movies on the 'Net

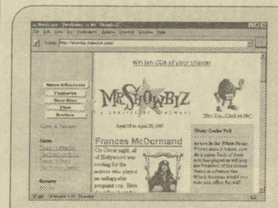
Gossip, Entertainment News and Interactive Games



CNN Showbiz
http://www.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/index.html
A potpourri of entertainment news, some of the headlines were "Tom Hanks steers HBO's $50 million moon mission" and "Next "Star Trek" film set for late 1998." The site is laid out in a clear, if not plain fashion. Since this is CNN, you'll know the information is accurate. Avoid the extremely opinionated movie reviews, you can do better with Roger Ebert and Leisurepimp.

Hollywood Online
http://www.hollywood.com/

The two best features of this informative site are its Movie Guide and Video Guide sections. On the left column you can chose to have a listing of current movies, coming-soon movies, or all movies. The list stays there while information on specific movies are displayed on the right column. Reviews are pulled from the Daily Calendar of the LA Times. You can also download photos and trailers if you really have a lot of time on your hands.



Mr. Showbiz
http://showbiz.starwave.com
This is a light-hearted, gossip-filled site that's got a little bit of everything: interviews, movie and TV reviews, news stories, etc. The most interactive of the bunch, Mr. Showbiz has new games and polls all the time that web-surfers can participate in. Recently there was an Oscar "Fashion Face-Off," where voters pick the best and worst dressed stars from the Academy Awards.
The site generally offers excellent coverage for the awards. There is simply too much stuff to list here. This is a fun site to visit if you've got some free time.

Yahoo's Entertainment Links
http://www.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Movies_and_Films/
A good starting point. Some of the categories include "Film Festivals" and "Actors and Actresses." Think of this as an index if you will.

Finding Useful Information On Movies You Want To See

Internet Movie Database
http://us.imdb.com
A database for information on movies, actors, etc.

Roger Ebert's movie reviews in Chicago Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert.html
Ebert is one of the best film critics in the business. Newer reviews are kept under the "Current Reviews" section, while you can search for older ones in the archive.

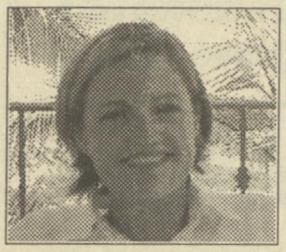
Movienet
http://www.movienet.com
This site is sponsored by Landmark Theaters. You can find all the Landmark theaters across country. The site also has film previews and prize contests.

Movieweb
http://www.movieweb.com
It has more extensive previews than Movienet. The cast list is linked to IMDB, which saves you time if you want to know something about the cast members. Production notes and soundtrack information are also quite useful.

Movielink
http://www.movielink.com
Find out show times for major theaters around San Diego. You can enter the city's name or zip code, the name of the theater or movie to find what you need.

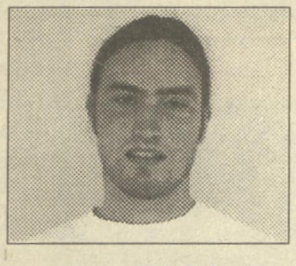
Microsoft Cinemania
http://Cinemania.msn.com
This site is basically a setup to sell people their software "Cinemania," a reference software that features reviews from legends such as Ebert, Maltin and Kael, as well as a multitude of pictures and video clips. The biographies from the software are left intact on the web site, which are very accurate and official. Don't expect to find reviews from the three critics, however, you'll have to buy the software for that. The reviews on the site are written by unknowns.

Do you think we are winning the war on drugs?



Polly McManus
Sophomore
"No, because I can get what I want when I want it."

Alice Bettencourt
Senior
"Obviously no."



Bear Zwiebel
Junior
"Ninety percent of the people in this world are on drugs, and those who aren't should be."

Father Barry Vineyard
"No. We're not even close."

Russ Davis
Freshman
"I lost it personally."

Spin it for me, Pat

"I'm a wheel watcher, I'm a wheel watcher!" If you find yourself singing this phrase at times, you may want to read on just a little bit more.

Wheel of Fortune is coming to San Diego, so come on out and audition. Contestants will be auditioned by the Wheel of Fortune staff the **weekend of April 26 and 27**. One of the tapings will be for a special "college week," and will feature local college student contestants and thousands of college students in the audience, so if you want to be there, go to any Jack in the Box restaurant, Mazda dealership, the San Diego Convention Center or NBC 7/39 to pick up an application.

For more information, call the "Wheel of Fortune" hotline at **467-7776**. You get to hear Vanna White's voice...oooooh. Good luck.

-Julie Liang

OTHERWISE

continued from page 12

ent, so we'll have to just go to the library and learn about the ones you're curious about. Then we can know just what each one does to minds and bodies, and we can make smart decisions about them then. Your grandfather died from alcoholism. We know what drinking can do. And uncle Pete died of lung cancer from cigarettes.

-And Tanya heard her mom say that her father-in-law died from lovin' only money that don't love much back. Does that count?

-Maybe.

-And Jinny's mom is always, and I mean always sayin' that she's on a diet. Now not eatin'— that can't be good for your mind and body. Can that count?

-Kind of...

-And Dale never, and I mean never, listens and always acts like he know it all. He won't listen to girls he says. He is so closed minded. Now that doesn't seem good. To think and wonder and know and think some more seems to be a better thing for minds. And bodies need minds right?

-Right.

-And maybe if more people keep thinking we'll understand tap water together! And maybe we'll not even need laws about drugs 'cause everyone will have thought and learned a lot about em. And they'll know if they want to take them or not. And what'll happen? Or else what might happen and if the risk 's worth it.

And maybe weíll understand who made drugs like these and what for anyways. And understand what drugs make us do. I mean all the drugs, not just the illegal ones. All the ones we counted.

Money, diets, wrinkle-cream, beauty, cigarettes, alcohol, TV and what else? That's right, right?

-I'll leave it up to you to keep thinkin'. How's that sound.

-I'll leave it up to you to keep thinkin'. How's that sound. Sounds bad to me. We should both.

-Now you're gettin' smart with me. Quit it or you'll go to you're room.

-Can we add 'power' to the list?

-Go.

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peddling arts, music and entertainment

Greg Grassi
Leisurepimp Editor

Unless you have been trapped in a pop culture cave, you have noticed that ska music has rapidly begun to invade the popular music charts.

Originating in Jamaica as a home-grown brand of rhythm and blues, ska music preceded but was not replaced by reggae. In fact, Bob Marley's early music, songs like "Judge Not" and "One Cup Of Coffee," draws primarily from traditional ska rhythms.

After Jamaican immigrants moved to the United Kingdom in the late 70s, bands like The Specials and The Selecter led the British ska scene which combined the original Jamaican sounds with England's budding punk scene.

Finally, ska hit the United States in the mid 80s with the emergence of groups like The Toasters. Since then, ska has experienced many transformations and influences in America, primarily from the ska-crazy Northeast and Southern California regions.

Press Photo

Issac Green and the Skalars

Skankin' with the Skalars

Isaac Green and The Skalars discuss the past, present and future of ska.

Isaac Green and The Skalars is one band to rise from the ashes of traditional ska. Hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, The Skalars blend rock steady and ska influences, creating a happy-go-lucky sound.

Supporting the band's debut release, *Skoolin' With The Skalars* , I caught up with Isaac Green and company at the Showcase Theatre where they played along with Snowman Jazz, Monkey and Unsteady.

Unfortunately, because of vocalist Jessica Butler's throat problems, The Skalars were forced to keep their set short. Considering this major setback, The Skalars could have easily played a half-ass show to the small but anxious crowd.

They didn't.

Instead, the Skalars roared through most of *Skoolin'* with intensity and showmanship, relying on the energy of steps-and-shouts man Isaac Green and fellow enthusiast/ trombone player, Evan Shaw.

Shaw, who seems kind and reserved backstage, took on a very different persona on-stage where he flailed his arms and legs wildly, often in unison with Green, and even took over lead vocals for the swingy tune "Bloodshot Eyes," the highlight of the band's performance.

Green, the unquestionable leader of the pack, treads the fine line between seriousness and craziness on stage, one minute philosophizing on different styles of skanking, the next minute jumping up and down like a madman.

Although Shaw managed to elude my interviewing ears, I managed to sit down with Green, guitarist Ethan D'Ercole, keyboard player Jason Brody and drummer Dave Sharma to discuss the status and direction of ska music.

VISTA: You mentioned on-stage that east coast and west coast dancing styles are different. Are there also significant differences as far as sound between east and west coast ska bands?

Isaac Green: As far as east coast goes, there are a lot of pseudo-traditional bands: bands that are influenced by Jamaican ska but really don't play it in any strict sense. The Sound is more eclectic. In California, the bands seem to be more influenced by lounge music and the Skatalites. It's kind of a weird mix. Orange county is such a different beast from LA. In Orange County it's sort of a mix between ska and anthem rock, like Kiss meets ska. I mean, "Don't Speak" [No Doubt] sounds like an Aerosmith song.

VISTA: What about the midwest bands? After all you guys are from St. Louis.

Green: Bands in the midwest are more often stylistically confused. They'll play a stab at sounding like the Skatalites, which will fail miserably. Then, they will have another song that stabs at sounding mosh or hard core and that will fail miserably

see **SKALAR** *on page 19*

Friend has no luck at her 'Reunion'

Release Date:
Friday, April 24

Press Photo

Lisa Kudrow, Janeane Garafalo and Mira Sorvino star in "Lisa and Romy's High School Reunion."

The cast of "Friends" continues its miserable showing at the box office with "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion."

Lisa Kudrow portrays the exact same character as her TV alterego Phoebe in this silly film. Worse yet, Mira Sorvino's character is almost identical.

Romy (Mira Sorvino) and Michelle (Lisa Kudrow) are two airheads that have accomplished almost nothing since they graduated from high school ten years ago. They decide to assume the roles of two successful businesswomen who invented Post-Its.

They stumble badly of course, but everything all works out in a Hollywood happy ending.

The main problem of this film is the decision to make Romy and Michelle mirror images of one another.

The silly "Clueless" type humor is insufficient to carry the film and it runs out of steam real fast.

The only worthy performance comes from Janeane Garofalo who plays a bitter loner who remained a bitter loner. It's a shame that she had less than 20 minutes of screen time. Her comedic talent shines with lines like "This dress exacerbates the genetic betrayal that's been my legacy."

The camera work is reminiscent of the creepy "Twin Peaks" TV series, which turns out to be rather bizarre and inappropriate for a comedy.

The film is the directorial debut by TV executive David Mirkin ("The Simpsons").

His inexperience is evident. It's almost as if he's trying too hard, doing too many unnecessary things with the camera.

Movie studios have attempted to capitalize on the fame of the "Friends" cast by having them play the same characters as on TV.

The fans like the show because the characters are funny as an ensemble.

You rip the ensemble apart and what's left are marginally funny characters that can't sell a movie by themselves.

Pesci takes some heads

Release Date:
In Theatres

Press Photo

Joe Pesci in "8 Heads in a Duffle Bag."

Joe Pesci takes on the role of a mobster again? No! Almost as a parody, Pesci injects his now infamous psychopathic gangster character with a slick sense of humor. The comedy "8 Heads in a Duffel Bag" also stars Dyan Cannon, David Spade and George Hamilton. Beware though, this film is every bit as morbid as it is funny.

Tommy Spinelli (Joe Pesci) must deliver eight heads in a duffel bag to a mob boss. This is his last assignment before he retires. At the airport he mistakenly claims someone else's identical-looking duffel bag. Spinelli must retrieve the bag in time before he gets whacked himself. Charlie (Andy Comeau) is the unlucky fellow that must meet the parents of his girlfriend Laurie Bennett (Kristy Swanson) with eight noggins in his luggage. Spinelli eventually tracks down Charlie, but not before he tortures Charlie's roommates Steve (Todd Louiso) and Ernie (David Spade) to find him.

"8 Heads in a Duffel Bag" could've easily fallen into the mold of a standard Hollywood chase. It didn't. Writer Tom Schulman ("Dead Poet's Society") delivers a clever and original screenplay that gets mileage out of the chopped-off body parts. Pesci's character is violent, street-smart and not-so-intelligent.

see **HEAD** *on page 19*

'Temptress Moon' on the rise

Release Date:
In Theatres

When I saw that "Temptress Moon" was banned in its native country China for its erotic content and allegorical references, I knew I had to see it.

The movie was slightly long-winded, but the incredible story that it tells is a huge payoff.

The story begins in 1911 with a boy, Zhongliang (Leslie Cheung), who is brought to the country estate of the wealthy Pang family.

The family's prominence hides a dark secret of opium-addled decadence. Promised a life of a student, Zhongliang is forced to become a servant.

Several years later, Zhongliang has run away to Shanghai to work as a gigolo for a powerful Mafia.

His ultimate assignment is to travel back to seduce Pang Ruyi (Gong Li), the heir to the Pang family fortune.

Both Li and Cheung are in absolute possession of their roles. They walk the fine lines of love and hate without becoming trite or cliché. The subtitles did not hinder me from being immersed into the film.

see **MOON** *on page 19*

Concert Review

Erykah Badu
Belly Up Tavern
April 19

Erykah Badu has a strength and beauty you can't help but appreciate.

Billed as the new Billie Holiday, Badu played to a sold out crowd at the Belly Up Tavern this weekend. If nothing else, this woman is extremely beautiful. Her head was wrapped in a majestic yellow turban, her slim figure draped in soft cottons, silver jewelry adorning her arms and fingers. But there is so much more.

Badu knows how to use her voice as an instrument and I was intrigued just watching her mouth as her lips shaped syllables and sculpted sounds.

She knows how to play her audience, personalizing her performance, making her fans a part of the experience.

The comparison of Badu to Holiday is understandable, their inflections are very similar, but Badu's music lacks the severe melancholy that found its source in Holiday's life, and was thus reflected in her music. Badu's music reflects confidence, energy and joy.

Even her ballads are sung with a strength that suggests triumph and acceptance rather than lament.

During her performance of "Apple Tree, " Badu took a moment to explain to the audience what the song was about, giving an eloquent lesson about the Egyptian symbol of the ankh, the completion of life in the womb, the rotation of the atoms in the body and melanin.

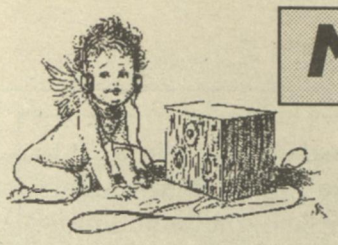
She was charming and intelligent, her speaking voice soothing, yet penetrating; she is a storyteller and a teacher as well as an extremely talented musician.

The performance spanned all the songs off Badu's latest album , including the current single "On and On."

Following the end of her performance, Badu reappeared for an lengthy encore of new material, inviting the audience to listen, "I have some new songs and I would like to sing them for you now," she said, "and you can tell me what you think." I thought she was a queen and I wasn't alone.

If you missed the show this time, chin up and keep an eye out, because Badu has plans to return to San Diego this summer on the second leg of her tour.

— Kerry Krasts



Music Reviews

Phillip Glass
Heroes
Point Music
★★★

Why get all dressed up and spend all that money to go to the symphony when you can hear it in the privacy of your own home? *Heroes* is a compilation of symphony excerpts by Phillip Glass from the music of David Bowie and Brian Eno. When I first discovered this, I had my doubts (David Bowie does not exactly conjure up pictures of a refined orchestra in my mind), but the music is truly great.

The selections are performed by the American Composers Orchestra, conducted by Dennis Russell Davies. Each piece is unique, yet they all possess the same powerful overture feel, with mellow movements followed by intense climaxes. However, the flow is never lost and never boring. These pieces remind me of movie overtures and I can almost picture the storyline that could perfectly accompany each selection.

Since you either love the symphony or you hate it, it might be a good idea for all you symphony virgins to give this CD a try before you venture to see the real thing. Just think of it as a taste test that might save you a lot of cash, should you foolishly decide that classical music is not for you. And, as an added bonus, just think how cosmopolitan and cultured you will look with *Heroes* as part of your collection.

— Beth Fischman

Us3
Broadway & 52nd
Blue Note/Capitol
★★1/2

Us 3 is interested in fusion.

The British production trio, who successfully melted jazz and hip-hop into a clever concoction on 1993's *Hand On The Torch*, are back with more of the same idea on *52nd and Broadway*, enlisting unheralded New York rappers KCB and Shabaam Sahdeeq just as they paired anonymous emcees Rahsaan and Kobie Powell on *Torch*.

Theoretically, Us 3's formula asserts that the end product of this fusion of jazz and rap is something greater than the sum of its two influences.

Thanks to smooth rapping and carefully chosen sample hooks, this formula worked beautifully on *Torch*, but falls short on *52nd and Broadway* due to inconsistent rapping and inappropriate lyrics.

The use of sampling is both US 3's biggest strength as well as its most glaring weakness.

On the positive side, producer Geoff Wilkinson knows how to pick choice jazz samples (he has access to all Blue Note Records recordings) and how to combine them with hip-hop rhythms without losing continuity.

But, on the downside, Wilkinson's endless supply of sample possibilities limits him from exploring a truly original sound. The fact is that the gems on *52nd and Broadway* all rely on samples for life.

Lyrically, virtually all the album's highlight's come from Sahdeeq's mouth. His sense of lyrical rhythm is impressive on the urban "Caught Up In A Struggle," while "Sheep," a beatnik piece, illustrates his range.

KCB, on the other hand, seems out of place when he tries to combine his choppy vocal style with Us 3's jazz foundation. For instance, he raps "Gotta stay true to the game/I'm out to get the fortune and fame," a far cry from the creative visions of 60s jazz legends, who sought to transcend the musical status quo in pursuit of art, not greed.

Other songs like the electric piano fueled "I'm Thinking About Your Body" and the percussion driven "Rocognise and Realise" solidify *52nd & Broadway*, but as a whole, the album feels incomplete.

Both Digable Planets' *Blowout Comb* and Guru's *Jazzmatazz* albums execute the jazz/hip-hop fusion process with more authenticity, using more live players and less samples.

After all, isn't jazz all about experimenting to make new sounds, not recycling old ones?

— Greg Grassi

Ratings System
Reefer Madness

★★★★★
Chronic
★★★★
Kind
★★★
Chocalate Tai
★★
Mexi Schwag
★
Burlap

HEAD
continued from page 18

His verbal comedy can only be matched by Dyan Cannon's zany physical comedy. She makes a comeback after a four-year absence and hasn't lost a step. Newcomer Andy Comeau is natural and comfortable in the role of a preppy college student. The audience shares his anxiety when he realizes the contents of his luggage and tries his best to hide it from everyone else.

This movie earns the distinction of being truly original. The strength of the film comes from the screenplay, which is executed flawlessly by the right cast (except for Kristy Swanson). The heads look only semi-real so people with a weak stomach should not be deterred. In one of the funniest scenes, Steve flips out and starts doing Robert De Niro's "You talkin' to me?" routine from "Taxi Driver." I almost laughed my head off.

— Jonathan Chen

MOON
continued from page 18

It probably had to do with the good acting.

The most captivating aspect of the film was its original story.

That's a refreshing change from the rehash we've become accustomed to in American cinema.

— Kwala Mandel

SKALAR
continued from page 17

too. A lot of them really aren't very good.

Dave Sharma: There are a lot of really good midwestern bands too: Green House, Slapstick, Blue Meanies.

VISTA: What distinguishes the Skalars sound?

Green: I think its the eclectic rhythms. I've realized that we're one of the few bands in America that play a lot of rock steady which comprises about 40 to 50 percent of our set. We are also one of the few bands who love Jamaican ska, but really don't adhere to it.

Sharma: We're not Jamaican. We're not even close to Jamaican.

VISTA: How did you get involved with Moon Ska Records?

Sharma: The short version? We recorded a CD and Steve Shafer [Moon Ska Promotions] liked it.

Green: Moon is really good because they keep a relationship with pretty much all the ska bands across the country, at least the ones that are working.

VISTA: Where do you see ska going from here? Do you think we will see a regression back to traditional Jamaican ska or more fusion with rock and punk?

Sharma: Well, the first ska song I heard on the radio was "Time Bomb," [Rancid] and that sounded like the Specials. Any good ska song with a hook I can imagine on the radio.

Green: I don't see it going in the direction of ska-punk because that just sounds like grunge in another direction. I don't think there will be as many categorizations. Traditional bands aren't necessarily traditional ska any more. There's more of an attitude and reaction to the popularization of ska.

Jason Brody: I think there will be more punk ska on the radio and more traditional bands everywhere.

VISTA: Do you find it difficult to get motivated to play a show when, like tonight, the crowd is fairly small?

Sharma: No, not really. When you see ten or fifteen people up front having a good time it makes it all worth it.

Ethan D'Ercole: Yeah, we've played our best shows in front of no one. In Minneapolis we played in this kids basement for six people.

Brody: (Interjects) The real show was canceled that night so we played at this kid's house. They paid us with soda pop.

D'Ercole: It really helps to have a crowd dancing. Enthusiasm is the big thing.

VISTA: This show was the last California show. What are your plans after this?

Sharma: We're heading back to St. Louis, stopping in Arizona, Colorado and a couple other places. Then we are making a video for "High School." Then we'll take a break.

VISTA: What have you learned from touring?

D'Ercole: Our very first tour was with the Pietasters which was great because they gave us our first break. We weren't a serious band before that tour. We learned how to be a professional band from them.

VISTA: How have you dealt with the downsides of being on the road?

Brody: There's a lot of days where touring gets really old or when you're mad at everybody because you spend all your time with the same people. But at the same time, what else would you do? I would have to get a real job or something. That's ten times worse than all the bad stuff on the road.

VISTA: How would you describe the chemistry of The Skalars?

D'Ercole: I probably shouldn't go too deep into it, but we are all close friends. It's like a family. We have our arguments, we have our disagreements but, when it comes time to playing, we're all really tight.

OB

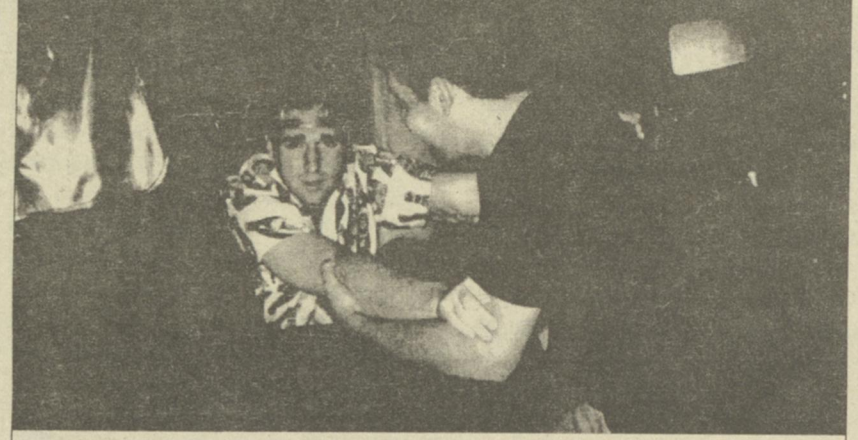
It's Offbeat

(Not Oingo Boingo, ya ding dong!)

After finishing up a bucket of Traditional buffalo wings from the Colonel at KFC, I thought to myself what better a time to write something funny than now, when the staples in my gut are about to explode and knock my pet ferret off of my neon green and purple night light. I must say it was so nice to finally get off the liquid diet. The doctor had me drinking Slimfast slurpees for brunch, afternoon tea, and late night snacks followed by purple hooter shots. Between the purple hooters and the pain pills, I was seeing more than my share of big pink dancing elephants. Now I know how Dumbo felt.

It was such a long and painful week that I was thrilled when my caretaker, Yasmine (a well known friend of my love buddy Pamela), took me outside in my wheelchair so we could sunbathe topless. I don't think I've ever seen so many bluejays bouncing around on a sunny April afternoon. Yasmine was nice enough to rub "Hawaiin Tropic" all over the parts of my fragile and goose bumped body that I wasn't able to reach myself. I was living the life right up until I awoke and realized that I had fallen asleep during the reruns of Baywatch. But then again, you guys are the kind of crowd that would watch Bambi through a sniper scope. Oh well, Booger liked my story and that's all that counts when you write for this cow chip kicking section.

Aspiring Musician of the Week:



"Aw c'mon Wally, I don't wanna go to the piano recital." "It's alright Beav, mom promised that she would keep her shirt on this time."

A Deep Thought:

If you are worried about stuff falling from the sky, then you oughta start putting Pampers on your neighborhood pigeons.

By Handey Jack

Boyant IDEAS

by Allyn Boyance

Well, if the note on my calendar is correct, this is the next to last issue of Offbeat (and the tenth anniversary of the invention of the Beadazler and the Juice Tiger). If you hadn't noticed, this past week the parking situation has been altered due to the construction of the new parking structure. The first change I was introduced to was the new stop sign at the west entrance. Not knowing of its existence, I drove right through it the first time. One of those bike-police guys tried to pull me over, but he wasn't strong enough up the hill and I lost him. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see a high-speed chase through campus involving one of those bike cops and some guy who rolled through the stop sign on his mountain bike.

To continue with the theme from last week's section, which was theme less, here are some random thoughts and ideas that I've been staying up late at night in my over stuffed bean-bag (which is actually stuffed with fish heads and Tobacco spit) worrying about: Do you ever wonder why they call the show "Baywatch" when they are actually watching the ocean and not really the bay? Were you aware that the idea for the Pez dispenser actually came from the ancient ritual of chopping off your enemy's head and displaying it in the middle of town on a sharpened stick where it would be considered as a prized possession? I'm surprised that no one ever got around to going into the canyon and ripping out bushes so it spelled the word "sucks" under the Perot supporters display to read "PEROT SUCKS." I guess I know what I'm doing Saturday night.

Copley Library: It's the best seat in the house.

Don't believe all the commercials you watch because some lie; I took the *High Endurance Challenge* and I didn't care for Old Spice, but they didn't buy me a stick of my own deodorant. Is it just me or does it seem that for being "value meals" the new value meals in the Grille don't seem very valuable? Oh yeah, by the way it *is* called the Grille.

Here are some things that you will never here coming out of a human being's mouth:

- "I just got back from the Grille and I didn't have to wait at all and to top it off, they made my burger fresh and when I got it the burger was hot and the cheese was melted."
- "Hey Matt, let's skip the parties tonight and work on next week's Offbeat section."
- "My favorite movie is Turner and Hooch."
- "This afternoon I found a parking spot right in front of Camino."
- "Don't these text book prices seem awfully reasonable this semester?"
- "Oscar didn't ask me how I was doing today at lunch."

That's it for this week all you homosapiens, I have to go because I'm writing this in the tub and I just ate a handful of Mentos and now I'm starting to cramp up and my water wings are out of reach.

P.S. Is your favorite Little Rascal Alfalfa or is it Spanky....Sinner!

What do YOU want from AS in 97-98?

The Associated Students Leadership Team s getting ready for the new year and we need your help. Please fill out the following survey and return it to UC225 or the boxes located throughout campus.

Name_____Class_____ Email_____

Please circle the type of programs would you like to see more of at USD?

Art Shows
Museum Trips
Musicals
Plays
Multicultural Programming
Social Issue Awareness
Women's Issues Awareness
Tailgates
Bus Trips to Away Games
Community Service
Alternative Concerts
Classical Jazz
Country Concerts
Gothic Industrial
Jazz Concerts
Pop Concerts
R & B Concerts
Rock Concerts
Classical Movies
Documentary Films
New Release Films
Student Films
Comedians
Magicians
Hypnotists
Amateur Nights
Off Campus Comedy Nights
Formal Dinner Dances
Semi Formal Dinner Dances
Magic Mountain Trips
Disneyland Trips
Professional Sporting Events
Game Show Taping
Talk Show Taping
Students Nights Out On Town
Entertaining Speakers
Dating Game
College Bowl
Pre Registration Hotlines
Poetry Readings

If you could change one thing about USD what would it be?

_____
_____
_____
_____

How do you hear about upcoming events on campus?

_____ Flyers
_____ Posters
_____ Word of Mouth
_____ Tram
_____ Vista
_____ Communicator
_____ RA

Are there any other program you feel we have left out that you would like to see at USD?

_____
_____
_____
_____

This Week's Schedule

Men's Baseball

Fri., Apr. 25 vs. Portland
2:30 pm
Sat., Apr. 26 vs. Portland (2)
12 pm
Sun., Apr. 27 vs. Portland
1 pm
Tue., Apr. 29 @ San Diego State
7 pm

Women's Softball

Sat., Apr. 26 WISL First Round
@ Loyola Marymount
1 pm

Women's Crew

Sat., Apr. 26 UCLA Miller Cup
@ Marina Del Rey, CA
7 am

Men's Crew

Sun., Apr. 27 Newport Regatta
@ Newport Beach, CA
7 am

USD Equestrian Team makes it to nationals

SARAH COLEMAN
Special to Sports

COURTESY OF THE EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The equestrian team poses with their ribbons after posting victories in heated competition.

Over the past two semesters, the USD equestrian team has proved to be quite a remarkable group of young athletes. Being a first year team and going practically unrecognized by fellow students and organizations, the team of 20 held their position as the No. 1 ranked team of Southern California throughout their show season.

Only a month ago, the team traveled to the Los Angeles Fair Grounds in Pomona for their final competition within their region. Unfortunately, the team missed advancing to the semi-finals by three position, settling for being the "Reserve Champions."

However, they were proud to send four women who qualified as top individual riders in their levels to this competition at Stanford University, San Jose. The riders include: senior captain Dana Lee, senior Sarah Coleman, junior Heather Parker and sophomore Jennifer Rall.

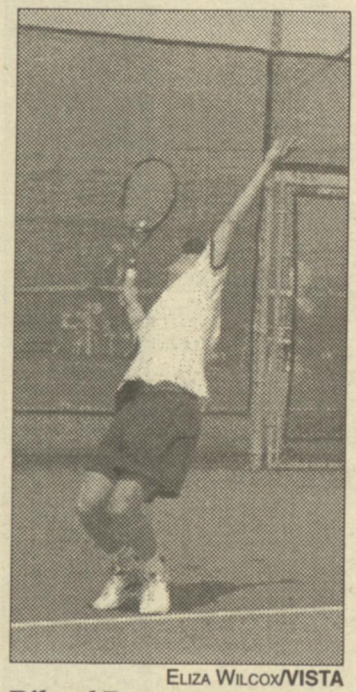
This match involved the northern region (Stanford, UC Davis, Cal Poly SLO, Fresno State) and the southern region (USC, UCSD, Cal Poly Pomona, USD, and Cal State Northridge) competing together to determine the top two riders of each class level in both English and Western riding.

The top two riders chosen, recieved the opportunity to advance on to Nationals which will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts on May 3 and 4. Out of the eight individual classes held on April 12, USD had a representative in five of them. As a result every USD rider was named champion of their class and recieved a first place ribbon along with an invitation to go to Nationals to represent not only USD, but the intercollegiate equestrian teams in the state of California.

These results show the hard work and natural talent of the riders of the team. It is important to note that it is extraordinary that a first year team has had this much success, sweeping the competitions and advancing to the Nationals, the biggest horse show held among colleges in the United States.

The team expresses their deepest gratitude to trainer Cathy Culver, who assisted and supported the team at San Jose and who will also attend Massachusetts for the Nationals.

MEN'S TENNIS



ELIZA WILCOX/VISTA

Rikard Roos serves one up for his oppenent.

Breaking even at 12-12, the Toreros shut down Loyola Marymount University 4-0, without surrendering a single set. The matches were held on the 19th of April, on a Saturday morning at the USD West courts. The matches of Ola Lindblom, Rikard Roos and J.P. LaBarrie were not completed. Later on that afternoon, the Toreros played UCSD, conquering them with a 7-0 win. The matches played on Saturday are the last the team has in preparation for the NCAA West Regionals(May 9-11) and the NCAA Championships(May 14-22).

– HSIAO MIN PANG

WOMEN'S CREW

The USD Women's Varsity Crew team is not supposed to be having a good season. With the loss of seven athletes to injuries and attrition, the team should be struggling, right?

Wrong. Despite a meager roster of nine women—the exact number of athletes needed to fill one racing boat—the USD Women's Varsity team has turned in some very respectable performances this season.

"We're at the point where if any one person is sick or injured, either she is rowing or we don't race," said head coach Leeanne Crain.

But the USD women have been racing—and racing well.

At last weekend's WCC Championships, the women's team earned second place honors, losing only to a very strong Gonzaga crew. The women's varsity eight and varsity four both finished in second behind Gonzaga. The novice eight team finished third behind Gonzaga and Santa Clara. Stacey Bunten and Lindsay Thomas were named to the All-WCC Women's Rowing Team. Coach Leeanne Crain was also named one of the WCC Co-Coaches of the Year.

A day earlier, both the men's and women's crew team took third place in two events at the California Collegiate Rowing Championships. The women's varsity eight won a bronze medal behind San Diego State and Cal. The men's lightweight eight took the bronze behind UC Davis and Humboldt.

"We've actually had a very good season thus far," Crain said. "We've beaten crews that come from much larger programs than ours."

That is an understatement.

Crain watched what was once a 14-member team dwindle to a low of seven athletes by January as injuries and attrition depleted the roster. In order for her team to compete, Crain had to bring up two athletes from USD's novice team and place them directly into the lineup.

"At first we were a little nervous because we had to fill our Varsity boat with athletes who had only been rowing for a half a year," said second-year rower Jennie Jacobson. "We had to

see **CREW** *on page 23*

Athletes of the Week

Women's Softball

The women's softball team lost both games in their doubleheader against Loyola Marymount. last Saturday. USD was defeated 8 to 0 and were held to only one hit in this five inning match.

The second game of the doubleheader had similar results. Once again the Toreros were held scoreless while Loyola tallied 6 runs to bring home the victory. The Toreros picked up two games against the Tritons of UC San Diego to improve their record to 25-25. They will take on Pomona Pitzer in a doubleheader to close the regular season. The first round of the WISL begins at LMU on Saturday April 26.

– Brian Hillins

The junior pitcher from Lake Oswego, Oregon tossed a complete game four-hitter to give USD a 10-1 victory over Loyola Marymount in the second game of a double-header on Saturday. Miadich pitched his fifth complete game of the year to lower his team leading ERA to 2.76. His seven wins and 68 strikeouts rank him in second in the WCC.

Bart Miadich
Torero baseball

Courtesy of the Sports Center

Brigid Joyce
Women's tennis

In the women's tennis team's final regular season victory over San Diego State, Brigid Joyce won her No. 2 singles match 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. Teaming up with Zuzana Lesenarova in No. 1 doubles, Joyce helped her team to victory with an 8-5 doubles victory. With the NCAA's within reach, the women's tennis team can only wait and see what will happen next.

Write For Sports

Crew

continued from page 22

be patient with them as they learned better rowing technique."

Crain has been happy with the novices' performances.

"The novices that came onto the Varsity team are doing outstanding jobs," Crain said. "They actually are talented enough to fill those spots. If anything, I think we might be faster because of them."

Not every race, however, has been successful. At the San Diego Crew Classic on April 5th, the USD women missed qualifying for the Varsity consolation final by .07 seconds, and placed 11th out of 21 schools overall.

"I was really disappointed with the Crew Classic because we've worked so hard," said Colleen Roach, a junior. "I think there were a lot of expectations for our crew to do well, and since we're such a small, intense group, it got the best of us."

Such expectations are not solely the result of early-season success. The 1996-1997 season marks the first year that the NCAA has officially sponsored women's crew. This means that the USD women would have had the chance to compete at the inaugural NCAA championship in June if they had placed first at the West Coast Conference championship last weekend.

Sponsorship of women's crew by the NCAA also means that more schools will begin to offer scholarships to female rowers.

"We've already raced against some teams who give scholarships," Crain said.

Unlike other NCAA Division I athletic programs at USD, Women's Crew does not offer scholarships. Rowers had to raise or donate $250 in order to participate this season. Yet they train for just as many hours as scholarship athletes, and they are expected to uphold the same academic requirements as scholarship athletes.

"We don't try to use not having scholarships as an excuse, but we can't say that it doesn't affect us." Jacobson said. "Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of the year saying, 'What am I doing this for?'"

"It's frustrating," added Roach. "We're not recognized or respected as much because we don't have scholarships. All people know about us is that we have to wake up early in the morning. But we're in the weight room doing just as much work as everyone else."

The team faces a demanding schedule that begins every day at 5:30 am. Two and a half hour morning practices are followed by afternoon weight circuits or aerobic conditioning.

Most of the women must also budget "nap time" into their days in order to make up for sleep lost to early morning practices.

"And when you actually do have time for school work," Jacobson said, "a lot of times you're just too tired."

Amber Himes, a sophomore who had been rowing since her freshman year in high school, quit the team in January because the demands crew put on her time were conflicting with academics.

"It was a huge time commitment," said Himes, a Marine Science major. "Crew really didn't allow me to have time to do research or just get more involved with my teachers."

Bad hours. Constant fatigue. No subs. No scholarships. So why do the USD women keep rowing?

"We love the sport, but we are not committed only to crew itself," Jacobson said. "I'm committed to my coach, and to the eight other girls who I spend at least five hours a day with, six days a week, all year long. And they are committed to me."

Can USD rowers look forward to a future of scholarships and increased funding? The recent sponsorship by the NCAA will allow USD to offer scholarships, but whether or not USD will is a decision to be left to the athletic department. "I'm hopeful that in the future we will have scholarships, in light of what is happening around the country in terms of women's crew," Crain said.

But for now, the nine members of the USD women's crew team will continue to row without scholarships. They will continue to raise money for equipment, uniforms, and travel. And they will continue to face every practice and race with the knowledge that there is no room for injuries or sickness. "These athletes deserve a lot more credit than what they're getting," Crain said. "I am really proud of them."

– Mary Beth Basile

I WAS WALKING MY DOG THE OTHER DAY AND I RAN INTO A LIGHT POST. MY DOG JUST LOOKED AT ME FUNNY AND THEN RELIEVED HIMSELF ON MY LEG.

WRITE FOR OFFBEAT

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MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team traveled to Seaside, California for the WCC championships. After 320 strokes in round one, the Toreros pulled together and scored 306 in both rounds two and three to finish with a final score of 932 and a fifth place finish. Pepperdine and Portland blew away the field to place firts and second respectively with scores of 891 and 908. Hec Wood was the top USD finisher in 11th place, scoring an impressive 230. Tony Snoey also finished impressively with a score of 231.

– GENO VILLANUEVA

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Standing at 15-11 this season, the women's tennis team recently defeated the No. 31 ranked SDSU 6-3. Losses occurred in the No. 1 (Zuzana Lesenarova vs. Maggie Cove, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4) and No. 3 (Julie Baird vs. Jeanette Phaguandas, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4) singles and in the No. 2 (Baird-Doyle vs. Cole-Papi, 8-3) doubles. Both singles defeats involved rubber sets. The women's team is currently ranked No. 35 in the nation.

– HSIAO MIN PANG

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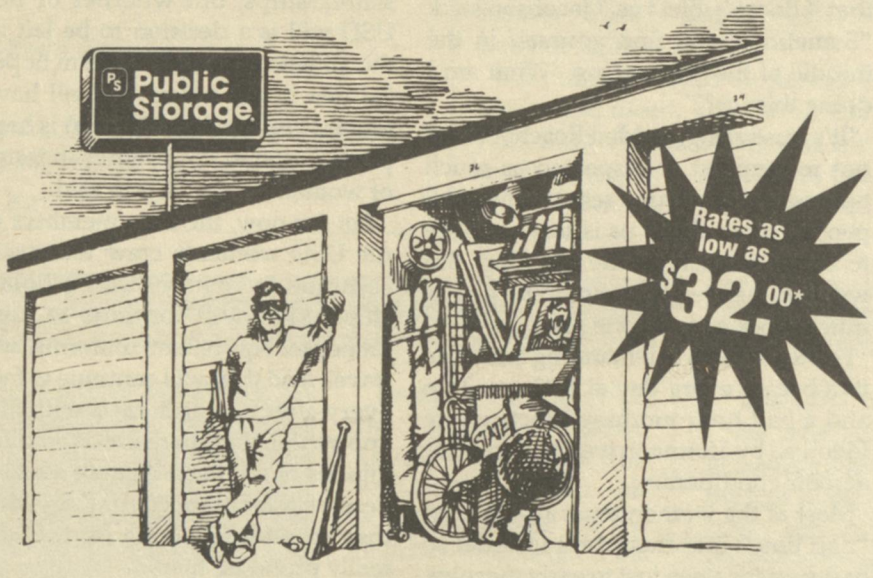

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IntramuralsandRecreation

IM/Rec salutes
Shawn Bengtson!

WhatsHotThisWeek!

Fandango Wins!

Subway's Men's Softball

Going into Sunday's Men's Softball championships many questions were pondered. Would **Ill Papas** and **Fandango** meet in the finals and finally finish what they had started (the two teams tied 19-19 in the regular season)? Would **Sweetbread** win it all in their first season of competition? Would **Can't Go Yard** spank the **Ill Papas** as they had earlier in the season? And, most importantly, who would win the heralded shirts? Thankfully, all of these questions were answered.

Game one featured the **Ill Papas** taking on **Can't Go Yard**. Early on, it appeared as though the **Papas** were seeking serious revenge, knocking three homeruns out of the yard (Brian McGloughlin, Brian Dempsey and Frank Brown) in the first inning to take a 4-1 lead. **Can't Go Yard** battled back as they have all year, returning the favor and gaining a 6-4 lead behind Mike Corrales and Marc Koenig. The **Papas** weren't done though. Dempsey stepped to the plate and cracked another big fly to put the game out of reach for good. McGloughlin, Brown and Thunder Dan McGovern went yard in the late innings to make to 12-10 victory complete.

Next up was **Fandango/Sweetbread**. **Fandango** jumped out of the blocks quickstyle behind Mike Mulka and Kaley Roberts. **Sweetbread's** Jared Keo demonstrated his hitting techniques with a solo blast in the second. Things took a turn for the better when **Fandango** skipper Jefferson Knudsen arrived to the yard fresh from his vacation and crushed a three-run homer to left to put **Fan** up 7-1. The Hawaiians fought back getting within three runs after four innings. However, **Fandango** was too strong and put the game away in the sixth with two big runs from Ryan Semro and Derrick Brach. **Bread's** Evan Hlavacek hit what might be the farthest homerun in IM History in the sixth, but it wasn't enough. The 9-7 win set up a much anticipated **Fandango/Ill Papas** rematch for the shirts.

The Championship game started like the previous one ended: hitting and runs galore. **Ill's** Nick Day blasted a three run bomb in the five run first. **Fandango** replied with eight first inning runs of their own, the highlight being a Kevin Brady bomb. The excitement in the middle innings was minimal and featured mostly pitching and defensive gems. **The Papas** tied the game at eight in the fifth on a solo shot from Tim Larson. In the bottom of the sixth, **Fandango** took over. Brach and Semro once again stepped it up in the clutch, as **Fandango** scored four very important runs to take a 12-8 lead. **Ill Papas** had one more chance. McGloughlin refused to go quietly and his two-run homerun brought the **Papas** to within two. **The Papas** couldn't generate any more runs though and lost 12-10 in one of the greater championships in recent memory. Congrats to **Fandango** on the championship and to all the teams who competed this Spring. Next year should be just as exciting.

SUBWAY Game of the Week

Men's Volleyball

Juggernauts crushed **AKPsi** in Co-Rec Soccer last week for the platter to take a strong hold on the #1 seed. This week we focus on the battle for the #2 seed in Men's Volleyball. **Midget Tossers** are a lock for the #1 seed, but on Tuesday there will be a battle for #2. Unfortunately for both teams, there are only four teams in the league. Therefore, win or lose, these teams will face each other again in the first round of the playoffs next week. Good luck to both participants!

AVP Gold vs Thomahawks

Domino's Pizza

Soccer Spotlight

Capture the Flag Continues!

We knew it! We knew it! No matter how enticing we made the game only one team showed (God Bless Em!). **No Skills Attempts Soccer** has yet to attempt soccer, but is 3-0 thanks to their timeliness and their competitions lack of. Well, we're tired of the morning league and after the hack job only two teams remain, the earlier mentioned **No Skills** and **TBA**. This week we're featuring the two best teams in the league as they play for the number one seed going into the playoffs. Due to time we had to cut a week off the schedule and a week off of the playoffs. So this is a very important game as we get ready to go into the second season.

This week's match-up features:

Jesus Saves vs Juggernaut

Sunday @ 3pm

IM/Rec News

The Im/Rec office will be changing its league sign-up format next semester. Instead of the usual sign-up throughout the season technique, it will utilize a one week sign-up blitz. IMs will take all entries for the Fall Sports during the second week of school. That means you should start getting an idea of who will be on your fall teams now so that you don't miss out on the entries deadlines. Some sports may start a week or two later, but entries will still close during the blitz week. As always you may participate in as many IMs as you would like. There will be Special Events throughout the semester that will close the day before most of the events. So if you miss the league sign-ups, you may be able to still participate in one of our Special Events.

Note: Due to a recent disappearance in equipment. No Rec items may be checked out without a current USD ID or Facilties Pass. No exceptions. USD IM/Rec thanks you for your cooperation.

IM Spotlight of the Week

Men's Softball

Game: Ill Papas vs Fandango
Team: Fandango
Player: Brian McGloughlin (Ill Papas)

Co-Rec Softball

Game: Alpha Kappa Psi vs Dodebags with a Vengeance
Team: Dodebags with a Vengeance
Players: Chris Del Santo and Kari Ambrose (Dodebags)

Men's Volleyball

Game: Midget Tossers vs Thomahawks
Team: Midget Tossers
Player: Ty Simpson (Midget Tossers)

Co-Rec Volleyball

Game: Law Squad vs ASA
Team: Law Squad
Players: Jason Kearaghan and Amanda Smith

IMRankings

For Week Ending April 20th

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
1. Peku Esnazu Elemu (Champs)
2. The Smurfs

MEN'S "A" BASKETBALL
1. Swingers
2. Knuckle Deep II
3. All the President's Men

MEN'S "B" BASKETBALL
1. The Love Donkeys
2. Hopin' I'll Love Ya
3. Thunderstruck
4. Air Motumbos
5. The Wankers

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
1. Midget Tossers
2. Thomahawks
3. AVP Gold
4. Cool Arrows

CO-REC VOLLEYBALL
1. Six Pack
2. Midget Tossers II
3. Okaasan Shimasu?
4. Law Squad
5. Strikers

WOMEN'S TENNIS
1. Veronica Mracek
2. Marrell Jandacka
3. Tracy Tomlinson

CO-REC FOOTBALL
1. Ke Kukae
2. Quienes tu Papa?

MEN'S SOFTBALL
1. Fandango
2. Ill Papas
3. Sweetbread
4. Can't Go Yard

CO-REC SOFTBALL
1. Dodebags w/a Vengeance
2. Alpha Kappa Psi
3. J.I.V.E.
4. Leatherballs

MEN'S INDOOR SOCCER
1. Reservoir Dogs
2. PTW Baby
3. Jesus Saves

MEN'S TENNIS
1. Chris Goodwill
2. Luas Mast
3. Paul Van Acker

CO-REC SOCCER
1. Juggernaut
2. Jesus Saves
3. No Skills Attempts Soccer

SUBWAY Co-Rec Softball

Dodebags Regain Title with Vengeance!

Sunday marked the championship match-up in Co-Rec Softball between **Dodebags with a Vengeance** and **Alpha Kappa Psi**. Those spectators that attended were treated to a Chris Del Santo show. The All-Star for the **Dodebags** saw just four pitches all day. The amazing thing about it is he took each pitch out of the yard. Del Santo was 4-4 with four bombs and 11 RBIs, surely constituting an IM Softball record. Megan Thompson and Kari Ambrose contributed with seven runs between them, and Laura Sides kept morale high with her loud cheering tactics. **AKPsi** really couldn't do anything about the **Dodebag's** spectacle. **The Bags** collected the championship shirts and healthy Subway sandwiches in the 20-7 stomping.

Check out the Hot Intramural Co-Rec Soccer Sponsored by Domino's this Saturday beginning at 12pm

All games are played on the Canyon Field

Domino's Co-Rec Soccer

Who's Bigger Jesus or Juggernauts?

We were halfway through our fourth game of capture the flag. I had already won the early morning hide-and-go-seek tournament, and our team (supervisors and scorekeepers) was about to win our third game of capture the flag against a slower and less experienced (in the highly intelligent game of capture the flag) ref team. I looked at my watch and it was 30 minutes till 1pm. I knew our game was over because the afternoon league would soon begin playing soccer. The #1 **Juggernaut** was to play **Alpha Kappa Psi**. Superstar Philip Zinn scored all four goals for the **Juggernaut** team in their 4-0 victory. He now has seven goals in three games. #2 ranked **Jesus Saves** played **The Jury** in the second game. **The Jury** had to forfeit due to certain ineligible players but **Jesus Saves** won the unofficial game easily. This Saturday's match-up between #1 **Juggernaut** and #2 **Jesus Saves** will determine the top seed for the playoffs. It may also feature the first official game played by a morning league team. **No Skills Attempts Soccer**, 3-0 (because of forfeits) will play **TBA**, 1-1 (also because of forfeits). If not, we invite anyone out there who likes to play hide-and-go-seek, or capture the flag to show up to the Canyon field this Saturday.

Altoid's Volleyball

Midget Tossers Secure the Men's #1 Seed

Midget Tossers stayed in first place after battling against **Thomahawks** in three games. Gavin Simpson, Ty Simpson, Brian Wantz and Joe Cardenas got it together and played well. Ty had five kills and all four players for the **Midgets** were serving aces. TJ Knea was at the net continuously for **Thomahawks** blocking numerous attempted kills. After loosing their first game, **Thomahawks** buckled down and won the second game. But, all their stamina died down by the third game. Jay Bays, Rick Trojan, Justin Crachy and Knea were hitting well but obviously the **Midgets** out played them winning 15-13, 14-16, 15-11.

Cool Arrows weren't soaring through the air when they played against **AVP Gold**, rather they were flat footed and on the ground. George Adair had five kills and Geoff Garland four helping **AVP** win quickly in two games. Jared Garewal was serving well, enabling **AVP** a spot ahead in the seedings. **Cool Arrows** did improve as the second game got underway, but they still weren't able to provided any tough competition. **AVP Gold** triumphed over **Cool Arrows** 15-5, 15-9.

In Co-Rec action, Judy McDonald, Scott Raub, Andy Hauck and Mike Corrales played well against the first place team, **Six Packs**. Rick Trojan and Justin Crachy had their usual numerous kills while Briley Brown, Mandy Sherard and Adriene Layaye all made diving saves throughout the game. McDonald had four aces and Raub had four great blocks for **Okaasan Wa Nani O Shimasu Ka? Six Pack** came out ahead, 15-6, 15-9.

Six Pack had a tough night ahead of them with a double header on Tuesday night. But, as expected they kept their 1st place position. Trojan had six kills and Crachy served four aces. Brown, Sherard, and Layaye truly held the team together with good positioning and consistent serving and sets. Chris Brady on the **Strikers** had five kills, as his team put up a tough fight showing **Six Pack** that they need to work to win. That's exactly what they did and it payed off with a **Six Pack** win of 15-8, 15-9. **Midget Tossers II** the team in 2nd place won again last week. They would be in 1st place had they not forfeited a game. Ty Simpson, Joe Cardenas, Kim Tallman and Lynn Randall took off quickly in the first game. They didn't allow **Don't Ask** to score any points. A rather humorous game that went by too quickly for the losers to realize what happened. In the second game Adrian Young and a new addition to the team, Ben Powers, woke up. **Don't Ask** did manage to score seven points but the **Midgets** only laid low for awhile. They were ready to go and ended the games walking away with a 15-0, 15-7 win over **Don't Ask**. **ASA** keeps digging themselves into a deeper trench. They haven't had on win this season. **Law Squad** didn't make it any easier to play a successful game. Jason Bogni had three aces and four kills while Jason Kearnaghan had ten kills and two blocks for the lawyers. In the opening game, **ASA** wasn't warmed up enough. They were only able to score one point. The lawyers relaxed some in between games and didn't play as well in the second game. Marc Ner had four aces and Faith Costales had three kills for ASA. The lawyers did pull through in a tough second game moving into second place with a 15-1, 15-12 win.

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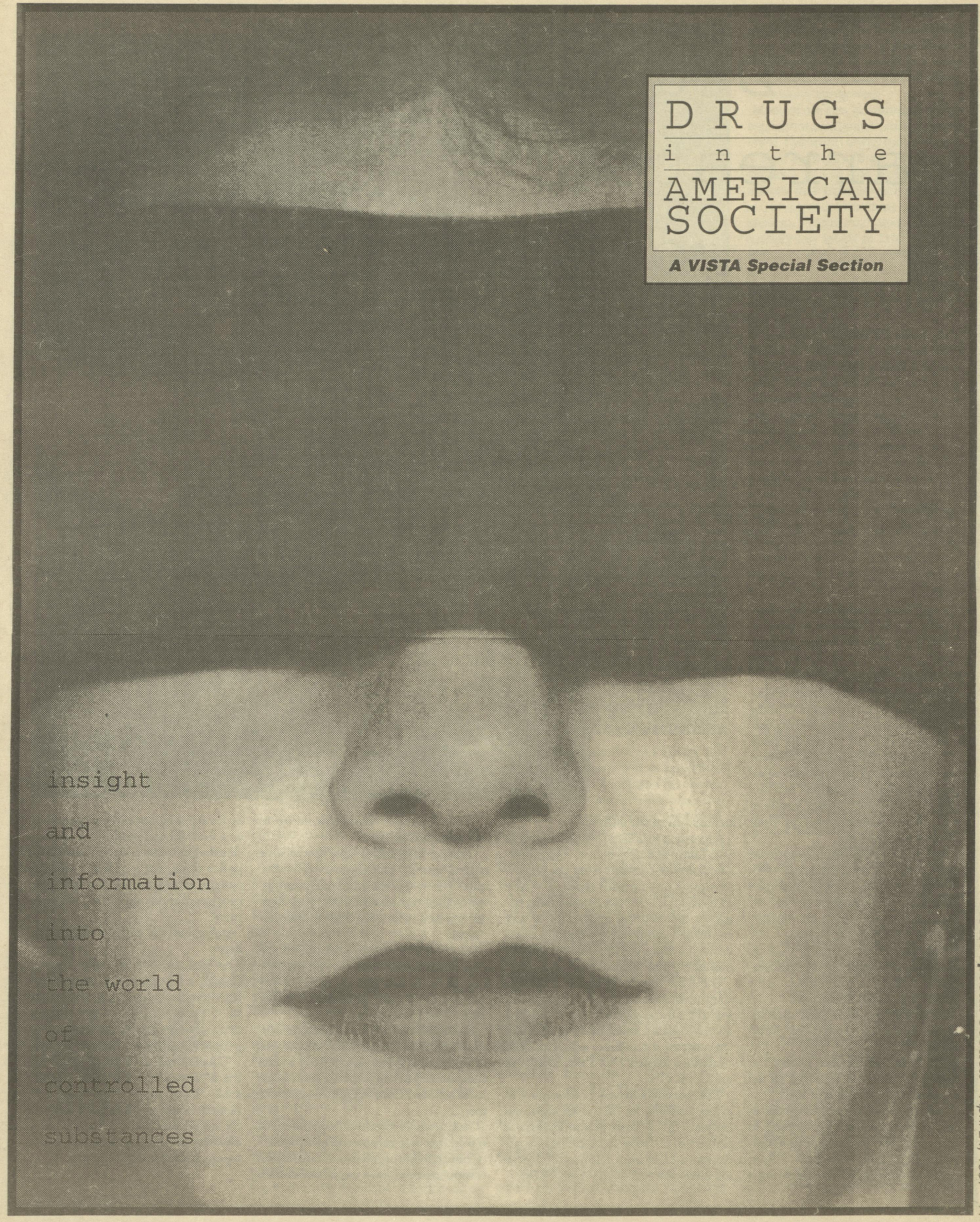
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the world
of
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substances

Drug arrests on the rise at colleges

story by
rodel
divina
&
william
honan

Drug arrests on major college campuses climbed by almost 18 percent in 1995, according to the annual survey of campus crime by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Some college officials attributed the rise to stricter enforcement of drug laws rather than increased drug use.

There were 6,797 arrests for drug violations in 1995, up from 5,764 the previous year. The largest increase was reported at Northern Arizona University, with 133 drug arrests in the 1995-96 academic year, up from 78 the previous year.

Ten other institutions reported more than 100 drug arrests in 1995: Arizona State University, Michigan State University, Rutgers University, San Jose State university, the University of Arizona, UC Berkeley, the University of Maryland at College Park, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

According to Darren Cecil, director of the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education,
these drug- and alcohol-related national statistics are reflected in the student demographics of USD.

"Yes, there has been an increase in the number of students coming to the office for additional information," Cecil said. "We have a drug problem in society, and our campus microcosm of our society."

According to USD's Crime Awareness and Campus Safety report, the University does not condone drug use or possession in any campus facility. Any individual known to be possessing, using or distributing marijuana or any controlled substance is subject to disciplinary action, possible arrest, imprisonment or fine according to state law.

The USD report states that although there were no drug violation arrests during 1993 through 1995, there was one alcohol-related arrest in the latter year.

In contrast, disciplinary action for drug violations totaled 27 in 1993, 33 in 1994 and 25 in 1995.

The survey reported reductions in other crimes, in line with national trends. The number of homicides was down to 15 from 16, robberies were down to 1,038 from 1,157 and burglaries were down to 16,011 from 16,789.

But forcible sex offenses were up to 973, from 955 in 1994.

Colleges and universities that receive federal money are required by law to make yearly reports on crimes committed on their campuses and to make these reports available to students and employees.

The Chronicle survey covered all 490 four-year colleges and universities enrolling 5,000 students or more. Only Yeshiva University declined to supply data to the publication.

At Rutgers, Dr. Robert Bierman, Student Health Service director, said he was unaware of any increase in drug use on campus and thought the increase in arrests resulted from aggressive enforcement.

The Chronicle cautioned that the crime reports are not necessarily complete.

Crimes involving students at an urban campus, for example, might be handled by local police, not campus agencies, and thus not included in the data.

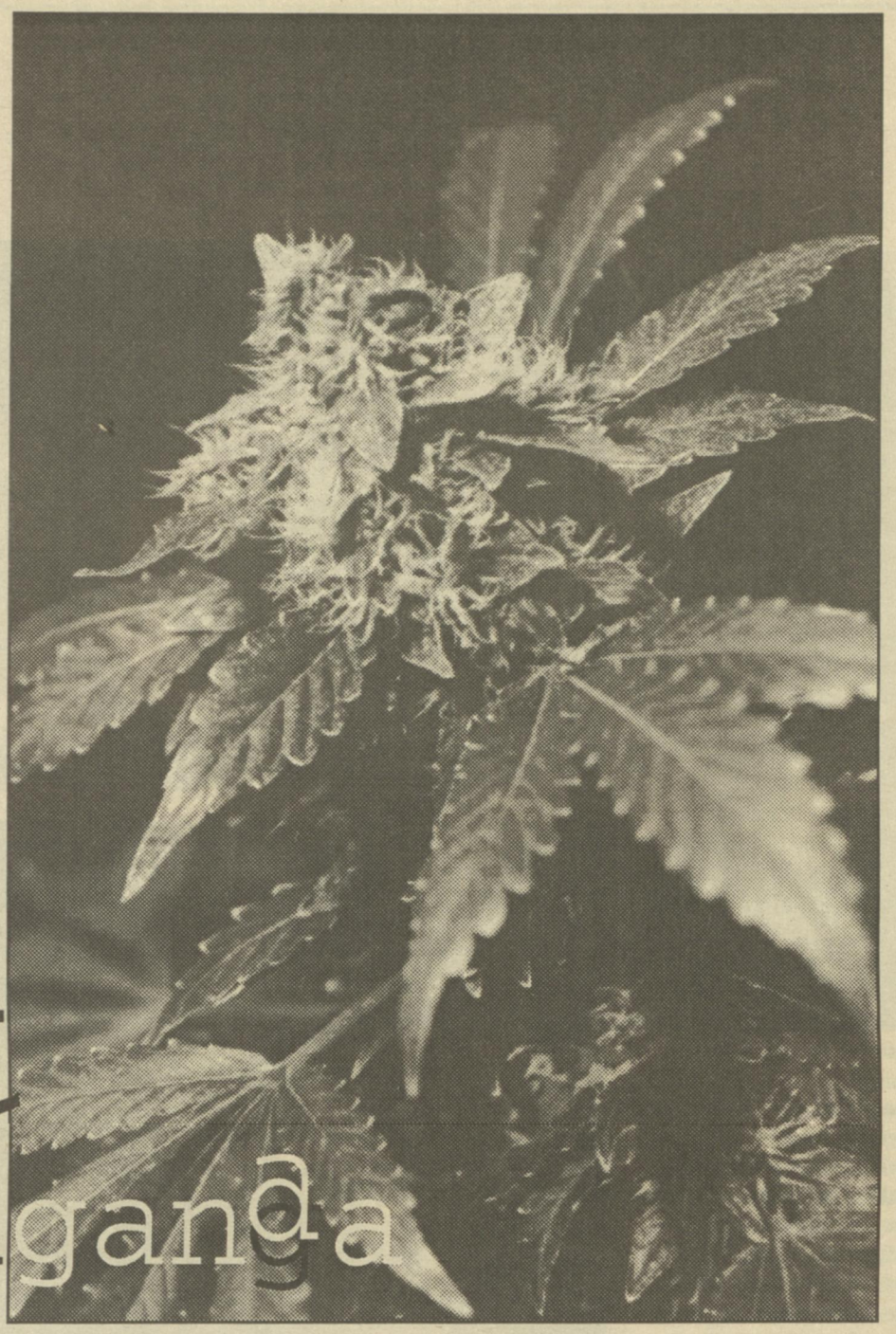
Further, colleges with a professional police force, not a campus judicial system, may show higher crime rates because of more aggressive enforcement.

And not all the crimes involve students.

At Berkeley, for example, Patrick Carroll, a captain in the campus police department, said that 90 percent to 95 percent of those arrested on drug charges by his officers were people not affiliated with the school.

"That's been the case throughout the 27 years I've been here," Carroll said. "And most of them are not dealers. They've entered the campus for some other reason. They're usually arrested for possession of marijuana, crack cocaine or LSD."

pot propaganda



story by greg grass

Marijuana use causes paranoia, in the government that is.

After the recent passing of Proposition 215 which legalized doctor-prescribed medicinal marijuana in California, the age-old issue of the drug's harmful effects has once again resurfaced.

The central legal issue of marijuana use involves the alleged harmful effects of the drug, which remain extremely controversial and continue to contribute to government policy formation.

In reality, few studies has found any evidence of hazardous effects resulting from pot use.

In a recent *Rolling Stone* article entitled "Reefer Madness 1997: The New Bag of Scare Tactics," Ethan A. Nadelmann, director of the Lindesmith Center, a drug policy center, highlights some relatively inconclusive results about marijuana use, differentiating between common myth and fact.

Nadelmann explains that the so-called "war on drugs" is really targeted at marijuana. By focusing on the evils of pot, the federal government hopes to attract the attention of middle-class America, who do not see drugs like heroin and cocaine use as epidemics that affect them. Marijuana hits home. The most recent research indicates over 70 million Americans have tried marijuana at least once.

Are these 70 million Americans in trouble? The empirical evidence suggests quite the contrary.

According to the article, almost every independent investigation has concluded that marijuana presents fewer dangers than both alcohol and tobacco. Yet, the government insists on an all-or-nothing stance regarding marijuana legalization, because the criminalization of marijuana prevents talking about moderate or responsible use of marijuana.

Government officials refuse to take a stand that challenges the "Just Say No" mantra of the '80s. The problem with that campaign was its tendency to group all illegal drugs together, regardless of the degree of harm caused by each drug.

The bottom line is that marijuana is relatively benign compare with hard drugs like heroin. All inclusive anti-drug campaigns ignore this difference consistently, opting instead for a more public-friendly stance that all drugs are equally dangerous.

Much of the new government warnings about marijuana center around myth. One myth is that today's pot is much stronger than Marijuana smoked in the 60s and 70s. The realityis that improper storage as well as overgeneralizations based on Mexican "kilobricks," produced inaccurately low levels of THC (the psychoactive chemical in marijuana) in the '60s and '70s samples. In addition, all these false claims come from one study by the University of Mississippi.

The average THC level in marijuana produced today is virtually the same as it ever was. High potency strains (often called "kind" or "chronic") may be more available now, but pot users generally smoke smaller quantities of this high-grade weed, reducing health risks to the lungs. No matter how potent the strain, it is still virtually impossible to die from a marijuana overdose.

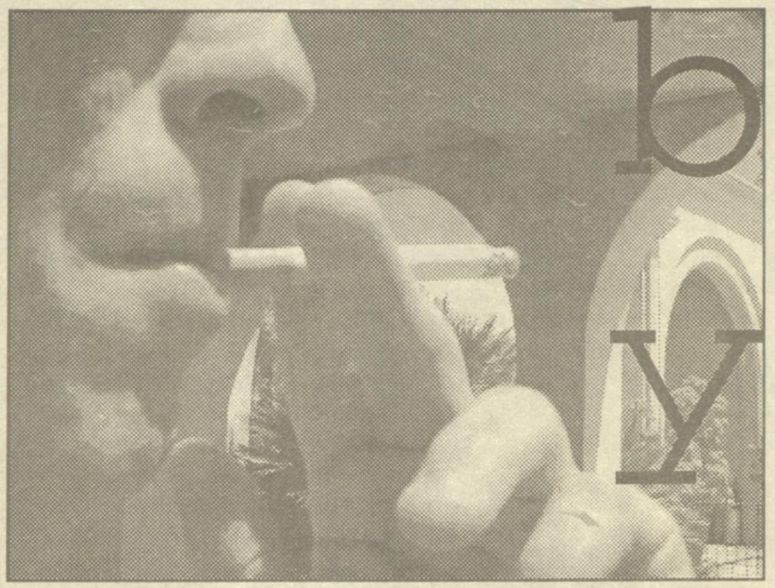
Another myth is that marijuana impairs long-term cognitive abilities. In actuality tests comparing pot smokers and non-smokers have found the two groups relatively indistinguishable. The only study to find otherwise, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, found that heavy smokers (those who smoked seven or more times a week for more than six years) scored slightly lower on math and verbal tasks. According to the study,people who smoked five to six times per week did not score significantly different than non-smokers.

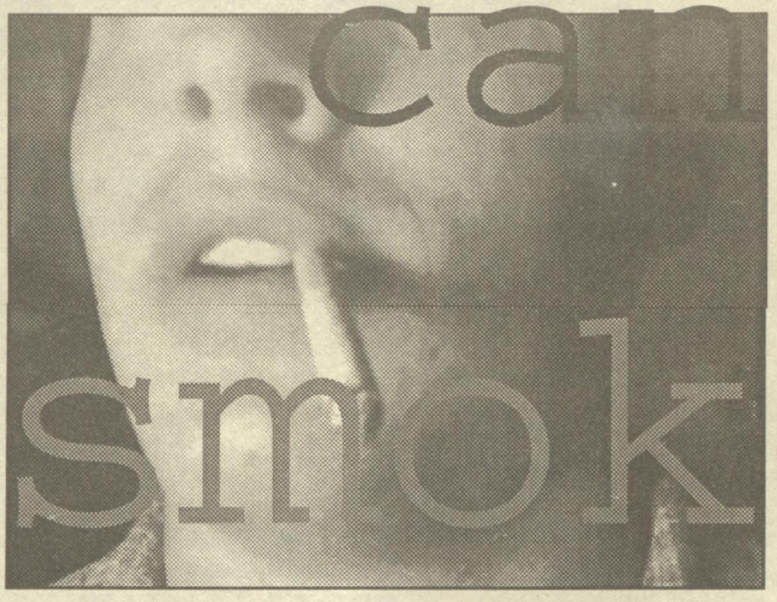
In addition to the potency and cognitive impairment myths, marijuana is often the subject of the "Gateway Theory," which essentially claims that pot acts as a entry level drug that leads to hard drug exploration. According to the alarming statistics offered by National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, marijuana users are 85 times more likely to use cocaine.

But this claim is misleading; It was computed by dividing the percentage of marijuana users who had tried cocaine (17 percent) by the percentage of cocaine users who have never used marijuana (0.2 percent), a much more available drug.

The chief problem in all these studies is a major conflict of interest. Researchers rely on government grants to fund their independent projects. It's no surprise that the results often favor existing drug policies; the funding depends on it. Before you "Just Say No," look at the facts which suggest that marijuana may not be nearly as dangerous as previously indicated.

I bet you can't smoke just one





story by
kerry suddes

Most of us have tried it. Some of us do it every day. All of us know someone who does it too much.

People smoke over one billion cigarettes a day in America. 3,000 Americans under 18 start smoking every day. In 1990, 20 percent of all deaths in the United States were attributed to smoking. Smoking has been proven as a link between lung cancer and heart disease.

These are all facts that we have heard before. We know smoking is bad for us, but are cigarettes a drug? The tar and other chemicals the body recieves when smoke is inhaled are what causes fatal diseases. Nicotine, a compound found in cigarettes, is what causes the addiction.

In 1989, the U.S. Surgeon General declared nicotine an addictive drug. Then in 1995, the Food and Drug Administration claimed jurisdiction over consumer products "intended to affect the structure or any function of the body." The FDA argued that the addictive drug, nicotine, falls under their jurisdiction because of the way it affects the nervous system.

So, what is nicotine? It is an insecticide manufactured by tobacco and other plants to jam the nervous systems of bugs that invade their leaves.

It takes only a small dose of nicotine to kill a bug. In a human, you would need 60 mg, about 30 to 60 times the average amount found in one cigarette, for it to be fatal.

On a smaller scale, nicotine produces a short-lived, but enjoyable high. The way that nicotine creates this pleasure is hard to follow and very disturbing.

Nicotine goes to work on the same nerve cells as cocaine. These cells are located in the nucleus accumbens section of the brain. These cells then use a messenger chemical, acetylchiline, to talk to another messenger chemical, dopamine. It is in the dopamine cells that pleasure, i.e. relaxation or increased alertness, takes place.

Dopamine production stops as a result of nicotine making its way into the brain. Dopamine receptors do not switch back on until the smoker takes another drag. Hence, smoking is a series of sudden rushes followed by steady declines, instead of a constant high.

Although there is no concrete evidence that noctine is addictive there have been many studies done. For example, a 1996 study done by chemists at Brookhaven National Laboratory, showed that smokers have 40 percent less of a brain enzyme called monoamine oxides B, or MAO B, than nonsmokers. MAO B is an enzyme the brain uses to break down dopamine.

So see if you can follow this : when you take a hit of a cigarette, the pleasure you feel, takes place in the brain in the chemical cells, dopamine. MOA B is used to break down dopamine. The less MAO B you have, the more dopamine you *do* have. The more dopamine you have, the more pleasure you have. The more pleasure you have, the more you smoke. The more you smoke, the less MAO B you have. This cycle leads to one thing — addiction.

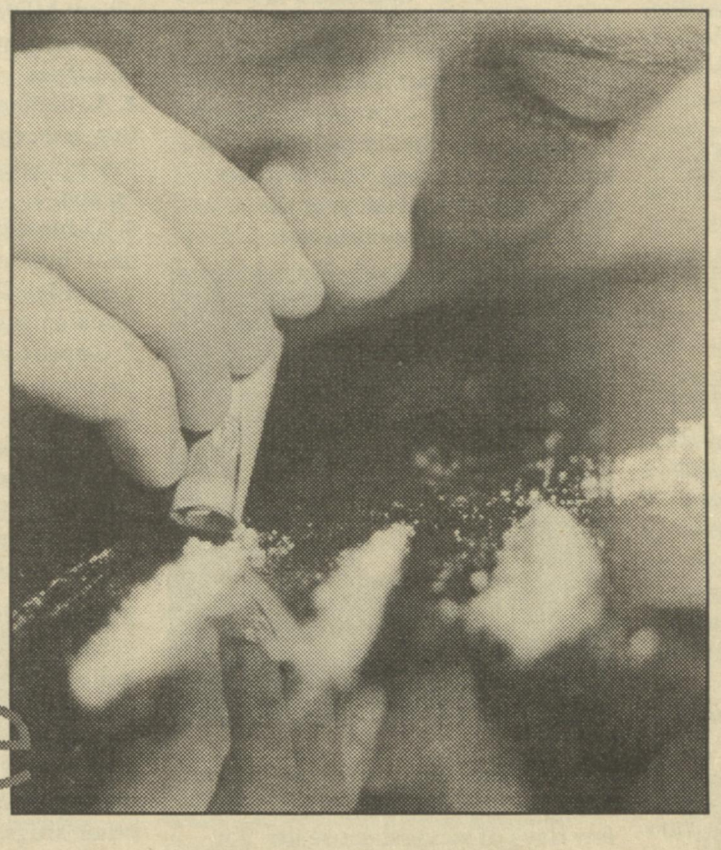
So, now the debate is over the FDA's jurisdiction over the sale of tobacco.

The tobacco industry is one of the most profitable industries in the United States. Philip Morris sees profits of over $30 billion a year. Lately, the tobacco industry has been under fire over whether or not they knew nicotine to be addictive. There have also been claims made by anti-smoking campaigners that certain companies adjust the levels of nicotine in their cigarettes.

While, none of these claims have been proven, the issue of regulation is still a problem. In 1995, the FDA proposed a plan to regulate the sale of tobacco and laid claim to their jurisdiction over nicotine.

According to the FDA, nine-tenths of all smokers start before they are 18. The FDA has chosen to focus mainly on reducing the number of future smokers by targeting underage smokers through the regulation of the use of color and pictures in advertisements that are likely to be seen by youngsters. Also, they are seeking to ban promotional products, like T-shirts and key chains, that bear cigarette brand names. Lastly, they want to make 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide.

the Dark Drama called Cocaine



an anonymous account

"The Evil."

That's how I was first introduced to cocaine. At the time it meant little. But in the four years since then, I have been a witness to the evil that cocaine wreaks on its lovers. I say lovers because for many from the first, usually blind, date with cocaine, an insipid and deceptive relationship begins.

The darkly humorous thing about coke is that very few people who do it really like it that much. Coke isn't talked about in the same reverent, euphoric tones as X, acid or mushrooms are. The fact is many people who try coke for the first time are disappointed, and yet the next time it's offered, one hardly hesitates. In my mind, this is the truly evil thing about cocaine. It draws it's lovers into a stale relationship, one that is not really satisfying in any particular way, but that is returned to again and again.

There is an element of drama inherent in the coke scene. There is something about the actual act of snorting it that appeals to some. Initially, there is the excitement and intrigue of something new and forbidden. There is a twisted sense of importance, of rebellion or sophistication that one feels while crammed into a bathroom; antsy, irritated, eyes fixed religiously on the lines as they are cut, judging the correct distribution, wondering who is holding out, how much is left and where one can get a hold of more. There is a feeling of importance, a trendy "f•ck you" to *society*, to a boy or girlfriend, perhaps to a parent. Ironically, the only person who you're really (pardon my language) f•cking is yourself.

So now you've done it, the opening act is over and after you check yourself in the mirror to make sure that there is no stray crystal in your nostril that may betray you to others, you leave the bathroom with a deep sniffle and a sideways glance. And how do you feel? If it's the first line of the evening, you feel pretty good. You're awake, you're talkative and you're ready to get the rest of your evening underway. If that's all your looking for, I find that a good, strong cup of coffee does the trick, but few can leave it at that.

If it's 2:30 a.m. and you have just finished your eighth, ninth, 10th rail, you're irritated and anxious. You can feel your heart pounding in your chest (did you know that coke actually makes the heart beat so fast that it stretches it, thinning its walls, bringing you that much closer to a heart attack?) and the roof of your mouth is getting raw because you can't stop rubbing your tongue against it. Your body is beginning to get tired, but your nervous system is wired and you won't sleep for hours. Likely, there is still more cocaine to be done that evening and someone is pushing the issue. Fun, eh?

It's really easy to spot a coke fiend, often from the first time they use the drug. A fiend becomes so preoccupied with the drug that little else remains sacred. I've seen best friends fight viciously over the end of a gram. I've seen girls following the drug around all evening, often ending up in the bed of the guy who has been feeding it to them all night.

A coke fiend rarely reaches a point in the night when it's time to stop. I remember one evening in which I was afraid to look one person in the eye because I felt sickened by his state. His body never stopped moving and as he bounced and jolted around basically involuntarily, his eyes darted this way and that, suspicious of everyone, despite the fact that he was among "friends." His face was simultaneously pasty and flushed. He was making no sense, though he almost never stopped talking. I wondered if he would live through the night (and I'm not one who scares easily). It seemed a miserable existence to inflict upon one's self — it was not the first time and far from the last.

People who have an affinity for cocaine tend to hang together in tight circles, feeding off each other. It is little wonder when one witnesses the destruction of personality that the drug inspires. Among this support group there exists little pressure to quit, ample opportunity to continue and many voices in defense against those who feel the drug is becoming a destructive force. It is a close-knit and nurturing environment that soothes fears and makes normal and acceptable a possibly serious and dangerous habit.

Throughout my life I have tried hard not to be a hypocrite and not to be intrusive or condemning, but all I see in the drug know as the "evil" is waste; of money, of energy, of time and of the integrity inherent in the control of one's life. I fall upon my group of friends who are enmeshed in the drama of cocaine from time to time. I do a line, but I'm never sure why because it is always the same scene. And when 4:30 a.m. creeps across the clock and I overhear a good friend (whom I no longer recognize) engaged in a vehement discussion concerned with whether or not to finish off what's left of the stash, I leave feeling disgusted, worried and tired.

There is an amazing amount of "recreational" use of cocaine in the area and I have watched it grow for the last few years. Many who are involved are people that I consider friends in the sense that I will remember and wonder about them long after I have left this institution. The same ones that I remember from their first year on campus — nervous, excited, trying to fit in. The same ones who are now strung out on the lawns of Camino — tired, aimless, trying to fit in.

I am quite aware of the fact that there is little one can do to get a lover to forsake his or her love, even more so when that love is not a man or a woman, but a drug (our loyalties are astounding). I am afraid that a victim will be chosen and that victim will be an acquaintance or maybe a friend.

Ecstasy

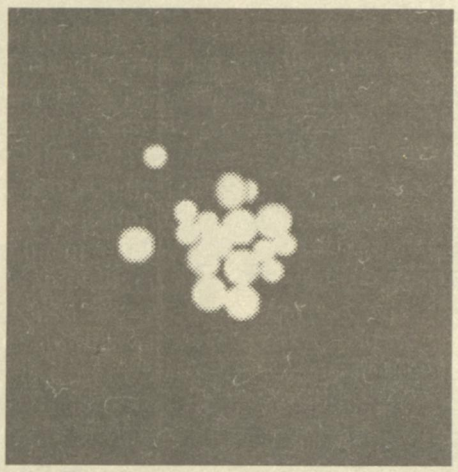
Chemical Make-up: A semi-synthetic compound. Average dose - 80-160 milligrams MDMA (3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine) lasts 4-6 hours

Also sold as Ecstasy:
MDA (3,4 Methylenedioxyamphetamine) Lasts 8-12 hours and has a more amphetamine-like feeling.
MDEA (3,4 Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine) Lasts 3-5 hours and is nearer to MDMA in effect but lacks its communicative qualities.
LSD and amphetamine or caffeine.

History: Patented as early as 1913 by a German company. Rediscovered in the 1970s by Alexander Shulgin, a P.h.D in biochemistry and a research chemist for Dow Chemicals. His experiences are documented in his autobiography, Phenethylamin*es I Have Known and Loved*.
Between 1977-1985, Ecstasy was used by a few experimental therapists as a tool for psychotherapy. Ecstasy was legal until 1985 when a judge, in a lawsuit ruling suggested that the drug be put in a restrictive category (Schedule 3) in which the drug would be legal to manufacture, prescribe and study. However, the DEA suggested and placed MDMA in Schedule 1, making it entirely illegal.

Effects:
1. Desired Effects: Lasts 4-6 hours. Combines two opposite effects, stimulation and relaxation by lowering the levels of serotonin in the brain. Set and setting (cultural beliefs, expectations, state of mind and genetic make-up) effect experience. Based upon a 1992 US study of the effects of XTC on psychiatrists, the most commonly noted effects apart from losing track of time, were that they related to other people more openly with less fear or defensiveness.
However, people can feel anything from paranoia to drowsiness.Highly responsive to mood, often liberates suppressed feelings. Increases awareness of touch and sound.
2. Side Effects: Increase in pulse rate, blood pressure and body temperature, dry mouth, loss of appetite and various muscular reactions; clenched jaw, eye flicker, twitches and cramping. **(side-effects are more pronounced with increased use.)**

3. Possible Side Effects: severe stomach cramping, hallucinations, paranoia, headache, nausea and depression. Upset in menstruation cycle, urinary tract infections (usually effects of MDA), depression, inability to sleep and paranoia (particularly among heavy users). Pain in lower back due to dehydration of the kidneys and anxiety disorders.



4. Tolerance: Varies according to the individual and amount taken. After a few days of successive use the "loving," feeling wears off leaving only a speed-type effect. Other effects can return within 1-6 weeks of disuse. It is possible that, due to lasting neurophysiological or neurological changes in the brain from repeated use, the full effects will never be felt again. Tolerance is noticed by those who take more than one dose per week.

Dangers:
"There is a far greater risk of damaging the mind than of damaging the body through taking MDMA" - Nicholas Sauders author,*E for Ecstacy*
1. Destruction of nerve endings and synapses - A toxic substance harmful to nerve endings is created when MDMA is metabolized. Researchers have found 'markers' for brain damage in spinal fluid and indicated permanent brain damage in people who consumed large, but not unusual, amounts of MDMA for several years. It is possible that eventually, heavy users will suffer everything from depression and senile dementia (the loss of memory and confusion).
2. Depression - Spinal fluid of MDMA users show a reduction in the number of brain cells that produce serotonin. In apes, the cells grew back but did not produce as much serotonin. A constantly lowered serotonin level may eventually cause psychiatric problems such as depression.
3. Heat stroke - a direct effect of the drug may upset the body's thermoregulatory mechanism. Therefore, ravers who are dancing and not replacing essential fluids often overheat without realizing it. Alcohol can greatly increase the chances of heat stroke because it dehydrates the body. In March 1993, National Poisons Unit listed 14 deaths among people in whom MDMA was detected; 13 showed symptoms of overheating, 1 of asthma.
4. Addiction - Not physically addictive, but can become mentally and psychologically addictive as an escape.
5. Kidney damage - effected by dehydration.
6. Sudden Death - those with cardiac disease may be predisposed.
7. Genetic predisposition - 1 in 12 people may be particularly sensitive to the drug.
8. Overdosing - Taking several E's at once produces an amphetamine-like effect - "a jittery, anxiety-provoking high." There is a high risk that overdoses cause permanent damage.

Myths: Sexual arousal is not an effect of MDMA, which actually tends to inhibit erections. Feelings of sexuality may be attributed to the atmosphere in which the drug is ingested.

Advice: Do not mix MDMA with other drugs, especially amphetamines (speed) or alcohol.

Do not use MDMA if your family history includes cardiac disease, high blood pressure, stroke, liver or kidney problems, epilepsy, anxiety disorders, depression or other psychological disorders.
Drink lots of water, especially if you are active.
Some antidepressants such as Prozac significantly lessens the desirable effects of MDMA.

Cocaine

Chemical make-up: Cocaine hydrochloride; an alkaloid extracted from the leaves of the Erythroxylon coca plant. Sold as a hydrochloride salt and sometimes is diluted with inert substances such as talcum powder, cornstarch and sugar, or with active anesthetics such as procaine and benzocaine.

History: Has been used in the high Andes region of South America throughout its entire history. The Incas used it in religious rites, prophesies, marriage ceremonies, funerals and initiation rituals. This religious significance ensured that its use among the population was strictly limited. Natives still chew the leaves when in the mountains to relieve altitude sickness and fatigue. Was used in the mid 19th century as an elixir in patent medicines and was later used as a local anesthetic for ear, eye and throat surgery. In the late 1800's Freud praised the use of cocaine to counter depression and morphine addiction. Parke Davis sold cocaine in cigarettes, in the form of an alcoholic drink ('Coca Cordial'), in spray and tablet form and as an injection fluid. Enthusiasm began to drop between 1885 and 1890 when cocaine's addictive qualities and psychotic effects began to emerge. However, it's use retained wide-spread popularity until the Harrison Narcotic Act of 1914.

info compiled by kerry krasts

Effects:
1. Desired Effects: A powerful central nervous system stimulant. Extends and strengthens the activity of the neurotransmitters nor adrenaline and dopamine by inhibiting reuptake. Cocaine also inhibits the reuptake of serotonin. Increased alertness, inhibits need for sleep, makes user feel euphoric, energetic and talkative. Cocaine causes numbness when it touches the mouth or throat.
2. Side effects: increased heart rate and breathing, impaired speech, rise in blood pressure and body temperature, twitching, loss of appetite, sexual drive and sexual performance are severely impaired.
3. Possible negative effects: Paranoia, extreme irritation, panic, false sense of confidence and power, loss of interest in friends, sex, food. Erratic or violent behavior, tremors. With repeated use euphoria is replaced with restlessness, extreme excitability and insomnia. Toxic doses eventually can produce hallucinations and delusions identical to amphetamine psychosis and similar to schizophrenia. With continued, heavy use; Scabbing and bleeding of the nose, will eventually dissolve the division between the nostrils. Extreme irritability (violence) and paranoia, depression.

Dangers:
1. Addiction: Not physically addictive, Cocaine is the most powerful psychologically addictive substance and is especially so in individuals with low self-awareness. The drug becomes central to a person's thoughts, emotions and activities, becoming a craving or compulsion. Heavy users experience intense psychological dependence characterized by the onset of depression due to an unavailability of the drug. Laboratory studies have shown that animals, when offered the option to self-administer cocaine, will continue to administer the drug until they die, ignoring their needs for food and water. Rehabilitation generally takes two years.
2. Sudden Death : Death usually occurs in several ways; Cocaine can cause a spasm of the coronary arteries, which supply the heart with blood. Or it can disrupt the rhythm of the heart by interfering with its electrical conduction. Or depression of vital centers of the brain controlling respiration. There is no way to tell if you are sensitive to these effects. Dose is completely subjective; thus lethal dose is completely subjective.
3. Severe Depression : This is a symptom of the "down" of cocaine use, which escalate as frequency of use or the dose increases. Others are prolonged sleep and fatigue.
4.Toxic Reaction: With repeated doses a toxic reaction can occur which manifests itself in symptoms of chest pain, nausea, blurred vision, fever, muscle spasms, convulsions and coma.

Crystal Meth

Chemical make-up:
Synthetically produced Methamphetamine.

Effects:
1. Desired Effects: Stimulant properties similar to Cocaine, but used because is cheaper. Mimics the action of adrenaline and dopamine.
2. Side Effects: The suppression of the normal production of adrenaline, increased heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate, constricted blood vessels, dilated pupils. **3. Possible Negative Effects:** feelings of panic, paranoia, hallucinations, rage, acne, sores, aggressive and violent behavior, insomnia, extreme rise in body temperature which can cause brain damage and death, seizures and stroke. Crystal Meth rots the teeth.

Dangers:
1. Addiction: Highly physically addictive. Due to Methamphetamines suppression of the normal production of adrenaline, a chemical imbalance is created to which the brain reacts by shutting down production of the natural stimulatory chemistry, to try and keep balanced. This results in feelings of irritability when not on the drug, which physically demand more of the drug in order to feel "normal." This pleasure/tension cycle actually becomes implanted in the memory and leads to addiction. And the repetition of addiction strengthens memory.
Physical withdrawal: The severity and length of symptoms depend on the length and extent of the addiction. The most common symptoms are drug craving, irritability, loss of energy, depression, fearfulness, sleep disorders, shaking, nausea, palpitations, sweating, hyperventilation and increased appetite. Medical treatment does increase the rate of recovery.
2. Body Wasting: People often loose a lot of weight when doing methamphetamines because the drug turns off the drive to eat. The drug produces a feeling which tricks the body into feeling nutritionally satisfied, even when no food has been eaten. It is not until the drug is stopped that the body discovers that it has been feeding off of itself, wasting tissue.
3. Stroke and Heart Attacks
4. Kidney and Lung disorders
5. Brain Damage
6. Depression
7. Liver Damage
8. Personality disturbances and permanent psychological problems
9. Malnutrition

LSD

Chemical make-up: lysergic acid; semi-synthetic D-lysergic acid diethylamide tartrate; lasts 2-12 hrs; dose: 1 blotter = apprx. 50 mg (1 mg is a millionth of a gram)

Effects:
1. Desired Effects: Visual hallucinations due to an effect on the 5-HT receptor (serotonin) which has been implicated in dreaming (thus individuals are in effect dreaming while completely awake), enhancement of sound and light, a feeling of oneness, clarity and insight which may last beyond intoxication.

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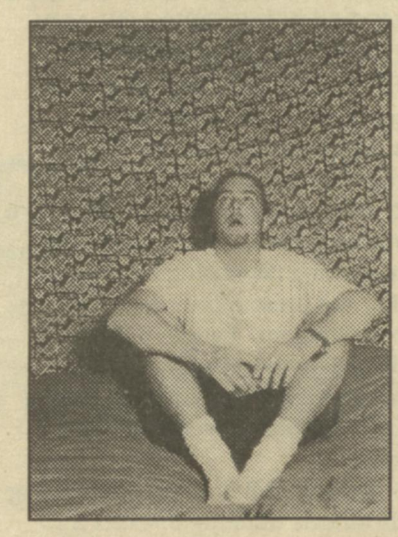

11 on the drug of your choice

2. Side effects: increased blood pressure, rapid heartbeat, muscular weakness, trembling and chills, salivation, sweating, jaw grinding, insomnia, likely to cause lasting mental changes.
3. Possible negative effects: Nausea, hyperventilation and impairment of motor coordination. The low dose necessary eliminates most of the risk of physical damage.

Dangers:
1. "Bad Tripping"- Hallucinations, loss of boundaries and perceptual changes are experienced as unpleasant and scary. Result from the individuals own fears becoming magnified causing paranoia, extreme anxiety, panic and in some cases a psychotic reaction that is not always reversible. The individuals state of mind, both physically and emotionally is pivotal. For this reason it is *extremely* important that individuals do not allow themselves to be pressured into taking the drug, as such circumstances may increase the chances of a bad trip.

Advice:
1. Dealing with a bad trip: Bad trips are paranoia. Someone on a bad trip may appear impossible to communicate with, but in fact needs attention and reassurance - remind them that the effects will wear off in a few hours. Always keep in mind or remind the effected person that the bad experience is the effect of a chemical and that it is possible to turn a bad trip into a good one. Hofman suggests to keep telling yourself that you are immortal: nothing you see because of the trip can hurt you. If you experience something horrible, don't try to fight it, but go with it and it will change. DO NOT TAKE MORE OF THE DRUG OR ANY OTHER DRUG TO STOP THE EFFECTS. Mental effects can be reversed by the intramuscular administration of 50mg of chloropromazine.
2. Triggered psychoses: LSD has a strong potential for revealing or triggering psychological illnesses that are present but may not have been evident. People with such disorders react badly to LSD, finding the experience traumatic. LSD may also exacerbate depression.
3. Irrational Behavior: Misjudging distances, thinking one can fly...
4. Psychological overdose: Physical overdose is not a big hazard with LSD because toxic doses are several tens of thousands of times as much as a normal dose. However, it is possible that one can take more than can be psychologically handled.
5. Flashbacks: Surprisingly common; 1/4 of psychedelic drug users have reported experiencing. Are most likely to occur under emotional stress or at times of altered ego functioning. Induced by fatigue, drunkenness, marijuana intoxication and meditative states.

Marijuana

Chemical make-up: delta-9 THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)
dose: typical joint= 0.5-1.0g of cannabis with THC content ranging from 5mg to 150mg, Amount of THC delivered through smoking is 20-70 %, 2-3mg is all that is required for a brief high..

History: Was evaluated by US government as an aid in interrogation and as a chemical weapon between 1947 and 1977.

Effects:
1. Desired Effects: Amusement, uncontrollable laughter, enhanced sensory perception, muscular relaxation, release of tension, stimulation of cognition, increased appetite. Affects the upper portions of the brain, stimulating the sympathetic nervous system and inhibiting the parasympathetic.
2. Side Effects: Red eyes due to increased blood circulation to the brain which dilating blood vessels in the eyes. Increased cerebral blood flow, alternate periods of rapid and slowed heart rate, orthostatic hypotension - the feeling of dizziness relieved by sitting or reclining. Initial increase in beta wave activity, distortion of time due to an increase in speed of thought and concentration on the immediate.

Information gathered off the internet from: gnosis@brahman.nullnet.fi; The Report of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse DrugText Substances Pages; Schick Shadel Hospital Informational Site; RaveSafe; DEA Homepage; Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation; The Consumer's Union Report on Licit and Illicit Drugs; NIDA; "Heroin, Myths and Reality" by Jara A. Krivanek; Drug-Free Resource Net; "Drugs and Behavior" by William A. McKim; Willamette University Alcohol and Drugs page; MDMA Frequently Asked Questions; Interview With Dr. Karl Jansen About Psychiatric Dangers of Ecstasy;Arch Gen Psychiatry — 'Ecstasy' : A Human Neurotoxin?; "E for Ecstasy" by Nicholos Saunders;

story by audra martin

believe in the power of

rasta

What is a rastaman? The red-eyed hippie who religiously follows Phish? Or the Jamaican bard who religiously follows the Old Testament? Both have dreadlocks. Both smoke *ganja*, though probably for different reasons. And both categorize themselves as "rastamen."

The term *rasta* is most often connected with reggae music. Reggae gained international fame in the seventies with the popularity of Bob Marley and the Wailers. Marley's brand of music is termed "roots" because the majority of his prolific lyrics refer to his belief in the Rastafarian religion.

Rastafarianism came to a head when Haile Selaisse was crowned king of Ethiopia in 1916. Marcus Garvey, regarded as a national leader in Jamaica, had predicted the power of a king in Africa that would unite the people. Haile Selaisse, who gained the title Ras and was born with the last name Tafari, was a direct decsendent of King Solomon of Israel and Makeda, Queen of Egypt. By the time of Selaisse death in 1975, he seemed to have fullfilled Garvey's prophesy and was becomming the prophet of a movement known as Rastafari. This term refers to the indigenous messianic movement that uses reggae music to make its message available to the world. It's message is very similar to Christianity , as Haile Selaisse is very similar to Jesus. The focus is on the Old Testament. Rastafarians find themselves separated from the rest of the Western World, which they see as a conspiracy against Jah (God). The evil economic and political oppressors are termed "Babylon" which means "the system." It is a negative Biblical connotation. Rastafarians are easily identified by their dreadlocks, which are meant to symbolize freedom from white rule.

The first thing that comes to most's mind when the words "reggae" and "rastafarian" are uttered is an association with smoking marijuana. This is not without good cause. "Ganja" is very popular among the working classes of Jamaica, where the movement is the strongest. Smoking ganja is considered a holy act, somewhat comparable to Catholic Communion. It is believed to bring about a sense of tranquillity that makes prayer and meditation more intense. A true Rastafarian will smoke ganja before reciting the Rastaman chant.

The ideas of duality that the Renaissance Period ushered into Europe escaped Jamaica and other African cultures and thus didn't influence Rastafarianism as they did other religions. The duality being that the spiritual and natural world are separated. Rastafarians believe these two realms can't be separated. So while other parts of the world labels marijuana a "narcotic", Rastafarians simply accept it as a spiritual benefit.

The "chillum pipe", the common tool in which Rastafarians smoke out of, has come to be a symbol of drug addiction and its subsequent crime. This is partly because of Jamaica's climate which is very hospitable to the growth of the weed scientifically known as *cannabis sativa*. This has caused Jamaican marijuana to become part of an international trade. Any illegal substance trade will bring with it the subsequent trading of there items, such as guns, or other illegal drugs.

Due to its use of marijuana in religious practices the Rastafarian movement, attracts many people for the wrong reasons.

This has characterized the Rastafarians as lazy people who are opposed to work But the true Rastafarians are steadfast and dedicated. Their political meetings usually begin with prayers. The drug is used as a *vehicle* to worship. This is a fine line to tread, because most drugs become worshipped icons themselves. Different cultures have different means of worship, and one culture cannot apply their own rules to others without losing appreciation for the diversity that makes the world so interesting. So the differences between bored kids smoking pot and a true Rastafarian with his chilum pipe are profound. Though they are ingesting the same substance, it changes their realities into completely different.

So, next time you meet someone "smoking a spliff" and donned in dreadlocks, take some time to talk to them. If they are indeed, a true rastafarian, chances are it will be an interesting conversation as well as a way to look at an alternative set of beliefs.

"Hollywood specializes in make-believe rather than truth, representing the true nature of drug use and abuse is only occasionally the priority in today's films"

drugs & film

story by michael sullivan

Film has come a long way since 1955, when director Otto Preminger decided to thumb his nose at the long-standing taboo against depictions of drug use with *The Man with the Golden Arm*. The movie starred Frank Sinatra as junkie Frankie Machine, a junkie who battles a drug habit, which he metaphorically referred to as trying to get a "40-pound monkey" off his back. Enormous controversy surrounded the film, evoking criticism from government officials and respected publications throughout the nation.

But that was 1955.

What was a scandal then is the ever-present norm of today. Over the last 25 years, film has not only educated but engulfed the public in drugs: *Valley of the Dolls* (1967), *Easy Rider* (1969), *The Panic In Needle Park* (1971), *The French Connection* (1971), *Up In Smoke* (1978), *Scarface* (1983), *Sid and Nancy* (1986), *Less than Zero* (1987), *The King of New York* (1990),*The Doors* (1991), *Naked Lunch* (1991), *Rush* (1991), *Bad Lieutenant* (1992), *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* (1994), *The Basketball Diaries* (1995), and most recently *Trainspotting* (1996).

Hollywood specializes in make-believe rather than truth, representing the true nature of drug use and abuse is only occasionally the priority in today's films. Glamorization is more common, which depicts drug use in a misleading and seductive manner. Images of the young and sexy duo of Matt Dillon and Kelly Lynch living the adventurous lives of hopeless addicts in Drug*store Cowboy* (1989) and descriptions of the orgasmic nature of heroin use in *Trainspotting* are among the most vivid examples of this glamorization. This portrayal of drug use has the potential to be very influential on a youth-crazed culture obsessed with keeping up to the minute on every fashion.

The ultimate effect of growing up and seeing such films is that we are virtually fluent in the once foreign language of drugs, in particular the use of marijuana, LSD, opium, heroin, cocaine and crack.

While the subculture of drug use in film may not appear at all glamorous to some, it is impossible to deny that it is a powerful force in that medium. As long as Ewan MacGregor and Matt Dillon are using on screen, and Generation X icons like River Phoenix are using off-screen, drugs will exist as an influential reality in film.

stills from "Trainspotting" courtesy of Miramax

dying in vein

surviving the personal tragedy of heroin use

an anonymous account

"Hey Dopey, why are you killin' yourself?" He looked strung out and I had to ask.

"Cause I don't care, and it feels goooood," his body swayed as he tried to focus on my chest. "And I'm not you." The last words were slurred, barely comprehendable. He had reached that point of his addiction where the wiring in his brain had become quite blown. He never really comes down, when he isn't jooked on heroin, he is a mad man, itching, scratching, vomiting his charred soul out. All he wants is the next hit. Possessed by this urge, his body craves a high that is indescribable.

"You can't talk to him Earl, he won't listen to you. He's beyond that zone." Both Carl and I looked at his helpless little frame. "I tried to get him to go to rehab with me but he's wacked. The f•ckin guys been in there like four times. Hey Dopey, how many times have you and Rob been in rehab?" He didn't even flinch, he just sat there, eye lids drooping.

"I've been three times, Rob has never been."

Carl had recently gone in, he went the full mile. Meetings, classes, group confessions: "Hi, I'm Carl and I'm addicted to cocaine." He met a cute girl in there who had the same problems, and they were attempting to cope and get through it together. She seemed nice and I think they were good for each other. Carl's addiction was different than Dopey's though, he had found himself in different circumstances during his life. Carl was active and exercised, he played soccer, practiced extreme rock climbing, and was attending college studying to become a veterinarian. He also sold cocaine to friends of his who wanted a small bag. It never seemed like a big deal because he always handled himself. I guess Carl had more of a habit then most of us knew about. So after a breakdown confession with his parents they helped check him into a rehab where you physically stay for two to three weeks. It was a process where you get the withdrawal and the confession over with at the same time. He told me that he had to get it all out so he could actually accomplish something in his life. He believed he had a future.

The next time I saw Carl was right before Thanksgiving and the subject of Dopey came up again.

"Did you hear what those dumb f•ckin junkies did the other night? They had Jared's little brother over at Rob's house showing him how to fucking shoot up." I could tell by his voice that he was upset.

"No way, isn't he 16?"

"He's 15, and he overdosed!"

"Overdosed." I had to say it again to conform it "Overdosed. Did he die?"

"No, I guess Dopey and f•ckin Rob were so cracked out of their heads that they couldn't deal with the kid. Rob's sister made them get him out of the house. They took him to 7-11 and dropped him off on the front lawn."

"That is f•cked up!"

"Yea it's f•cked up! I guess the guy at the 'Seve' called the cops and they saved him."

"Did Bob or Dopey get caught?"

"No, I guess that Jared's little brother won't tell the police or his parents anything."

"That is so f•cked Carl. Those fuckin junkies don't need to kill others in the process of killing themselves." I paused and thought about Jared's little brother's lifeless body lying on the lawn of 7-11. Chills ran down my spine. "God, that is so f•cked up. What are those guys thinking?"

Carl knew about addiction and what types of things it can do to a person. He told me: "They have just completely lost touch with reality, that sh•t they shoot into their bodies has destroyed any sense left in their heads. I was lost for awhile, but cocaine is different then heroin, I never got those body cravings that I hear you go through with heroin. I just felt that I had to be going a million miles an hour all the time."

"Do you still go to meetings?" I asked him.

"Yea, my girlfriend and I go to all that shit. It reminds us of the dangers that are out there. The biggest thing though is staying away from the old crowd that got me into trouble in the first place. People who will tempt me with trouble you know. They really don't care about my well being, they just want me to be on their low level."

"It is good that you know how bad all of that sh•t is for you. You don't need it." I tried to act like I knew where he was coming from, but I knew I had no idea. "Hey, we should go rock climbing when I get back."

"Sure."

We never got to go rock climbing though. I never saw Carl again after that night. He had finished his classes for the fall semester and was getting ready for the holiday season. A holiday season that he would never get to see. One night while out at a bar he ran into Dopey and Rob. As usual they were tossed on 'junk' and someone saw Carl leave with Rob for awhile. I guess when he came back he didn't appear different, so nobody thought anything of it. The next morning Carl's mother found him lying face first in his pillow. He had died in the middle of the night, with his clothes still on. His little brother started going through his pockets to see what had killed his brother. He found a spoon and a syringe. Carl had overdosed.

Carl had never touched heroin before that night. He had even condemned others for putting it into their bodies. But that night a deep urge in his body was craving a high that would put him on new levels and take away his pain. That one shot, that one hit, that first time, was his last. He had thrown away his entire life for one night's rush. A night that had ruined the Christmas season for his family and friends. If you are currently shooting up with heroin or are considering it, please, step back and take a good look at the potential consequences.

You are not only hurting yourself, but also those who love and care about you.

The Legalities of Drugs

story by
rosemary luellen

All of the following legal information is located in the California Codes - The Health & Safety and Penal sections

"Drugs" are illegal. That's pretty much common knowledge. What isn't common knowledge are the actual legality issues regarding drugs or, as they're referred to in the judicial system, "controlled substances."

As many drug traffickers and users have found, certain rights are not always as clear cut when drugs are involved. Search and seizure laws can be bypassed, depending on the circumstances. For those who are convicted of possession, possession with the intent of selling, using or actually selling drugs, the extent of fines and jail sentences can be quite surprising.

In California, the Health and Safety codes specify which drugs are illegal and to what extent. Some are not allowed under any circumstance, such as cocaine and opium, while others along the line of codeine and now marijuana are limited to use with a pharmaceutical prescription. While most people know that drugs themselves are illegal, many may not be aware that all of the salts, derivatives and extracts are also restricted by California law.

Not only is it illegal to sell a narcotic, but the law also covers instances where a person agrees to sell a narcotic and delivers a non-narcotic. This isn't to say that there is a legal and binding contract between a drug pusher and his victim. The aim of this particular law is not to condemn "fraudulent narcotics traffic, but rather to prohibit anyone from appearing to engage in narcotics traffic." (California Health & Safety Codes, Sec. 11355) Even so if you're told you're buying a drug and sold some oregano instead, it still wouldn't be wise to run to the police and file a complaint.

There are three elements of establishing that a person broke a controlled substance law. When a person is caught either using, possessing or selling a controlled substance, it is essential that the defendant had knowledge of the narcotic character of whichever substance he is accused of possessing. It is also imperative that the accused have knowledge of the presence of the drugs. Finally, the court must prove that the accused exercised dominion and control over the contraband.

Because of this, the oregano story wouldn't hold up in court if the defendant had a number of prior offenses illustrating he knew the specifics of what marijuana looked like. Likewise, circumstantial evidence can be presented to show that a person understands the narcotic character of a substance they possess and that there was really no way he couldn't have known about its presence.

However, there are always circumstances where even the admitted possession and knowledge of the narcotic nature of a drug is not enough to convict a person in court. One such instance was where an officer noted the presence of two burnt marijuana seeds in a person's apartment. Even though this reasonably suggests that the occupant of the apartment formerly possessed and used marijuana, the inference was not enough to justify the arrest of the apartment's occupant.

Sometimes it appears that the laws contradict each other. Marijuana is illegal to possess in California. Yet, the court still has the responsibility to prove "usability." In some situations this can be bypassed. One past situation illustrating this was where a defendant had 34 cigarettes which he claimed weren't potent enough to produce a narcotic effect on a person using it. The court felt that the quantity was evidence enough to suggest that he intended to utilize them for the narcotic effects and decided that the quality was irrelevant.

In drug cases the defendant often uses the defense that the search which produced the evidence was conducted illegally. This can be overruled by the court if the search and seizure passes certain rules. If the arresting officer recognizes either the odor of marijuana or drug paraphernalia from past experience and has reason to believe that if he were to leave the evidence would be destroyed, he can search the premises without a warrant. Any evidence obtained would be admissible in court.

Also, if the defendant is a known user or pusher, and the circumstances overwhelmingly indicate that he is either in the process of committing a crime or has evidence that would prove the defendant has just recently committed a crime, the officers are able to continue without a court sanction.

The punishment for illegal possession can be severe. Technically, the court can sanction fines ranging from $20,000 all the way up to $8,000,000 for each repeated offense. The court takes into consideration the defendant's income, earning capacity and financial resources when deciding upon the fine to be imposed. In addition, the convicted person can and usually will receive jail time. Though time served in a drug rehabilitation program can be applied towards a person's sentence, if he doesn't successfully complete the program it does not have to be considered at all.

Finally, a person convicted of repeated drug offenses must register with the state and can be denied the right to either leave or enter the country.

There are plenty of reasons not to use and/or sell illegal drugs. Fines, imprisonment and a permanent record are only some of the more obvious. However, should drugs be the extracurricular activity of choice, there will still be plenty of time in prison to spend researching the laws. Actually, some convicts get enough of an education while imprisoned to appeal their cases themselves. It's something to consider.

photos
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