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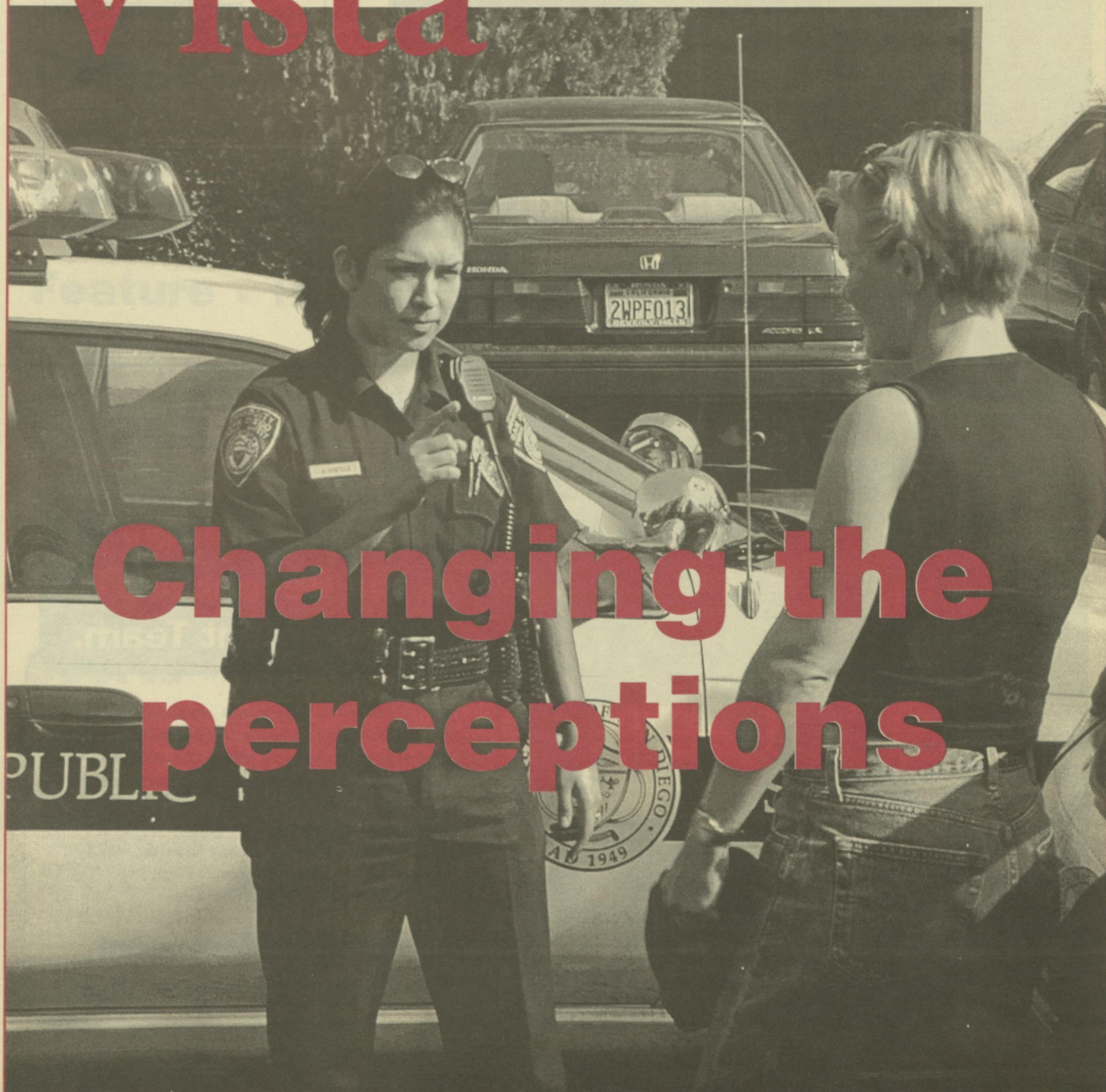
University of San Diego Student Publication

December 7, 2000

Volume 37, Number 22

Vista

Changing the perceptions



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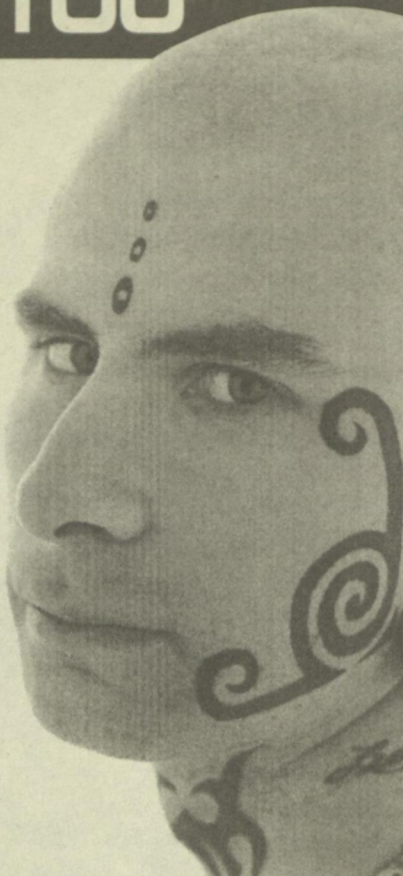
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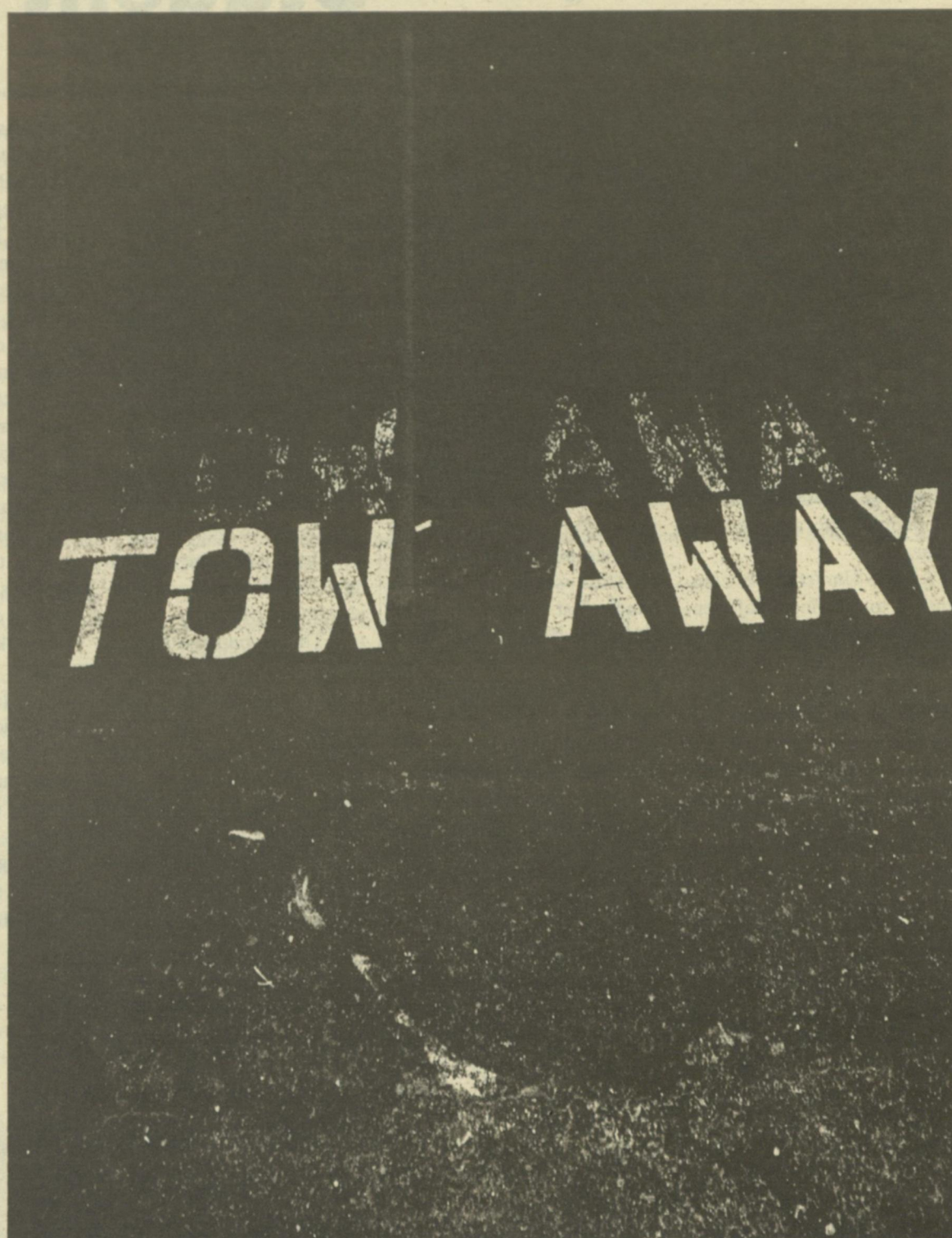
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PAULINA WESTERLIND

Words from the desk

Racial profiling and police insensitivity are the stuff of bad television drama. Rodney King was an actual threat to those six officers in Los Angeles, yeah right. Police officers have bad reputations because police officers have done bad things. Should all members of law enforcement be responsible for the mistakes of a few bad individuals, or are the powers of policing inherently corrupt? ■ Last Friday, two editors from the Vista received impromptu lessons in law enforcement. Caley Cook scheduled a police ride-along in research of her cover story, "Changing the perceptions?" Meanwhile, I was being detained by three officers in Del Cerro who impounded my car and harrassed my mentally disabled cousin. My cousin was patted down, and I wasn't, because he was wearing a beanie and has brown skin. He wasn't a suspect for anything, other than going to Blockbuster in my unregistered car. ■ When I questioned one officer, he replied, "Right now, I'm talking to him. If I want your opinion, I'll ask for it." Maybe we should have asked my cousin how to "change the perceptions."

-- Dominic Mucciaccito, Managing Editor

News USD and beyond

Graduation seating shrinks

Stephanie Casrande • Staff Writer

There has been speculation over the past few months that graduation will possibly be moved from the football field to the Jenny Craig Pavilion. Reasons of safety and quality have been raised because of problems with last year's graduation.

The University has declared that the commencement will take place in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The number of people allowed to attend the ceremony will be limited due to the overwhelming number of people who attended last year.

"The University is committed to offering a safe, enjoyable and dignified commencement. We will do everything to ensure the safety of our guests and enjoyment of our students within the bounds of safe practice. The best we know is in the beautiful, new Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"Unfortunately, that will require a ticket system and a restriction of the number of guests allowed in the building. We will try to make the ceremony available by electronic means to those who cannot get into The Pavilion," said Frank Lazarus, Vice President and Provost of Academic Affairs.

The final plan involves a ceremonial split of undergraduate schools. The Bachelors of Business Administration and the Bachelors of Arts and Sciences will be held separately. The schools will have separate commencements, but students will have the opportunity to gather at a joint reception.

However, the final plans have not been decided. How many tickets each student will receive and where the reception will be held are still questions that do not have answers.

With the increase in class size, graduating seniors keep growing in numbers. A reported 1,000 students will graduate in May 2000, according to the Registrar's Office.

Not only are the number of graduates growing, the number of guests attending the commencement has drastically increased.

The University has never had a reported 10,000-12,000 people visit the school at one time, said Public Safety. It was reported that one student had a total of thirty guests last year, and the average student was estimated to have brought 10 people to the ceremony.

According to Public Safety, congestion is a major issue. Public safety reported that parking and traffic were difficult issues for them to handle last graduation. The school has never had 10,000 people show up at once. Although, this is a problem, parking has always been a problem at the University, not just in this particular case.

"My concern in how we structure the commencement is to provide an event as safe as possible. The number of people last year made it difficult to make that possible," said Larry Barnett, Director of Public Safety. Problems of congestion reported by public safety played a major role in limiting the number of people who will attend graduation this year.

Safety is a main concern considering there were 10 emergency cases at last year's graduation. Having the ceremony in the Jenny Craig Pavilion will allow elderly family members who struggle with heat to be in an air-conditioned room with a seat of their own. Also,

Public Safety had a difficult time reaching the emergency cases because of the congestion.

The Jenny Craig Pavilion allows a total of 5,100

Student suspended

Sexual misconduct

Elizabeth Rabel • Editor-in-chief

Friday, Dec. 1, a senior at the University, was suspended for sexual misconduct involving three separate women.

Later that day, Wel-Jara Johnson was arrested by the San Diego Police Department on arrest charges of two counts of sexual assault and one count of sexual battery. He was held in custody until Tuesday, Dec. 5.

According to the District Attorney's office, "No charges have been filed [by the District Attorney] at this time, but the case is still under investigation."

The suspension and ar-

rest was made as a result of a joint investigation by the San Diego Police Department and the Department of Public Safety. The alleged sexual assaults reportedly took place in the Mission Beach area, according to Public Safety.

The suspension of Johnson, by the University, is in effect until an official disciplinary hearing. The University's sexual assault code states that suspended students are entitled to a hearing from a hearing officer within the Office of Student Affairs. This officer will make a decision on the action to be taken at that time. If the

student feels the action was unfair he can then appeal to a committee who will either affirm or change the ruling.

The University has the internal authority to make decisions on a student's status separate from the District Attorney's decision.

According to a Public Safety statistic, "it is estimated that nationwide, one in four to five women will be a victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault.

Survivors of rape and any form of sexual battery are encouraged to contact Public Safety at (619) 260-4517.

people to be seated. Considering the graduating class of 2000 totals around 1,000 students, the numbers are very tight. Even though splitting the schools will allow each student to bring more guests than if the schools were combined, the number of tickets

whole family," said Joe Viola, Joe Vnior.

There are plenty of students that agree with Viola. If student's can only invite a few people, elderly family members might not be able to come due to situations similar to Viola's, which defeats the original purpose.

Also, if the Jenny Craig Pavilion is crammed with people, it would be uncomfortable for them. The issue of getting elderly people in and out of the crowded stadium was a problem last year, according to Public Safety. The big hills only contributed to heat exhaustion. However, the Jenny Craig Pavilion is in the same location as the field.

"Crowd control has been a problem in the past few years with the growing

number of graduates," said Karina Kirana, Senior Senator.

Another concern is having a quality ceremony. The University feels that the overwhelming crowds on the field take away from the intimacy

of the commencement. However, graduation has been the same for many years and a sense of tradition precedes the graduation ceremony on the football field.

It was reported that if the Jenny Craig Pavilion was utilized for graduation, there would be the benefit of having available bathrooms and concession stands. However, the Jenny Craig Pavilion will be open during the field ceremony making the same conveniences available whether the ceremony be held on or off the field.

There has been a lot of ambiguity regarding graduation. Nick Deturay, Chair of the Commencement Committee, declined to comment on the ceremony, making the attainment of an answer even more ambiguous.

The University has made attempts at possibly having the ceremony at the Convention Center downtown. However, The Convention Center is too costly.

Who exactly is benefiting from changing the site of the ceremony? The students lose out because they will not get to invite as many people as

"I am the first one to graduate in my family. It is a big deal and my whole family would like to be there. In limiting the number of tickets the University has denied my whole family the right to see me graduate, including my grandparents who have never seen a college graduation."

-Gina Romano, senior

per student will still be limited.

It is hard for students to limit the number of people allowed to attend the ceremony. "I have six brothers and sisters and two parents, . Des that mean that I cannot invite my

Circo Torero attracts crowd

Rachel Oriol • Staff Writer

Jugglers, high-wire-walkers and fire-eaters entertained a small but supportive crowd this past Tuesday at noon in front of the UC when Prof. Thurber's "Literature of the Circus" class performed its student-run circus, Circo Torero.

The small circus made up of 12 performers entertained audiences with juggling acts, comedy routines and the amazing fire-eater, Jane!

These University students displayed their ability to perform the unusual and humorous talents which only skilled circus performers master.

A trio of jugglers displayed their balancing abilities in the first act. One student laid on two stools with a seesaw like apparatus on his stomach while another student stood on the seesaw and juggled three knives.

Even though pins were dropping and people were falling, the crowd cheered and gasped in appreciation of all the students' hard work that went into the per-

formances.

"I was impressed with how professional the performers looked. The make-up and costumes were fabulous. I did not even realize they were students till someone told me," said Meredith Harman, a freshman.

Every outfit coincided with the theme of each act. A skit involved a student who was dressed in hospital scrubs. The student performer acted out how a typical student would feel after repeated late nights of studying. He tumbled around, doing summersaults and handstands just to find his pillow.

The most successful act involved Dr. Columbina who tried to teach how to overcome one's phobias. A random student from the crowd was asked if she had phobias of small spaces, fire and sharp objects.

Dr. Columbina proceeded to cure the girl by placing her in a small box, locking her inside. It was only after Dr. Columbina started sticking knives in the box that the audience real-



EDUARDO SALLOUTI

Prof. Thurber's "Literature of the Circus" class performed with members of the Fern Street Circus to bring Circo Torero to the University Community.

ized the random student was not so random but a student performer from Thurber's class.

Next, the same performer stood blindfolded and stuck a burning stick into her mouth. The crowd watched in amazement as she put out the fire, closing her mouth around the flame.

The other acts included a tightrope walker, more jugglers, Columbina the Conductor and an act resembling the three stooges. The acts were well rehearsed, and the audience responded enthusiastically to the performances.

The student performers were relieved and happy after the performances. "Looking out and seeing my friends in the crowd made it a lot easier to perform. It was also interesting to see the other performances, since I spent so much time practicing on my own," said Jeff McIntosh, a senior.

Circo Torero reflected what the students' learned in "Literature of the Circus." If students are interested in learning any circus stunts, including trampoline, unicycle or stilt walking, there are free classes given at the Golden Hills Recreation Center on 26 and A street every Monday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Dorm plan develops Possible blueprint in the works

Caley Cook • Associate Editor

More than 350 of the University's on-campus residents may have a new place to call home by the year 2003.

The University recently surveyed the student population for input concerning a possible apartment-style residence hall.

The proposed housing is part of the University's 'master plan', a plan of the proposed development of the University in the next 25 years. The tentative architect drawings of the new housing show that the northeastern side of campus, directly across from the Manchester Child Development Center, serves as a possible construction site.

More than 2,000 students currently live on-campus, according to the housing office. There is currently a waiting list of only 10 students looking for on-campus housing, but in the lottery for fall housing there was the largest demand for on-campus space in the history of the University.

The Housing Office be-

lieves one of the reasons for this demand is an increase in the undergraduate population. The undergraduate student body population increased from 4,623 students last year to 4,795 this year.

The 2000 freshman class increased in size by 34 students from last year. Off-campus rent increased in the greater San Diego region by up to 30 percent more than five years ago according to a real estate agent in the area, which might also have something to do with it.

Perez and Housing and Residence Life were given the responsibility of surveying the "needs and wants" of the student body in order to better serve the community that will use these proposed facilities. Perez helped the University's five resident directors conduct focus groups of students on campus.

The five resident directors, in addition to two resident coordinators living in



EDUARDO SALLOUTI

Katie Olympia (rt.) hugs fellow classmate, glad that the anxiety is over.

See **Dorms** pg 6

From **Dorms** pg 5

the University Terrace apartments, conducted focus studies of six groups of students. Resident assistants, the Resident Hall Association, the Resident Hall Council, varsity athletes, international students and University Ministry student groups were surveyed.

The opinions of the groups were used to compose a type of "Santa list."

"We wanted to know everything that students would ask for if they had the choice because they are the customer and this is about satisfying them," Perez said. "They may not get everything they want, but we want to ask."

"I would love to have some new amenities that we don't have on campus already," said Amy DePry, a sophomore living on campus in the Alcala Vista apartments. "I would love a dishwasher, a microwave, maybe an overhead fan. Better flooring and furniture in the apartments would also be great."

"I think it's fantastic. We need more housing on campus," said Colleen Fogarty, a participant of the focus group. "I think the focus group is great because it really helps [the University] realize the needs of students on campus. The input that [residence life] got, if it's implemented, will encourage people to stay on campus."

The funding will eventually limit the building's amenities, but many are being considered. One of these amenities is underground parking to alleviate strained parking resources on campus.

The most notable proposed change from existing on-campus housing is the plans for more single residence units. This year's students had fewer than 50 single rooms to choose from, according to the housing office. The surveys revealed that the shortage of single rooms plays a large part in students choosing to move off campus.

"When it comes down to it, the students just want to be heard and get what they need, and these focus groups give them that chance," Perez said. "It makes [students] feel more powerful to implement change on campus and that equals customer service on our part. We're trying to not lose sight of what this customer wants."

From **graduation** pg 4

they want. Also, students will be forced to sit in their seat and will not be able to move around freely as in the past.

The question is whether a limit can be put on graduation? "I am the first one to graduate in my family. It is a big deal and my whole family would like to be there. In limiting the number of tickets the University has denied my whole family the right to see me graduate, including my grandparents who have never seen a college graduation," said Gina

Romano, a senior.

The main problem with the University's solution of utilizing the Jenny Craig Pavilion is the reduction in the number of tickets. Who is the graduation for? Some might argue that it is for the students, others might say it is for the parents. Either way, everyone loses because both families and students will not be able to invite everyone they want.

The University was not built to have so many people on the campus at one time. This creates a problem

whether the ceremony be held on the football field or in the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Many people are involved in the decision making process, but the final decision will be made by the President, Vice President and Provost of the University and the Baccalaureate Mass will be held in the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

The University encourages students to voice their concerns. Any questions or comments can be submitted to Senior Senators at 260-4178.

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Students walk for ethnic studies

Melissa Feldmeier ■ Staff Writer

More than 100 students walked from the fountain to the University Center last Thursday at noon to demonstrate their support for the United Front and Associated Student's "Walk for Consciousness." The 15-minute walk culminated in front of the UC where four students gave speeches calling out for more diversity and a more diverse curriculum at the University.

The walk may have been short, but the steps taken to bring awareness to the University community were huge, according to event organizers. In an atmosphere marked by excitement and optimism, faculty and administrators joined the demonstration.

"Generally we wanted to bring attention to how the school lacks diversity in the population and in the education," said Christopher Wilson, a participant who helped organize the event.

The student population is 65 percent Caucasian, 15 percent Hispanic, eight percent Asian, four percent African-American, one percent Native American, and seven percent other, according to Undergraduate Admissions.

Demonstrators argue that the University's curriculum also lacks diversity. The University offers an ethnic studies minor but not a major, although such a major has been proposed. Many classes do include topics relating to diversity, but few students have declared ethnic studies as a minor.

Enrollments in many ethnic studies classes are small compared to enrollments for other courses. This low enrollment may be directly correlated to the low ethnic population on campus.

"We want an ethnic studies major and/or a diversity requirement. With diversity and a diverse curriculum we hope to attract more minorities to USD," said Christina de Guzman, also a participant of the Walk.

Attracting minorities to

the University has been a challenge. Dr. Frank Lazarus, Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs, named tuition costs and critical mass as the major reasons why the University has such a difficult time enrolling minorities.

It seems the University is caught in a "catch-22." The University aspires to enroll more minorities, but prospective students see a lack of diversity on campus and in the curriculum and thus choose not to come. Without minority students enrolling, there is the continued lack of diversity and the continued lack of enrollment in ethnic studies classes.

The faculty-driven Curriculum Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences, however, is researching the possibility of developing an ethnic studies major.

Dr. Lazarus commented on why minorities are not attracted to the University. "They [reasons] can't be our excuse. We can add more scholarships and financial aid, do aggressive marketing and recruiting, improve our curriculum and work with social affairs," said Dr. Lazarus.

He added that it makes sense to have an ethnic studies major because it is necessary to study modern cultures for a complete education. "People need to learn about the cultures they will see in the real world. It's an important part of our education," Wilson said.

Outside media sources misinterpreted the Walk for Consciousness as a protest against the University. The event organizers focused on University students in order to raise their "consciousness" and acquire their support for the cause.

The United Student Action Committee was responsible for the Walk. It is a new committee on campus with members from both Associated Students and United Front, making the Walk for Consciousness a completely student-organized event.

Crime report

11/28/00 through 12/4/00

November 28, 2000

Public Safety was contacted regarding an incident involving students in Laguna Residence Hall ordering food to be delivered from a local fast food restaurant and then taking the food without paying for it.

November 28, 2000

A report was made to Public Safety involving the theft of a digital camera from the University Center.

November 30, 2000

Public Safety responded to a medical emergency at the Joan Kroc Institute construction site. A construction worker reportedly fell from a height of 15 feet and suffered injuries due to his fall.

November 30, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at University Knolls residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

November 30, 2000

A student reported to Public Safety that her car had been "keyed" while parked in the Parking Structure.

November 30, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants in San Miguel residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 1, 2000

A University student was arrested in conjunction with a joint sexual assault investigation being conducted by the Public Safety Department and the San Diego Police Department.

December 1, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants in Camino Hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 1, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants in Cuyamaca resident hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 1, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants in San Miguel residence hall regarding a noise complaint.

December 1, 2000

Public Safety responded to an incident in front of the Parking Services office involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 2, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at the Vista's residence hall regarding a noise complaint.

December 2, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at San Miguel residence hall regarding a noise complaint.

December 2, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at Maher residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 2, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at San Miguel residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 2, 2000

After the USD Women's Basketball game, a Public Safety Officer directing traffic in the main traffic circle near the East campus entrance was struck by a vehicle. The vehicle is described as being either a four door white Honda or Toyota with California license plate SCBDND. The vehicle fled the scene and headed East bound on Linda

Vista. Anyone having information about this incident is requested to contact Larry Barnett @ Public Safety at (619) 260-4517.

December 3, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at San Miguel residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 3, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at Laguna residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 3, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Resident Assistants at San Luis residence hall regarding an incident involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 3, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by the Resident Assistants at San Miguel residence hall regarding an incident involving vandalism.

December 4, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Residence Hall staff regarding an incident at Maher residence hall involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 4, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Residence Hall staff regarding an incident in the Phase B parking lot involving a minor in possession of alcohol.

December 4, 2000

Public Safety was contacted by Maher Residence Hall staff regarding an incident involving the possession of marijuana.

Make the grade

Melissa Feldmeier • Staff Writer

Every 8 to 10 years, the University must enter into a period of intense self-evaluation in preparation for the coming of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This year happened to be the lucky year for the University. Last week from Tuesday until Friday, an 11-person team from WASC came to the University to find out whether the University's rigorous self-study measured up to the team's own careful examinations of the school.

The University must pass the WASC test to be accredited. Accreditation is paramount to schools because it directly affects financial aid and the academic reputation of the school. Unaccredited academic institutions receive no government funding for financial aid programs and their academic reputation pales in comparison to accredited institutions.

The WASC accreditation is such a big ordeal that the University spent two years preparing the self-evaluation report. An 18-member WASC Steering Committee led the effort and over 100 people supported their work. Subcommittees gathered and prepared data on the University's academics, mission, operations and finances and student affairs.

Schools must be in compliance with nine standards to become or, in the University's case, remain accredited. These standards address institutional integrity; institutional purposes; planning and effectiveness; governance and administration; educational programs; faculty and staff; library, computing and other information and learning resources; student services and the co-curricular learning environment; physical resources; and financial resources.

An institution must demonstrate that it possesses quality facilities, a quality faculty and administration, a quality curriculum, quality resources

and fairly representative methods of assessing itself.

During their four days on campus last week, the WASC team held four "open" panel discussions. Each was an opportunity for students, staff, faculty or the administration to speak to the WASC team about whatever topic concerning the University they felt required WASC's attention.

For those who are unsure of the difference between staff and administration, here it is: The staff includes those employees who are non-exempt from the National Labor Relations Board regulations. They are hourly-paid workers who have clerical jobs, work on the grounds or in maintenance. The administration includes those employees who are exempt from NLRB regulations. Most of these employees have professional jobs and work on salary.

The University hasn't received its final grade as far as the accreditation goes. However, the WASC visit team conducted an exit interview, describing the gist of their assessment. "We received high marks on mostly everything," Lazarus said.

Lazarus said, however, that the WASC team felt the University needed to broaden its methods of assessment beyond surveys and increase the ethnic diversity on campus. The University has already begun to address these issues. Lazarus said that the accreditation review occurred at a "good time to help the school and receive advice on how we can improve."

Further information about the WASC review process and the University's self-study is provided online at www.acusd.edu/about/wasc.

Calendar of events

12/7-12/14

Thursday, 12/7

11:30-2:30 p.m. Alternative Gifts Fair in front of Hahn University Center

12:15 p.m. A.S. Senate in Forum B

7 p.m. "Actors Anonymous Presents..." in Shiley Theatre and Camino Hall, Rm.102

7 p.m. USD Alumni Mass in Founders Chapel

7:30 p.m. Liquid Lounge Television-surf, skate and snow on USDtv -Channel 9

Friday, 12/8

6 p.m. Celebrating Holidays from Around the World in UC Forum AB

7 p.m. "Actors Anonymous Presents..." in Shiley Theatre and Camino Hall, Rm. 102

8 p.m. Founders Chapel Christmas Concert

Saturday, 12/9

9 a.m. "Breakfast with Santa" in Hahn University Center

7 p.m. "Actors Anonymous Presents..." in Shiley Theatre and Camino Hall, Rm.102

7 p.m. Men's basketball vs. San Diego State in JCP

Sunday, 12/10

2 p.m. Founders Chapel Christmas Concert

7 p.m. Virgen de Guadalupe Mass in UC Forum AB

Tuesday, 12/12

Last Day of Classes

Thursday, 12/14

9 a.m. Residential Real Estate Outlook 2001 Conference in Hahn University Center, Forum AB; call 260-2256.

2 p.m. "Christmas Around The World" with Alice B. Hayes at Case de Alcala. RSVP by Dec. 8. Call 260-6890.

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Attention: seniors!

Graduation looms close

Katie Laaperi • Opinion Editor

Okay, Seniors. . . as this semester comes to a close, after all the madness of finals and then Christmas, it's time to begin thinking about one of the most significant events of our lives—graduation.

This will be a huge day for us. We'll celebrate with friends and family. There will be parties, I'm sure. Hopefully we'll have relatives come in from out of town to witness this moment of passage.

To me, it seems that it *should* be as simple as that. It *should* be uncomplicated and easy.

We should have nothing more to worry about than booking hotels or wondering where we're going to fit two, or five, or even eleven extra people into our apartments. But it's not that easy.

There are these horrible, vicious little rumors floating around campus that graduation is going to be a bit different this year.

First of all, I've heard that it's not going to be on the field, but in the new, fabulous Jenny Craig Pavilion. This, in itself, sounds great. We have this state of the art, beautiful building that should be used

for special events such as graduation.

But there's a stipulation to using the JCP, and that is that there will be a limit on tickets for each senior.

Now, as far as I understand, there has always *been* such a limit, but with graduation on the field, more people could view the ceremony than were actually inside.

For 2001 commencement, however, this will not be the case. I've heard that we'll each only get six tickets, which means that only six well-selected, privileged people will have the pleasure of seeing

each of us graduate.

Here begins the first complication—trying to finagle extra tickets from our friends and classmates who won't be using all of theirs.

One potential graduate, Becky Genet, has 16 family members flying into San Diego from as far away as Miami, and that's not to mention friends that she would like to be able to attend.

This means that she'll need at least an extra ten tickets, as I'm sure many of us will. In answer to this problem, rumor has it that there will be a type of lottery to distribute the extra tickets.

This may be the most "fair" way to distribute the tickets, but I don't think that it will make many people happy. In fact, I don't think that many of the things that I've been hearing will make people happy.

Yet another rumor is that the ceremony will be split. I think that what I heard is that the school of arts and sciences will graduate separately from the school of business.

Although this is not a huge inconvenience, as the limit on tickets is, it is still upsetting.

We have all taken classes together, we all eat in the same places on campus, we all know each other—shouldn't we all graduate together?

If for nothing more than sentimentality and graduating with friends, I for one would like the ceremony to remain undivided.

Now, before you all go out and start rioting and looting the dean's office or the registrar (as I'm sure you all

want to), I must add the following disclaimer.

According to a representative from the registrar's office, no final arrangements have been made for the commencement ceremony.

Planning has begun, but will not be finalized until February. This was a bit disconcerting to me, at first, because this ceremony is highly important to me and I want to make sure that it is well put together, not shoddily put together at the last minute.

I had an epiphany, however, and realized that this means that we can still get some changes made.

If plans truly are not finalized, then *we* can make *our* opinions known. Hopefully the planning committee will take our desires for this graduation into consideration.

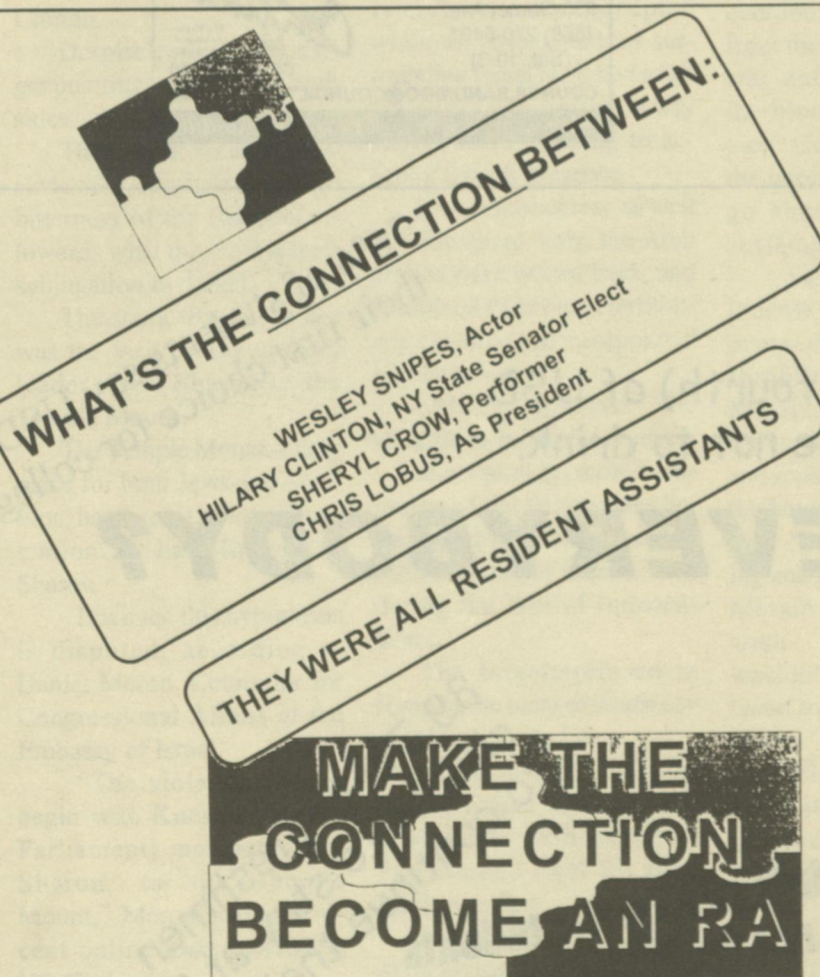
So, as a graduating senior, I'm sending this plea out to you. Write letters to the editor here at the Vista. Tell us what you think about these nasty rumors. Tell us what you want *your* graduation to be. Start and/or sign a petition if it comes around. Write letters to the planning committee.

Just get involved in some way so as to hopefully make a difference in the planning of the ceremony.

I've always been told that if you don't try to do something about it, you have no right to complain about it.

So do something. . . even if nothing changes and those rumors become realities, at least you can say that you tried.

Katie Laaperi is a senior English Studies major. You can contact her at 260-4584.



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THEY WERE ALL RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

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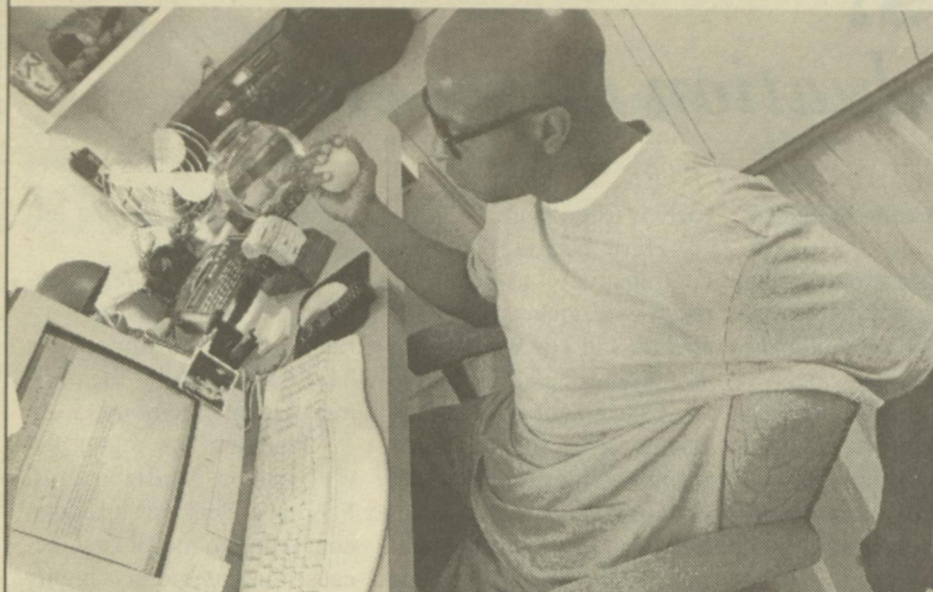
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a safe and joyous holiday!

<http://whoiseverybody.acusd.edu>

Society & Culture Life at USD

Middle-Eastern conflict hits home

Jeremy Horn • Staff Writer

Students affected by crisis over territory

It may not seem like a violent conflict is happening in the world with the stranglehold of news stories on the recent election.

But the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has become so commonplace that it is not considered newsworthy by many.

The recent conflict began in late September, and now more than 280 people, mostly Palestinians, have been killed.

The situation has led to several high profile, but fruitless peace negotiations, some at the behest of President Clinton.

Despite these efforts, finger pointing continues on both sides.

The violence is an expression of the long-held anger and bitterness of the Palestinians towards what they feel is their subjugation by Israel.

The spark that lit the fire was the visit by Likud party leader Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount.

The Temple Mount, a holy place for both Jews and Muslims, has been a point of contention for hard-liners like Sharon.

But even this hypothesis is disputed, according to Daniel Meron, Counselor for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel.

"The violence did not begin with Knesset [Israel's Parliament] member, Ariel Sharon, to the Temple Mount," Meron said in a recent online chat session at USAToday.com.

"The violence began two weeks earlier near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza area. The visit of Mr. Sharon was only an excuse by the Palestinian side for an outburst which has escalated."

The conflict dates back to the very founding of the



state of Israel. The area, formerly the British protectorate of Palestine, was suggested to be divided into one Jewish state and one Arab state by the UN in 1947.

The suggestion of the Jewish state was accepted while the Arab countries surrounding Israel launched a full scale invasion on the newly formed state, refusing to accept a Jewish presence.

In the ensuing war, as well as subsequent wars, the Arab armies were beaten back, and additional Palestinian territory was captured and incorporated into Israel.

Many believe the struggle to be one of control.

But the deep-rooted animosity of the Palestinians began when Israelis forced Palestinians out of their homes during the War of Independence.

The Israelis refused to compensate them or return any of their property later.

Just as the soon-to-be Israelis fought for their independence in 1948, so too do Palestinians fight for their freedom today.

This conflict is hundreds of miles away, but it hits home for Israeli and Palestinian students.

Toufic Hinnawi, an Arabic Christian, and junior, from Israel, does not associate himself with either side, but has an understanding of both.

"It's very hard being in the middle," Hinnawi said.

"I have a lot of Jewish friends and a lot of Muslim friends." The hardest part is "trying to be positive. I would like to see a solution, but whether that becomes a reality or not is the question. Coming from the side of a war and seeing the bloodshed, I view violence as the wrong way to go about doing anything."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Ibrahim El-Mezain, a Palestinian-American, and sophomore, at the University.

"It's disturbing and sad," El-Mezain said. "I wish people wouldn't have to resort to guns and bombs."

El-Mezain emphasized the impact this type of conflict can have over anyone's home country.

"The Palestinians were there for a long time and all of a sudden they were forced out. It's like you live in a house and someone takes over a room, then invites their friends and

family over and gradually takes over more areas until all you're left with is the bathroom."

Hinnawi, upon reflection, had a startling similar outlook.

"The Israelis invaded and took the Arabs' and Palestinians' houses and afterward offered them a patio."

If there is hope of peace, however, it seems more and more like it will be in spite of, not despite, the mutual hatred and animosities on both sides.

"I hope that at one point both sides can start talking

and live together," El-Mezain said.

"All that is happening is not doing any good for either party," Hinnawi said.

"There will always be some hatred, though with each generation living together, it's becoming less and less."

The conflict has become defined recently by images of Palestinian children throwing rocks at gun-toting Israeli soldiers.

But perhaps the more apt image would be of the rubble that remains of what both peoples worked to achieve.

The Vista

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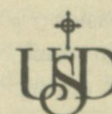
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Letters to the Editor can be submitted to The Vista office. Letters should be limited to 300 words and must be signed. For identification purposes, USD ID numbers and writers year must be included in the letter. The Vista reserves the right to edit published letters.

Feature **Cover story**

Changing the perceptions

Our community and our cops

Caley Cook • Associate Editor

Officer Lori Loker pulled the shotgun from the trunk of the patrol car and took a look down the barrel.

"Have you ever shot a gun before?" the thirty-year-old San Diego Police Department officer questioned me as she placed it next to my passenger seat.

I stared at the gun for a few seconds and squeaked out a timid "yes." (No matter that it was a pathetic attempt at summer camp when I was 10, she wouldn't know the difference, right?)

Needless to say, I was a bit intimidated, which seems to be a feeling shared by many in the community. Thus began my first police ride-along.

I contacted the SDPD about doing a ride-along with one of their officers to more closely examine the relationship between the Linda Vista community and the police department.

I only asked to experience the cop basics. You know, chase down a ruthless killer on foot, break up a gunfight between rival gangs or don riot gear for dangerous protesters in the city. Just the basics.

But I would learn much more than I expected during my 6-hour ride-along.

As we drove out of the station, Loker explained what to do in the event that she was "getting her ass kicked" and how she would appreciate my helping her out if such an event occurred. (This comment really helped to put my already high expectations of excitement through the roof.)

Over the course of the night I was at Loker's side for a traffic ticket, a manager-tenant dispute, a violated restraining order, the recovery of a stolen vehicle and a suicidal man who tried to kick in someone's door.



PAULINA WESTERLIND

"They slow down to 20 miles per hour and stare at me." -Lori Loker

Despite the excitement of some of these situations, I'll have to say that I learned the most from the least of these offenses--the traffic violation.

We started the day off by pulling over a woman for throwing a lighted object -- translate: cigarette -- out of her window and onto the roadway.

As I glanced at the woman's angry eyes, fixed on us in her rear-view, I realized a lot about the community

perception of the police.

The relatively old theory of community policing relies on a constant dialogue between the community and the police, which serves to not only catch and punish crime, but *prevent* it.

The University's Department of Public Safety bases its work on the similar idea that crime is not only a Public Safety problem -- it is a community problem.

It's mission statement

reads, in part, that "by developing a partnership between Public Safety and the community, crime and public nuisances will be addressed with community solutions."

The contact I witnessed between Loker and the traffic violator is fairly typical.

The interaction that the general public, especially college students, have with cops is framed within a negative context.

It's usually bad news

when the police show up at your door, or in your rear-view mirror.

Loker said that it's unfortunate that she only visits The Hill when an arrest is made.

This limited contact lessens the community feeling between officer and citizen, says Loker, but the police simply don't have time to do much else.

"It's too bad that people think that (we're something to be afraid of). We're only hu-



PAULINA WESTERLIND

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Time: 1:21
Location: 24

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FINES WILL BE DOUBLED IF NOT PAID WITHIN 30 CALENDAR DAYS.

PAULINA WESTERLIND

man like everyone else," Loker said, waving to a boy who approached the patrol car to say hello.

"Unfortunately, the stereotype of the 'bad guy' will always be there," Public Safety

officer Tom Lowry said.

"Whenever we walk around campus, the first thing that comes to people's minds is 'what happened' and 'who did something wrong?' If we can make ourselves more ap-

(Above) There is a \$275 fine for parking in a handicap space. Officer Jessica Castillo gives about 5-6 parking tickets and 2-3 stop sign violations per day. (Far Left) Dispatcher Diana Fitch communicates with officers on campus.

proachable and visible on campus, people won't be reluctant to just shoot the breeze with us."

According to Public Safety, community policing involves three essential components: community partnership, problem solving and change management.

The basic requirements of these components are communication, cooperation, coordination, collaboration and

change, the department mission statement says.

By encouraging casual interaction between officers and the population, these basic requirements can be met.

For example, a few Public Safety officers recently gathered with approximately 100-200 students at the Club Forum event in the UC.

This interaction encouraged communication between students and officers that otherwise would never have met.

This comfort level translates into more cooperation between the officers and students in the long run.

This cooperation can lead to officer and student collaboration and coordination in changing the environment of USD for the better.

"Law enforcement has experienced a transition of police officers getting into patrol cars and being less accessible to the community than they were, 30 or 40 years ago, when they were on foot," said Public Safety Director Larry Barnett.

"This has made them much less accessible to the general public."

Barnett took the helm of Public Safety a year ago and is attempting to strengthen the community-officer connection, but he stresses that it takes both parties to for his program to be a success.

"We want to create a dialogue in which the students are assisting us in solving problems," Barnett said.

"The community is the driving force and if they don't come forward and say that certain things are not tolerable then there is a problem."

Lowry sees the leadership of Barnett as a major step in the right direction. "Chief [Barnett] has made it clear that he is here to make things better for all of us, the students and the officers," Lowry said.

"It's made the department better and it makes the morale better in the long run."

Public Safety is already a step ahead of the SDPD because University officers are able to interact with students on a more regular basis.

The department recently reinstated their bike patrol, has put more officers on foot and have hired seven new officers in the last year.

These factors should increase the positive contact that Public Safety has with students, Barnett said.

SDPD doesn't have this luxury, so it continues to rely on the community to keep up its end of the community policing deal, without the extra contact to ignite it.

Loker knows that people see her differently when she is in uniform and driving a black-and-white.

"Whenever people see me in the patrol car it's like, 'oh no! It's a cop!' and they slow down to 20 miles per hour and stare at me," she said while mimicking an older woman hunched over her steering wheel and peering over the dashboard cautiously while we drove by.

Unfortunately, Loker doesn't have anything but her attitude to change this perception. In her case, the community has a greater responsibility to initiate dialogue with the police department.

Loker can only dialogue with people when she has the chance, just as she did when responding to a despondent man early in our evening together.

"We want to know what will make you feel better, sir. That's all we're here for, to make you feel safe."

Leisure, Arts, Music & Entertainment **L.A.M.E.**

Laugh your way to a six-pack Actors' Anonymous presents

In the famous words of Ed Sullivan, "Ladies and Gentleman...we've got a really big show for you kids tonight, a really big show!" These are perfect words to describe the productions that are being presented by Actor's Anonymous. With the University's very own version of "Who's Line is it Anyway?" (a.k.a. "Subject to Laughs"), the audience will barely be able to catch their breath as they roll in the aisles with laughter.

Another fabulous show in store is "Laundry and Bourbon." This southerly set sitcom written by James McClure focuses on the day to day melodrama of three aging southern belles. Elizabeth, played by freshman Libby Baughman, reminisces on a porch with best friend Hatti, played by Julie Tomka. Their drunken, southern accent is accompanied with actress, Michelle Keulen playing Amy Lee. Each character adds their own unique attributes to the scene to create the perfect comical effect.

These performers are all under the direction of senior Megan Lujan, who has also acted, stage managed and done lights for performances. "This time I'm in charge," Lujan said when describing how different it was to be off stage than on, "Being director, I can see my vision come alive," Lujan said. Lujan is assisted in her directing duties by Ashley Prendergast. The lights and technical work behind the scenes of this show are due to the efforts of Jenny Miles.

Adding to the hilarity of three old drunken southerners is the short one act titled "The Role of Della." This play makes fun of the common fear of many actors: the nightmare audition. In this comedy, Elizabeth, played by Senior Eliza Martin is auditioning for the part of Della. Unfortunately the Casting Director, freshman Celeste Due makes this simple



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATT LEMCKE
"Subject to laughs:" The cast Breaking and entering into Shiley soon.

task unbearably difficult. Confusion, calamity and comedy make this piece by John J. Wooten a riot.

Like "Laundry and Bourbon," this play is also student directed by a member of Actor's Anonymous, Jessica Beck. Beck has previously directed this play in her last of high school and commented on directing. "It is much more of

a collaborative effort than regular shows. Not only do I put in my ideas, but the cast contributes a lot as well," Beck said. Beck felt she had a much easier time in directing a cast of two.

"It's very difficult fitting rehearsal times around eight people's schedules," Beck said. Beck assures the audience that the show will be an enjoyable experience. She attributes the

quality of the play to her cast and their experience in acting. Due has performed in shows such as "The Fiddler on the Roof" and "The Norman Conquest." Martin has performed in several University productions such as "Our Town" and the M.F.A.'s production of "Three Sisters." "What is great about having a student director," Martin commented, "is the fact that you can be more daring with ideas."

"With some directors you have to follow exactly what they picture the play to be. Since these plays are such a collaborative effort, you never get caught in a vision, but create your own," Martin said.

The man behind the scenes in this production is freshman Mike Hogan. Hogan, also a talented actor, believes that working in a different aspect of the theater gives you a view of the big picture. "Rarely when you are on stage," Hogan said, "do you take the time and think of how the audience is seeing the performance."

Topping off this weekend collage of comedy is the "Who's Line is it Anyway?" spin off entitled "Subject to Laughs." The show is made up of seven performers: Tracy Blosser, Steve Bramucci, Kara Braniff, Michael Dondanville, Tyson Smith, Brennan Taylor and Tracy Van Wyk. The talent of these actors and actresses creates a show of slapstick one liners and random acts that can't be written in any script. Every scene is improvised using cues from the Director and Actors Anonymous President, Matt Lemcke.

"It's tougher to direct than a play," Lemcke commented. "In a play you can just tell the actor that he's doing it wrong and the script can show how to do it right." Lemcke doesn't have the benefit of a script with this production. The show itself con-

sists of a variety of scenarios using different improvisational techniques. In one scenario, the actors are told they can only speak in questions. In another skit, the cast must create a scene where each character begins their line with the next letter of the alphabet. "Alligators are nice".... "But they bite don't they?".... "Could be!"... and so on. With only improvisation, there is a definite humorous outcome to every skit. "There is a small amount of worry," Lemcke said, "in order to be funny we have to overcome worry and risk failure."

The actors have been preparing over a month for this performance. Comedy Sportz actor, Matt McDonald sat in on a preview of the performance to critique the cast's style. McDonald gave the cast cautionary tips and offered aspects of improvisation. "A key element in this improvisation is trust," Lemcke stated, "I have to trust that the actors know what they are doing, and the actors have to trust that I know what I am doing."

The laughter begins this Thursday Dec. 7 with the two one-act plays being performed in Camino 102 at 7 p.m. "Subject to Laughs" will be performing a "Nooner" in front of the UC. On Friday, "Subject to Laughs" makes its debut at 4 p.m. in the Shiley Theater. Also on Friday night at 7 p.m., the two comical one acts make their second performance in Camino 102. Closing the weekend of comedy is "Subject to Laughs" on Saturday at both 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Shiley Theater.

Smiling works over 20 muscles in your mouth. Laughing for five minutes is like an ab work out. Could it be true? Find out for yourself! Bring your gym towel and laugh yourself to firm abs this Thursday through Saturday.

Culture shock

Preparing to go abroad

Jennifer O'Hill • Staff Writer

Bonjour! This word haunted me for months as I made the decision to travel half way around the world by myself to Paris, France. As I boarded Air France, I was petrified. I left all that was familiar behind me. My family and friends watched as I departed from LAX. Is this the last time I am going to be speaking English on a regular basis? I was willingly about to emerge myself into a culture where I couldn't communicate. I knew that French I could at least get me from Orly Airport to my orientation meeting at the University of Paris. I was wrong.

Studying abroad is an amazing, but challenging experience. It is not enough to merely study the language, but to truly know the culture in which you have chosen to briefly be a part of.

Initially, it was difficult to see how the French fit into my own culture. Constantly trying to find the similarities and noticing all the differences, I soon realized that it was pure ignorance on my part. "The cultural realities of France are not in relationship to your own but unique unto themselves," says Sally Taylor, author of "Culture Shock France." Having cultural perspective is essential in any study abroad experience.

It is always a precarious path, learning what is, and what is not acceptable when you go beyond your own cultural boundaries. They will expect you to understand their rules, much in the same way that you anticipate people at home will understand yours. Though fluency in the language will obviously assist in the transition, it does not mean that you have fluency in the culture. Using a model from Taylor's Culture Shock book can help create a typical six month cycle of attitude, emotion, and physical response you may have in France, or any other country in which you visit. Reading this

cycle on the plane reduced my anxiety and prepared me for the culture shock I was about to encounter.

Before departure, there is the emotion of enthusiasm and excitement mixed with concerns about leaving behind friends, family, and your familiar environment. Your attitude will be focused on anticipation for new things to come and less of an interest in current responsibilities.

As the end of the first month approaches, in most cases, all your expectations will be fulfilled. Starting to learn the language, introductions and a welcoming attitude are the activities that fill you day. Curiosity overwhelms you as you downplay all of the negative comments of other travelers and the inability of the waiter to understand your accent. As you sit and relax in a complete state of euphoria, you realize that you really are in a foreign country, and it is so beautiful. Depending on where you are studying, it is possible to have some physical responses to the new rich food and overall diet.

The second month brings on a growing awareness of what is not available, or in some cases ridiculously expensive. What is seen as inexpensive to us, may not be inexpensive to them. Moving into your new permanent residence brings responsibility, and you begin to settle into a routine. Some individuals withdraw from the culture and seek the familiar in friends and foods. The old charm of the local restaurant begins to look different and impatience intensifies with the "rude" waiters and shopkeepers.

As the third months approaches, students begin to feel the most severe case of culture shock. At this point, school may seem uninteresting and your language skills hit a plateau. This is a very discouraging time for

some students. In turn, you may begin to feel irritable, critical, and lonely. Telephone calls to home turn into long strings of complaints and the stereotypes of the culture seem confirmed. Depressed, suspicious, and discouraged. This is the time when culture shock is at its extreme.

In France, my fourth and fifth months were a period of enlightenment. Everyday Parisian experiences that previously bothered me, now seemed logical and effective. My interest in the French culture was renewed. My attitude became constructive and positive.

In the sixth month of study abroad, the routine of everyday life and local friends are established. Paris became my new home. Overall, I maintained a positive attitude despite good days and bad days. These ups and downs of life are now considered normal, and there is a growing interest in others that are struggling.

Though every individual has a unique experience, this cycle break down can assist anticipation that comes with the study abroad experience, and help reduce anxiety.

Returning home is another complex cultural transition. You now have a new relationship to an old cultural setting. Missing a semester at home means being out of touch with new gossip, which probably won't even seem interesting anymore. The most difficult transition for me, however, was that my family and old friends couldn't imagine or recognize the changes that I had made. They were expecting the old me, with the old values and habits. My friends became quickly bored by my constant stories of life in Paris.

The most important part of the experience is having patience and understanding. Just as you have learned to use abroad with strangers, be prepared and give

hey baby what's your sign?

Kara "bout-your-future" Braniff • L.A.M.E. Editor
Emily Palm "o-reader" • Assistant News Editor

Sagittarius

(11/22-12/21)

Life is going well for you. Do some good deeds, and you will be rewarded. Make sure you are consistent with everything you do.

Capricorn

(12/22-1/20)

'Tis the season to be jolly, keep that in mind as you go about your day. Go in to see a professor, he will respond positively to your efficiency.

Aquarius

(1/21-2/18)

Don't spend too much money this holiday season, remember, it's the thought that counts. Watch where you step today.

Pisces

(2/19-3/20)

Sometimes bad things happen to good people, unfortunate but true. Be extra cautious these days.

Aries

(3/21-4/19)

Everyone loves a clown, crack some jokes and you may cheer up someone without even realizing it!

Taurus

(4/20-5/20)

Don't forget to take out your garbage, tidy up or your roommate may become annoyed with you.

Gemini

(5/21-6/20)

Just because you are known for being a pushover doesn't mean you shouldn't stand up for yourself.

Cancer

(6/21-7/22)

Tell the truth. Be positive in this chaotic season and avoid the mall on busy days. Drive carefully. Others like your cheery smile.

Leo

(7/23-8/22)

Pay attention to those in need. Set aside yourself and give a little for once. Hang some stockings up to treat your friends.

Virgo

(8/23-9/22)

Listen closely to others, they are saying more than what you pick up on. Start studying now.

Libra

(9/23-10/22)

Hang up some decorations and throw a Christmas party! You'll be the center of attention--your favorite!

Scorpio

(10/23-11/21)

Be aware of your surroundings. Quit lashing out at those around you and take responsibility for your actions.

Happy Brithday Dec. 7, 2000!

This is your day to get absolutely spoiled. Hey, it's nearly the weekend and the semester is almost over, so don't stress, just be your adventurous self and live it up, go see "Subject to Laughs!"

yourself, family, and friends, the same patience and understanding.

As I packed up my apartment in Paris, I felt as if I was leaving my home. Boarding the plane, I waved goodbye to a place that was so much more than a study abroad opportunity. I was a different person because of this experience. Over time, I have

come to the realization that, it's okay. Though you can never totally integrate into another culture, that culture can become a part of you.

As I boarded the plane, something occurred to me: is this the last time I am going to speak French on a regular basis? I began to cry, and to this day the word Bonjour still haunts me.

Fresh from the orchard

Orange County grown pop-punk

Chris Bresky • Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine the musical talents of four Orange County grown ex-San Margarita students, their love of punk and an explosive drumbeat? Off Set, one of the newest bands to hit the USD campus, a new genre of music their fans like to call "Frat boy pop-punk."

Leading the sound of Off Set are the vocals of lead singer and bass player, freshman Brian Banks. Accompanying Banks on guitar and background vocals are freshman Tim Dean and Grossmont student, Rob Merto. Keeping tempo on drums for the three is Point Loma freshman, Jake Chai. "It all started back in our junior year when I was first learning to play guitar. Jake invited me to jam with the ska band he was in at the time," Dean said, "they were horrible!"

"The crazy thing was, even though we were off beat, out of tune and unorganized, we were creating music. We played for eight hours straight and it was the most awesome experience."

As time progressed, the two future Off Set band members realized that the sound wasn't working. "After a little while we dropped the horns and the extra guitarist. When it was just Chai and I left, we realized, that alone, we sucked!" Dean said.

"After our realization that we lacked a certain something, Rob came along and attempted vocals for us," Dean said.

The band knew that to obtain the sound they desired they needed a bass guitarist. Finding one wasn't a big problem for them. Finding one with talent however, was a whole different story. "We must have gone through at least four bass players until we found Brian," Dean said, "We were so desperate. One guy we had for a while was a violin player who knew how to play the guitar." The band

thought he was musically inclined so they gave him a bass.

"That didn't last long," Dean said.

On the other hand, "Brian was very musically inclined," Dean said, "he had been in bands before Off Set. We were all stoked when he came to play with us."

The newly formed Off Set found out the hard way that they needed work. "We sounded so bad!" Dean admitted.

Banks enjoyed playing bass, but after their first gig flopped, he felt he could offer more to the sound quality of the band.

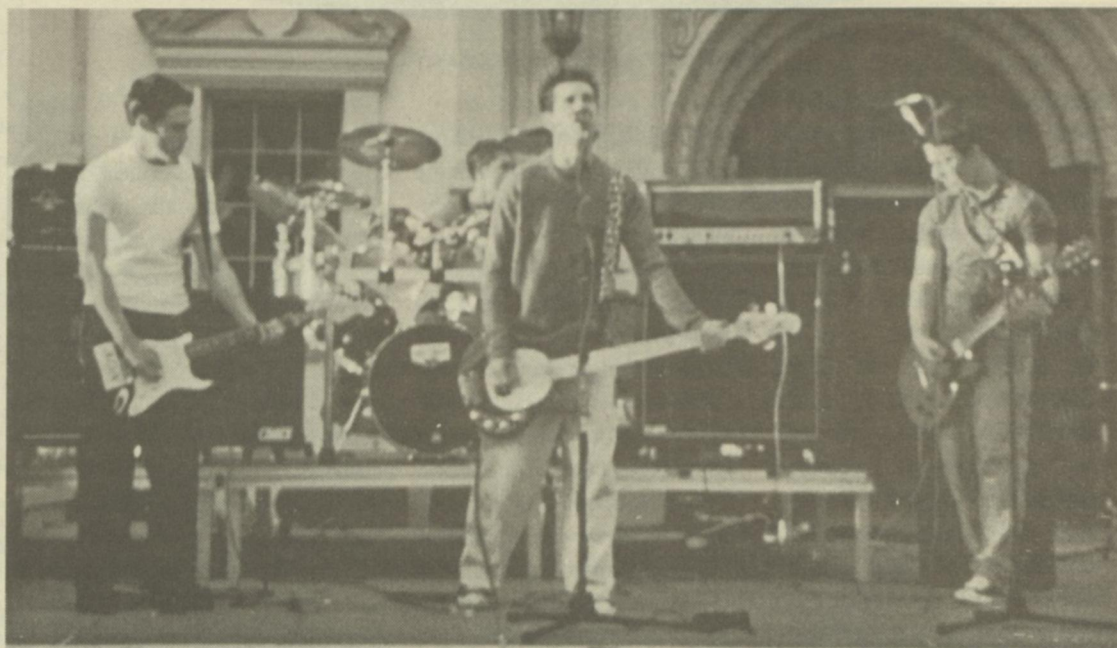
"One day Brian asked if he could sing lead vocals for a while," Dean said.

The minute they heard Bank's voice, they knew that they had their hands on a killer sound. "We were all shocked that he could sing so well!" Dean said.

The band played at San Margarita's Battle of the Bands, and won. "The sound system was terrible at 'Battle of the Bands,'" Dean said, "but that had to have been the craziest show I've ever played."

The band soon set out to record their first CD in January 2000. While traveling to the studio, the band said they were full of anticipation, but the energy soon died. "When we got there they sealed us in this dark, smoke smelling, sound proof room. This greasy guy was in there with us helping with sound," Dean said. Off Set was beginning to face obstacles that many bands before them have experienced.

"After three days of recording in there, I couldn't even look at some of the other guys in the band." Each of the band members agreed that they all got somewhat sick of each other after those days.



Off Set: On set at a USD nooner. Left: Freshman, Tim Dean. Center: Freshman, Brian Banks.

KATE OWENS

"By the time we got the finished copy, we didn't care how it sounded," Dean said, "We were just stoked to be able to give something to our friends."

When different talents come together, there are bound to be times when conflicts arise. "Time has not only matured this band's sound, but the attitudes of the members as well," Dean said. "It's better to fight and bring things out on the table. Problems end up messing up the band."

"Brian writes most of the lyrics... I guess if he's gonna sing about it, it might as well be in his own words. I really like Brian's lyrics and the meaning he puts into them. He makes a point of doing nothing second rate."

Every band has certain influences in their lives that inspire their music. By listening to Off Set, one can notice a few constant themes. "Growing up, going through high school life and girl problems mostly," Banks said.

"I would agree that girl problems are a big influence on our song lyrics," said Dean.

"One song of ours is called 'Tomorrow Night,' but we don't play it anymore because it's about Brian's ex and

nobody liked her!" said Dean.

After spending half the interview in the hallway talking to an upset significant other, I could tell where Banks got his inspiration. "Yeah girlfriends and bands don't mix," said Banks.

"Except for your last girlfriend Brian. She loved the band, too bad nobody liked her," laughed Dean. Since senior year, the band has been given a few major opportunities. The band was asked to play at the E.A.T.M. (Emerging Artists and Talented Musicians) convention in Las Vegas. The music industry puts it on and Off Set played in the Hard Rock Hotel. Also one of the bands more popular songs entitled "Keep Hope Alive" has been offered to be put on a compilation CD. It will join the sounds of well known bands such as Fenix TX and New Found Glory. "It's just exciting to think that over 5,000 copies of your song are going to be made, it's kinda' cool you know?" said Dean.

The band has suffered a little with the transition from high school to college. "It has been tough getting known again, you know? We had made a name for ourselves at

our old school," Banks said, "We don't have that fan base here at school to support us."

"(We came up with the name when we) were practicing in Rob's dad's garage and there was this sign hanging on the wall. I don't know if it was stolen or what, but it said: 'Caution Offset Pipeline,' Dean said, "We should probably just say that there is a deep meaning to it. We just aren't smart enough to understand it."

"They had the name even before I was in the band," Banks said, "Nobody really liked it at first, but it just stuck." Instead of disliking Napster, they are actually using it to their advantage. By converting their music into sound files, they are able to be heard everywhere. "Now it's spreading, like a cancer. Only a good type of cancer, or something," Dean joked.

The band will possibly sign with Hollywood Records. Merto, back up guitarist and vocals is flying to New York in two weeks to meet with the Production Company. "It will make us find time to practice, and even if we don't get signed," said Dean, "the fact we almost did, for me, is still enough to get excited about."

Voices of USD

What do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?

Jeremy Horn • Staff Writer



A: "The impossible...straight A's and a new car."

- Jaclyn Struck, Sr.



A: "A blender and a George Foreman grill."

- Ryan VanArman, So.



A: "I want some new skis."

-Claire McLaughlin, Fr.



A: "I would like a backpack and some rollerblades."

- Peter Mann, Fr.



A: "I just want to spend time with my family... and some new clothes."

-Kristin Isbell, Fr.

A: "I just want to be with my brothers."

-Ashur Benjamin, Fr.

CD CRITIQUES

\$\$Cashworthy\$\$

For the Giving Season

Rachel Demy • Staff Writer

...And the Reindeer You Rode In On

This is by far the weirdest CD I've ever had to review. I honestly can't make up my mind whether or not I think it is stupid or hilarious. It's an album made up of nothing but Christmas songs, but redone in many different ways. Some of the remixes I don't like, but the polka version of "O Come All Ye Faithful" and the lounge version of "Up On the Housetop" helped inch this album towards being worth the money. I don't think I would pay \$14 for two really good songs, but that depends on how large of a Christmas fanatic you really are.

The Vandals Oi to the World

The Vandals are one of the most revered bands in punk, whether you respect them as musicians, producers, or founders of a major punk label, Kung Fu Records. Despite their reputable status, these guys know how to make anyone laugh. Their Christmas album is no different than any of their other albums, except that they direct their 30-year old angst towards the ideals of a worldwide holiday. With songs like "Thanx for Nothing" and "My First X-mas (As a Woman)", this album is sure to be a Christmas party favorite. Your parents may disagree, but you and your friends will love it.

AFI The Art of Drowning

If ever there was a CD that was worth a million bucks, this is it. AFI's fourth full-length LP, "The Art of Drowning," is poetry at its finest. Davey Havok's intellectually somber yet powerfully aggressive lyrics paint pictures in the mind that are unique to every individual. The lyrics combined with the intensity of the music can make anyone wonder how it is possible for four different people to come together in such amazing proportions. Jade, Hunter, and Adam accompany Davey in a way that will seep under your skin like a drug and have you hooked from the start. AFI is opening for Rancid on December 7th at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Unfortunately, both shows are sold out, so if you didn't get your ticket, you're missing out. If you did, however, buy the CD and your ticket, and you are getting more than your money's worth. AFI is a band that is so appreciative of their fans that they give back a hundred fold what you give them. That's why once you're an AFI fan, it's a lifetime commitment.

CONGRATULATIONS
JOEL MICHEL

You've won the Rename L.A.M.E. Contest! The top three choices are: The Scoop, Behind the Scenes, and The Beat. Winner will be revealed in the first issue of next semester. Thanks to all 3 of you who participated. ~ Kara

Ready for the big time

Biggest crowd in school history sees Toreros beat Oregon St. by 11

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

One of the biggest knocks against the University of San Diego men's basketball team last year was their strength of schedule. A lack of quality opponents and wins against big-name schools were some of the reasons the Toreros were excluded from postseason play despite a 20-9 record.

That was then, this is now.

USD took on their second Pac-10 foe in 11 days last Saturday night and beat the Oregon St. Beavers soundly, 82-71, in the Grand Opening of the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"This win definitely gives us a lot of confidence," said senior center Tyler Field. "We felt we played well against USC, which is another big-name team, but we didn't get that one done. To open the Jenny Craig like this is an awesome feeling."

Before a crowd of 4,003, the largest to witness a basketball game in school history, the Toreros rallied behind their bench to improve to 5-1 on the season.

USD's reserves outscored their Oregon St. counterparts 34-7. The Toreros, whose rotation consisted of ten players,

were much fresher than the thinner Beavers at the end of the game.

"Some of the keys were using our depth," Field said. "We play a lot of players and try to tire out the other teams."

Leading the "Bench Mob" was sophomore guard Roy Morris who came off the bench to score a career-high 20 points. Morris was perfect from the field hitting all eight of his shots in just 20 minutes of play.

"I just tried to concentrate on defense and the shots just came," Morris said.

Morris, the 1999 San Diego Union-Tribune Player of the Year, came in for Dana White early in the first half and ignited USD with seven straight points to give them a 33-27 advantage with just under five minutes remaining.

The Toreros widened the gap to seven just before half as Field got on track against a smaller Beaver team that at one

time had four guards on the floor at once. Behind Morris and Field's combined 17 first-half points, USD took a 38-31 lead into the intermission.

"We're a confident team right now, and we feel like we can play with anybody in the country,"

-Tyler Field

The Toreros took their biggest lead of the game at 13:35 in the second half after White's driving lay-up put them up 50-37.

Oregon St. battled back to within seven with just under eight minutes to play when Torero guard Andre Laws broke down the defense and found Field for an easy basket. Forward Cameron Rigby hit a 15-foot jumper on the next possession to extend the lead back to double-digits.

After Laws connected on consecutive three-pointers from the corner late in the game, the Beavers sensed the game slipping away and their frustration mounted.

It boiled over with under a minute remaining as junior guard Adam Matsen received a technical for his hard foul on Rigby while trying to stop the clock. Head coach Ritchie McKay was enraged by the call and was escorted off the court after being ejected for arguing with the officials.

Aside from Morris, the Toreros had three other players score in double-figures, which is a tribute to their balance, a trademark of coach Brad Holland's teams the past few years. The frontline duo of Field and Rigby combined for 27 points and 17 rebounds to pace USD. Oregon St. was led by senior point guard and preseason All-American candidate Deandra Tanner who scored 20 points while adding three assists.

Not only did the Toreros extend their win streak to four games, they also ended a 20-year drought against the Pac-10.

"We're a confident team right now, and we feel like we can play with anybody in the country," Field said. "I think we're doing a great job of showing that right now."

USD's schedule does not get any easier as they will travel across Interstate 8 to take on the much-improved San Diego St. Aztecs next Saturday night. The Toreros put a 73-45 whipping on the Aztecs last season, but a host of recruits and added experience have Steve Fisher's club off to a 4-1 start.

For USD, it will be just another quality opponent against another first-rate program. What a difference a year makes.

Scouting Report

USD @ SDSU

When: Sat. Dec. 9 @ 7 p.m.

Records: USD 5-1
SDSU 4-1

Who to Watch: **USD:** Tyler Field (10.5 ppg, 7.5 rpg); Cameron Rigby (8 reb. vs. OSU); **SDSU:** Randy Holcomb (17.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg)
Series Record: 17-14 SDSU
Last Meeting: 73-45 USD

Toreros speared 70-56 by Trojans

Women suffer first loss of the season in Torero Tipoff

Casey Skinner • Staff Writer

The grand opening of the Jenny Craig Pavilion turned out to be the only thing that was grand about last Saturday's women's basketball game against USC. The Trojans handed the Toreros a 70-56 loss, their first of the season, in front of 1,393 fans.

"We didn't take care of the ball like we needed to, we weren't finishing our lay-ups and they were getting easy

baskets on transitions," sophomore guard Kerri Nakamoto said.

The Toreros started off the game on a 6-0 run and kept the score close throughout the first half. Despite falling into an 11-point hole, USD came back to take the lead 27-23 on a pair of three-pointers by Nakamoto. USD trailed by only three points at halftime, but that

was as close as they would get.

The final 20 minutes belonged to USC, who jumped out on a 16-0 run to widen the lead to 52-39 with less than eight minutes left in the game.

USD's junior transfer, Amber Jansen, scored a team-high 18 points to pace the Toreros. But only five other Toreros made it into the scoring column, compared to the

Trojans nine. Junior guard Melissa Glazebrook added 17 points and Nakamoto 11, in the losing effort.

The Trojans were led by Denise Woods and Tashara Carter who combined for 30 points.

"We're not as deep as they are," said USD coach Kathy Marpe, who is known as the "Dean" of the WCC. "In that second run we were

out of gas, they had people coming in that were as good as the people they replaced."

Coach Marpe cited fatigue errors as contributing to the loss such as, missed lay-ups and turnovers that resulted from a lack of depth on the bench. She also stated that some of their freshman played

See **Women** pg. 21

JCP opens with mixed reviews

Tania Jabour • Staff Writer

San Diego residents joined USD in celebrating "a dream come true," with the Grand Opening of the highly anticipated Jenny Craig Pavilion (JCP) last Saturday. The men's game sold 4,003 tickets, about twice as many as the women's game, but sales fell about 1,000 tickets short of a sell-out.

For all the hype about the grand opening, ticket sales were slightly disappointing. "The events were well-attended. I'm happy with the turnout overall . . . but a little disappointed that it wasn't a full house,"

said JCP Director Carl Reed.

Renee Weibe, who was in charge of the advertising campaign for the grand opening, was "hoping for a

sell-out, but you never know when you move from a 2,000 seat arena to a 5,000 seat one."

Weibe cited scheduling conflicts as the main reason for the events' failure to sell-out. The San Diego St. Aztecs hosted a basketball game of their own just down the road, fraternities' and sororities had formals, and the Christmas on the Prada, were possible factors to the low attendance.

Weibe conducted a two-month advertising campaign in the San Diego Union-Tribune throughout September and November. The last ad, which appeared in the Nov. 28 Sports section, was a four-page spread highlighting the new arena.

In addition to voicemails, emails and flyers that were distributed for USD faculty and students, 20,000 letters were sent to USD Alumni about the pavilion's opening.

While the faculty may have been a bit disappointed with the turnout, the players

were very happy with the crowd's enthusiasm.

"We tried to get a buzz going out around the school and tried to promote the game a little bit, and they [the fans] came out tonight and supported us," said men's starting center Tyler Field.

"It was great," added guard Roy Morris, who scored a game-high 20 points in the Toreros win. "We have a huge gym and we got a lot of people out there supporting us."

There were mixed emo-

tions amongst the USD students who set foot into the JCP for the first time. On the one hand, junior Natilee Johnson said of the men's

"I'm happy with the turnout overall . . . but a little disappointed that it wasn't a full house."

- Carl Reed,
JCP Director

game, "there were a lot more people than I expected," while junior Sean Baldwin remarked, "I was surprised that it was so empty."

Students and faculty alike were impressed with the beauty of JCP and commented on everything from the comfortable seats to the impressive big-screen scoreboard.

"The pavilion is great; it looks more like a college arena than our old one. My high school had a bigger gym than that one," Baldwin said.

The women's basketball game kicked off the festivities in an exciting game against powerhouse USC that drew close to 2,000 fans. The Toreros came up short by a final score of 70-56, yet the USD faithful were still enthralled by the game and the hype surrounding the

See **JCP** pg. 20

Toreros hit recruiting trail in a big way

Baseball and basketball are big winners in early signing period

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

The University of San Diego athletic department has announced the signings of 10 recruits for next season. The men's and women's basketball teams signed players apiece, while the baseball team inked four players from the high school and junior college levels.

"We're very satisfied," said men's basketball head coach Brad Holland. "We focused on those three guys and we got them all."

Heading the list is Corey Belser, a 6'5 guard from Spanaway, Washington. Belser spurned offers from Oregon St., USC and Washington St. to become a Torero.

Mike McGrain, another Pacific Northwest native, has also signed on to play for USD. McGrain is listed as a 6'2 point guard out of Jesuit High School in Portland, Oregon, the same school that produced current Duke star Mike Dunleavy Jr.

6'9 forward Nick Lewis is the Toreros final recruit. The 210-pound Pheonix native picked USD over UCSB, Santa Clara and Gonzaga. He averaged 14 points and four blocks per game last season at Brophy Prep.

"We needed all three positions and they were our first choices at each position," Holland said.

Not to be outdone by the men, coach Kathy Marpe and the USD women's basketball team signed some big name recruits for next season.

The prize of the 2001 class is Santa Fe Christian star, Brandi Collato. The 5-7 guard averaged 26.6 points per game

her junior year while leading her team to the state finals.

"I'm really happy with the class, especially with Brandi," Marpe said. "She is an impact player and scorer, a lot like Susie Erpelding. I think she will have an immediate impact next year."

Joining Collato next season will be forward Cassidy Blaine and guard Polly Dong. Blaine is a 5-11 forward from Boise, Idaho, while Dong plays for the Auburn Placers.

"Polly Dong is our point guard for the future," Marpe said. "She will come in and back up Glazebrook next year and she is a good three-point shooter."

"Cassidy is an inside-outside player and she can play either the two or three position."

Two baseball recruits to sign on to play for coach Rich

Hill have ties to the San Diego area. Pitcher Sean Warlop is a senior at Bonita Vista High School and was a First Team All-Metro selection in each of the past two seasons. Last year, he finished with a 1.66 ERA and recorded 110 strikeouts in 92 innings of work.

Zach Dobek, who plays for Saddleback Community College in Orange County, was a standout catcher at San Pasqual High School in Escondido. He hit .314 in 13 games last season before suffering a season-ending injury.

Pitcher Chad Cummings and shortstop Ben Quinto round out the remaining Torero recruits. Cummings posted a 2-2 record at Saddleback last year, while Quinto batted .370 last season at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

Early Signings

Men's Basketball

Corey Belser
Nick Lewis
Mike McGram

Spanaway, WA
Phoenix, AZ
Portland, OR

Women's Basketball

Cassidy Blaine
Brandi Collato
Polly Dong

Boise, ID
San Diego, CA
Auburn, GA

Baseball

Chad Cummings
Zack Dobek
Ben Quinto
Sean Warlop

Chino Hills, CA
Escondido, CA
Las Vegas, NV
Bonita, CA



WUSA coming to USD

League will front money for expansion of Torero Stadium

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

With the grand opening of the new Jenny Craig Pavilion having come and gone, the University of San Diego Athletic Department will turn its focus towards improving the school's other sports facility, Torero Stadium.

USD has reached a tentative agreement with the new professional women's soccer league (WUSA) that will allow the San Diego franchise to use the field in return for putting up money to aid in its expansion.

"While no plans have been finalized as of yet, I am positive it (expansion) will go forward," said Director of Communication and Player Personnel Aaron Heifetz, in regards to the expansion. "We have a short-term deal right now, but we are hoping for something long-term."

While USD Athletic Director Tom Iannacone confirmed that no plans are final, he did illustrate some of the changes that will be taking place. Not only will modular seating be added to both end zones, all the stadium's existing seating will be replaced.

Iannacone also stated that there will be improvements made to both the lighting and

sound systems, and a new scoreboard will be put into place.

The Spirit, one of eight inaugural teams, are owned by Cox Communications. According to league sources, Cox will invest approximately \$2.5 million for stadium improvements. Plans are to expand Torero Stadium to between 6,000-7,000 seats which will almost double it's current capacity, and widen the field to between 70 and 75 feet.

While the expansion of the field will not take place until the second year, the rest of the construction will get underway soon as the season is set to open in early April.

"The additional seats and expanded field will benefit both football and soccer," Iannacone said. "Visiting football fans can sit on the south side rather than mix with our fans."

Another advantage of the wider field will be that USD will be able to host more NCAA Tournament soccer games. Until this season, the men had not hosted a postseason game here since 1992, despite finishing atop the West Coast Conference on numerous occasions.

The WUSA has reached a four-year contract with Turner Broadcasting to televise 22 of the league's games. This will showcase USD's facility in front of a national audience bringing exposure to the University.

The remaining Spirit games will be shown locally on Cox's Channel 4 San Diego.

"The publicity for the WUSA will give us more exposure than we could ever get on our own," Iannacone said. "All the games will be televised locally and a few nationally, it doesn't get any better than that."

While all the details have not been worked out, Heifetz thinks it is unlikely that the school will receive a cut of any profits the team makes from the television and sponsorship contracts.

"There is a possibility of some concessions revenue, but most of what USD will be seeing is the up-front money for the construction," Heifetz said.

All 20 members from the 1999 Women's World Cup championship team have already committed to play in the WUSA. Two players from that squad, Julie Foudy



The new logo for the San Diego Spirit was unveiled by the WUSA.

and Shannon MacMillan, will compete for the Spirit, who will be led by former Cal Poly Pomona head coach Carlos Juarez.

There are currently 21 regular-season games slated, as each team will play each

other three times. Season tickets are available for \$50 by calling the Spirit hotline at 1-877-476-2237. As of yet, there are no plans to provide USD students with a discount although that remains to be seen.

JCP from pg. 19

pavilion's opening.

"Our girls played great; I was excited to see them play against USC. The whole event came together well with the band, the cheer, the players and the ceremony," said Student Body President Chris Lobus.

"They have the makings of a good team... this pavilion is beautiful. It's a generous contribution to the university," said USD affiliate Henry Pugh.

Fans enjoyed dinner and refreshments outside the main entrance of the JCP after the women's game. In-

side, the major pavilion donors were honored with dinner, refreshments and commemorative speeches.

In the nightcap, the men's basketball team beat Oregon St. 82-71 in front of the largest crowd to watch a basketball game in USD history.

The halftime ceremonies in both games honored some of the JCP's major sponsors. In the women's game, Sid and Jenny Craig received signed balls from the volleyball and basketball teams. Major donors such as Wells Fargo, AAA and Mesa Distribution were also mentioned.

Men's Basketball Ticket Update



VS.



Tickets for the USD men's basketball game against San Diego St. are going quickly. The Union-Tribune reported that as of Tuesday, over 5,000 tickets have already been sold.

SDSU officials are anticipating a large walk-up crowd and fans who are making their purchases Saturday night are advised to arrive prior to 6:30 p.m.

"We are anticipating our largest crowd in more than three

years," said SDSU's assistant athletic director for marketing for Steve Schnall in the Aztec News.

Student tickets are available for \$6 at the JCP box office Mon.-Fri. until 5:00 p.m.. All other general admission tickets can be purchased by phone (619-220-TIXS) or in person at the Cox Arena box office.

The largest crowd in Aztec history is 11,334.

Weekly Roundup

Women's Basketball

Junior forward Amber Jansen was named the WCC Player of the Week after averaging 20.5 points and 9.0 rebounds against two Pac-10 teams.

Jansen led the Toreros to their first win over UCLA on Dec. 28 by scoring 23 points, hitting 8 of 11 shots. Against USC in the Torero Tipoff, Jansen scored a team-high 18 points in a losing effort.

Sports Intercollegiate Athletics

Profile Miguel Suazo

Ryan Keller • Staff Writer

Coming into this season, fans and critics alike would not have expected much from the USD men's soccer team. They were returning only three starters, two of which were sophomores. Even their lone returning senior starter and team captain Miguel Suazo would have agreed.

"I have to admit I was pretty nervous at first. In training we had so many freshmen and you could tell.

But they came through really well. They have so much dedication and they worked so hard and I am so proud of them."

And who better to lead this young Torero team than Suazo, the four-year starter and two-time All-WCC performer.

On Suazo's leadership capabilities, Coach Seamus McFadden commented, "Miguel came in to our program as a very raw freshman with great speed and potential, but I could see he needed to develop his skills. He has improved dramatically over the years and was a great team captain this year."

"I've always thought the coach plans the course, but the Captain steers the ship, and Miguel did a great job of doing that for us."

Suazo capped off his wonderful career here at USD with a game-winning goal in overtime to defeat perennial soccer powerhouse, UCLA, in last week's first round match of the NCAA tournament. For Miguel, the goal and win were

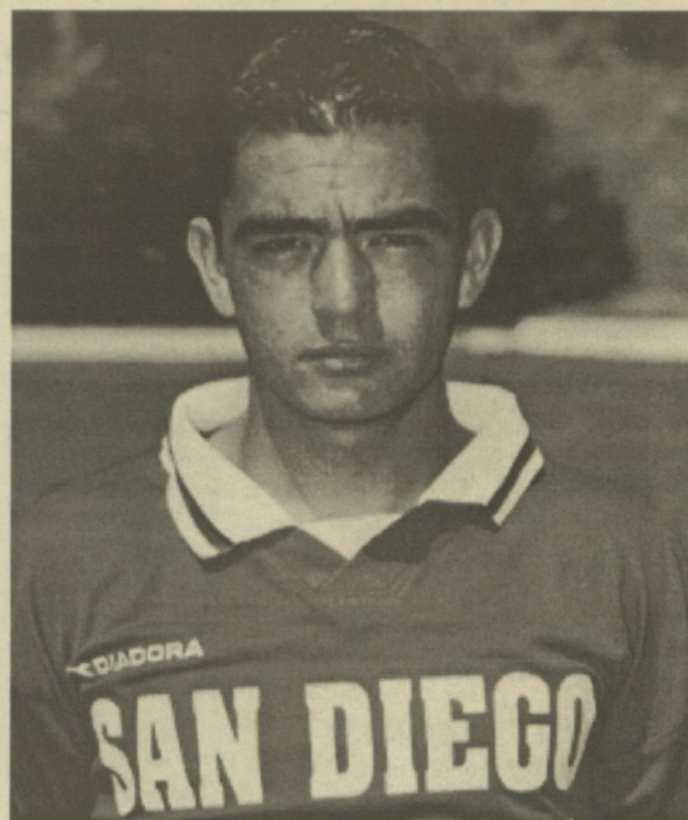
very sweet. After losing to UCLA last year in the first round (4-1), this win at home in front of a sold-out crowd was the best revenge imaginable.

Suazo will forever be remembered for another overtime goal he scored last year against undefeated Santa Clara. Not only were the Broncos ranked #1 in the country at the time, but the victory also gave McFadden his 200th career win.

In his career, Suazo has received numerous accolades. In 1997, he was named Honorable Mention All-WCC as a redshirt freshman, and this year he was named to the First Team after finishing amongst the nations leaders in assists.

As a senior, it will be hard to say goodbye for Suazo, but his soccer career is far from over.

In February, he will compete in the Senior Bowl, where some of the top MLS prospects will be showcased. At the end of that week, the MLS will have its draft, where Suazo will hopefully



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Miguel Suazo will represent USD in the Senior Bowl next Feb.

get selected and be able to continue his career on the pro level.

"Coach says that I have a have a good chance of getting drafted. If I play well and work hard at the Senior Bowl, I think I have a good chance, so that's what I'm going to do," Suazo commented.

When asked if he would like to say anything at the end of his soccer career here at USD, he responded, "I really

want to thank the team, especially the freshmen who made this year so great. It was really good to go out on such a great winning season. Mostly, I want to thank the fans. The fans have been so good this year, better than any year in the past, and I really appreciate it."

Although Suazo's postseason aspirations came to an end with a 3-0 loss to Creighton, his soccer career is far from complete.

Arzu makes first team All-PFL for second straight year

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

Senior tailback Oscar Arzu is one of eight USD football players selected to the 2000 All-Pioneer Football League. Despite finishing just 1-3 in conference play, the Toreros placed four players on the first team, two apiece on offense and defense.

Arzu, who became USD's career leading rusher in his final game of the season, led the team in rushing, all-purpose yards and touchdowns, despite missing ample time this year with an injury.

Joining Arzu on the first team are a trio of juniors; Bryan Baxter, Justin Dixon,

and Brian Luman. Dixon, a 275-pound offensive lineman, was a key factor for Arzu's success this season. Luman and Baxter finished one and two respectively in tackles for the Toreros. Luman was also USD's leading kick returner (28.1 yd./return) to go along with a team-high five interceptions.

Wide receiver Matt Hackett, who had 41 catches and four touchdowns in 2000, was selected honorable mention along with offensive lineman Christos Renner, tight end Matt Guardia and punter Dylan Mora.

The PFL does not select a second team.

2000 All-Pioneer Football League

First Team:

Offense

Receivers: Kyle Conner, Butler; John Schutle, Valpo.; **Tight End:** Sean Coughlin, Drake; **Lineman:** Justin Dixon, USD; Shawn Eddy, Dayton; Grant Veith, Butler; Adam Wakefield, Valpo.; **Quarterback:** DeWarne Ewing, Butler; **Runningbacks:** Oscar Arzu, USD; Jermaine Bailey, Dayton; **Placekicker:** Billy Cundiff, Drake

Defense

Lineman: Ric Edgcomb, Valpo.; Mike Foster, Drake; Jim Schroeder, Valpo.; Jeff Swanson, Dayton; **Linebackers:** Bryan Baxter, USD; Matt Maher, Valpo.; Drad Van Vleet, Dayton; Scott Wilhelm, Drake; **Backs:** Jason Loughheed, Valpo.; **Brian Luman,** USD; Marty McNamara, Dayton; Cedric Stanley, Drake; **Punter:** Josh Skidmore, Valpo.

USD's Honorable Mention: Matt Hackett (WR); Matt Guardia (TE); Christos Renner (OL); Dylan Mora (P)

Women from pg. 18

like, well, freshman.

"In the previous games they gave us great minutes; rebounds, good defense and points. And today they gave us turnovers, gave up easy baskets and no points," Marpe said.

This Saturday, the 2-1 Toreros travel north to face Cal State Northridge before returning home to the JCP next week for a six-game homestand.

Northridge has a similar defense compared to USC's which means the Toreros have to rebound from the loss.

"We need to have other people scoring, we can't rely on one or two players because we'll get tired just like today," Marpe said.

Farewell to a hero

Dominic Mucciato
Managing Editor

Stadler makes unceremonious exit



Play every down as if it were your last.

Coaches and players alike echo this statement as a rite of passage in organized athletics. A twisted limb here, and a torn ligament there end careers everyday. Players are taught to savor each moment because it could all come crashing down in the blink of an eye.

On Oct. 21 at Butler University, Mike Stadler dropped back to pass when his athletic career came to a frightening halt. As the pocket collapsed around him, Stadler braced for the impact of the two defenders forcing his body into opposite directions. With a player already clutching at his legs, another defender began to drive Stadler's upper body to the turf.

His legs rooted, the senior quarterback could only scream in pain as his knee gave out.

"I looked at it and saw that the kneecap was on the inside of my knee and realized that it wasn't supposed to be there," Stadler said.

Carried off the field and rushed to the hospital, the quarterback was done for the game. Players and coaches soon heard that Stadler had suffered a dislocated knee and would be lost for the season as well.

"When Mike went down, the whole stadium was just silent," Junior linebacker Josh Calista said. "Then, when you hear the rumor that it's a dislocated knee, we all knew that it's a serious injury."

"When it first happened we were in shock," Senior quarterback Tom Jackson said. "It was horrible."

Stadler had partially torn three ligaments in his knee, and completely torn a fourth. Unable to travel, he stayed behind in Indianapolis to undergo the six hour surgery that would set his knee back in its rightful place.



"...it didn't work out the way I wanted, but I don't regret anything, and I don't second-guess any of the decisions I made." -Mike Stadler

"There isn't much worse I could have done to my knee," Stadler said. "If you tear arteries or nerves, I think sometimes they have to amputate your leg."

"It's pretty serious if you dislocate your knee. It doesn't get much worse for your leg than that."

In the blink of an eye, the most prolific passer in school history was gone.

Stadler owns USD career passing records in completions (426), touchdowns (58), and passing yards (5,844). He was named to the All-Pioneer

Football League twice, as well as USD's Offensive Player of the Year in 1997. That year Stadler threw 30 touchdown passes, shattering the old mark of 23.

This is the stuff of legends. Especially at a small school like USD where his accomplishments should have garnered him more fame, if not for a better fortune.

Following Stadler's injury in Indy, the Union Tribune mentioned the injury in a game summarization, and Torerofans.com posted a message board of support, but, be-

yond that, Stadler was practically forgotten.

"You want it to end on your terms, and I'd guarantee you that's not the way he pictured his collegiate career ending," Calista said.

"He deserved better," Senior linebacker Alex Rohr said. "No one wants their last time on the field to be lost to an injury."

"With all the adversity he's gone through, he deserved better," Senior linebacker Chris Long said.

"But he'd tell you life has its obstacles, and that which doesn't kill you, makes you stronger."

Even as his teammates expressed regret Stadler shied away from their sympathy. The senior quarterback said he knew the violent nature of the sport usually translates to injuries. Ironically, this was the second time Stadler has suffered a season-ending injury.

He spend the previous year rehabilitating his other knee from a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Stadler, who graduated over a year ago, had a year of athletic eligibility remaining and wanted to prove he could still move the chains.

"Obviously I didn't want to end my USD career by getting hurt," Stadler said. "I think that was part of it, wanting to end on a high note."

"Looking back on it, it probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, but I always would have wondered: could I have played again? Now I know. Unfortunately it didn't work out the way I wanted it to, but I don't regret anything, and I don't second-guess any of the decisions I made."

Lacking regrets, Stadler and some of his closest friends on the team choose to remember the times they spent together rather than the games lost to injury. Senior receiver Matt Hackett said he will miss playing with his friend but will always remember the friendships they enjoyed off the field.

"Mike didn't get a raw deal in coming back this season and going out after eight games," Hackett said.

"Because it was more than eight games, it was the summer workouts we endured together, it was lifting in the weight room, and it was all the practices that we attended."

Whether or not Stadler deserved a more fitting exit is debatable. What cannot be debated is whether or not he is one of the greatest athletes in USD history.

When asked if Stadler was the best quarterback in school history, Head Coach Kevin McGarry did not hesitate.

"Probably?" McGarry asked. "He is. He's the most dominant quarterback we've ever had."

When Stadler earned the starting quarterback position his sophomore year, he began his assault on the record books. Along the way he was forced to split time early in the year and didn't play in the season finale.

"It was frustrating at the time," Stadler said. "Knowing that I could play, and that I wanted to play..."

Frustrating because in between Stadler had thrown for 2,287 yards and 30 touchdowns.

"When you think about what he did, he did it in about seven and a half games," McGarry said.

"As funny as that sounds, with all the records we broke, we actually didn't throw the ball that much more than we did the year after that."

Is Mike Stadler the greatest quarterback in USD history?

"No," Stadler said as he laughed. "I'm not going to make that statement."

"If somebody else wants to say that, that's fine. If they don't that's fine."

"I might be the luckiest to have such good people around me. The greatest? No. That's not my place to make that statement."

Pink Panthers get pounded in finals

Ibiza wins as expected, though

Rob "First in line for the new Enya CD" Humkey • Speed Soccer Supervisor

After weeks of delay the intramural speed soccer semis and finals were successfully played. In the men's semis one good game saw **Ibiza** pulled ahead in the second half to beat **Smokin' Grass** and advance to the finals. In the second semi of the night the **Boonedock Saints** eventually tore

apart **G.O.A.T.** to join **Ibiza** in a final for all finals, the championship of the unbeaten teams.

When the final kicked off it looked as if **Ibiza** would have their way with the freshman team as they jumped up 2-0 early. Nevertheless, the **Boonedock Saints** fought back and tied the

game 2-2 by the half. At the beginning of the second half the **Boonedock Saints** came out still on fire and got their first lead of the game, but again this time **Ibiza** tied it back up quickly. Then with less than five minutes to play the **Boonedock Saints** took another lead. I should let you guess

what happened next.....that's right, **Ibiza** found a way to tie it up 4-4 and send the game to OT. In the overtime no one was able to score so the game went to a shoot-out. In the end, on the last shooter **Ibiza** put the game away and won in what was the closest game of the year and

the first ever shoot-out in IM soccer history.

In the girl's championship match it was **FA Gomez** battling the defending champs, the **Pink Panthers**. This game was doomed from the start as the **Pink Panthers** were only able to find four players by game time. **FA Gomez** used

this to their advantage as the pull out a big upset on an undermanned team. The final score was **FA Gomez 4 - Pink Panthers 2**.

Next Semester's IM Sports

Kennedy Newkirk • Intramural Information Director

Now is the time to start thinking about winning that championship T-shirt for next semester. So get ready for the draft, start recruiting players, and make sure the salary cap is not exceeded, because the following will tell you exactly what and when we will be playing next semester.

CoRec Flag Football: Plays on Monday and Wednesday nights, from 7pm 'til 11pm. The league will begin on Feb-

ruary 12. Sign ups will be the week before that.

CoRec Speed Soccer: Plays on Tuesday nights from 7pm 'til 11pm. The league will begin on February 13. Sign ups will be the week before that, too.

5x5 Basketball: This is a 5-week league. There will be a Men's League, a Women's League, and a CoRec League. Plays on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 7pm 'til 11pm. The

league will begin on February 12. Sign ups will be the week before that.

Floor Hockey: This 5-week league will have a Men's league and a Women's league. Plays on Thursday nights from 7pm 'til 11pm. The league will begin on February 22. Sign ups will be the week before that.

5x5 Ultimate Frisbee: Plays on Thursday nights from 7pm 'til 11pm. The league will begin on February 22.

Sign ups will be the week before that.

4x4 Volleyball: Plays on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 7pm 'til 11pm. There will be a Men's League, a Women's League, and a CoRec League. This league will begin on March 26. Sign ups will be the week before that.

Men's Slow-Pitch Softball: Plays on Tuesday nights from 6pm 'til 11pm. The league begins

on April 3. Sign ups will be the week before that.

CoRec 4 Pitch Softball: Plays on Wednesday nights from 6pm 'til 11pm. This league will begin on April 4. Sign ups will be the week before that.

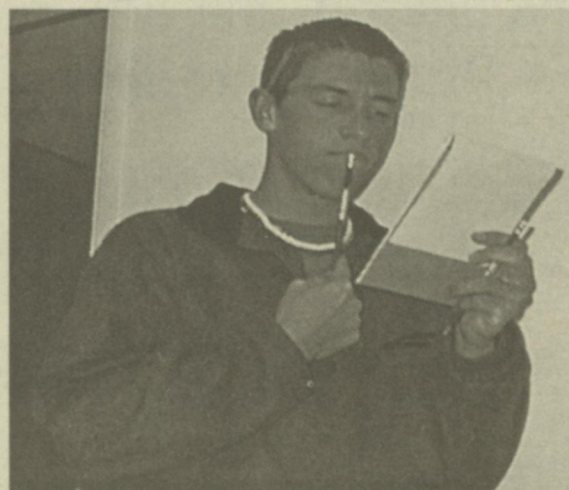
All leagues mentioned above will be 4-Week leagues unless otherwise noted. Additionally, we will be doing our typical special events such as the always-popular Golf Tournament.

There will also be a Wiffleball Tournament, a Singles Tennis tournament, and even a GOLF LEAGUE is in the works to be played at Riverwalk!!! Keep those eyes and ears open for additional information on these sports, and don't forget to grab the new Rec magazine, hot off the presses!!

Bobby's Intramural Word of the Week

Hi, I'm Bobby. You may remember me from such pictures as the one over to your right, or in previous Vistas, where I picked the IM Champions this semester. I didn't have the greatest percentage, but hey man I tried. It's hard to pick some real champions when Rob Humkey is forcing the new Enya CD down my throat. I swear to good-

ness, after "Sail Away," Enya's creativity and stylish flair went down the tubes. Anywho, I'd like to welcome you to my column, the word of the week! This week's word is a toughie. Everybody say it with me, "commandeer." I am going to attempt to use this word in a sentence. But first, take a look at it's dictionary entry:



Bobby spends most of his time coming up with 50 cent words

com·man·deer
[kòm·mān·dr] (past com·man·deered, past participle com·man·deered, present participle com·man·deer·ing, transitive verb

1. take something over: to take or use something, sometimes using force (disapproving)

Here's my sentence:

"I commandeered it." See? I even used the words past participle! Check back next week for next week's word of the week, **defenestrate**.



The Kevins agree:

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crosses color lines.



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