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USD News

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Vista: December 11, 2003

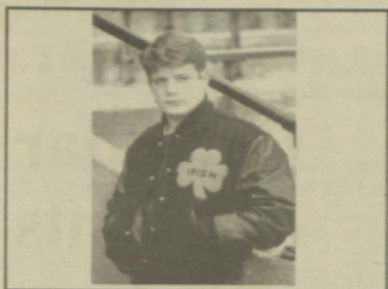
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Opinion
PAGE 7
Rudy; the best
date movie



Entertainment
PAGE 10
Hip-hop in America



THE VISTA

Thursday, December 11, 2003

vista.sandiego.edu

Volume 40. Issue 24

Degheri Alumni Center to open soon

By Megan Hanrahan
STAFF WRITER

As the Bert Degheri Alumni Building nears completion, the construction occurring at the main entrance of campus will soon be gone.

According to the USD Alumni Association website, Degheri, a 1961 graduate of USD, gave a generous \$5 million gift to build the center from his family foundation. This three-story-high 28,000 square-foot building was designed as a "home for the alumni family."

Quoted from the website, Deghari said, "The center will be a place for graduates to get together after a football game or an event so they can visit with each other in their own personal space."

The plans for the building

were carefully constructed and the amenities that this building holds are truly amazing. In spirit of the goal to be a warm, welcoming environment, the entrance resembles a living room area with many couches and a fireplace. This area is not only designed for graduates to relax and perhaps glance at old yearbooks, but current students will be encouraged to use the place as a study haven. Located in the center of the building is an immense courtyard that is intended for use in special, more formal events.

The open-air center courtyard is ideal for receptions, while the outside rear patio and conference room will host sit-down dinners, classes and meetings of alumni groups such as the Alumni Board and the Student Alumni Association.

According to Signe Salminen,



MEGAN HANRAHAN

A living room area with couches and a fireplace is just one of the main features of the alumni building.

assistant director of Annual Giving, the alumni center will also be home to USD's parent relations office, its fund-raising

Please see **Alumni**, page 2

Pass/fail options revised, students given more time to choose

By Beth Yanez
STAFF WRITER

In past semesters, students had only two weeks to select the pass/fail option and were forced to keep with it the entire semester. For the 2004 spring semester, the deadline to select either a letter grade or the pass/fail option is set for March 22. Please note the error on <http://www.sandiego.edu/registrar/>, which says the deadline is Feb. 4.

Among other important information, a student cannot take a pass/fail within their major, and there is a limit of one pass/fail class per semester-excluding recreation classes, which are all pass/fail- or two per academic year.

Students opting for the pass/fail option will still need their professor's signature and the charge still stands at \$5 for schedule changes.

As the semester ends and students prepare for the next, there are many positive outlooks for students. One particular bonus that many look forward to and some have not discovered is that the option to take a class pass/fail will be extended until the date mid-term grades are due.

For those who have taken this option, this may be a relief. Now students will be able to enroll in the class and evaluate their performance. Subsequently, they will make a decision to have a letter grade or go for the pass/fail option.



MTV.COM

Troubles in the Real World house

By Megan Hanrahan
STAFF WRITER

Rumors have been circling all around the city about the supposed "Real World Rape." For those who are unfamiliar with the show, "The Real World" is an M.T.V. reality-based television show consisting of seven strangers from across the world. They are chosen to live in a house that the network has set up, under the condition that their lives will be taped. Each year, the

house is set up in a different location and this upcoming season will be "The Real World San Diego." Thirty cameras are mounted everywhere in the house, except the two bathrooms, and they are monitored 24 hours a day by crew. Additionally, every guest that enters this Point Loma house must provide photo identification to the crew, who then makes photo copies for their records.

According to the San Diego Union Tribune, a 22-year-old woman (not a resident of the house) woke up on a guest bed

in the Real World house and was being filmed by a camera crew. The last thing she remembers was being in the nightclub, On Broadway, on Nov. 14. She had a couple drinks and then she met a man, who gave her another drink. After that, she blacked out. An unidentified person found her lying naked on the bathroom floor of the house. Then, they clothed her and moved her to a living room couch. This is where the

Please see **World**, page 2

THE VISTA

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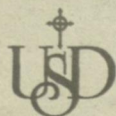
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Marie Minnick

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Opinions expressed in The Vista other than unsigned editorials are the opinions of the writers or columnists and not necessarily those of The Vista Staff. 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 writer's year must be included in the letter. The Vista reserves the right to edit published letters. Any content sent to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.



University of San Diego

Public Safety Report

Nov. 18

Marian Way at Maher – Public Safety received a report of a suspicious white female who was passing out flyers on campus. The women was contacted by Public Safety and advised of trespassing.

Maher – Resident hall staff discovered a picture of a student posed with the heading “USD Hate Criminal-Beware You May Be The Next Victim.” The person responsible for posting the picture has been identified.

Nov. 19

Public Safety received a report of someone using counterfeit money on campus.

Nov. 20

UC – Public Safety received a report of a white male on a skateboard passing out a Hate Newspaper called the Koala. The individual was advised of trespassing and was removed from campus by Public Safety.

Print Shop – Public Safety received a report of a vehicle that had been broken into and the CD player was stolen.

Nov. 21

Camino – Public Safety received a report of a sticker that had been placed on a window in a classroom that read “YOU MUST DIE NOW.”

Marian Way at Hughes –

Public Safety received a report of a white male passing out religious flyers at the fountain.

Law School – Public Safety received a report of a white male that was observed smashing out the glass in a telephone booth.

Nov. 22

UTAs – SDPD and Public Safety responded to a report of an assault. Both individuals involved in this incident were to be charged with domestic violence.

Nov. 24

Parking Structure – A student reported that his vehicle was “keyed” while it was parked in the structure.

Nov. 26

JCP – Public Safety transported two extremely intoxicated female SDSU students to detox during the USD/SDSU basketball game.

Nov. 29

Founders – Public Safety extinguished a small trashcan fire located in the courtyard.

Nov. 30

Laguna – Public Safety received a report that a vehicle was broken into.

Dec. 1

San Luis – A female resident student reported being sexually battered by another resident student.

Public Safety received a report from a student who had re-

ceived a threatening telephone message.

Dec. 3

Missions B Parking Lot – A contract security employee was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at the USD/SDSU basketball game.

Dec. 4

Maher – Public Safety removed a man from campus who was found passing out flyers.

Dec. 6

Main Kiosk – Public Safety arrested a non-student for DUI when he drove his pickup truck on campus while transporting three USD students and one non-student back to campus. Three of the students were cited for MIP and one non-student was transported to detox.

A female USD resident was found to be unresponsive and unable to care for herself and was transported to detox by Public Safety.

Dec. 7

Alcala Vista West Lot – Three male students were observed staggering in the parking lot. Two of the students were determined to be unable to care for themselves and were transported to detox. The third student was cited for MIP.

Alcala Vista East Lot – A non-USD affiliated individual was found in the dumpster and the subject was removed from campus.

Calendar of Events

Featured Event:

Dec. 8 - 19

Annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive, Aromas, La Paloma, Torero Grill, NROTC Unit, Sacred Heart Hall, room 125

Dec. 11

Student Performance Recital, 12:15 p.m., French Parlor

Kwanza, 6 p.m., Main Dining

Dec. 11 - 19

Men's Fraternity Rush Registration, Student Organizations, UC 113

Dec. 12

Alpha Delta Pi San Diego Gull game for the Ronald McDonald House, 7:35 p.m., San Diego Sports Arena

Sorority Recruitment Registration

USD University Choir, 8 p.m., Founders Chapel

Dec. 14

Finals Feeding Frenzy, 8 p.m., Aromas

USD University Choir, 8 p.m., Founders Chapel

Dec. 15

Pamper Me Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., UC Forum AB

Dec. 15 - 19

Finals

Continued from **Alumni**, pg. 1

Continued from **World**, pg. 1

female cast member, Jamie Chung, found her on the morning of Nov. 15, and she moved her to the guest bedroom. Chung then woke the woman and arranged for someone to take her home. After asking the other cast members what had happened, an unidentified person said that they had seen the man leaving the bathroom that night remarking, “I just hit that.” The man who gave the woman the drink at the nightclub was supposedly an

acquaintance of a cast member and is being investigated.

In the affidavit filed by the woman with the San Diego Superior Court, the woman underwent a rape exam on Nov. 16. The medical examination re-

cushions, video tape equipment, taped footage, and computer equipment to further their investigation. Although Bunim-Murray Productions, the show's production company, refused to comment, they released this

statement:

“The producers of ‘The Real World’ and the cast are cooperating fully with local authorities investigating an incident that may have occurred at ‘The Real World’ house. None of the cast or crew members had any involvement in this incident.” The show will begin airing in early

January and it is still undetermined whether or not this incident will be part of the show's plot.



offices and the communications and marketing department.

All of the offices that are being relocated out of Guadalupe Hall will make room for new law school offices.

The alumni center itself is constructed on what was Harmon Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus and formerly home to the School of Education, which moved to the Alcalá West office complex last year.

The building is scheduled to open on Dec. 22.

Words from the desk

Elyse thinks 'twas the best Christmas present

It seems that with each passing year it is more and more difficult to decide what I really want for Christmas. I mean, it used to be so much easier.

I remember the year that I was five, turning six--all I wanted for Christmas was a puppy. I sent my letter to Santa, at the North Pole, crossed my fingers and hoped.

I didn't care what kind of puppy, any puppy would do nicely. I was a huge fan of the movie, "The Little Mermaid" and I wanted to name that puppy Ariel, whether it was a girl or a boy puppy, it didn't matter.

It was the night before Christmas and my brother, Paul and I were of course bouncing off the walls.

My parents threatened to make an emergency, last-minute call to the North Pole.

Soon, it was bedtime and visions

of sugar-plums danced all over the place.

When out in another room there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see who was barking.

I went into my parents' room and said, "Mom, Dad...wake up! Paul is barking again!"

They told me to go and tell him to stop, but not to go downstairs yet, because I had to wait for everyone to go to the tree. I don't think I was a big fan of that idea, but I complied with their wishes.

Upon entering my brother's room, I noticed that he was asleep. I could not figure out how he could have been barking. Then, I figured it out, he was barking in his sleep. So, I woke him up and told him to stop barking.

Then, I went back into my parents' room and told them that he was

asleep, but I woke him up and told him to stop barking in his sleep. I was a very smart child.

Then, I started to think about the fact that maybe, could it be? Did Santa bring us a puppy? No, couldn't be.

Then what to my wandering eyes should appear, but a puppy! I also got a pink Barbie Dream House, but that is beside the point.

I wanted to name her Ariel, but my mom was probably thinking, "What happens if she ever stops liking the movie, 'The Little Mermaid'?" I don't think she realized that is not possible.

We settled on the name Sophie. Now, Sophie is getting pretty up there in years, but she is still around and is still the best Christmas present ever.

Happy Holidays to all!

Being fined for phoning while driving

*Proposed bill
may not allow
cell phone
users to 'talk'
while driving*

By Beth Yanez
STAFF WRITER

Around campus it seems as though everyone has a cell phone. They are being used *all* the time--when walking to class, waiting or even driving.

The latter situation is the most controversial habit for cell-phone users today.

New York has already passed a bill banning the use of cell phones while driving. The only exception is, of course, in case of an emergency. Nonetheless, a driver may use a headset, allowing both hands to be on the wheel.

Assemblyman Simitian, democrat of Palo Alto, is urging the State of California to pass a similar bill.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, Simitian's bill would be more lenient than that in New York. While New York offenders are fined \$100 for first-time violations, \$200 for second violations, and \$500 for each successive violation, Californian violators, as Simitian proposes, would only be fined \$20 for first-time violations and \$50 for each thereafter.

As of 2001, there were an estimated 12 million cell phones in use in California. That number continues to grow as cell phones become less and less expensive and people feel they need the handy device more and more.

Simitian's bill has not passed, but several government officials are pushing for some kind of law to limit cell phone use while driving and therefore, some believe, make driving safer.

For more information on this proposed bill, visit www.sfgate.com or www.ca.gov.

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SOCIETY & CULTURE

Fun Christmas Facts

The common abbreviation for Christmas as Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the last USA state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

Some priests in Australia advise you to say "Happy Christmas," not "Merry Christmas," because "merry" has connotations of getting drunk.

The first American Christmas carol was written in 1649 by a minister named John de Brebeur and is called "Jesus is Born."

The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

Winter was a time of celebration to pre-Christian Romans and they decorated fir trees in honor of this seasonal change.

The use of a Christmas wreath as a decoration on your front door, mantel or bay window symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life to all who enter.

Due to the time zones, Santa has 31 hours to deliver gifts? This means that he would have to visit 832 homes each second!

Epiphany, 6th January, is the traditional end of the Christmas holiday and is the date on which we take down the tree and decorations. To do so earlier is thought to bring bad luck for the rest of the year.



Ana Merino relates some of her literary expertise to the students of USD. Sigma Delta Pi was the organization responsible for the guest speaker in Salomon Hall.

TAMMY VALENCIA

Sigma Delta Pi hosts renowned Hispanic author

By Tammy Valencia
STAFF WRITER

Sigma Delta Pi, a National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, joined with the Department of Languages and Literatures to welcome Ana Merino to the University of San Diego to be the first of many to host a lecture series.

Sigma Delta Pi was founded in 1919 at the University of California in Berkeley. Sigma Delta Pi continues to grow and expand in its activities, and it is currently established at over 500 universities all across the United States. The Eta Zeta chapter at USD has begun this lec-

ture series to bring nationally and internationally recognized scholars and writers to campus each semester. Ana Merino, a well-known and distinguished author, poet and literary critic, is currently an assistant professor of Spanish at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

Dr. Merino's lecture on Wednesday night began with a brief introduction by Dr. Alejandro Meter, the advisor of USD's Eta Zeta chapter. Dr. Merino spoke for about thirty minutes and utilized an overhead projector in order to give visual examples of some of the comics she presented. After the presentation,

Dr. Merino was joined by USD's Dr. Kim Eherenman for a bilingual poetry reading of selected poems from Dr. Merino's four published books of poetry. I recently had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Dr. Merino to ask about her passions—poetry, comics and teaching.

At what point did comics change from being a hobby to a passion?

"Yes, it's very interesting because when I was a kid I was reading comics, like Little Lulu. As I was growing up I read a lot of comics because there's a

Please see **Lecture**, page 5

USD targeted by anti-homosexuality protestors News Notes responsible for recent spate of protests near campus

By Jason Wanamaker
STAFF WRITER

If there's any USD event where parents are involved, you are most surely to see the protesting signs of the News Notes organization. Undoubtedly, many have seen the signs "PRIDE is Anti-Catholic" and "Sodomy is Anti-Catholic" at the entrances to campus on College Visiting Day and Freshman Move in Day.

These signs and the messages that they carry come from the fundamental Catholic group News Notes, which is a monthly publication that delivers stories, articles, and news to a body of Catholic subscribers.

At the forefront of argument that News Notes holds with USD, is the existence of the student-led PRIDE group on campus, as well as other LGBT organizations such as Rainbow Educators, and LGBT support groups, panels and discussions.

Some writers for the news organiza-

tion are not supportive of the fact that USD fosters a place for LGBT students and their supporters and allies is "un-Catholic" and deviates from the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Not only has News Notes used protests as a form to spread their message, the organization has infiltrated Pride email list-servers and published the verbatim of emails without permission.

In one instance, the group, without permission, published the verbatim of an email from then Pride President Melissa Espinal inviting members of the list-serve to "Coming Out Awareness" week.

Espinal looks back on this publication saying, "For me personally I felt like my safety was compromised because my name was published in their newspaper, and because these people are fundamentalists and I did not now how their readers would react to it."

Along with this, News Notes has frequently sent reporters to report on LGBT campus events and in one case was forced out off a campus gay parenting

panel by Public Safety due to their disruptive nature.

Many students on campus feel that the News Notes organization has gone too far in trying to voice its opinions. Not only has the organization offended USD's LGBT community, but also many of their allies and supporters.

In a response to a News Notes article, former President Alice B. Hayes responded saying that as a Catholic Institution "We recognize the presence of gay and lesbian members in our community, and respect the dignity of every individual."

Along with this, many departments, most notably University Ministry, continue to stand behind Pride and the other LGBT organizations on campus.

According to the current Pride President Nicholas Severson, "The University continues to encourage and support PRIDE as a safe space for LGBT students, even when members of the San Diego community who claim to be upholding Christian values disapprove."

Schwarzenegger wants California casinos to pay up

By Elyse M. Rohrer
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Arnold Schwarzenegger has said that it is time for Indian casinos to pay their "fair share" to the state.

The problem is that no one seems to be able to determine what amount a fair share is.

According to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a law that was put into effect in 1988, states cannot tax tribes or impose any other fees on tribes. Instead, the tribes and the state come to agreements that define revenue-sharing called compacts. In the state of California, compacts are renegotiated every 20 years.

Schwarzenegger wants to renegotiate the state's Indian gambling compacts, but the existing compacts still have 17 years of validity and the tribes are not obligated to discuss them.

California's Indian casinos are not al-



lowed to offer craps or roulette and are limited to slots and card games. It has been suggested that if the state offered the full range of Las Vegas gambling to Indian casinos, they would probably be

more willing to pay the state a certain percentage of their revenue, but no one knows for sure.

It has happened in Connecticut where the Mashantucket Pequot and the

Mohegan tribe agreed to pay 25 percent in exchange for a monopoly plus Las Vegas-style gaming.

Each tribe that has a casino is in a different situation. Some bring in much more money than others.

It would benefit the tribes more if each was looked at individually by the state, and evaluated on more specific terms.

Indian Reservations have tribal sovereignty. Those that are part of an Indian tribe, but do not live on a reservation, it is similar to dual citizenship.

Native Americans are able to vote in state and federal elections, but do not pay personal income taxes. Some people see that as unfair and others think the fact that the United States took their land is unfair.

No matter what decision is made regarding Indian casinos, the controversy is wellrooted in hundreds of years of history.

Continued from **Lecture**, page 4

strong tradition in Europe, like Tin Tin and Asterix, and a lot of Spanish comics. It's not until I came to the U.S. to do my Master's in Columbus, Ohio that I discovered a new type of American comics that my father did not have in his collection, the new alternative comics and also some classic comics that did not arrive to Spain. In that moment I started feeling very curious.

When I moved to this work, and I decided to do work in cultural studies, I realized if I was going to write a dissertation I better do it in something I really feel passion for. Because to write a dissertation, you have to love the subject. It's not that your advisor tells you that you should do this or that, it's about you forming something that is really engaging. In this case, for me it was comics."

-How did winning your first award for poetry at such a young age affect you?

"When you write your first book of poetry, it is when you are discovering words. It's totally new, you are having this new experience, and you are in school. Suddenly you realize when you win such an award that your words are much more powerful than you could ever hope.

And when you start your second book you are much more conscious that someone is going to read it. People are going to discover things about you. Before, when you are writing poems, you're writing poems for yourself or maybe you're in love with someone, but the moment people recognize what you are doing you address things much more carefully. Also, you don't want to repeat yourself,

you want to keep growing.

The good thing for me was that I won the award and I became very successful at that moment with my first book. But I received an offer to study for my Master's in Columbus, Ohio, and for me it was very healthy to go to a place and become totally anonymous. Nobody knew me.

I was able to concentrate on myself growing up without having to go around in Madrid having people tell me how wonderful I was. You need to be able to focus really well when you are growing up intellectually and personally. For me, it was a good experience to move away."

Dr. Merino concluded our talk with several comments on the nature of her students and the art of learning a new language: "It's very symbolic to see students learn a new language, it's very exotic. I had my own experience learning English and Dutch when I was living in the Netherlands, and I know its tough."

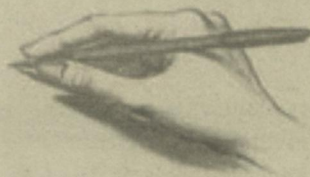
Dr. Merino also mentioned that she always tries to incorporate poetry and comics into the curriculum of her classes—whether it is a language or a civilization studies course.

She also challenges her students to create their own poetry, plays and literature: "I try to make them be creative because it's a way of expressing themselves. When you are able to be creative in another language is when you are really learning."

The next guest in the lecture series will come to USD in the spring of 2004. Sigma Delta Pi is also planning on starting a weekly Spanish conversation table where Spanish speakers of all levels, experience, and background can join together to talk in Spanish casually, outside of a classroom atmosphere and without the help of a professor.

USD
INTERSESSION
January 5 - 23, 2004

Walk-in Registration
Has Begun



Tuesday,
October 28, 2003
until the first day of class
(or until the class closes)

Sign up in
Founders, Room 108

To Walk-in Register
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December 2003 USD Fine Arts Calendar

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Senior Thesis Exhibitions. Work by graduating Art Majors. Claudia Dominguez Dec. 1-5, Julie Arntz Dec. 8-12, Bill Anderson Dec. 15-19. Exhibits change weekly. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Visual Arts Center, Sacred Heart Hall, Room 102. Free.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 12:15PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 8:00PM

USD Choral Scholars. Veny Maldjieva, director. Music by Britten, Gershwin, Mendelssohn, and Schubert. French Parlor, Founders Hall. **FREE TO USD STUDENTS WITH ID!** \$8, general admission; \$6, non-USD students, seniors, USD faculty, staff and alumni.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

USD Chamber Music Ensembles. Angela Yeung, director. Works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Weber, Anna Bon and David Simpson. 7:30 p.m., French Parlor, Founders Hall. **FREE TO USD STUDENTS WITH ID!** \$8, general admission; \$6, non-USD students, USD faculty, staff and alumni.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Student Performance Recital. Performances by students in the Music Program. 12:15 p.m., French Parlor, Founders Hall. Free.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Senior Student Recital. Alexis Alfaro, tenor. Music by Schumann, Donaudy, Obradors, Vaughan-Williams, Donizetti, and Giordano. 7:30 p.m., Shiley Theatre, Camino Hall. Free.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2:00PM

USD University Choir. Veny Maldjieva, director. "Eternal Light" Concert. World premiere performance of David Lipten's "Time's Dream." Also music by Lauridsen, Hogan, Thomas, Hunter, and traditional Christmas selections. Founders Chapel, Founders Hall. **FREE TO USD STUDENTS WITH ID!** \$8, general admission; \$6, non-USD students, seniors, USD faculty, staff & alumni.

CALL 619-260-4171. Tickets for music events will be sold at the door.

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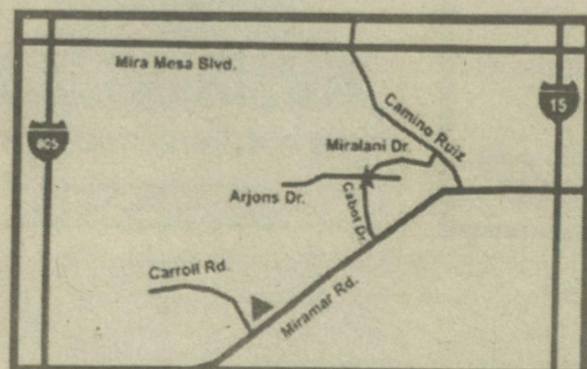
• Pool Table

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OPINION

Democrats vie for best candidate to oust Bush

By Natalie Zanzucchi
STAFF WRITER

Public opinion is not really indicative of the winner of a presidential election. After the election in 2000 it seems that the electorate may not necessarily be the determining factor of victory.

Strong ties to partisanship in America are declining as public opinion moves closer and closer to the middle of the ideological spectrum. This trend is bad news for presidential candidates who hold extremely liberal or extremely conservative views.

In a Newsweek poll (Nov. 8), 50% of registered voters claimed they would not vote President Bush back into office, while 44% said they would. With the pending situation in Iraq, defense is likely to be an important issue in the upcoming election. Healthcare and civil rights are two other issues this election are likely to revolve around.

President Bush has just signed a new prescription drug benefit bill into law. While Democrats oppose this bill, the American Association of Retired People backs it, implying

that this election may be centered on issues rather than endorsements.

Bush is not the only Republican candidate, but if a Republican victory ensues, it is likely to be a Bush victory. If recent polls are accurate, and President Bush is defeated, the question remains—who will defeat him?

There are nine major Democratic hopefuls: Carol Moseley Braun, Wesley Clark, Howard Dean, John Edwards, Dick Gephardt, John Kerry, Dennis Kucinich, Joe Lieberman, and Al Sharpton.

According to CNN, Howard Dean has raised and spent the most money in his campaign with a total of \$14 million. John Kerry is second for campaign spending with \$4 million. However, neither of these candidates comes close to Bush's \$500 million campaign.

Most of the Democratic candidates look fairly similar on paper, with a few exceptions. Dennis Kucinich is far left and is the "only Presidential candidate who voted against the civil liberties-shredding Patriot Act," says the Kucinich for President campaign. Al Sharpton holds few public positions on such specific issues as Medicare solvency, prescription drug ben-

efits, and drilling in ANWR.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone Magazine, John Kerry used foul language in describing President Bush's tactics in Iraq. Such seemingly small "problems" during this crucial period before the primaries could cost a candidate victory.

The Democratic frontrunners right now are Howard Dean and Wesley Clark. While their stance on issues is distinctly different than those of the incumbent, George W. Bush, they remain closer to the middle than some of the other Democratic candidates.

The first primary election is in Washington, D.C., on January 13. California will hold the primary election on March 2 and New Mexico remains one of the last states to hold this election on June 1. Thus it will be months before the final presidential candidates are selected. Until then, more interviews, polls and plights for candidacy on late night entertainment shows are sure to be seen.

I have enough faith in the American public to believe President Bush will be defeated in 2004. But there is much to be seen in the upcoming months, and I do not care to wage as to who will defeat Bush.



MOVIEGOODS.COM

"Rudy," the story of a Notre Dame student with dreams to play football, is the perfect date movie with a balance of action and emotion.

Movies for every mood

By Mike Minicilli
STAFF WRITER

It figures that just as Christmastime and finals week approach, I have only one thing on my mind: the quest for the perfect date movie.

We are all aware of the multitude of garbage that hits the big screen week in and week out. But from the mass of waste emerge a few jewels every year that go down in film history as classics. Whether a cult favorite, a la "Dumb and Dumber," or a true standard of excellence like "Life is Beautiful," various types of movies are created to cater to the unique tastes of the common movie watcher.

Most of us already have our favorite flicks etched into the back of our motion picture-loving minds (those movies we willingly watch more than five times in any given year and randomly quote when the time seems just right). It is a given that "Saving Private Ryan" is the best war rendition, "Forrest Gump" serves as the finest drama, and "The Rock" ranks at the top in the action realm.

In my special categories section, "A Christmas Story" out laughs any of its yuletide competitors while "Pretty Woman" is by far the greatest feel good movie in recent years. Um, at least that is what all the girls say. Because, yeah, I have never seen it . . . let alone liked it. I swear.

But looking for the perfect date movie has eluded every college male since the phrase "dinner and a movie" first came into existence. Until now. Gentlemen, I present you with "Rudy."

You may be wondering why in the world your favorite newspaper writer would pick the true story of tiny Rudy Ruettiger, a

man who simply would not give up his dream of showing his family and friends that he had enough heart and talent to play football for the University of Notre Dame. It is not because I am a softy at heart (sorry ladies), nor did I choose this movie because it is chockfull of motivational pre-game speeches that I still preach to my teammates before every intramural sporting event.

I simply feel that this is one of the only flicks that is balanced to perfection, with just enough sports action for the males and a good amount of sentimental and heartfelt scenes for the female audience. So while we men are busy enjoying the bone-crushing football tackles scattered throughout the movie, we also score points in the teary eyes of our dates as we voluntarily sit through the mushy moments without one complaint whatsoever.

But viewers beware. The power of this film extends its dramatic effect in both directions. Some girls may become addicted to the interesting football aspect of the movie and actually enjoy watching grown men in tight pants make key plays on the field.

On the other hand, many a grown man has been known to shed a tear of joy or two, or "I got something in my eye" moments as I like to call them, when the little guy finally achieves his dream in the end. However, that bit of knowledge was also based on hearsay and not from personal experience. Because I never cry. I swear!

But, that is all from me this week. I hope I helped at least one budding relationship have a fruitful night in front of the VCR for both boy and girl. So, from the love doctor, I bid Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good date.

Commercialization of holiday season doesn't kill Christmas

By Natalie Zanzucchi
STAFF WRITER

In this capitalist, money driven society of ours, the Christian tradition of Christmas is seemingly lost among the "ching-ching" of cash registers and the barrage of marketing strategies.

But somehow, in the midst of

at the mall, and the lines are out of control in every store, however, no purchaser is standing in line to buy a gift for him or herself. During this season, churches are full, people are cheery, food drives and toy drives are common. And there is a certain kind of love for humanity that isn't so obvious the rest of the year.

While it is true that many

Christmas is celebrated. Children need to believe in more than a jolly fat man in a red suit. Intertwined in this is the kindness of people during the holiday season which invokes a far more important message than the discrepancy between Jesus and Santa Claus.

Between November and December, more people volunteer at soup kitchens, more people extend their time, money, and effort to their communities, more people sing, more people meet with family and friends, and more people love one another.

I will not let the warm and fuzzy feeling I get this time of year be solely attributed to corporate marketing ploys. Instead I vie for the idea that Christmastime is a season of love and celebration.

Regardless of the rationale behind it, it is beautiful. Call me sappy, or cheesy, but I refuse to believe the commercialism of Christmas has erased its true spirit.

"Children need to believe in more than a jolly fat man in a red suit."

commercialism, I believe the true spirit of Christmas underlies this season.

Sure, corporations like Coca-Cola have virtually created notions of Santa Claus, and pop culture pushes the idea of the quintessential white Christmas, but underneath it all, there is a stunning irony. At no other time of the year are we, as a society, so selfless.

There are zero parking spaces

people do not know where the celebration of Christmas came from, and even non-Christian families now celebrate this holiday, the real essence of this holiday is not lost. The distinction between the origin of Christmas and the spirit this holiday conjures should not be so definite.

"Peace on earth, good will to men." Isn't that the true meaning of Christmas? I still believe it is important to remember why

FEATURE

Fall 2003 release of
ASYLUM.

By Jennifer Shaeffer
FEATURE EDITOR

Get ready ladies and gents, ASYLUM. just came out this week. And student expressions are flowing free. In case you've been living under a rock these past few months and aren't up to date on the in's and out's of campus' publications (i.e. if you don't read the good ol' Vista) here's the 411.

ASYLUM. is USD's student comprised literary and art magazine. The publication has been around for years, but recently, under the watchful eye of editor Anthony Bacigalupo, USD sophomore, the content choices have evolved a bit. The coffee-table sized magazine can be found at Aromas or on the display tables in the UC. It is now comprised of various forms of art including paintings, photography, computer-generated images, and poetry.

"I think it attracts more attention being a visual/literary medium," Bacigalupo said. "Literature is a great form of expression, but I've noticed that people appreciate a higher percentage of images versus text. Sometimes too much literature can deter students who get enough reading in classes."

ASYLUM's compilation of student expression is an art form in itself and not one to be mass- distributed in mailboxes or on car windshields.

"Not everyone's interested in the content of the magazine and that's alright. I don't mass-distribute because I don't want to see it thrown away or discarded like a lot of other free, independent publications. The magazine takes a lot of time and energy to create, and production costs are pretty high," commented Bacigalupo.

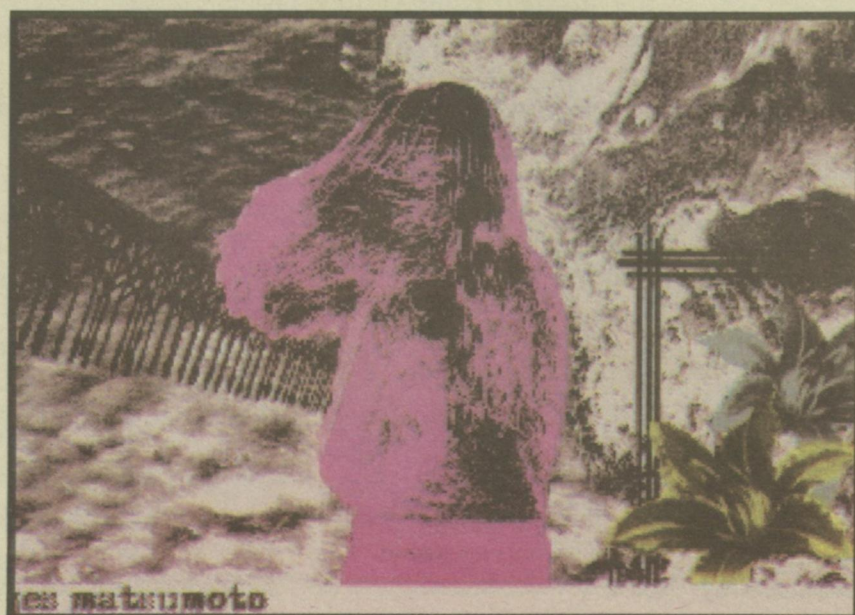
But consumption of the magazine is not difficult. Word spreads quickly, and a look around Aroma's proves that everyone seems to have a copy in hand, sippin' a cup of joe and nodding their heads in affirmation of it's quality. For this reason, Bacigalupo claims distribution isn't a problem. Last year 1,200 copies were produced and went so fast that people were asking for more but there simply weren't any left (make a note of that and pick yours up now).

Next semester yields big plans for ASYLUM. A promotional idea of selling t-shirts, artistically designed and sold to students is in the works. Proceeds of t-shirt sales will be given to Bayside Community Center and/or the Linda Vista Library for the purchase of art books and supplies for elementary school kids in Linda Vista. Bacigalupo hopes to gain local community involvement and support through the program titled: Linda Vista Youth Art Project.

If this artistic path of expression is one that catches your fancy, you're in luck because USD student are welcome to submit their work to the publication. Art or literature can be sent via email to asylum@sandiego.edu within the first month of the semester, (FYI, that means get creative for Spring '04!)

A preview of some of the selected works featured in the fall issue of ASYLUM. are presented here for your artistic appreciation and pleasure, but for a complete look, pick up your own edition and savor it.

ASYLUM.



when i was asked last semester to be the editor of
ASYLUM.
i didn't realize how blind our society can be.
it is time to change that.
it is time to open your eyes
art and literature have a way of capturing emotions and
feelings that we never knew existed.
art is not a reality. nor is it a dream.
art is in its own place. where it can be
seen, heard, felt, but never truly experienced
unless taken in by the mind.
hopefully, by viewing ASYLUM. you will begin to
understand different forms of expression through
art and literature.
(this magazine consists of these expressions by USD students)
the only constant is change
-heraclitus, ancient greek philosopher
-editor anthony bacigalupo



to move without apology
by seth o'byrne

to move without apology
to speak without permission
to write with only ink,
because it cannot be erased.
to ignore all grammar, spelling,
and other conventions
that tied generations down
to the dusty floorboards of
the way things are.
i will swim with the sharks
and take a bite myself.
i will carry stains into meetings
to speak my mind about the hungry.
i will not turn my back on the
75 inches and 5 senses
that tell me
to kiss you anywhere, anytime,
to talk about kissing you
to anyone, anything
to write about kissing you
to any lengths, at any cost
at the end of my day.
filled, remember, with no apologies,
i will tend to howl at you,
howling too, at the television,
and that crappy toaster which,
faithfully keeps us bound.
when the air is cold with blues,
when the workload spills down
onto the sticky kitchen floor,
i will be your advocate.
then, as a breeze blows travels
underneath our noses
i will pluck a trip for you and me,
not too sour, not too ripe, but
erring on the side of perfection.
i will fetch a trip called freedom.
the type that forms a lump in
your throat, as you cry,
with passion for living
with air for breathing
with your seat next to mine

on a lone bus, with no driver,
deep into the sand we will
burrow our feet.
as the sun playfully peeks
from the edge of a lofty cloud,
your headaches will evaporate.
your glee will grow to sigh.
you will not grow an inch,
but you will be happy and so will i.
and so many years later,
when so many will forget today,
you will still flag down
your gentle memory
to hitch a bumpy ride back to me
and this city, all drawn in ink.
i will sketch a day that lingers.
i will sketch a hand with fingers,
tightly drawn about your own.
as you tinker about this throne,
built of treats and endless movies,
so the sidewalks come with carpet
and the roads come whistling warmly.
i will have thanked you for this:
for being there, and wearing
your pajama pants and socks,
for remembering your sleeping bag,
and your deck of cards.
for building our room out of bed sheets,
and duct tape firmly binding.
for listening to me now
as i write and read with intent.
where you want will be from
what you want.
as i am from you.
what you want will be from
where you've been.
as i will be those roads.
my arms are your adventures,
so my shoulders be your pit stops.
you may circle my tender torso,
and follow my traffic signs,
but always you're my driver,
steering only on my track,
so i send you away while knowing
that you're always coming back.

Where in the hell did the hip-hop go?

An abbreviated road map to the underground

By Seth O'Byrne
STAFF WRITER

Hip-hop is like America. They were both founded by the persecuted who strove out of suffering and sang out of suppression. They both breathed in a new frontier and exhaled years of stodgy formula.

They also took only a few years to dramatically rewrite the rules and dominate the status quo. Both these bodies grew out of delicate forethought and vision. So both these bodies were made strong by their passionate convictions.

What draws America and hip-hop even closer in comparison is where they both are today, circa 2004. Both are led by faces that are deemed puppets for big business. Both are dominated by the "most presentable" rather than the "most righteous."

Finally, both have spread their vision across the globe, only to lose sight of it at home. Well, America's obviously lost and if you think shooting car bombers is going to change what's wrong with our country, you might want to look closer to home for those terrorists.

Hip-hop, on the other hand, might still have a chance. Its departure from the vision has only recently occurred and there are still a few big names that care about the message.

The message... let's talk about this. It might seem like a vague notion, as in 'the system' for enraged punks or "the man" for empowered Panthers. Like both of these ideas, the message means something slightly different to every person.

Regardless of minor differences, the message is a social one. In the late rap icon Tupac Shakur's song, "To Live and Die in LA," he writes, "We might fight with each other, but I promise you this/ we'll burn this b*tch down, get us pissed."

This rap was written about a post-Rodney King Los Angeles, driven by the feeling that the worst brutality was not always found in illegal violence, but in our legal system. As the voice of his generation, Shakur urged people to question authority and shake the old structures of American hatred.

Other groups, like Public Enemy, Common, and Dead Prez, spoke out on issues of classism, racism, and religion. No matter what the topic, there was something at stake greater than money. This was the message: there was something more important than fame and loot.

Today, the music industry is dominated by logo artists like Nelly, 50 Cent, and Baby. It's as if you can hear echoes of 1950s record label execs saying, "Ok, now you're the bad one so wear a bandage, you're the sensitive one so look down a lot," and so on.

50 Cent has a culminating line of wisdom that recently hit the airwaves. Keep the erroneous comparison of him to Tupac in mind, please read: "Now shorty, she in the club, she dancing for dollars/ she got a thing for that Gucci, that Fendi, that Prada"

Suddenly hip-hop is not the Neo-Steinbeckian response to class struggle; it's about those rims that keep moving when the car stops (spinners). Granted, hip-hop also serves a cultural function and so we must leave room for lifestyle lyrics.

Still, our top hip-hop voices offer less and less every year. Is this because America's social problems disappeared and poor urban youth are now being sent to Harvard by the busload?

Of course not. It's because, according to Wendy Day of the Hip-Hop Coalition, over 60% of the rap CD purchasing public is white middle class kids.

So what's happening? A guess might be that the consumers are writing lyrics in dollar bills, while the artists are taking orders from marketing groups.

What it all boils down to is preference. If you prefer singing along to "Hot in Herre" by Nelly, nothing is wrong and this article is bunk. For those of you who project dismay, disillusionment, and later vomit on the 29-year-old law student from BYU that mouths the words to "Crazy in Love" you might look for something different.

Following three weeks of research that included scouring hip-hop message boards, Internet sites, and independent magazines, I have found some good alternatives.

From the UK, Ms. Dynamite (msdynamite.co.uk) has recently hit the charts. She is no longer an underground act, as she was with the UK 2-step act So Solid Crew, but she gives her words precedence.

In Ms. Dynamite's own words, "I am not here to be a stereotypical feisty young girl that just wants to get up onstage and chat. I'm actually here with what I believe is something important to say."

The Streets (thestreets.co.uk) are another UK act that you may or may not be familiar with. The Streets are mainly festival performers on US tours, but they have completely stolen the attention of most listeners abroad. Their style is highly flexible and almost conversational as the lead MC tackles hot topics. The Streets have almost a beat-quality, where Kerouac-like lyrics set themselves loosely around non-descript instrumentals. The Streets are a natural and well-appreciated response to earlier acts like The Digable Planets, De La Soul, and Arrested Development.

Within the US, a rising star by the name of Talib Kweli (talibkweli.com) is taking many lengths to re-elevate hip-hop's social value. Kweli says: "I always make responsible music...I have the inclination to speak about things that are going on..."

Kweli's 2002 solo album brought him much respect in the world of hip-hop and even warranted collaboration with guest MCs Mos Def, Pharoahe Monch and Black

Thought (all three of which are lyrical legends). But Kweli's prominence in hip-hop started back in 1998 with the legendary (in underground circles) album, *Mos Def and Talib Kweli Are: Black Star*.

Talib Kweli is also part of a syndicate named OkayPlayer.com that brings together educated, well-spoken rappers like Common, Black Thought, Erykah Badu, Dilated Peoples, and more.

In the syndicate's words, Okayplayer is not a record label, but rather a community "made up of like-minded recording artists." This is one of many groups in the US that are seeking to reclaim hip-hop as an art form, not a widget business.

Finally, despite their fame and loot, Mos Def, Eminem, Outkast, Souls of Mischief, Sleep, Cee-lo, Tag, and many more unnamed still work to give poetry precedence.

It is not that hip-hop is completely lost, but rather that those who love uncut minds and lyrics that stand the test of money must now look deeper for new stars. As listeners and consumers we must also recognize our own place in hip-hop music.

As consumers, the dollars spent in the record store are done so with the same effectiveness that your vote is spent at the ballot box. With this in mind, consider your part in music and your role in its elevation.

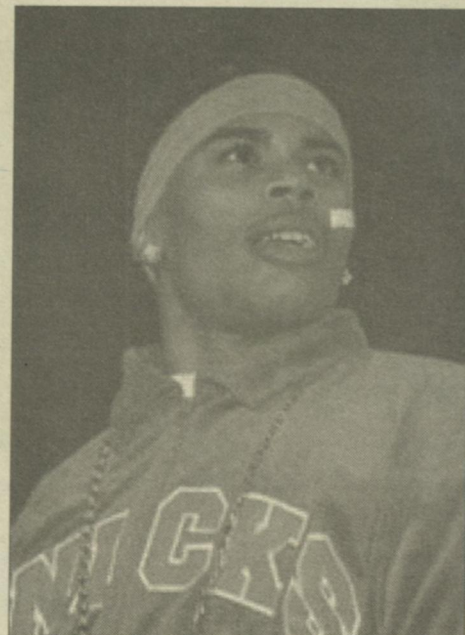
PROMISING ARTISTS



WWW.DIV.CA/OUTKAST

VS

IT'S GETTIN' BUNK HERRE



ROLLINGSTONE.COM

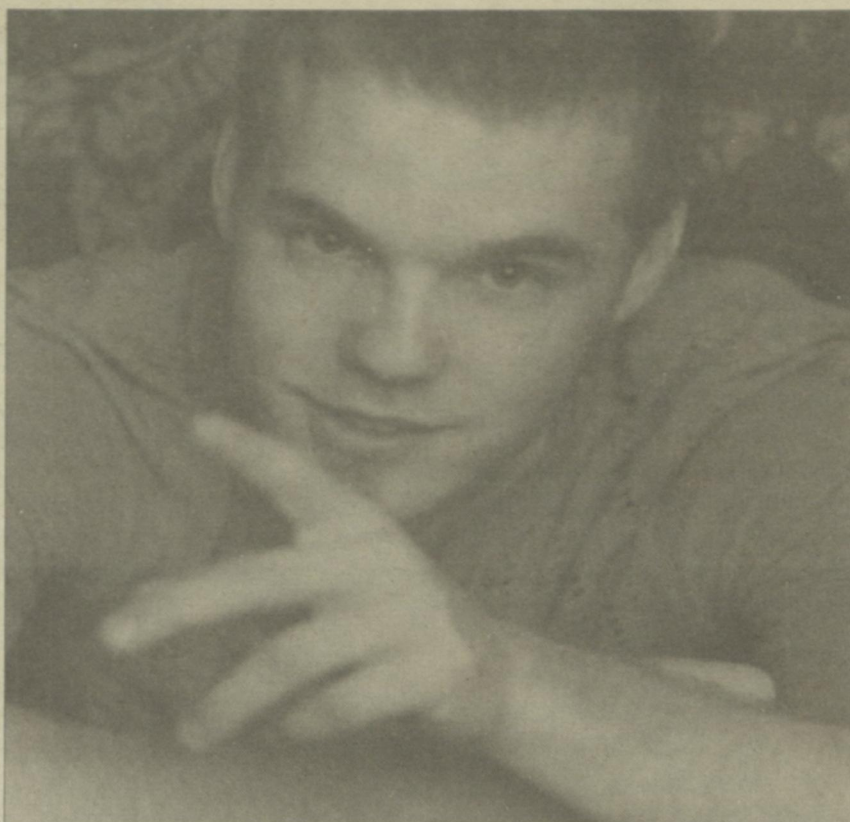
Marc Broussard Review

By Elyse M. Rohrer
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Marc Broussard has a booming, soul-filled voice that no one could possibly make better by adding highlights and color contacts. In other words, Broussard has his fair share of natural talent that was evident the night of Sept. 25 when he opened for Maroon 5 at 'Canes.

The son of Louisiana Hall of Fame guitarist Ted Broussard, music is in Marc's southern blood; at age 5, he sang "Johnny B Goode" on stage with his father and he knew all the words.

Broussard spent this fall touring with the Dave Matthews Band and Maroon 5 with Gavin DeGraw. When taking the stage, Broussard has natural stage presence and a dynamic flow of energy. His voice cannot be described as anything other than amazing. He is like a guy version of Etta James. Having seen him on stage, I thought that his CD *Momentary Set-*



Marc Broussard jams onstage; however, his album fails to capture his live dynamic energy.

JOHN CHIASSON

back would be equally amazing.

It seems as though the recording studio restricted his talent. The CD lacked that same amazing energy he had in spades onstage, possibly because the album contains only eight tracks. There are a few songs like "The Wanderer" and "Just Like That" which get in your head and don't seem to want to get out. They are poppy a la John Mayer. After the first four songs, Broussard gets religious and stays religious for the remainder of the album. My favorite religious song is "Gotta be More." It has rhythmic qualities of acoustic rock and meets smooth R&B vocals; it leaves me wishing that I could just belt out the vocals like he does.

Armed with pure, raw talent and a passion for music, Marc Broussard has a great future ahead of him at only 21 years of age. Go and see him live if you can. If he put out a live CD, I would pay good money to get my hands on one.

P!NK tempts you to *Try This*

By Ingrid Hernandez-Monroy
STAFF WRITER

Need a boost to jumpstart the day? Try This: P!nk's newest album promises to heighten all senses to a sweet blissful state.

For those not familiar with P!nk's songs, there is always one recurring theme in all of her albums. This theme is most accurately described as "girl power." It is one of the best, longest-lasting pick-me-ups from the R&B/pop genre that one can get for under \$20.

P!nk's first album, *Can't Take Me Home*, is full of songs that show off her vocal talent, sticking mostly to

strict R&B tunes that take listeners back to pumped up gospel mixed with soul. The second album has a lot to offer as well. *Missundaztood* is a good mix of fast-paced as well as slow songs that hit all the right notes.

Personally speaking as a fan of P!nk, *Can't Take Me Home* is the album produced with the best sound quality, which is perfectly paired with lyrics that send a powerful message to listeners. *Can't Take Me Home* provided P!nk with a good springboard to be admitted into the world of fame, although she seems to be taking her music to a new direction with *Try This*.

Recently, P!nk announced that she is no longer interested in producing music that is so heavily influenced by R&B. Thus, she co-wrote all of the songs on her third album, which is a compilation of songs with impressively deep lyrics that are easy to misinterpret...with the exception of two. Naturally, those two songs will become her next singles.

Not interested in P!nk's music because it sounds too 'poppy' on the radio? Don't be fooled into thinking that she is the typical airhead pop star. As a live performer, P!nk is excellent. She changes her songs according to her mood and most often than not will bust

out a performance that sounds better than the produced tracks on P!nk's albums.

After careful listening to her new album, it is easy to notice a change occurring in P!nk's musical style. Two CDs and about five tattoos later, P!nk's voice sounds more sensual and smooth, giving *Try This* a personal touch.

There is just one word of warning. A minor but very apparent disappointment about P!nk's third album is that she no longer bleeps out her own curse words; a once revered signature artistic detail from her last two albums. Oh, well. Get over it.

Jet rips off The Stones and AC/DC

By Andrew Marzoni
STAFF WRITER

You may have seen the commercial. You know, the Apple iPod commercial with all those crazy silhouettes jumping up and down and freaking out to that dirty little riff-rock ditty.

If you pay attention to that sort of thing, you may recognize the song "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" by the 70s throwback rockers, Jet. If you haven't seen the commercial, you may have read about the so-called New Stones in various music publications,

or heard their catchy single on the radio. To all of y'all out there who have caught yourselves tapping your toes to the "1-2-3s" or the "Come Ons," I offer a warning: do not buy Jet's debut album, *Get Born*.

I admit, Jet's performance at the Scene in September while opening for the Kings of Leon lured me in. As soon as their album was released last month, I purchased it. Their live performance was great: they were loud and energetic; one of their songs has a harmonica solo; and the drummer sings, which has to be the coolest thing

in the whole world.

Well, folks, regardless of how this seasoned cynic was enticed into paying money for such redundant rubbish, it remains redundant rubbish nonetheless.

Throughout most of the album, Jet rips off AC/DC, the Rolling Stones, and every late-70s bar band who was trying to be the next Zeppelin. And if that's not enough, there's a plethora of sappy power ballads that sound like Oasis covering Damn Yankees (remember them—the early-nineties Styx/Ted Nugent side project?). The

only redeeming moments are "Lazy Gun" and "Move On" (because of the harmonica solo).

As Strokes guitarist Albert Hammond, Jr., was quoted in "Rolling Stone," Jet "makes me not want to play music." Well, Albert, I disagree. Jet makes me want to play music, because if they can get a record deal this far along in the retro-rock revival, then I could grow a mustache, start smoking, buy a guitar and be the next big thing. For that, Jet is inspiration for all of us dirty-haired wannabe rock-gods out there.

Merry Christmas
From the Vista Staff

"The Simple Life" (also known as the scripted life)

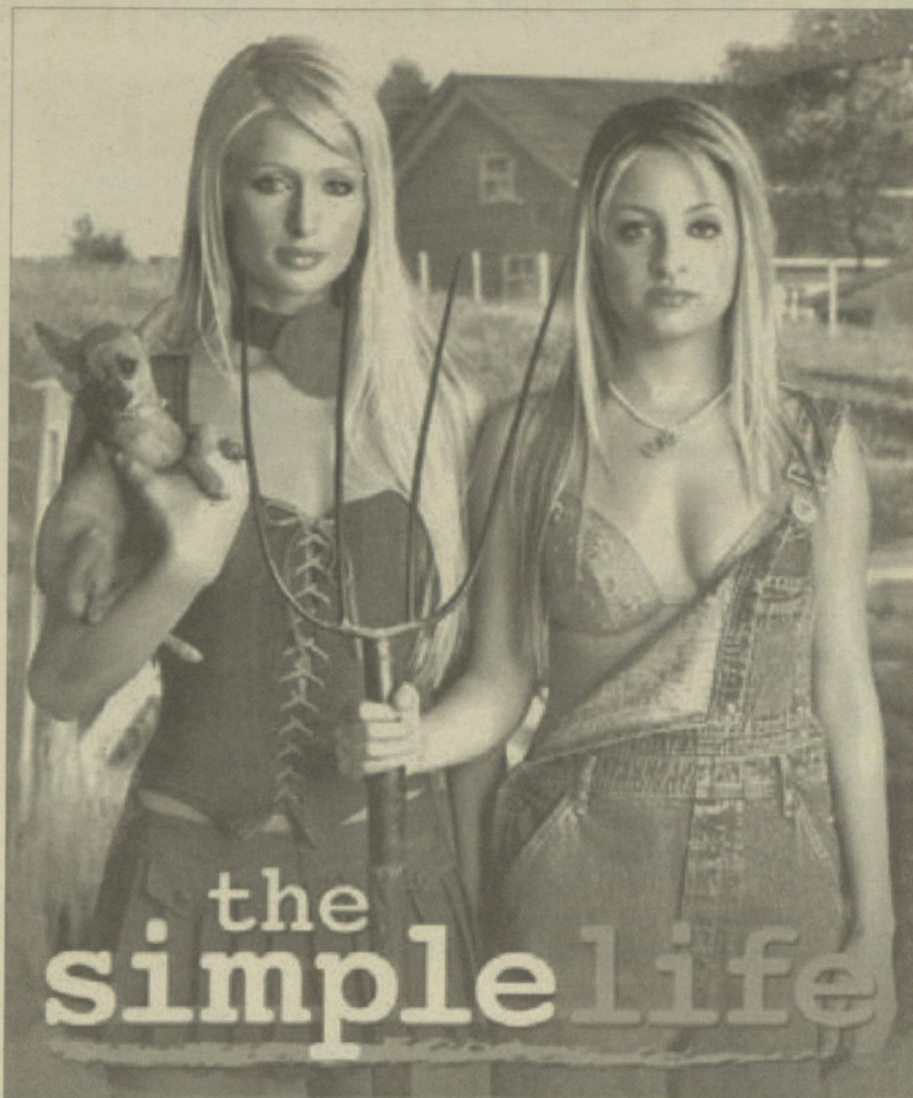
By Jason Wanamaker
STAFF WRITER

Take an international party girl heiress and her friend, the daughter of a famous musician, pry away their credit cards and cell phones and place them in farm country and you have Fox's new reality show "The Simple Life."

"The Simple Life," which premiered on Tuesday, December 2, follows the lives of hotel heiress Paris Hilton and her best friend Nicole Richie as they are shipped off to Altus, Arkansas, population 817, and made to live the simple life. What follows is an updated version of the 60s classic "Green Acres."

Just like the scripted show *Green Acres*, the "Simple Life," has its moments where it seems premeditated and contrived. In the first two episodes the girls find themselves in situations that seem planned. Take, for instance, the pickup truck waiting for them at the airport in Altus that does not reverse or their trip to the local grocery store in which they are given a grocery list which totals up to more than the \$50 they are given.

In the second episode, the scriptedness of the show becomes



Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie rival the "Rich Girls" for mainstream media's lowest common denominator award.

FOX.COM

even more apparent. Taking a break from milking cows, Hilton and Richie slip into their bikinis that they conveniently remembered to bring because a hot tub was fortunately located on the dairy farm's premises.

In commenting on her "Simple Life" experience in the December issue of "In Touch" magazine, Paris Hilton is quoted as saying, "I felt like it was an acting job. I just played a part. I played the part of the Beverly Hills girl. I wanted to wear jeans and act normal but the stylists bought us little skirts and high heels and I was upset about it."

Although "The Simple Life" seems almost as fake as the extensions on Paris Hilton's head, the program has its moments and can be considered a combination between the MTV reality show "Rich Girls" and the portrayed intelligence of MTV reality "Newlywed" Jessica Simpson.

"The Simple Life" is quite popular among viewers who tune in for the comedy provided by Hilton and Richie as they find themselves fish out of water in new surroundings. The show can be seen Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. on Fox.

Grammy nominations show promise for aging academy

By Alfonso Magana
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, the music academy released their nominations for the best of the best in music for the last year. While the academy showed some signs of enlightenment by finally acknowledging musicians like the White Stripes and also nominating musical genres like hip-hop in the general categories, but the academy also stayed true to form by nominating old standbys as well. Sting and Tony Bennett again? Here is a look at some of the categories in this year's Grammys.

Record of the Year:

The Black Eyed Peas featuring Justin Timberlake "Where Is The Love," Beyonce featuring Jay-Z, "Crazy In Love," Coldplay "Clocks," Eminem "Lose Yourself," and OutKast "Hey Ya!"

As the only artist of the five nominees also competing in the Song of the Year category (a songwriter's award, as opposed to an artist's award), Eminem might be a good bet here. He won the Oscar nod and the Grammys might notice that.

There are two dark horses that could spoil it for Eminem. OutKast's "Hey Ya!" is getting loads of airplay during this crucial voting period, which could help grant the duo a win. Coldplay's "Clocks" has the advantage of the being the sole non hip-

hop nominee in the bunch. It seems like the academy is slowly warming towards Coldplay, as evident by its three Grammy wins within two years.

Who should win here? OutKast's "Hey Ya!" for its energy and enthusiasm, or Coldplay's "Clocks"?

Anything snubbed in this category? Well, theoretically, Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" should have been nominated, as it was the past year's big

The White Stripes against hip-hop's funky OutKast. Should both groups split the vote, the tepid voters could give the win to Evanescence. However, even critics gave raves to both White Stripes and OutKast. It seems that the win will go to OutKast mainly because the White Stripes album came out so long ago.

Interestingly, the only solo albums in the race, Timberlake and Elliot, will more likely than not have to settle with conso-

cially with no album nomination for him.

Hedley has the "solo female singer" buzz that might land her in the prime spot of an upset, but it doesn't seem possible, unless voters actually listen to all five nominees. And if voters remember their music history, they might give "new artist" to Fountains of Wayne. Sean Paul can go home with his Best Reggae Album Grammy.

Best of the bunch in this incredibly sub-par lineup? Hedley, just barely over Fountains, although giving them Best New Artist is just plain wrong, considering their time together.

Snubbed new artists here include the powerful Damien Rice, local artist (and VH1 "it" boy) Jason Mraz, and American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson.

Video of the Year

Johnny Cash "Hurt," Coldplay "The Scientist," Madonna "Die Another Day," Martina McBride "Concrete Angels," and OutKast "Hey Ya!"

The late Johnny Cash will easily win here, for his breathtaking and touching video of the Nine Inch Nails cover song "Hurt." Coldplay and OutKast could spoil here, but this is the voter's last chance to award Cash, an opportunity that they are not likely to pass up. Missy Elliot's "Work It," which won the VMA for Best Video this year, should have been in this lineup as well.



Gangsta rapper 50 Cent is one among many young artists that are revitalizing an aging talent pool for the music academy.

WWW.50CENT.COM

power ballad anthem. Voters should also have left a spot open for the works of Album of the Year contenders Missy Elliot for "Work It" and Justin Timberlake for "Cry Me A River."

Album of the Year

"Elephant" The White Stripes, "Fallen" Evanescence, "Justified" Justin Timberlake, "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" OutKast, and "Under Construction" Missy Elliot.

It's a battle between the rock artists

lization prizes elsewhere. Overlooked in this category? Lucinda Williams' quiet "World Without Tears," and Warren Zevon's last album "The Wind."

New Artist of the Year

Evanescence, Fountains of Wayne, Heather Hedley, Sean Paul and 50 Cent.

The Grammys will give it to Evanescence simply because of their Album of the Year nomination. There's a possibility that the year's biggest artist, 50 Cent, could win, but it seems unlikely, espe-

SPORTS**SAC provides insight from the NFL**

By Ryan and Cindy McGee
STAFF WRITERS

On November 11, a former National Football League linebacker spoke to a room full of both students and student-athletes about life after college and preparing for the real world.

Ron George, who is currently the director of Player Development for the San Diego Chargers, understands the emotions of anxiety and uncertainty students experience as the end of their college career approaches. He also understands the importance of fitting a few hours per week into our busy schedules now for career development that will pay off later.

He recommended that students explore internship placement with local businesses and gain work experience while networking with successful professionals in their field of interest.

George described interning as "free labor", but stressed that the experience will develop your work ability while benefiting your resume and creating future connections.

Students in attendance appreciated George's advice and expressed positive feedback. Senior football player Jeff Incerty said, "Ron's presentation was insightful," and sophomore



COURTESY OF CINDY MCGEE
Retired NFL linebacker Ron George at the seminar.

football player Josh Sanders added, "Ron was very inspiring. I was influenced by his speech and I'm glad I came tonight."

George also enjoyed the evening, saying, "I had a great time speaking to the students and I am really honored to be invited."

The presentation was hosted by the Student-Athlete Council as part of their NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program. Assistant Director of Athletics for Academics, Shaney Fink said, "Career development is an important part of the collegiate experience. For our students participating in college athletics this program was especially

enlightening. Student-athletes' goals tend to reflect what they plan to achieve in college. This program served to remind athletes that there is life after college athletics, that this new life will begin very soon and that they need to take action to prepare."

George played eight seasons as an NFL linebacker appearing in 125 career games with the Kansas City Chiefs, Minnesota Vikings, and Atlanta Falcons. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and is also a financial planner registered by the NFL Players Association.

Men's basketball team falls to crosstown rivals SDSU

By Natalie Ackel
STAFF WRITER

The battle of the San Diego rivals resulted in a 66-63 San Diego State victory. USD came back from a twenty point deficit in the 2nd half and turned what appeared to be a blowout game into one which came down to the last shot.

Commenting on the twenty-point recovery by USD, SDSU head coach Steve Fisher explained, "Twenty point leads go real fast. Scoring comes in spurts, it just happens. We missed a dozen little shots."

USD's head coach Brad Holland said, "We don't have a 40 minute team yet...we did everything in the second half."

Although USD's performance was strong in the second half it was stunted by a technical foul called on head coach Holland with 31 seconds remaining in the game. Brandon Heath made both free throws.

After the game, head coach Holland expressed his feeling on the call, "I didn't swear at him, I didn't do anything. All I said was, 'Dave, that was a foul.' Brice (Vounang, #12) got fouled on the block. I've never been this frustrated, I'll be honest with you."

USD played well, they played to their strengths, they got the ball inside to their big men," explained SDSU's team high scoring player Brandon Heath.

USD's top performers were Brice Vounang with 21 points and Brandon Lechtenberg with 15 points. The Toreros played tough in the second half but were unable to seal the win. Attendance was a sell out of 5,100 at the Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Last Saturday the Toreros lost an away game to Utah, 82-39. Their next game is away versus the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Women's team off to a rough start, but remaining optimistic

By Eileen Graham
STAFF WRITER

Despite their valiant efforts, the lady Toreros lost their fifth of six games last weekend. After suffering a devastating loss in double overtime in last Thursday's match-up against New Mexico State, they hoped for a win against Long Beach State on Saturday; unfortunately they came up short and lost by an eight-point margin.

These last few weeks have been crushing to team morale. "We know we're good enough to beat these teams," said Marta Menuez, a senior. "We just need to finish the game."

The women's basketball team is a new team, likely contributing to their difficulty in play. They have five freshman and five sophomores on a team of 12 players.

The two seniors are looking to use their experience, talent and guidance to lead the Toreros to some significant wins when

the West Coast Conference games begin in January.

"Our team has a lot of potential," said Melissa Padgett, a senior. "But we are still figuring out what works and what doesn't. When we figure it out, we'll do well."

One of the most heartbreaking points of the season thus far has been the numerous close scores that have ended the games.

"Having a 1-5 record doesn't reflect our team," said Menuez. "We are losing close games and soon we will be winning those."

The two seniors, who led the team in points and experience, are optimistic. "The season is early and as the season progresses they hope to see a more balanced shooting on the court," says Menuez.

The women have one more month to prepare for the conference opener against Saint Mary's on January 10th. They finished 5th overall in the WCC last year.

Torero Results and upcoming home games**Men's Basketball (1-6)**

Lost to SDSU 66-33 Wed. 12/3

Lost to Utah 82-39 Sat. 12/6

Tues. 12/23 vs. UC San Diego 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball (3-5)

Lost to New Mexico State 79-75(2ot)

Sun. 12/21 vs. U. of Pacific 2 p.m.

Mon. 12/22 vs. Oral Roberts 7 p.m.

Sun. 12/28 vs. Georgetown 6 p.m.

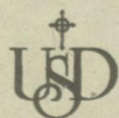
Volleyball (17-13)

Lost to UCLA 3-0 Fri. 12/5



ElyseM. Rohrer
 RYAN ATWOOD
 Craig Smith
 MARISSA COOPER
 Danielle Hashem
 SANDY COHEN
 Jeff Garbaczewski
 SETH COHEN
 Erin Toohey
 KIRSTEN COHEN
 Jen Shaeffer
 JIMMY COOPER
 John Piranian
 JULIE COOPER
 Jeff Piatt
 LUKE WARD
 Elisabeth Thordin
 Jason Treter
 SUMMER ROBERTS
 Jackie Jones
 ANNA STERN
 Ray Galvan
 KAITLIN COOPER
 Andrea Dammer
 Christiane DeSalvo
 Gina Marconi
 HOLLY FISCHER
 Sean Baldwin
 DAWN ATWOOD
 Kelly Galvin
 RACHEL (SANDY'S BOSS)
 Karen Kreuzer
 CALEB NICHOL
 Kara Duffy
 Monica Gavin
 NORLAND (LUKE'S FRIEND)
 Ross Fatemi
 TREY COOPER
 Favi Morales
 HAILEY NICHOL
 David Sullivan
 FRANK WARD
 MARIE MINNICK
 MEREDITH WARD

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University of San Diego

Hoodlum Crime Report

December 4

Manchester Village - Public Safety responded to a call from an intoxicated student complaining about mice in the area. All twelve mice were taken to detox. The student was then taken to Disneyland.

December 5

Camino Hall - Public Safety recieved a call about an intoxicated student. Student was taken into Immaculata and forced to pray.

A faculty member reported having her car stolen in the Olin Hall parking lot. Public Safety didn't bother to respond. Nobody likes her anyway and she assigns too much homework.

December 6

Vistas - Public Safety responded to a report of a female wearing a miniskirt and uggs while studying. The student was promptly beaten.

December 7

Mahe Hall - Public Safety was notified that a drunken student was setting fire to Mahe Hall. The student promised to put it out when he was finished so Public Safety let him go with a warning.

Missions B - A student called Public Safety to report a stolen computer. Nobody picked up.

University Terrace Apartments - Public Safety responded to an incident where three students fell from the top of the roof into another person's living room. Only the student found wearing a pair of Ugg boots with a miniskirt was taken to detox.

Jenny Craig Pavilion - Ten students found hording Pat and Oscar's breadsticks. The students were flogged ten times for each breadstick found in their possession.

Camino Hall - Two residents found to be smoking candy cigarettes in their dorm room. The students were thrown in the fountain in an effort to put the fire out.

December 8

Mahe Hall - Naked student found on the Mahe Hall lawn after attempting to imitate a flying squirrel from the fourth floor.

Fountain - A pair of Ugg boots was found in the fountain. A student freaked out and braved the rapids of the fountain in order to rescue her overpriced fuzz.

Tecolote Canyon - Student found streaking in nothing but a smile.

December 9

An intoxicated student was discovered skinny dipping in the fountain. Officers that arrived at the scene had a good laugh about it, then stole the students clothes and ran away.

Mahe Hall - Two students were found stuck inside the elevator. The students were rescued then taken immediately to detox.

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- Breaking up/ Damage Control
- Laundry
- Bodyguard
- Toilet bowl scrubbing
- Miscellaneous

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USD La View Index 2003

Percentage of USD administrators who say there is a budget crisis: 100

Average salary of an overly paid USD administrator: \$103,200

Rank of excess financial aid as reason for deficit given by administration: 1

Actual rank of financial aid as cause for the fiscal deficit: 8

Amount of extra financial aid awarded in 2003-04: \$10 million

Number of students positively affected by the aid mistake: 2,879

Students who believe the mistake was worth the cost: 2,879

Chances of meeting a student on USD financial aid: 2/3

Chances of meeting the president: 1/1,000,000

Income of the president per year \$275,000

Income per year earned by USD grounds keeper: \$14,600

Median home price in San Diego Country in 2003: \$205,000

Amount in dollars the presi-

dent pays for housing per year: 0

Size of the president's mansion in square feet: 5,054

Size of a doubled freshman dorm in square feet: 108

Cost of the presidential inauguration week: \$270,000

Number of students who believe the presidential inauguration dinner was worth the cost: 123

Number of students who attended the dinner: 764

Actual rank of the inauguration week as reason for the budget crisis: 1

Population density on the Casa de Alcala hill per acre: 1

Population density in Tokyo per acre: 30,000

Servings of sushi eaten per person in Japan daily: 2

Cost of sushi for official USD events per annum: \$4 million

Probability that tuition will increase each year: 100%

Percentage increase since the year 2000: 20

Rank of sushi as the reason of the price-hike: 3

Amount of money the

Alumni Association hopes to raise in order to offset the increase: \$500 million

Cost of the new alumni building: \$25 million

Percentage of students who believe the center will serve as an excellent party locale: 80

Number of students who ride the beach tram daily: 120

Average monthly rent paid per student living at Mission Beach: \$600

Ratio in dollars of designer clothes purchased by beach residents compared to food bought in Rwanda: 400:1

Ratio in dollars of cocaine purchased by South Mission Beach residents compared to alcohol: 5:1

Cost of special tram service per beach rider annually: \$667

Cost each privileged rider pays: \$0

Extra cost per USD resident parking pass because of the beach tram: \$70

Number of students who have never ridden the beach mobile: 4,345

Percentage of students who

would like to see the tramline terminated: 98.3

Number of tram drivers who want their music back: 14

Cost of a lawsuit if the music is reinstated: \$5 million

Total cost of alcohol per academic year by USD students: \$30 million

Number of chairs tossed from balconies or windows on average each year by drunken students: 15.7

Total cost of books per academic year by USD students: \$1.5 million

Percentage of students caught for an MIP while wearing a backpack: 16

Number of confiscated backpacks that had books: 0

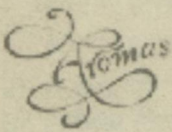
Ratio of students taken to detox on Halloween compared to typical Friday night: 27:1

Chances of being sober and still going to detox: 8/9

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JOHN & JEN-NESS: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY LET THE NUTS OUT OF THE PEANUT GALLERY

By Jen Shaeffer
& John Piranian
Jimmy & Julie Cooper



Welcome to USD, where your education is far from free and bubbly blondes parade around in platform heels, giggling with glee.

An untouchable bubble, set high on a hill, the late Joan B. Kroc hooked us up in her will. Must've been those tasty Big Mac's that helped foot the bill.

Pristine grounds, manicured with care, if you go to Aromas you can count on hearing John Mayer. Or perhaps be antisocial in Copley's dungeon layer.

Oh s***, here comes fall semester's final examination station. Anxious students fight procrastination. Or often engage in mental masturbation.

Getting ready for that end of the year bash, mistletoe madness will have us slamming eggnog until we crash, if you want a red cup, bring your cash.

Here comes Santa flying down from the North Pole, hopefully he won't fall out of the sleigh and crack his jolly skull. But not to worry, surely spoiled USD kids won't get stockings filled with coal.



JP's Top Ten Movies List of 2003

Here is the best of the best; the cream of the crop. If you have not caught any of these blockbuster flicks, make sure to purchase them for you and all of your friends in the spirit of the Holidays. Enjoy the show!

"Terminator 3: Rise Against the Machines." Arnold outdid himself in this one. As if groping women's J-Lo assets weren't enough, the governor is now wrestling with women. You gotta be proud to be from Caleefornia.

"Malibu's Most Wanted" Jaime Kennedy's Xperience has got nothing on this tale.

"The Real Cancun" This documentary-style flick portrays actions that no USD student would ever participate in. With booty contests and inebriated booze cruises, this realistic drama depicts every student's worst nightmare...partying at the beach.

"From Justin to Kelly" These American Idols turned movie stars capture your heart with their harmonious tunes and scandalous love affair. You've gotta love Justin's curls.

"The League of Extraordinary Gentleman" Since all of the characters in this film are fictions of classic literature, most Americans didn't get this flick...but you've gotta love Sean Connery in a modern action film. That accent is so kick a**.

"The Hulk" This film fantastically shows what happens when the impossible turns possible. One question though: What happens to his shorts when the Hulk returns to his normal body size...and for that matter what happens to the Hulk's green penis?

"Gigli" This J-Lo jiggle booty epic rivals films like "A Clockwork Orange" and "Gone With the Wind." Beniffer have a promising future in film ahead of them.

"The Cat In The Hat" Lord, I wish the networks would keep running that Burger King commercial for at least 15 years.

"My Bosses Daughter" A tremendously complex plot fuels this one as a sure-fire Oscar contender this year. Ashton Kutcher is a lock for The Best Male Actor award.

"Daredevil" Ben Affleck turns in another great performance with this comic book turned major motion picture extravaganza. I can't wait for the sequel.

The Vista's Fashion- Po-Po-5-0

UGGS

Ugg? You mean Uggly! J/K! We love Uggs, they are totally in this season.

For most, wearing warm, fuzzy boots equals "OMG, it's cold outside!"

For cute and totally trendy USD girls, wearing warm, fuzzy boots equals "OMG, I am cute and super trendy along with all of my friends, like duh!"

Handbags

Mini-me, look out! Trendy, leather handbags are your competition. You could not even fit in one of those. That is why we love 'em, love 'em, love 'em.

We are so totally pleased that microscopic phones are totally in. If not, how else could we carry around such tiny handbags?

Thank you so much, Derek Zoolander for making this possible. We will never forget you.

Huge Watches

We love it that everyone has the exact same wrist-watch. You know those huge watches with super cute leather bands?

Well, we love them. They say, "OMG, I can tell you what time it is and so can all of my super trendy friends."

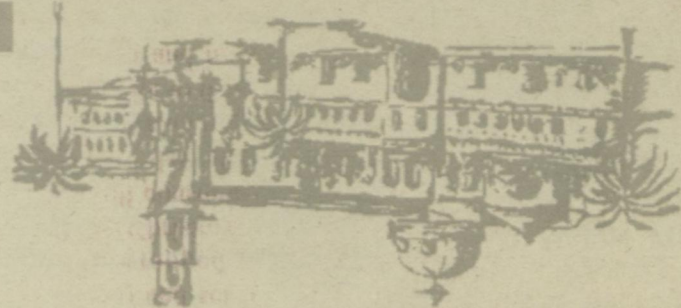


Deep
PAGE 14
Jenn and John
wrote a poem



Not really news
PAGE 14
The Vista fashion police
take charge

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LA VIEW

Thursday, December 11, 2003

Volume 40. Issue 24b

USD presents the OC tram



RAY GALVAN

Overhead storage compartments will be provided for Louis Vuitton bags.

By Elyse M. Rohrer
Ryan Atwood

Public Safety has just announced that, in an effort to spend some of the \$7 million surplus that the University has, it will purchase two new trams with service to Orange County, Calif.

"We understand that a large population of USD students are from the Orange County area and we strive to accommodate our students," a university official said.

The trams will leave from the fountain and take students to South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, Calif.

The new trams will be equipped with a DVD player and a personal screen in the

back of each seat. Each seat will also be equipped with a seat warmer. In case students get hungry or feel the need to take part in a sugar high, there will also be red-rope licorice dispensers in every seat area.

"We realize that the trip could get pretty boring," one Public Safety official said. "We will only show films that have been approved by the Student Issues Board." When films are not being shown, "tram drivers will bump everything from Mozart and Christian rock to Howard Stern."

The new trams will begin operation on Jan. 26, 2004. Right now the new trams are being equipped with dubs and tinted windows.

There will be a kick-off party to celebrate the installation of the new tram on Jan. 25, 2004. The party will be held at none other than the very demure Legion. The festivities will feature a live performance from Celine Dion (who is taking a night off from her stint in Las Vegas); an ice sculpture flown in from Palm Springs, Calif.; swans flown in from the San Diego Zoo; Alf (who is flying in from his retirement in Ohio); and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches flown in from Hong Kong.

Uncle Jesse of Full House fame will be the emcee of the festivities. (By the way, Uncle Jesse invented white cheddar popcorn and music.)

How to be your own secret santa

By Jason Treter
Summer Roberts

It's that time of year when your friends or the people at the office are having those silly "Secret Santa" parties. For those of you who don't know, it works like this. People are assigned a person and buy them a \$10 or \$15 gift. Then, everyone exchanges their gifts secretly. It's a neat idea, but a bit played out. If you receive a useful gift, then it is fun, but half the time you are given something funky like soap on a rope or worse. The kick in the pants comes when you want to return the gift you received, but there is one convenient problem: you have no idea who gave you the gift. So, you are stuck with something that you never would have bought in the first place. Usually, this gift will be re-wrapped and re-gifted at next year's exchange.

In your best interest, I got to thinking: "What if I could

be my own secret Santa, for once?" That was it; that was the idea that I knew children would sing praises of for years to come. Here is the way that I devised for someone to become their own Secret Santa during the holiday season.

First off, you're going to need a friend (chauffeur) to drive you during your escapades. If you cannot find someone who is willing to partake in the madness of your Secret Santa adventure, then a taxi will suffice. It will cost a bit more, but it will prove well worth it once the night is through.

The next thing you need is a good supply of special eggnog. Whether you're a lady built like a small elf, or a big boy looking more like Santa himself, you should try to drink as much Christmas cheer as possible. I repeat: as much as possible. Also, you should begin drinking at least two hours before departure, that way you will have sufficient time to be prepared

for the Christmas adventure.

After you have completed drinking your Christmas cheer and feel as though you are good to go, then go! Get in the car with your friend, and have him take you to a store. From personal experience I prefer supermarkets, department stores, or both. Either way, the real fun begins now. While in the store simply buy whatever seems interesting *at the moment*. Do not think too terribly hard about what you are buying, for it is a lot funnier when you don't. Remember, you are buying these gifts for yourself, and the best part about it is that you will never remember the next day what you bought. If you desire the best possible evening, then you can opt for an adult bookstore, such as the Hustler

Store. This venture is only for the bravest souls, because most of the buyer's inhibitions will have abandoned him and the subconscious will take over. It is entirely possible to buy things that you only dreamed of—and some that you never knew existed. Trust me.

Once you have run through the store like a crazed child, then return home (courtesy of your friend) and set the preferably unwrapped presents around the Christmas tree. If you are still consumed by the magical holiday cheer, then allow your friend to gently arrange the gifts so that you will not fall over and injure your-

self. Once the presents are set, jump into bed for the best rest of your life.

Hopefully, your dreams will be filled with elves, candy, and Santa; this way you will be in the proper spirit in the morning. When you wake up you will have surely forgotten what you did the night before, and all the gifts will be new to you. The best part is how you react to the little treasures. You will see all these presents around the tree and won't know who placed them there. With any luck, you bought some cool presents and will be impressed with your decision-making skills under the circumstances.

And that, my friend, is how you become your own Secret Santa.

