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Thursday, March 27, 2014

Chefs get chopped at first-ever cooking contest

With stakes high to make the premier meal, there was no margarine for error

By Jackson Somes
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Students used many different ingredients along with a few secret ones in each round of USD's first ever Chopped cooking competition. Secret ingredients included coconut water, whole grain gold fish and sea salted seaweed. Chefs were only made aware of these ingredients moments before they began cooking.

Stoves were fired up, ingredients thrown together and contestants chopped during USD's first Food Network styled cooking competition during dead hours at the SLP Plaza Mayor .

Two student chefs made up each of the eight teams that competed in the clash for culinary prowess. Each team represented a student group or organization from every corner of campus, including the fraternities Phi Kappa Theta and Beta Theta Pi, Residential Life, Athletics/College of Arts and Sciences, SOAR club, Be Blue Go Green/Outdoor Adventures, History Club and Medical Brigades.

The competition was broken down into two rounds with half of the teams 'chopped' after the first round. The rules for the competition followed from the Food Network series "Chopped." Each round featured three mystery ingredients that the teams had to incorporate into their dish. After 20 minutes of preparation time, the dishes faced the scrutiny of a panel of judges. The judges were comprised of a line-up of chefs from USD's dining services as well as chefs from the local community.

The first round prize was to be forever immortalized on the USD campus by naming a featured dish at La Paloma after the winning chefs.

The mystery ingredients for the first round were baby taro roots, coconut water and brussel sprouts. Once the 20 minutes of preparation were over and all the cooking utensils put down, the contestants presented each dish to the judges. After the judges had inspected, tasted and deliberated over each dish, they announced one winner and chopped four teams. History Club, Residential Life, SOAR club and Beta Theta Pi did not make it to the second round. The judges announced junior Jeff Lefko and senior Vinson Vong of team Phi Kappa Theta as the winners of the first round.

With half of the teams chopped from competition, the second round began. The mystery ingredients introduced for this round were brown rice cakes, whole grain Goldfish and sea salted seaweed. Prizes now included a dinner for two at La Gran Terraza, a cooking utensil kit, gift cards and the highly sought after title of 2014 USD Chopped Champion. The winning dish would also be featured at the SLP dining.

Once again, contestants whipped up dishes and presented them to the judges.

During the judging portion the Be Blue Go Green/Outdoor Adventures team, who had opted to create vegan dishes for competition, noted that they refused to include the mystery ingredient of whole grain Goldfish as an act of protest because the ingredient was not vegan. Spectators agreed with the protest and applauded their decision.

With the conclusion of the second round, all that was left was the declaration of a winning team. The judges, once again, proclaimed the Phi Kappa Theta team of Jeff Lefko and Vincent Vong to be the winners of round two and the 2014 USD Chopped Champions.

Lefko described the need to be

See CHOPPED, Page 2

USD inaugurates new, permanent Madrid Center

By Katie Lange
STAFF WRITER

One of the main initiatives proposed by President Mary E. Lyons earlier this year was to expand the overall global footprint of USD. As a result of this program, USD has opened a new "Madrid Center" located in the heart of Madrid, Spain to expand on an international level and become a permanent part of its largest study abroad destination.

This center is a big change from last year's program, which had a location about 40 minutes outside of Madrid in a town called Pozuelo.

Junior Sarah Walbridge studied in Madrid last fall and felt that the travel distance was a factor in her experience.

"My only complaint from my time abroad was how far away the school was and having to deal with the commute everyday," Walbridge said.

This change of location was something that made junior Samantha Shenk choose Madrid to study abroad next semester.

"I'm happy that they changed the location because I feel like I will really get to experience the culture by being able to study in the city every day," Shenk said.

In fall of 2013, 87 students studied in Madrid, as compared with 60 at Semester at Sea and 37 in Florence.

The 10,000 square-foot center is home to four classrooms where students will take all of their classes in English. With the opening of the center, the program will now be able to accommodate up to 200 students each term. The continued success of the program in years past and the long-standing relationship that the school has with Madrid has been its reason to become a permanent part of the city.

The center is specifically located near Retiro Park and the Prado Museum. Students will have the opportunity to take an art class while studying at the museum, which contains some of the most famous art in the world.

On Monday, March 17, the International Center hosted a reception to celebrate this new achievement and to announce the winners of the Madrid Program Raffle for the students going abroad in the fall of 2014.

The director of international

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Flickr CC/ anaru

The statue of Alfonse XII overlooks Retiro Park in Madrid, Spain. The new Madrid Center will be conveniently located near Retiro Park and the center of the city.

Dominic Pera wins AS president election

By Jackson Somes
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

With all of the ballots counted, Dominic Pera has been elected president of Associated Students. He was elected in a special election on March 21, after issues with the online election platform invalidated the results from March 6.

Pera described his reaction to the results as a mix between excitement and anticipation. "Being chosen by the students is a huge, huge honor for me. I'm very humbled by it and very excited for what is to come," Pera said.

Pera outlined two of his major goals as AS President. His primary goal is to work to achieve a stronger sense of community.

"I want to connect all of the micro-communities at USD to create one stronger community that has greater school pride and spirit," Pera said. "So when you are walking around campus you are just so excited to be a part of USD."

As an example of the micro-communities that exist at USD, Pera pointed to student sentiment in regard to their Greek organizations. "Students have a ton of pride in their Greek organizations," Pera said. "I want to make a greater sense of overall USD pride and I want to connect the organizations to each other more."

An additional small measure Pera wants to see develop in order to create a greater sense of community is to return posting flyers on the sidewalks of campus. "I think we can make it sustainable and I think that program will make students more aware of where things are on campus, who people are on campus, and what is actually going on," Pera said.

The second principal initiative Pera wants to implement is larger professional development programs. Pera hopes to create these programs for each major with the goal of aiding students build resumes, develop interview skills and find professions related to what the students are interested in.

Several students are hopeful and optimistic about Pera's victory.

Junior Will Ewart said he is excited about Pera's election because he feels Pera will listen to input and opinions from the student body. "I think Dom will be a great president because of his approachability. Students will be able to bring their ideas and suggestions to him and know he'll take them to heart" Ewart said.

Junior Phil Heilman is excited to see Pera work at growing the sense of community at USD. "I'm close friends with Dom and I know how much he cares about the USD community. He's always trying to create a positive and unified atmosphere on campus through his involvement in various organizations," Heilman said.

Not all students were pleased with Pera's election. Senior Sam Littlefield was a strong supporter of Pera's opponent, Sukhpreet Bains. Despite her loss, Littlefield is still optimistic about next year. "Sukhpreet is one of the strongest people I know. She ran an incredible campaign, but the most important thing at the end of the day is that her Torero spirit will always shine," Littlefield said. "I know she will be one of the most dedicated students throughout the next year here at USD."

The election was a humbling experience for Pera, but now he looks forward to the future. "I promise I won't let you down and I can't wait to see what's to come," he said.

Abigail Hollinger contributed interviews to this article.

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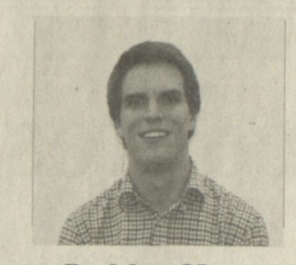
In context



By Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

Imagine I hand you an old diary filled with accounts of a particular person's daily life. You don't know the person, and you don't know the context of the diary. You flip through the pages. It's filled with dated, yellowing sheets describing autumn leaves falling in the cold and a man's idealistic love floating in the spring air. Then you come to a page with only three lines of writing on it. The first line has a lone, perfectly straight capital letter X. The next two lines, scrawled with a fountain pen in cursive, say only "The light has gone out of my life."

What kind of reaction does this sentence produce in you? It certainly gives me chills, but you may need to know some more details to feel anything other than confusion.

This diary was written by an idealistic young man who was around the same age as we are. He had just married the woman of his dreams, a woman he described as "so pure and so innocent, and so very, very pretty." He goes on: "I have never done anything to deserve such good fortune."

A couple of weeks after he writes these words, his pregnant wife goes into labor two days before Valentine's Day. A couple of days later, she falls inexplicably ill. At the same time, his mother is ill with typhoid fever. He goes back and forth between his dying mother downstairs and his ailing wife upstairs.

On Valentine's day, his mother dies. Several hours later on that same day, his wife dies of kidney failure. He is left with nothing but a newborn baby to take care for at the age of 25. That night, he writes that single sentence quoted earlier.

Now, after being given the diary's context, I would ask: has your reaction changed? Have those simple words, that eight-word fragment, taken on a new poetic meaning when it is known why the words were written? It might also change your perspective to know that that man was Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the U.S.

Last year, I took a class that examined the most basic aspects and definitions of culture. One day, my class got into a discussion about whether or not a reader should separate the content of a work of art from its creator.

Some in the class argued that, yes, a true masterpiece should be so universal to mankind that the life and experiences of the author are transcended by his or her own work. An example could be any of the plays by Shakespeare. No one really discusses anything about the dubious life of Shakespeare when reading Hamlet. That is because his stories strike chords so universal in the human consciousness that they can apply in any culture at any period in history.

The other side of class argued that the author should be tied to his or her work. J.D. Salinger produced Holden Caulfield because he was projecting his own insecurities into a novel, and Catcher in the Rye can be read through that lens. Salinger's later self-removal from society into a hermetic life sheds further light on the book and blurs the line between the reality of his life and the world of his novel.

I waver back and forth as to which theory I subscribe. However, in general I tend have a hard time separating the producer from his or her production.

On a different note, I listen to Jimi Hendrix, and I wonder if the distorted craze of his music is a reflection of his personal life, in which he was abusive to girlfriends and friends. He would get into drunken rages when he drank hard liquor, a drink that he said unleashed a "bottled up anger." Was his frantic music another expression of that anger?

The line gets even more blurred as I read authors such as Hunter S. Thompson. For him, narrative is so blended with his drug-addled personality that it becomes impossible to detach his personality from his work. Of course this was his intention as he set the world of first-person journalism on fire.

In fact, one letter he wrote brings me the same feeling as Roosevelt's diary. Thompson titled this letter "Football Season is Over." Spanning 50 words of lamentation for lost days of a unique mania of a life, he concluded the letter with the words "Relax -- This won't hurt." The 67-year-old man delivered the note to his wife; and, four days later, he shot himself in his kitchen with several family members in the adjacent room.

Both Roosevelt's diary entry and Thompson's suicide letter by themselves wouldn't produce much emotion in me. The words don't convey much, but in each one, it's the pure, unadulterated feeling shown by the context of the situations that make them some of the most powerful sentences I have read.

Get chopped: USD hosts cooking contest

CHOPPED, continued from Front Page

creative as a major component for his competition strategy.

"We wanted to be able to take all of the secret ingredients and transform them in a way you wouldn't expect," Lefko said.

Vong resonated the need to be able to think quickly during the competition.

"It was really quick paced and we had to think on our feet," Vong said.

This was not the first cooking competition for Lefko. He had participated in the MTV show "Snack-Off." Lefko said he's glad he had the opportunity to showcase his talents at USD.

"It was a really good program they put on and I'm very thankful they had it here," he said.

Even for those left spectating and cheering on their favorite teams, the competition appeared to be a success. Senior Maggie Corcoran spent the competition rooting for team Be Blue Go Green/Outdoor Adventures. Although the team didn't win, she still enjoyed the competition.

"I liked how the competition was a place for everyone to gather together," Corcoran said. "There was excitement, anticipation and everyone did super good."

Junior Mollie Sullivan spent the competition cheering for the Medical Brigades team. "You know I'm disappointed they didn't win but second place is still impressive," Sullivan said. "All in all I thought the competition was a lot of fun, even just standing on the sidelines I had a great time."

The idea for the USD Chopped Competition came from the Changemaker Hub to support this year's Changemaker Challenge, "Food for Life." The Changemaker Hub is a campus organization that connects people and other campus organizations to promote positive social change. Juan Carlos Rivas, the assistant director of the Changemaker Hub, explained that the theme "Food for Life" was chosen because it encompasses many issues around the world regarding food.

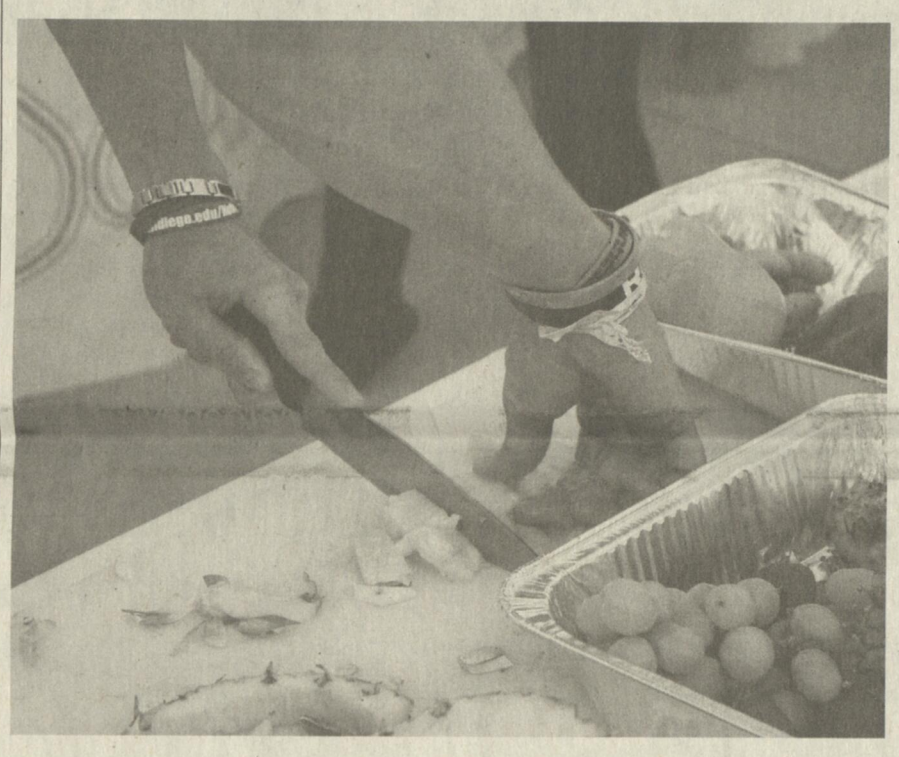
"We all eat everyday, but we don't often think about how food security is not always there for everybody or access to healthy, well-balanced and inexpensive food is for others," Rivas said.

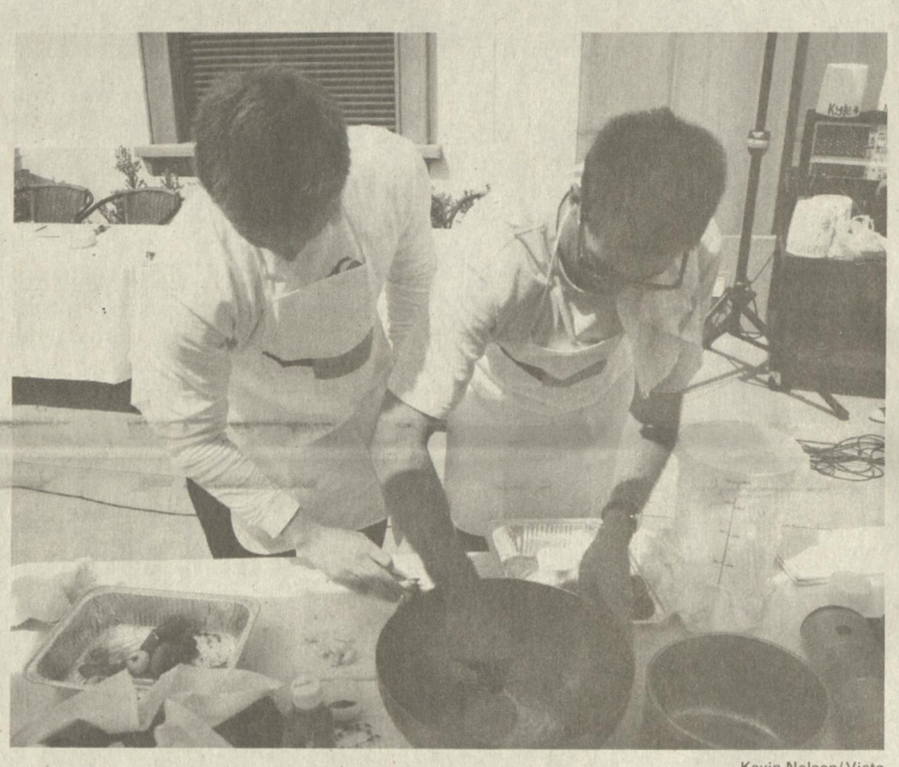
According to Rivas, the Chopped competition was created with the goal of raising awareness of the "Food for Life" Changemaker Challenge.

"We figured this competition would be a nice opportunity to engage the students in a fun way, to still educate everybody about some of the issues around food, and to motivate some people to be able to enter the Changemaker challenge," Rivas said.

Submissions for the Changemaker challenge require a two-minute video that includes an idea that addresses the "Food for Life" theme. The deadline to apply for the challenge is April 7 and entered proposals are eligible to win up to $5,000.

Kevin Nelson/ Vista
Junior Janiq Meneze of the Medical Brigades team focuses on the presentation of her first dish at USD's Chopped cooking challenge in front of the Student Life Pavilion.





Kevin Nelson/ Vista
Left: A student chops pineapple to add a special kick to his dish. Right: Sophomore Brandon Clayton and senior Michael Cannan whip up some eggs for the Beta Theta Pi team.

Error in elections brings false results

A mistake in the online elections led to the polls being closed early; further miscommunication led to a mistaken victory

By Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

The Associated Students presidential candidates thought that the election was all over by the time Spring Break rolled around.

On Friday, March 7 around noon, junior Sukhpreet Bains broke the news to the USD community through a Facebook post.

"I am truly speechless and extremely humbled that you all chose me to be your next AS President," Bains said. She continued, "I cannot wait to serve as you as your AS President because the real work starts now. Have a safe and fun spring break!"

However, the break would not bring as much certainty as she anticipated.

That day, it was discovered that there had been an error in the online election system causing the polls to close four hours early. Many students were not able to cast their votes for about one-third of the set election time.

According to Michael O'Brien, the senior director of library and web services, the problem first occurred when a web developer put incorrect information into the computer program Qualtrics. The program is used for surveys around campus and for the election specifically. Instead of manually inputting the end time of the elections to be Thursday, March 6 at 9 p.m., the developer accidentally set it at 5 p.m.

Joy Brunetti, a web coordinator for Information Technology Services who helped oversee the running of the program, summarized what happened on ITS's end.

"Basically it just comes down to just a simple, unfortunate mistake," Brunetti said. "I've heard rumblings that it was a portal [error], or it was a server [error]. It was not at all; it was a simple mistake which was admitted the moment it came to our attention."

After delivering the results to AS the next morning, the web developer then noticed the mistake and quickly notified members of AS at around 11 a.m. Alex Hermann, the outgoing president of AS, said that the error was officially acknowledged that morning.

> *"I've heard rumblings that it was a portal [error], or it was a server [error]. It was not at all; it was a simple mistake which was admitted the moment it came to our attention."*

Nevertheless, AS delivered the results to the candidates shortly thereafter, declaring Bains the winner over challenger Dominic Pera. A flurry of Facebook posts ensued.

The sorority Kappa Alpha Theta posted a status on Facebook shortly before 1 p.m. congratulating Bains on her victory.

"Congratulations to our very own Sukhpreet Bains for being elected AS President for the upcoming school year," the post read. "We are so proud of you and know you'll do a fantastic job leading the student body at USD!"

According to Hermann, the false reports of Bains' election victory were caused by a breakdown of communication.

"Due to an internal communication error the results from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. were given to the candidates, but no official announcement from the Associated Students team was released to the student body," Hermann said.

Several hours later, Hermann sent out a campus-wide email acknowledging the error in the ballots and declaring the election results invalid because of Associated Students Bylaws. AS then called for a special election to be held after Spring Break.

"It is the responsibility of AS to make sure the election process is fair and allows all students the opportunity to exercise their right to vote," Hermann said. "Therefore, due to the unforeseen closing of the elections tab, a special election was called."

The new special election was scheduled for Thursday, March 20, two weeks after the original election. With everything running smoothly this time around, the winner was reversed, and Dominic Pera was elected president.

In the wake of the breakdown in communication, staff at ITS and AS are working to make sure that this kind of error does not happen again.

"The internal communication error prompted several actions on behalf of the Associated Students Executive Board including a review of internal communication processes--especially for elections--and proposed election bylaw changes," Hermann said. "Additionally, we worked and will continue to work closely with the university IT department to take every foreseeable measure to eliminate potential errors in future elections."

O'Brien, the director of library and web services, said that ITS is also working to ensure that a mistake does not happen again on their end.

He said that part of the breakdown in communication could be helped by raising awareness that the ITS help desk, a 24 hour service, is open and can answer questions to try to resolve problems after normal working hours.

"In this particular case, because it was human error, I think the best thing we can do is double-check and provide some kind of safety net to call the help desk so that they have some place to get some help if they need it," O'Brien said.

Nevertheless, Brunetti said that she believes that this is the first error that has occurred since USD started using the Qualtrics system.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

alcohol/drugs

Feb. 27
Location: San Luis Obispo Hall

At 10 P.M. Resident Assistants cited one student for a Liquor Law Violation.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 27
Location: San Rafael Hall

At 8 P.M. Resident Assistants cited one student for a Liquor Law Violation.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28
Location: Founders Hall

At 10:50 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated student. Upon investigation, one student was determined to be unable to care for herself and she was transported to the Detox.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28
Location: Founders Hall

At 9:04 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated student. Upon investigation, one student was determined to be unable to care for herself and she was transported to the hospital.

March 7
Location: mission crossroads

At 10:16 P.M. Public Safety observed a student holding a beer can. Upon investigation, one student was cited for minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

★ ★ ★

March 7
Location: San Luis Obispo Hall

At 12:30 A.M. Resident Assistants cited two students for Liquor Law Violations.

★ ★ ★

March 8
Location: Alcala Vistas W Lot

At 3 A.M. Public Safety observed a male sleeping on the curb. Upon investigation, one student was determined to be intoxicated but able to care for himself, and he was released to his residence.

★ ★ ★

theft

Feb. 25
Location: San Buenaventura

At 5:06 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's pair of glasses and case between Feb. 5th at approximately 8:30 A.M. and Feb. 7th at approximately 8 P.M.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 26
Location: UNIVERSITY TERRACE APARTMENTS

At 1:26 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's passport and visa on Feb. 22nd between 8 A.M. and 3 P.M.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28
Location: Alcala Vistas N Lot

At 11:35 A.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's backpack containing various personal items from his vehicle between Feb. 27th at approximately 9 P.M. and Feb. 28th at approximately 3 A.M.

★ ★ ★

March 5
Location: STUDENT LIFE PAVILION

At 4:40 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, an employee witnessed three unknown suspects stealing chairs on March 4th between 11 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

CONTACT

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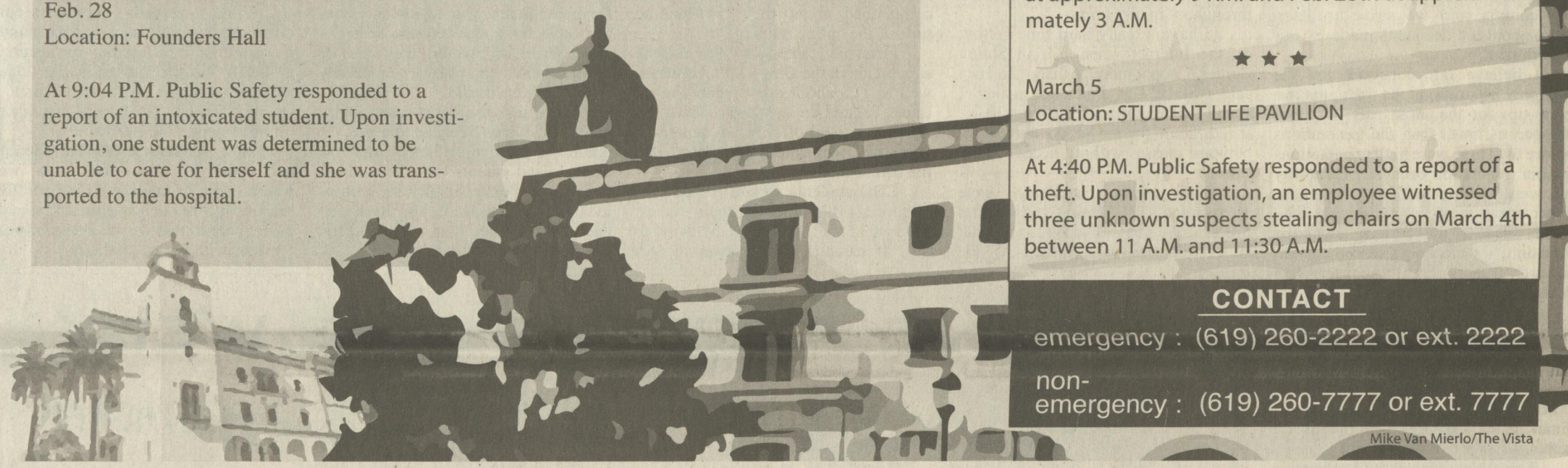
non-emergency : (619) 260-7777 or ext. 7777



Mike Van Mierlo/The Vista

USD unveils Madrid Center

MADRID, continued from Front Page

studies abroad, Kira Espiritu, led off the ceremony and made a few remarks about the new center. She then turned the microphone over to the associate provost of international affairs, Denise Dimon, who thanked the many offices of USD for their support during this process.

"With the opening of a permanent center in Madrid, we now have a place for the semester, summer and intersession programs working with alumnae at a fabulous location in the center of the city," Dimon said.

After the announcements, the International Center raffled off prizes to some of the many students planning on studying abroad next fall.

The luggage set winner was Lina Figueroa, the iPad Mini winner was Jordan Golden, and the Grand Prize winner of the round-trip flight was Erin Snoke.

"I am so shocked that I won. Now, I will be able to use that money to travel while I am in Europe or have my family come to visit me for Thanksgiving," Snoke said.

In addition to the opening of the new center, administrators cite the continued success of the homestay program as another reason to be excited about the program's expansion. Derek Brendel, Madrid Study Abroad Program Advisor, believes that the homestay program adds to the experience for students.

"Based on a survey that students take, they are matched with the best possible family where they receive breakfast and dinner each day and are able to be directly immersed into the Spanish culture and learn the language as well," Brendel said.

The program will also continue to offer offer a Travel Seminar during the first 10 days of the study abroad experience. During this seminar, students get to travel to Barcelona, Sevilla, Granada, Cordoba and Valencia to receive credit in business, political science, spanish, or history. The array of classes has remained very enticing to students who plan to go abroad but need specific classes that are tailored to their majors.

The opening of the Madrid Center is just the beginning for the International Department of USD as they plan to continue to expand the global footprint of the school while creating a permanent place for students in Madrid.

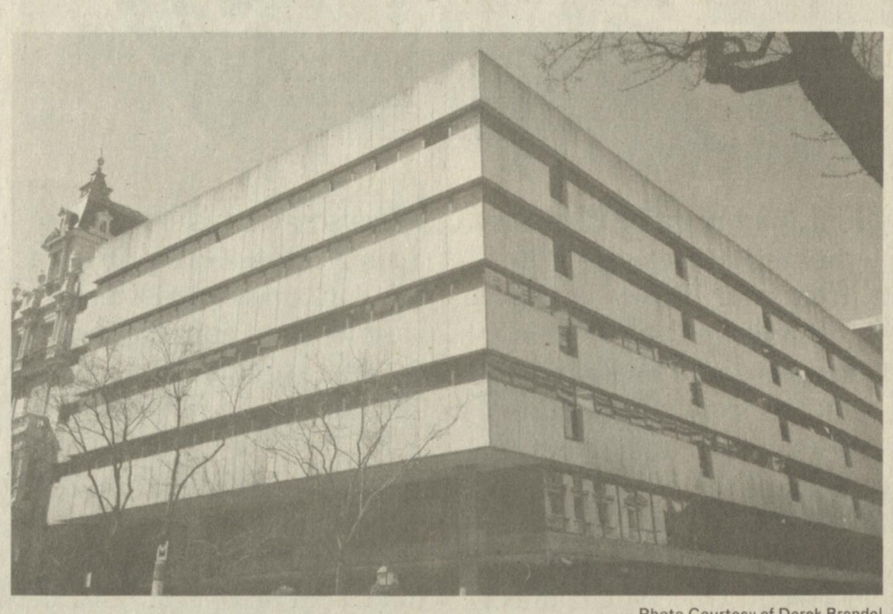
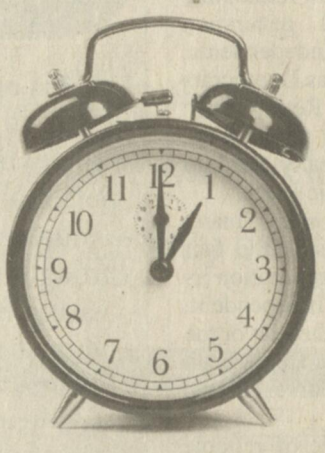


Photo Courtesy of Derek Brendel

The new Madrid Center will be able to accomodate four classrooms and will allow the Madrid study abroad program to take in up to 200 students.

24 hours a day.
24 issues a year.



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OPINION

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Millennials are fiscally conservative, socially liberal

By Kendall Tich
OPINION EDITOR

As Millennials, members of the generation comprised of those born after 1980, we have been called many things by older generations: selfish, entitled, lazy, etc.

I'd argue that many of us do appear lazy and less motivated than previous generations because of the entitled upbringings that many of us were fortunate enough to have had; however, that does not mean we are not action-oriented.

I believe that we are the first generation to look at problems in our world and actually attempt to do something about them. We are more curious, and therefore more informed about the world around us than previous generations.

Because of this we are interested in politics, the economy, foreign affairs and domestic policy. We seek to understand the systems that operate our country and we strive to learn more about the decisions made by our government.

I believe our concerns for the economy stem from the fact that we grew up, for the most part, in more prosperous times than the generations before us. There were high expectations for our generation because of the way we were raised, and now that those expectations are no longer a guaranteed reality due to the current economic situation, we are being forced to lean toward a more fiscally conservative mindset.

However, according to a new study from the Pew Research Center, our generation is the most liberal of any of the past four generations. So there seems to be a discrepancy in the conservative nature of our generation's financial perspectives and the liberal nature of its social perspectives.

This, however, should come as no surprise, especially at a school like USD, which is in an area of the U.S. that does tend to be more socially liberal, yet many of our upbringings taught us to be more financially conservative.

So what does this mean for the country…this new generation of fiscal conservatives and social liberals? Well, for one, it will certainly affect the next presidential election just as it did the past election in 2012.

Pew Research Center found that half of the Millennial generation considers themselves Independents, while 27 percent identify as Democrats and 17 percent identify as Republicans. This should also come as no surprise, as college students typically tend to lean toward the Democratic Party.

However, what worries many politicians and candidates is the fact that 27 percent of our generation is choosing to identify as Independent, due in part to the fact that they favor the economic initiatives of the Republican Party but the social initiatives of the Democratic Party.

This makes the future of reliable voters for either party uncertain, as Millennials tend to lean different directions depending on the current economic situation as well as the current social issues being discussed in any election.

The indecision that many people in our generation face in choosing a political party of a candidate in an election will certainly affect the future of our generation as well as our country as a whole. The 2016 Presidential Election will determine the economic and social futures for many of us who will be fresh graduates of USD and entering the workforce.

While we have been called lazy, selfish and entitled, we are certainly still well informed. That is perhaps why many Millennials are torn between political parties: we know enough about each of them to sway toward or away from each of them for different reasons.

We are a generation of fiscal conservatives and social liberals and because of that, we are going to have the ability to positively change a lot of the current issues affecting our country and our world.

So, call us lazy, entitled and unmotivated, but the fact that we are well informed and concerned with politics and political decisions will lead us to becoming the most successful generation yet.

Internet connection disconnects students

By Sara Butler
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

The Internet has become a college student essential, right along with textbooks and Red Bull. USD students use it for almost everything inside and outside the classroom.

USD's unreliable Internet connection is disadvantaging on-campus students. If not fixed, the Internet connection may end up failing us, both socially and academically.

Many students and staff members have experienced this Internet connection epidemic first-hand.

"Since my first semester at USD, I've had issues with the Internet connection," sophomore Alexa Argumedo said. "There are places in my Alcala Vista apartment where there is no connection. On many occasions I've had an assignment due on Blackboard and the Internet is down. It is a problem that needs to be fixed sooner than later."

Junior Celena Olivar has experienced similar problems with USD Internet in her on-campus dorm room.

"I have problems with the USD Internet connection, especially when I am trying to Skype," Olivar said. "I am constantly losing connection in my dorm room."

In addition to issues with Internet connection in on-campus housing, students have voiced their concerns with their Internet connection throughout main campus.

"I have a really hard time getting on the Internet when I'm in Shiley Center," sophomore Allison DeHart said. "Since I'm a science major, I spend the majority of my time there. It's difficult for me to do homework between classes without access to the Internet."

While many students have complained to their peers and professors about the Internet connection, Chris Wessells, Vice Provost and Chief Information Officer, reports that few people have voiced their concerns about the problem to the Information Technology Services Help Desk.

According to an article from Social Media Today, "it's no surprise that today's college students are some of the biggest Internet users. Look around any campus and you'll see college students connecting all over the place."

Our generation is reliant on the Internet for all things academic. USD students use the Internet for almost everything, including papers, projects and presentations. We use it to research information, study for exams and keep in contact with group members. Without this resource, many of us would feel lost in our studies.

Further, the Internet is used as a social tool to provide a sense of identity and community for USD students. The time spent on social media websites is used to connect students on campus and foster their creativity through these outlets. This social connection shouldn't be interrupted by a poor Internet connection.

Issues with the Internet have become a common conversation among students and professors in many classrooms on campus, which I have experienced firsthand in my own classes.

One example comes from inside Serra Hall 212, Professor Erik Fritsvold's Criminology class. The Thuze textbook comes in an user-friendly electronic version, which most students have opted to use exclusively. Many of these students have complained about the slow loading time of the online reading.

Fritsvold talked to Thuze tech support about the slow loading issue, as well as ITS about other technological issues related to the book. The only advice he could offer his students was going off-campus to a Starbucks to do the course reading.

USD students should not have to be forced off-campus for their studies. Students may not have any way to get off campus, which discriminates against those without transportation.

PC World's Lincoln Spector suggests an ethernet cable, but this is not the right answer. While it makes the Internet more reliable, college students are on the go and cannot be constrained.

This generation of USD students are everywhere, moving from Aroma's Cafe to Copley Library. Students cannot be required to carry around bulky cables in their backpacks. Even if they did, ethernet ports are not readily available for students to plug into around campus.

The USD server seems less equipped to handle the influx of requests for the Internet access throughout campus, which is much higher than any previous year in USD's history. However, Wessells says there has been an increase in demand for Internet resources because of "the overall growth in maximum internet usage semester by semester."

According to Wessells, ITS is preparing for USD's next generation of Wi-Fi at USD, with a price tag of about $4.25 million.

ITS has put in an equipment request for new Firewalls, antennas and switches to improve the system. The equipment request review for the budget is May 2014, and administration should make a decision by the end of June.

Wessells assures that steps are being taken for future Internet improvement, but claims that few complaints about the current problems have been made to ITS.

"I've check[ed] with the ITS Help Desk and there are no significant issues that have been reported this semester about Wi-Fi, so I would like to ensure [that] students know how to report any issues," Wessells said.

Since this service is not as visible to the public, it may be easier to neglect or ignore the problem. When prospective students and parents visit the campus, they see the external picture, such as the buildings and landscape. Rarely do they open up their computers and test the Internet connection.

While current students and professors may interact with the problematic Internet, the problem is easy to put in the back of our minds when we are not sitting in front of a computer screen.

While this lack of visibility may explain the delay in a complete update of the system, it does not explain why students are not speaking up about this problem. Many students are complaining to their peers and professors, but few people have gone directly to the source. If we keep silent about the things that affect us, these issues will continue unresolved.

Internet is a fundamental requirement of every college. We cannot waste any more of our valuable time worrying about our Internet connection. As USD students, we have the right to reliable and fast Internet in order to be successful students.

USD students need to be proactive about the problems they face at our university, including the on-campus Internet connection. Once administration hears our voices, they will be prompted to swiftly solve these issues and approve the ITS equipment requests.

"I want the students to have excellent technology experience at this university," Wessells said. "Beyond the infrastructure and the Internet and the Wi-Fi, if there are any other problems that students have we need to know about them. Communication from the students to the help desk is critical, otherwise we can't address their problems. We are very responsive if we know something's wrong."

While Wessells words seem promising, I remain unconvinced about the state of our Internet connection at USD. We need to encourage one another to report any Internet issues we experience to ITS in order to see an improvement.

Once students break the silence and speak up about this issue, we will be able to know who is partially responsible for our academic and social disconnect so that we are able to move forward with future solutions.

iPHONE APPS OF THE WEEK

FOODZY

This application helps you to track what you are eating by creating a personal dashboard based on everything you eat throughout the day. It turns eating healthy into a fun game by allowing you to connect with friends as well as posting food stats throughout the day. You can also create goals and earn points based on whether or not you reach your daily goals.

FINI

Fini is a fun game that asks you to guess missing words from your friends' tweets. It pulls in your Twitter newsfeed and uses random tweets from your friends, erases a word and allows you to guess the missing word. You then get to see the real tweet to see if you guessed correctly. Once you connect with friends on the app, these users can play with you and guess missing words in your own tweets as well.

DEALSPOTTING

Dealspotting allows you to search for deals in your area. It automatically looks up your location and searches for nearby stores or restaurants that are having deals within a certain mile radius of your current location. You can also search the application to look for specific deals that you are interested in. Share your finds with others by connecting with friends or people in your area and see what deals they have found.

POSTAGRAM

This application allows you to turn your photos from Instagram, Facebook or your camera roll into postcards. You simply upload the photo, add a message on the postcard and click create. Then, for a small cost, you can send your Postagram to anyone, either virtually or through the mail. You can also track the status of your postcard and see when it arrives to the person you sent it to.

The views expressed in the Opinion section are not necessarily those of The Vista staff, the University of San Diego or its student body.

OPINION

WANTED

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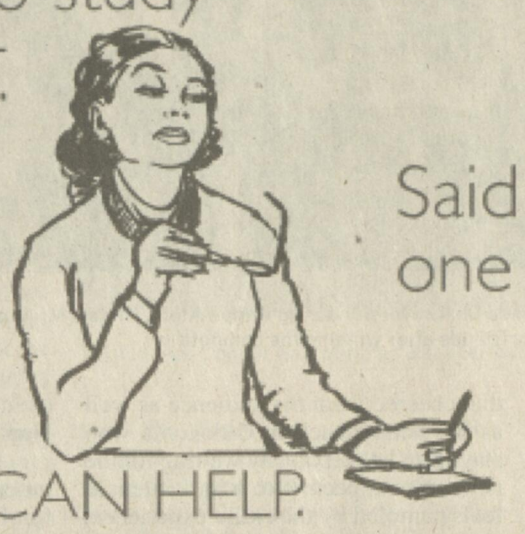

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Safe rides are students' responsibility

By Dani DeVries
CONTRIBUTOR

Students' petitions for a safe ride program to and from Mission Beach on the weekends has been perpetually denied, which in my opinion, puts the question of safety into the minds of students at USD. However, this criticism stems from ignorance, as the school already has a safe ride program in effect: the college cab system, designed to keep students safe when a night out does not go as planned.

Students who are seemingly unaware of the college cab program showed huge support for the Facebook campaign earlier in the year. This campaign proposed the solution of a school provided "Mission Beach bus" to safely transport students to and from events happening on Mission Beach during the weekend.

According to the MADD website, almost every 90 seconds someone is injured in a drunk driving incident, making it obvious why students would be in support of a proposal like this. However, we must also understand why the school was unable to take actions to make it a reality. It is clearly outlined in the student conduct guidelines that underage drinking is not condoned by the school in any way. By providing this type of program, not only would the school be liable for students choosing to party, but also it would imply the school's acceptance of widespread underage drinking.

Despite the school being unable to move forward with a "beach bus," Associated Students did recognize the need to implement a safe ride program, and thus the college cab program was created. Unfortunately, many students seem to have forgotten about the service, and indeed some are completely oblivious of its existence.

The program can be used up to three times a semester, and is designed to provide students with a safe ride when in an unexpected situation, according to the Center for Health and Wellness Promotion (CHWP). The service charges a flat fee of 10 dollars, to be paid to the registrar office within two weeks of usage of the college cab service. Additionally, the ride is expected to be within a 15 mile radius of campus. More information can be found at on the CHWP website, or by stopping into the center, located in the UCs.

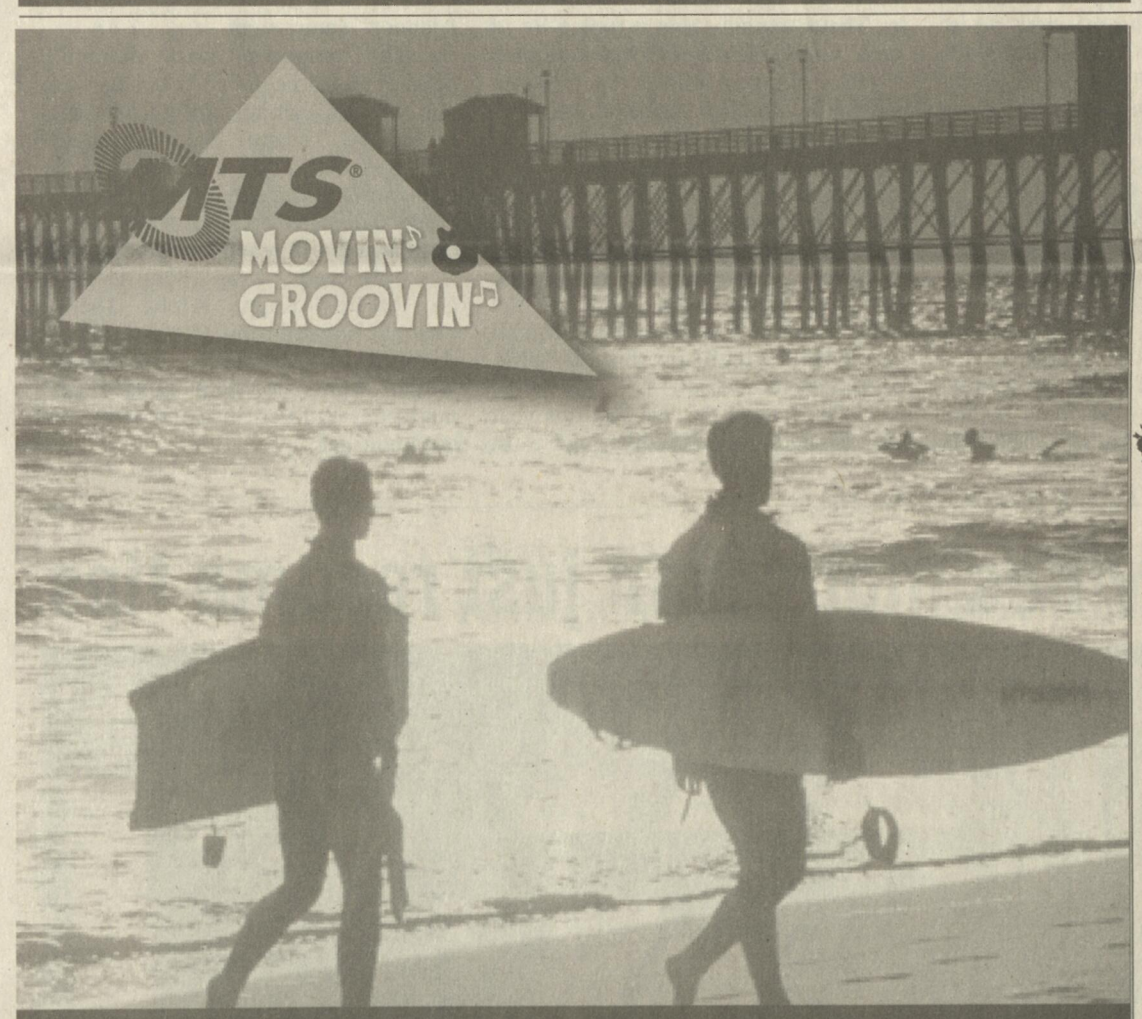
The CHWP designed the program with the idea of having an alternative in case previous arrangements fall through or you do not have a reliable source to take you home. Whether it be a sketchy date or too much to drink, the college cab service is at the disposal of any USD student who asks for it, simply by calling Public Safety, which will arrange for your ride. After presenting your student I.D. the cab operates normally, except instead of paying the usual rate, you receive the flat fee.

The Center for Health and Wellness Promotion is supportive of the program in that it coincides with the health and safety of students.

"We always want students making responsible, smart choices, and we want to provide the tools and resources for them to do that," Jessica Critchlow said.

Our university's initiative on this program makes it obvious the school does understand that people choose to live stereotypical college lives,and may potentially be in a situation where they are unable to drive and do not have a ride. It happens occasionally to everyone, and the college cab service aims to be a remedy to this kind of situation. Although there is still a small fee associated with the service, it is a lot more affordable than using a normal cab company, and from it's founding it has been incredible successfully in making sure students get home safely.

As adults we must acknowledge that it is time to take responsibility for ourselves. Whether it be arranging a way to get home prior to going out, or using the college cab service, there is no excuse for drinking and driving. It is not the school or public safety's responsibility to provide a safe ride for us; we must actively seek to think ahead on our own accord. Despite the need to be accountable for our own actions, the school does understand things happen, and that's where college cab comes into play. There is no need to condemn the University for not taking initiative on the "Mission Beach bus" campaign, but rather we should spread awareness of this beneficial service the school provides for us, and know that there is always a way to avoid drinking and driving.



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The Vista strongly encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, staff, administration and the community.

Correspondence should be sent to editor@usdvista.com with the subject line "Letter to the Editor." Letters for the up-coming edition are due Saturday by 6 p.m.

Submissions should be limited to 500 words and must include verifiable contact information. Letter content is subject to editing for clarity and style.

The Vista does not publish anonymous letters, those addressed to a third party or letters in poor taste.

The views expressed in the Opinion section are not necessarily those of The Vista staff, the University of San Diego or its student body.

FEATURE

EDITOR
Brittany Carava
feature@usdvista.com

Why USD?

By Brittany Carava
FEATURE EDITOR

It's nearly the end of March and that means basketball tournaments, midterms and college decisions. About three years ago exactly, I found out that I was accepted to USD with a scholarship. With the excitement that letter brought and the amount of screaming, jumping up and down, and tears of joy flowing down my face, I should have known it was going to be the place for me. But, it took me a little while to figure out where I truly wanted to go to spend my next four years.

I visited many other universities in southern California and liked a lot of them. I loved UC Santa Barbara for the beautiful location and the small town charm. I loved UC Irvine for it's amazing science program and pristine campus. I loved Pepperdine for the breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and small campus size. I loved Loyola Marymount for it's small campus size and proximity to home. There was just something about USD that I couldn't quite put my finger on, that just kept me wanting more.

I visited the school probably three times before making my final decision and each time I discovered something new that I liked about it. It may have been the beauty of the Immaculata, the on-campus housing, or just the fact that everyone just looked so happy to be here.

When it came down to decision time, I was stuck between UC Irvine and USD. I went to admitted students' day at each university and came away with great experiences from both places. However, it was my day spent at USD following a student around for the day that truly made my decision for me. I attended a couple classes, went to the SLP for lunch and had another more in depth walking tour of USD. After this experience, I couldn't see myself going anywhere else.

However, being the practical person that I am, I wanted to seek out my options at UC Irvine and see what their campus was like from a student perspective as opposed to just a general tour. I realized that the big campus made me feel anonymous, small and overwhelmed. I was just going to be a number, not a first and last name or a familiar face.

I knew that USD would financially be a stretch for my family, but I wanted to spend my next four years here more than anything. I came up with the perfect argument to convince my Dad that it was the place for me. After hearing what I had to say, he agreed to let me attend USD. I broke out in even more tears than when I had received my acceptance letter.

Since that moment, so much has changed. I changed my major, changed roommates and changed as a person. My experience at USD the last few years have shaped who I am today and I will forever be indebted to the wonderful support that I have received from professors, fellow students and advisors.

I think that everyone has had a time in their college career in which they may have wanted to transfer or they just weren't happy where they were. I felt this way the middle of my sophomore year and I felt completely stuck in my major and in San Diego. I never anticipated feeling this way because I had been so set on USD for such a long time.

It took this moment of uncertainty to fully discover why I chose USD. I realized that I may have been attracted to the aesthetics of the campus, the small class size and Greek life when I applied, but through my time at USD I realized it was something a little bigger than that.

I came to the realization that if I transferred, I would be leaving behind a community of caring individuals who really wanted to support me and see me succeed. I had a group of women in my sorority, peer health educators, a Relay For Life committee and my fellow classmates that had helped create my USD experience thus far. I realized that I wanted to stay for these people, my friends, classmates and sisters.

It may take some students a while to truly feel the community that exists at USD. I am so thankful for the opportunities to take classes with my closest friends, waving to sorority sisters across campus and being able to connect to any faculty member that I may need assistance from. This tight-knit community is the real reason why I chose USD and whether that was apparent to me with my first visits to the school, I'm not sure. What I do know is that that is why I stayed at USD and why it has been home for me and will remain my home for my four years.

Students "come together" to support CASA

By Gabrielle Perez
CONTRIBUTOR

Photo Courtesy of Lauren Miranda-Cacdac

Samuel Littlefield of Beta Theta Pi was crowned Mr. University during Kappa Alpha Theta's Mr. U competition benefiting CASA. Littlefield is pictured middle being held up by friends after winning the competition.

The stage was set. The lighting was dim. A sea of screaming girls waited anxiously to see their favorite boys perform. No, it wasn't a Beatles concert, but the spirit of Lennon, McCartney and British rock were alive and well at Kappa Alpha Theta's Mr. University philanthropy event.

On Thursday, March 20, the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta hosted their annual spring philanthropy Mr. University at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theatre. This year's theme was the Beatles in honor of the British band's 50th anniversary. The event was set up pageant-style with a segment for talent, formal wear and questions. Ten men from various organizations on campus competed for the coveted title of Mr. University including Mr. Sigma Pi: Nick Bea, Mr. Beta Theta Pi: Sam Littlefield, Mr. Phi Kappa Theta: Cam Wicker, Mr. FIJI: Leonice Brown-Young, Mr. Sigma Phi Epsilon: John Sousae, Mr. Delta Tau Delta: Drew Corley Mr. Associated Students: Crash Ketcham, Mr. PRIDE: Brent Allman, Mr. Leaders of Tomorrow: Maxwell Masters and Mr. Rugby: Seth Tate. Beatles music filled the air as each of the men performed their talents, which ranged from well-choreographed dance performances to hilarious comedy routines.

Brent Allman, a junior at USD who represented Mr. PRIDE, stood out from the competition with a unique dance number and an even more unique outfit choice. Choosing to dress in drag for his talent segment, Allman said he was nervous about how the audience would accept him. "I was afraid that people were going to react poorly to the sight of a man in a dress, wig and red pumps," he said. However, the choice to dress in drag was one that meant a lot to Allman.

"I wanted to do something that celebrated femininity, even though it came from a man. If I can throw on a dress and heels and be celebrated for it, then why shouldn't more subtle femininity be acceptable as well?" Allman said.

Ultimately through his performance Allman wanted to encourage people to be their true selves. "Whether that be a drag queen, science nerd, frat star, or poet, I hope I got the message out there: Be you!" Allman's inclusive spirit was obviously felt by the judging panel that crowned him Mr. Congeniality at the end of the night. Although he was initially shocked to be recognized, Allman said, "It is very validating".

Another contestant, senior Samuel Littlefield, who represented the fraternity Beta Theta Pi, also felt nerves in preparation for the big night. "In the four days leading up to the event I woke up every morning with butterflies in my stomach," he said.

Littlefield explains that he spent long hours getting ready for the event so that he wouldn't panic on stage. In fact, Littlefield claims that he has a "pretty big case of stage fright" and was hesitant to sign up to be a part of Mr. University in the first place. It was Littlefield's appreciation for the philanthropic efforts of the event combined with the opportunity to overcome his fear that pushed him to do it.

"I knew that I would learn a lot about myself through the entire process and I definitely did," he said. "I wouldn't trade that night for the world because I really feel like I grew as a person." Littlefield's bravery paid off in a big reward at the end of the night as he was crowned USD's 2014 Mr. University. His win was warmly accepted by the large crowd of his fraternity brothers that cheered from the audience as well as his family back in Oklahoma who stayed up late anxiously waiting for the news. Not expecting to win, Littlefield feels humbled by the entire experience. "I am completely honest when I say that every other guy up there deserved to win. So when they announced 'Mr. Beta Theta Pi,' I was in shock!" Littlefield said. He is appreciative of the friends and family that supported him through this process. He said, "The outpouring of love and excitement was more than I could have ever hoped for".

Although the night seemed to flow seamlessly from act to act, Morgan Hamm, a senior at USD and one of the 2014 Mr. University Co-Chairs for Theta, explains that it took a lot of work behind the scenes to execute such a huge campus-wide event. Hamm and fellow co-chair Ashley Vigil were in charge of selecting the theme of the evening, meeting with all of the contestants to review outfit choices, talent performances and setting up Shiley Theatre with all the necessary equipment. However, the hard work and long hours spent creating the event paid off in the end. Hamm seems thrilled with how this year's Mr. University turned out.

"The talents that we had this year were some of the funniest, and most creative acts that Mr. U has ever seen," Hamm said.

Because she had such a hand in the process, it was especially rewarding for Hamm to see the final results of all of the talent performances. "It was really cool to see their acts go from just an idea to that final performance and to watch the audience react," Hamm said.

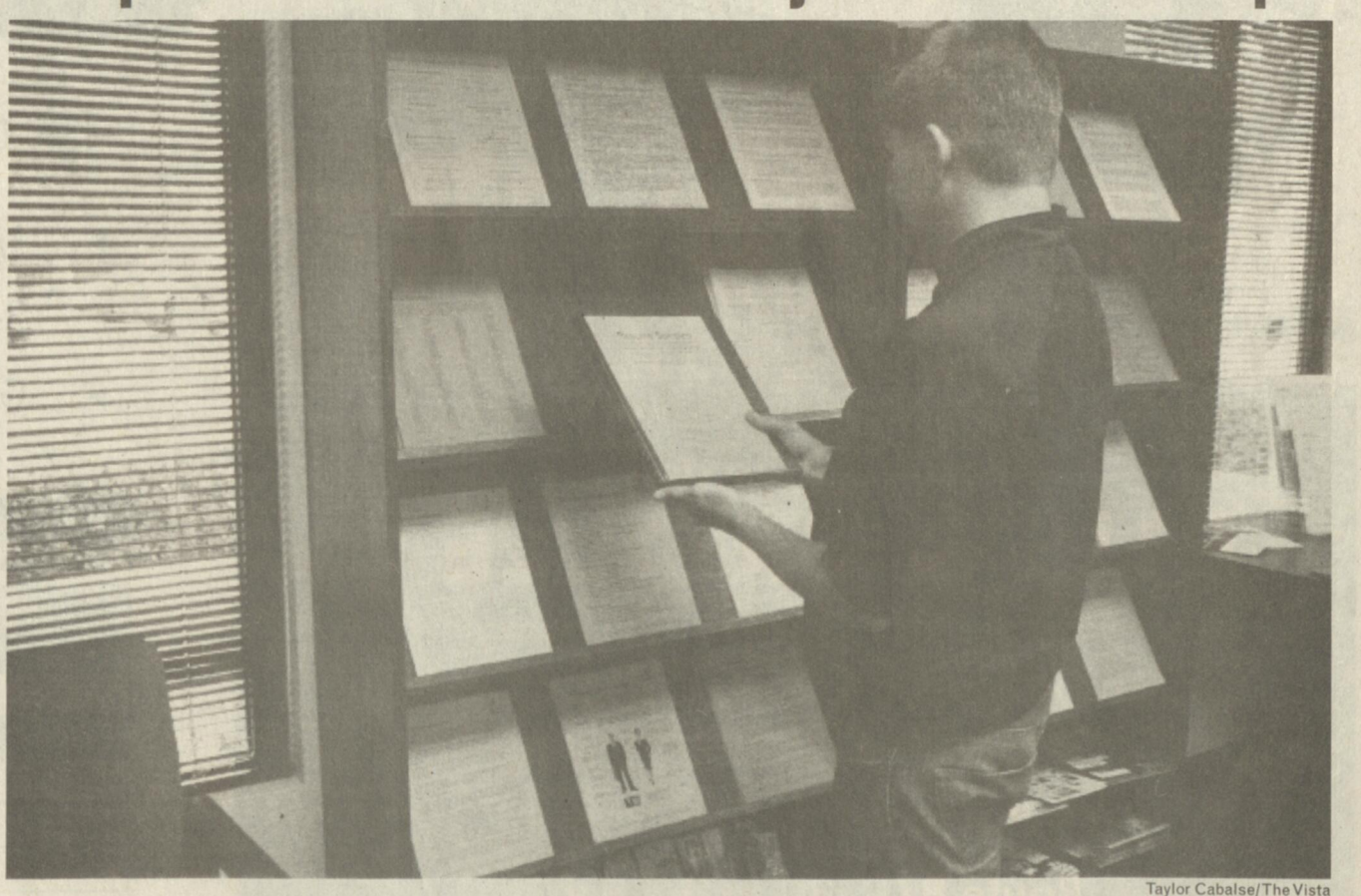
She was also pleased to see a more diverse crowd attending the event. Hamm attributes this to the fact that organizations outside of Greek Life also get the chance to be involved. "Having contestants like Mr. AS, Mr. Rugby, Mr. Leaders of Tomorrow and Mr. Pride encourages a lot more students to come out and support their friends." Hamm said.

The support was definitely apparent as more than 600 tickets were sold around campus, filling the seats of Shiley Theatre. The contestants alone raised $9,000 and although the total amount of funds raised is still being calculated, Kappa Alpha Theta estimates it will reach around $30,000.

Proceeds from Mr. U will go towards Kappa Alpha Theta's national philanthropy, C.A.S.A (Court Appointed Special Advocates), which works to help abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

Career Services provides more than just resume tips

By Taylor Cabalse
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Taylor Cabalse/The Vista

Career services is much more than a resume building resource and is now offering senior online networking resources for free.

As spring 2014 quickly comes to an end, students of all grade levels are beginning their search or making their final decisions for summer plans. For many students, these plans consist of choosing a professional career for life after college, deciding between your top two graduate school acceptance letters or finding an internship. Whether the search is just beginning or the final decisions are being made, students forget that Career Services is there to help throughout the process.

Counseling appointments are available for students Monday through Friday, but students also have the opportunity to attend drop-in hours everyday between 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Even if students do not have time to meet with a counselor, the office is filled with many handouts containing information regarding writing a resume, perfecting a cover letter, mastering a phone interview, the best way to send a thank you letter after an interview, and even how to turn down a job offer. These papers provide students with more than just an outline, but also a fully written out draft.

Robin Darmon, Director of Career Services, wants students to realize that Career Services can assist students in more ways than just writing resumes or cover letters. "The biggest myth is we're resume gals" Darmon said. "But I think we're a great place to come if you are looking for a major or not sure what to do with a major or you are looking for an internship or want to know who is hiring."

When looking and applying for jobs, students can't just hope they are offered the position but they also need to see if the company is a good fit for them and their future career goals. Career Services serves as a great resource for the hiring environment and can provide typical salary ranges that are paid for certain jobs.

Senior Sara Fleming visits the Career Services during drop-in hours and always finds the meeting to be beneficial. "Career Services has been really helpful in assisting me with finding both of my internships and now in my job search" Fleming said. "No matter what my question is, Career Services is always prepared to help me and make sure I'm prepared."

Career Services is available to all students, but seniors are now offered a free upgrade for their LinkedIn accounts. "I wish I could just sit down face to face with every senior and say please trust me. Please let me talk to you about this because this is not a gimmick" Darmon said. "This is the most amazing thing the school has ever done. You still want to do this because it broadens your network for life."

By accepting this upgrade, seniors will then have a Job Seeker premium account. This upgrade will provide students with a lot more visibility with companies and networking opportunities. In the free version, students must have at least one connection to reach out to people, but with the Job Seeker account that middle connection is not required.

Another feature the Job Seeker premium account offers is the chance to see who the other applicants are and how you compare to them. Those who have applied for companies through LinkedIn can get a understanding of what percentage they are in terms of fitting for that position.

Senior David Bittner has found himself leaving appointments at Career Services with valuable tools and skills to enhance his professionalism . "They are really there to help you" Bittner said. "Whatever you want to do they try to listen to that and not try to pigeonhole you into certain areas or industries."

Career counseling will always be beneficial for the students who stop by the office, but Career Services is planning on making a few changes. "ToreroLink is going to get a massive expansion. By expanding the technology that can support that, we will have a lot more opportunities for you" Darmon said. "Communication will become more tailored. Posts will become targeted to specific students based on their major."

In addition to a technology expansion, Career Services is hoping to expand their team to tailor more events for each major. They are currently in the process of hiring two new counselors.

No matter the grade level, Career Services wants students to seek their assistance and realize how much resources they can provide. "I just want people to leave USD feeling more confident" Darmon said. "I'd love for them to feel like they got help and were heard."

SENIORS:

Contact Career Services for a free LinkedIn upgrade. Upgrade includes a Job Seeker Premium account.

Toreros relay for hope at 24 hour event

By Kevin Nelson
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

"We're all here for our own reasons but also the same reason," Relay for Life Chair Megan Huynh said.

Many things can be taken from the several speeches given during last Friday and Saturday's Relay for Life but these words were the most important.

On March 21 approximately 900 students and faculty members participated in USD's Relay for Life. The event, benefiting the American Cancer Society, was held for the 5th time on USD's campus. The 24 hour walk began at 6 P.M. and was divided into three parts: celebrate, remember, and fight back. The event began with several survivors taking a lap around the field passing over 50 different registered teams of USD students, all cheering them on to celebrate those who have defeated cancer.

Throughout the event, hundreds of students and participants walked around the field and participated in activities ranging from yoga to soccer as well as many other mini games and competitions including their first ever Mr. Relay competition. Students competed in trivia and costume portions as well as a competition to see who could raise the most money in a lap. Sophomore Kevin Karn was the eventual winner of the event raising over $40 in one lap. "Winning Mr. Relay was a cool way to cap off an incredible event. Relay for Life has always meant a lot to me because my family lost my Uncle Bill and my mother's parents to cancer," Karn said. "Also everyone I've met has seemed to have been affected by cancer in some way and for that reason we need to help fight it and raise awareness for it in any way possible."

At 10 p.m. the second stage of the walk, titled "Remember," started with the Luminaria ceremony. The Luminaria ceremony started with all the lights being turned off on the field, and what followed was arguably the most heart-felt moment throughout the event.

As students sat in the darkness, two survivors talked about their difficult battles with cancer and how they got through it with the support of their families and friends as well as people just like those in attendance, who went out of their way to help a random stranger. At the conclusion of the speeches, Madison Harris, a Relay for Life committee member and survivor herself, listed off reasons for why participants had come out to support Relay for Life.

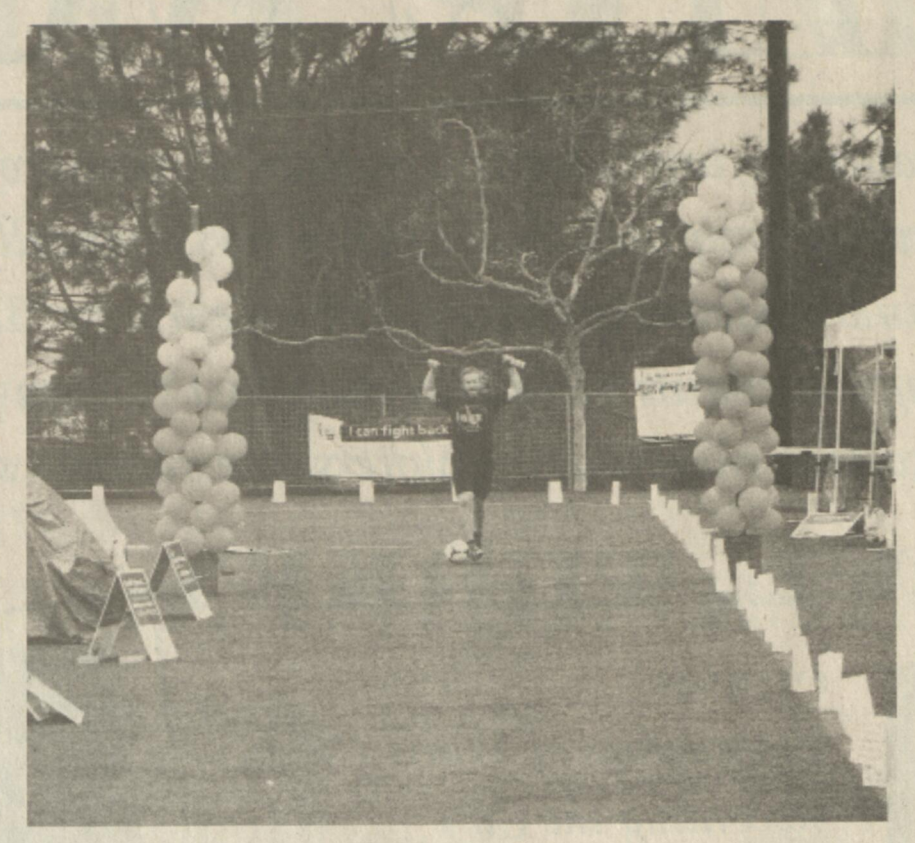
As each participant heard the reason they had attended, whether it was being a cancer survivor or just having a friend who had been diagnosed, they cracked a glow stick that had been given to them. Soon after everyone was holding a lit glow stick and it was clear that no matter what specific reason had brought them out to the event, they were all there for the same cause to support the fight against cancer.

The ceremony concluded with a silent lap around the field led again by several cancer survivors as everyone dropped their glow sticks in bags lining the field with the names of lost loved ones.These bags illuminated the previously dark track, in resemblance of hope that one day no one would have to suffer the disease again.

Junior Haley Hullihen believed it was one of the most powerful moments of the event. "The silence and the lights of the Luminaria ceremony created such a powerful atmosphere it was hard not to be moved." Hullihen said. "I really enjoyed the Relay for Life and how connected I felt to everyone there. It's rare to have so many people gathered in one place committed to such a great cause."

As the event went on, participants started to dwindle off but still a few decided to stay for as long as they could. One such participant was junior Connor Self. At 6 A.M. on Saturday, he was the only one seen on the track running by himself for almost an hour completing 40 laps in that time span. Self may not have intended to but he represented exactly what Relay for Life was about, that someone will always be fighting and someone will always be there to support and battle through the struggles.

The event concluded with the fight back ceremony at 5 P.M. Saturday with closing speeches from the Relay for Life committee thanking everyone who had come out to support the cause. They also announced that over $40,000 was raised throughout the event. Students were able to sign a banner pledging to continue the fight against cancer and took one last lap together before disbanding to end the 24 hours.



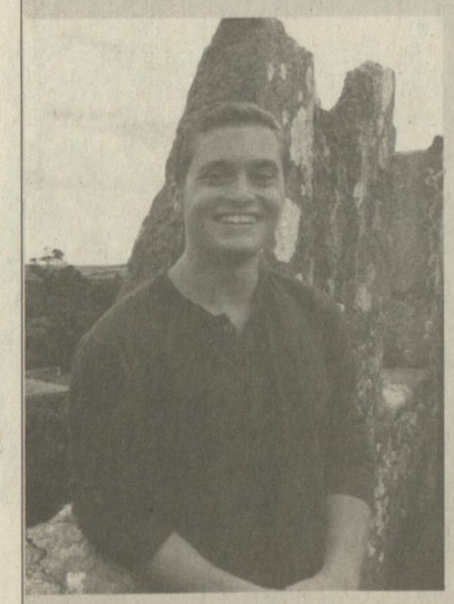
Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Left: Junior Connor Self dribbles a soccer ball passed the finish line at 7 a.m. Right: Students sign a pledge to fight back against cancer during the closing ceremony of Relay for Life.

2014-2015 AS Exec discusses their new roles

By Brittany Carava
FEATURE EDITOR

1) What is your biggest goal/ issue you want to tackle in your new leadership position?
2) Describe your leadership style.
3) What is/was your biggest inspiration to become a leader on USD's campus?
4) What's a random fun fact about yourself that your fellow students may not know about you?
5) Describe your USD experience thus far in 3 words.



Dominic Pera
AS PRESIDENT

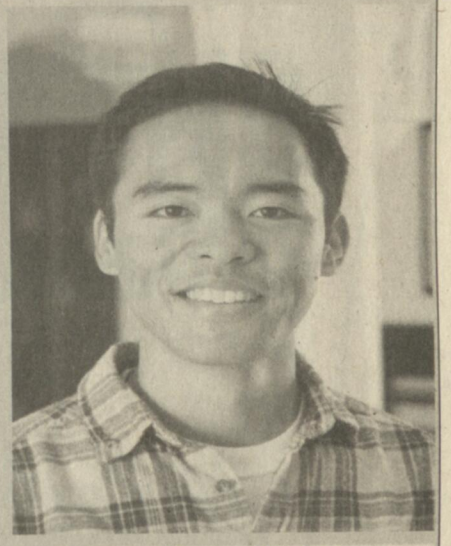
1. "Every issue we tackle regarding student life is connected. As Vice President, I want to focus on inclusion and diversity on this campus as we move forward with changes internally as well as our external support to student organizations. At the end of the day, the great work of our clubs, fraternities, sororities, and associations provide a sense of inclusion and identity on this campus which impacts our well being. I hope to provide opportunities for open dialogue to Toreros in these matters and create initiatives always with our entire community in mind."

2. "Leadership is not a position. It's a process. I always try to lead by example. If others see your passion and commitment, it hopefully becomes contagious."

3. "Our USD community is filled with so many different clubs and organizations that are the backbone of Torero life. At the same time, being surrounded by forward thinking innovators motivates me to provide the best for USD inside and outside the classroom. It's the Torero identity that each of us create that inspires me to become a leader at USD."

4. "I'm a very outdoors person! I love playing golf and hiking when I get the chance, so let me know if you ever want to join me at a driving range or anything!"

5. "Community, Action, Service."



Rommel Pinlac
AS VICE PRESIDENT

1. "My biggest goal is simply to give the students of USD the changes/ fixes/enhancements on campus that they truly want to see. I want students to have more fun, less complaints, and the most competitive degrees possible! This entails making sure that all students see an enhancement in school spirit and community, solutions to common problems such as expensive meal plans and a lack in water dispensers on campus, and finally a professional development program that is implemented in each major that gives students more opportunities to learn about résumé writing, interview skills, and finding jobs/ internships."

2. "I prefer to be the type of leader that is approachable, friendly, and efficient. I want to make sure that my whole team and all students are comfortable coming into my office and telling me what they want to see at USD (or just to hang out). I also, however, want to lead my team in a way that ensures that many tasks/projects are completed! I love to look at the big picture to make sure that I can relate back each project to my goals and the benefit of the student body."

3. "I don't know that I can identify just one single inspiration as to why I decided to become a leader on campus at USD. I have always had a passion for helping others and being involved, and my goal is to always know that I am somehow impacting the lives of those around me. Also, USD inspires me every day to be the best leader possible and to impact those around me as best as I can. I want to make people love USD as much as I do, and all of the students and friends that I have here are inspiration."

4." I know a lot of students might already know this, but I have a twin sister! (Yes, twin telepathy happens)."

5. "Fun, Eye-opening, Inspiring."

Brooke Belanger
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

1. "In my new position I plan to increase school spirit by creating a more comforting and inclusive community. USD is my home. I would love it if everyone was able to break down their reservations so that USD could become one united family. By promoting friendships across the campus and representing the minority as well as the majority, I plan to help every student and faculty member feel as though their voices are heard and know that their ideas are valued."

2. "I am a supportive, direct, and non-biased leader. I plan to represent the entire University in a way that can benefit all. Please feel free to come up and talk to me at any time, I am very friendly! I would love to hear input from everyone on how they believe our school can improve. I believe that if a mass of creative and innovative ideas are produced, our University will flourish. While I am very approachable, I strive to be a professional woman when it comes to senate. I promise to implement as many profitable ideas as possible and do such as to better the USD experience. "

3. "I have always loved being involved with leadership. When I learned that I was to attend such a beautiful school with such incredible opportunities, I jumped at the idea to get become a senator before I even visited campus my freshman year. Being a part of associated students has been a tremendous blessing. Not only have I gained incredible experience and talented friends, but I have had the joy of learning the inside scoop on how the school as a whole functions. The mechanics of each and every part of campus coming together to create the USD experience is very interesting and enlightening to me. I thank all of you for helping me have this incredible and enlightening learning experience in my life."

4. "I am obsessed with Christmas, How I met your Mother, comfortable sweaters, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and a good homemade soup."

5. "Struggles, Persistence, Growth."

Photos Courtesy of sandiego.edu and Brooke Belanger

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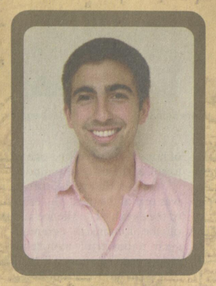
SEE THE WORLD THIS SUMMER

USD was ranked as the top campus for study abroad programs in 2011, so it's not surprising that many Toreros continue to study during the summer months. There are a variety of programs that USD offers, typically letting students earn three units in a month long course. The application window starts at the end of fall semester and students are accepted by February. Then they can begin planning their trips in March and April. For some students, it's a completely new experience leaving the country and traveling to a foreign place. Other students are able to add to the amount of countries they have visited. Regardless if they are first time travelers, or veteran explorers, the summer study abroad sessions allow students to experience new cuisine, culture and a lifetime of memories.

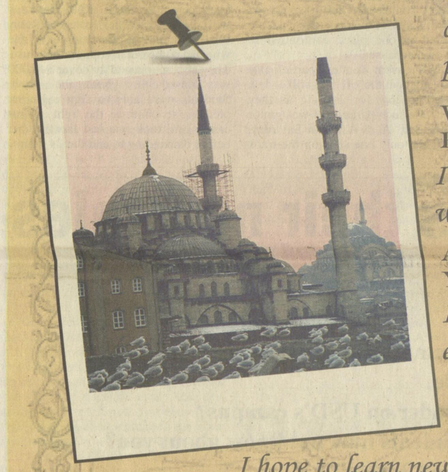
ISTANBUL, TURKEY



Dylan Murphy
Junior
Architecture

CLASS:
Biographies of World Cities, Recording the City

REASON FOR APPLYING:
I loved being on Semester at Sea so I wanted to try a new experience where I live in a country and get to focus on classes pertaining to my major.



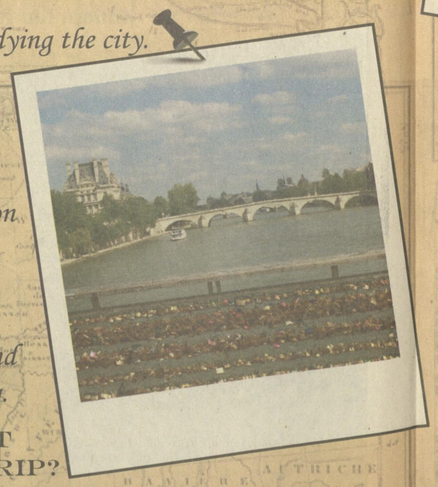
WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR ON YOUR TRIP?
I'm excited to study the architecture of a brand new city with peers who share the same interest.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT ANYTHING WITH YOUR TRIP?
I am actually nervous about living in one foreign country for an extended period of time.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE?
I hope to learn new techniques for observing and studying the city.

PARIS, FRANCE

Mary Richardson
Senior
Communication Studies



CLASS:
Interpersonal Communication

REASON FOR APPLYING:
I needed another class to graduate. I love traveling and the class sounded interesting.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR ON YOUR TRIP?
I'm excited to see Paris as a young adult and to explore the city. I am also excited to meet people and live in a different culture and practice my French.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT ANYTHING WITH YOUR TRIP?
Getting lost in the city!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE?
I hope to gain further cultural insight into French culture and step out of my comfort zone a bit by living in a country that speaks a different language.

BALI, INDONESIA

Jasmine Chao
Junior
Liberal Studies

CLASS:
Religion and Performing Arts in Bali

REASON FOR APPLYING:
Wanderlust! I want to teach in different countries and Bali sounded wonderful.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR ON YOUR TRIP?
I'm excited to meet new people and be immersed in a new culture.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT ANYTHING WITH YOUR TRIP?
I'm not nervous because I've done summer abroad in China my freshman year and it was absolutely amazing.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE?
I hope to gain more insight in different cultures and how religion can tie into their art and music.

LONDON, ENGLAND

Rachel Stein
Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering

CLASS:
Thermal Sciences

REASON FOR APPLYING:
I get to go to one of my favorite cities! Also it is very hard to do a semester abroad in the engineering school.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR ON YOUR TRIP?
I'm most excited for getting to explore the city and experiencing life in another country.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT ANYTHING WITH YOUR TRIP?
I'm nervous about buying more souvenirs than I can fit in my suitcase!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE?
I hope to gain a greater sense of life in another country, while bonding with all the other great students in the class.

COLLEEN BUFFINGTON/THE VISTA

IMAGES COURTESY OF COLLEEN BUFFINGTON/THE VISTA; KALAN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, SPEEDE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, DRIOUX ET LEROY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, BOTMULTICHILLT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, MGA3BOT2/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CHRISTIAAN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, SCHAENGEL80/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, ANONMOOS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, EMIL.J/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, ALEKSA.COM/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, ZSCOUT370/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, JAHOE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ARTS & CULTURE

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Artists you oughta know: Alex Boyé

YouTube sensation Alex Boyé remakes Disney's "Let it Go"

By Kelsey Grey
CONTRIBUTOR

Photo courtesy of UVUSSS/FCC

Utah has been known for being the home to some incredible talent from Olympic athletes, future filmmakers and contestants on popular dance shows such as So You Think You Can Dance and Dancing with the Stars.

Now, Utah is extending its list of talent by adding YouTube sensation and Latter-Day Saints singer-songwriter Alex Boyé.

The Vibe:

A tall glass of pop music infused with an African twist that will cause any person to stand up and dance uncontrollably. It may also cause side effects of feeling good.

Why You Should Pay Attention:

Back on Feb. 13, Boyé released a music video that put an African spin on the recent Academy Award winning Disney song "Let It Go." The song, which is featured in Disney's most recent animated film "Frozen," has taken the nation by storm.

In the description of the YouTube video, Boyé provides the background of his inspiration for tackling such a popular song.

"I went out of town for work and when I got back my wife Julie told me, 'You've got to hear this,'" Boyé said. "She puts on the music and my little four-year-old Adanna struts and shimmies across the living room singing every single word…She got 'Frozenitis!'"

From there, Boyé joined forces with the Salt Lake City based One Voice Children's Choir for vocals and chose the Midway Ice Castles as the location for the music video.

It was only one month later that the music video has almost 27 million views and even inspired a "Frozen" sing-a-long on "Good Morning America."

But this isn't Boyé's first YouTube video hit nor is it his first attempt at music.

Born and raised in London, Boyé explains in his biography on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints website. His mother left to go back to Nigeria for three weeks and ended up staying for eight years. While his mother was away, Boyé was in and out of foster homes. Eventually, Boyé found himself homeless after having been kicked out of so many foster homes at 16 years old.

But just two years later, things took a turn for Boyé.

After entering a dance-singing competition with a couple of his friends, Boyé, as well as his friends, landed a recording contract. From there, Boyé's passion for music exploded.

"Back in the day, when I was in a boy band, I used to do music just to get girls. I used to do music just to get rich and that never brought me any happiness, never brought me any joy."

Today, Boyé says he uses music for something greater than himself.

"My mom like 20 years ago…I mean she was always saying to me Alex…you need to put some of your culture into this music," Boyé said in an interview with ABC4 News Utah.

Although Boyé has multiple African versions of popular songs, including Lorde's "Royals" and Michael Jackson's "They Don't Care About Us," his pursuit of music with a culture infused style has not been easy.

"Sense told me go get a nine to five, sense told me go do this or that, but my heart kept saying, it's the music, man."

Living in Utah has also provided Boyé with the opportunity to collaborate with YouTube stars such as the Piano Guys and violinist Lindsey Stirling.

Two years ago, Piano Guys Jon Schmidt and Steve Sharp Nelson approached Boyé to help create an African version of Coldplay's "Paradise." The final product was a video called "Peponi" which now has almost 24.5 million views on YouTube.

"I have Steven Sharp Nelson, John Schmidt and Lindsey to thank because they taught me their formula," Boye said to ABC4, "and if it weren't for that I wouldn't have even known how to start."

Beyond Boyé's two major cover songs on YouTube, Boyé has had the opportunity to dance "Gangnam Style" with Mitt Romney at a Latter-Day Saints concert as well as create an African version of One Republic's "Good Life" for Disney Parks commercials.

Get Up and Get Listening:

Drawing from hip-hop, jazz, pop and even rock, Boyé creates clever infusions of popular songs with his African roots. With his current success on YouTube, viewers should be on the lookout for more to come from Alex Boyé. Boyé may just bring the African heat needed to melt the Frozenitis.

Photo courtesy of One Voice Children's Choir

Alex Boye and Lexi Walker perform "Let It Go" with the One Voice Children's Choir.

Creative Writing

By Chelsea McLin
CONTRIBUTOR

Name: Chelsea McLin

Year: Freshman

Major(s): Psychology/English

What type of piece this is: Poem

Why I write: I often have difficulty expressing myself. I can tell someone a story perfectly fine, but I get this rush of passion that seems to be stronger on paper.

I think that we, as humans, sometimes choose not to acknowledge the experiences of other people. We know one way of living and believe that to be the standard for everyone, but that's not the case. I wanted to share the story of someone who has had an uphill battle that many have not recognized as difficult, just ordinary. - Chelsea McLin

To the Woman I Think Needs a Voice,

You grew up in Los Angeles, not the part where the celebrities live, but the city where the skin color is dark and the yearly income is low. Growing up I don't think you knew you had it hard. How could you when the world was telling you that you could make it, and the complications of your skin color were obsolete?

Your Momma did the best she could to raise you right. She put you in the best schools in the neighborhood, but the resources were limited to a young mother and her child, without a father around to carry some of the weight. How did she know that you would lose some of your friends to violence? How did she know you would be ostracized for being a dark girl with "nice hair?" How did she know that you would follow her footsteps and become a young mother putting any dreams you had on hold? Apparently you should have known and it was all your fault. You needed to "just work a little harder."

Your grandmother lived in a nice neighborhood, a white neighborhood. Where people knew her name and a nice little fence surrounded her home. When the Negroes moved in, the white folks moved out. And that nice little fence outside her yard was marked with the tagging of gangs. How did she know that instead of shooting fireworks on the Fourth of July, gangs would shoot bullets? How did she know that her grandchild wouldn't be able to play outside because she might be raped and killed? How did she know that she was going to live a life of fear? Apparently you should have known and it was all your fault. You needed to "just work a little harder."

You are a mother now, single and making sacrifices for four children. You moved into a nice neighborhood just like your grandmother and put your kids in the best schools like your mother. You tried to work a little harder because people who didn't know the world you lived in told you that you needed to. How did you know that you and your husband would divorce and you would move from a nice neighborhood to a cheap apartment? How did you know that the economy was going to hit you so hard it forced you to get three jobs and work seven days a week? How did you know you wouldn't be able to put your daughter through school? How did you know you would struggle to support your family? How did you know? Please tell me, Momma, because the world wants an answer. And I need you to tell them your story! Tell them that the world does not work in your favor. Tell them that you aren't just swinging at the bottom. The journey to the top is an uphill battle. Tell them that you are tired of fighting when you keep getting knocked down. Tell them because I don't think they understand!

I'm sorry, I just think people should know because you've dealt with this your whole life and you shouldn't. I'm not telling you to not take ownership for the problems in your life because you always taught me to admit when I have made mistakes, and I respect you for that. But I am here to tell you that you don't have to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders. We live in a world where your hard work is not recognized and your experience has been invalidated. I know I didn't hear you when I was young, but I hear you now, Momma. I know your struggles, and I want the world to know too.

Sincerely,

Your daughter

Cygnet Theatre's Spring Awakening arouses audience

The award winning rock musical puts adolescent sexuality center stage

By Cindy LoPresti
CONTRIBUTOR

Rebellious 19th century teenagers take a provocative journey from adolescence to adulthood in this powerful celebration of self-discovery in a time of deep sexual oppression. Spring Awakening, an eight-time Tony Award-winning rock musical, has made its way to San Diego's Cygnet Theatre in Old Town offering viewers an intoxicating story. Spring Awakening combines youth sexuality with an electrifying score. Viewers will be tapping their toes and reminiscing on awkward days of adolescence while enjoying one of the boldest, funniest, most powerful plays of the year.

Originally written in 1891, Spring Awakening tackles modern day issues found on modern day high school campuses today. Through a cast of extremely talented young actors in a well presented production, Spring Awakening puts a fresh spin on these timeless issues. Based on the controversial German play, Spring Awakening was banned in Germany for some time for its unflinching portrayal of child abuse, rape, homosexuality, masturbation, teen pregnancy, abortion and suicide. It explores the confusion and desperation that ensues when teen hormones and naïve innocence clash with strict, prude authority figures too embarrassed to discuss these urges.

Set in 19th century Germany, the musical follows the lives of a central trio of the anxious misfit Moritz, the handsome and intelligent Melchior and the sweetly curious Wendla. Frustrated by her mother's refusal to teach her about the consequences of sex, Wendela finds herself in a difficult situation when she has desires to be with her sweetheart, Melchior. Moritz and Melchior are introduced in an oppressive classroom reciting Latin. Moritz, a nervous and insecure boy struggling with both his studies and his sexual dreams seeks Melchior's wisdom and advice. Having learned sexual information from books, Melchior offers him advice, which only increases Mortiz's anxiety, confusion and frustration.

Meanwhile, a group of school girls gather together after school and tease each other as they fantasize about boys in their town and who they dream of marrying. In their conversation, one of the girls reveals that her father has been abusing her. The musical numbers "My Junk" and "Touch Me" express the boys and girls' desire for physical intimacy and the confusion and shame surrounding sexual exploration.

When Wendla and Melchior stumble upon each other in the forest, they each consider what it would be like to give in to their sexual desires for each other but refrain, remembering their oppressive upbringings. At the end of act one, they come together in confused intimacy. But with no sexual education or understanding, what follows is a mix of teen pain, agony, heartbreak and tragedy.

With songs like "The Bitch of Living," and "Totally F-----," Spring Awakening offers a theatrical experience unlike any other. Loud, bold and intense rock music mixed with high energy choreography and acrobatic stunts makes for a thrilling, eye opening theatrical adventure, sure to leave viewers thinking.

The young actors in the play are all phenomenal. They show talent beyond their years with their ability to address difficult subjects with innocence and conviction. The set design and props are cleverly incorporated so that the 19th century takes a modern spin with Elvis-style dancing and microphones. It is surely a production for those new and familiar to theatre alike.

Photo Courtesy of Daren Scott

Top Row (l to r) William Corkery, Dylan Mulvaney, Dave Thomas Brown, Jacob Caltrider. Bottom Row- Charles Evans, Jr., Christopher Ruetten performing "The Bitch of Living."

EDITOR IN CHIEF
&
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
APPLICATIONS DUE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

ARTS & CULTURE

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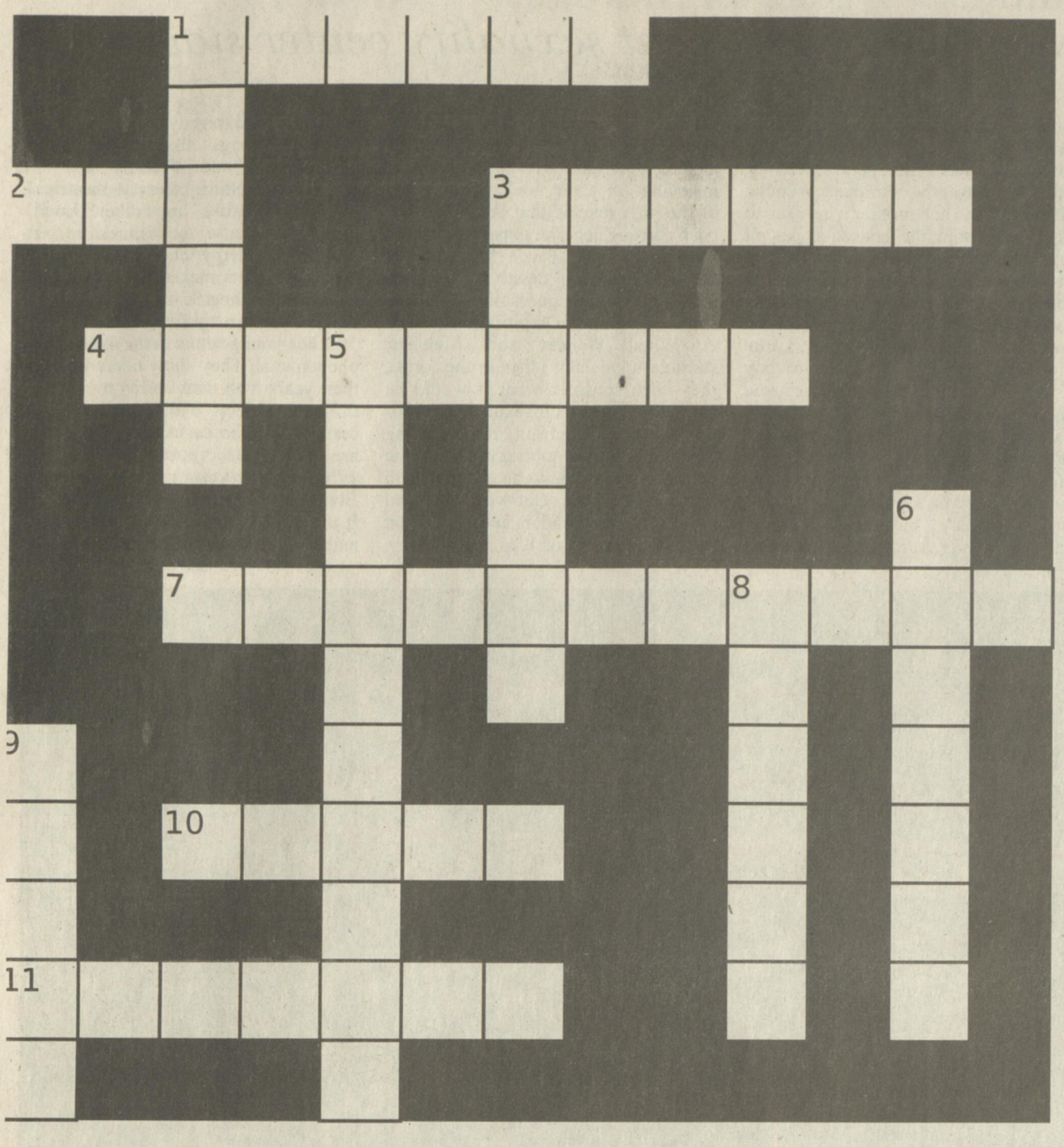
Vacation Puzzle



Across

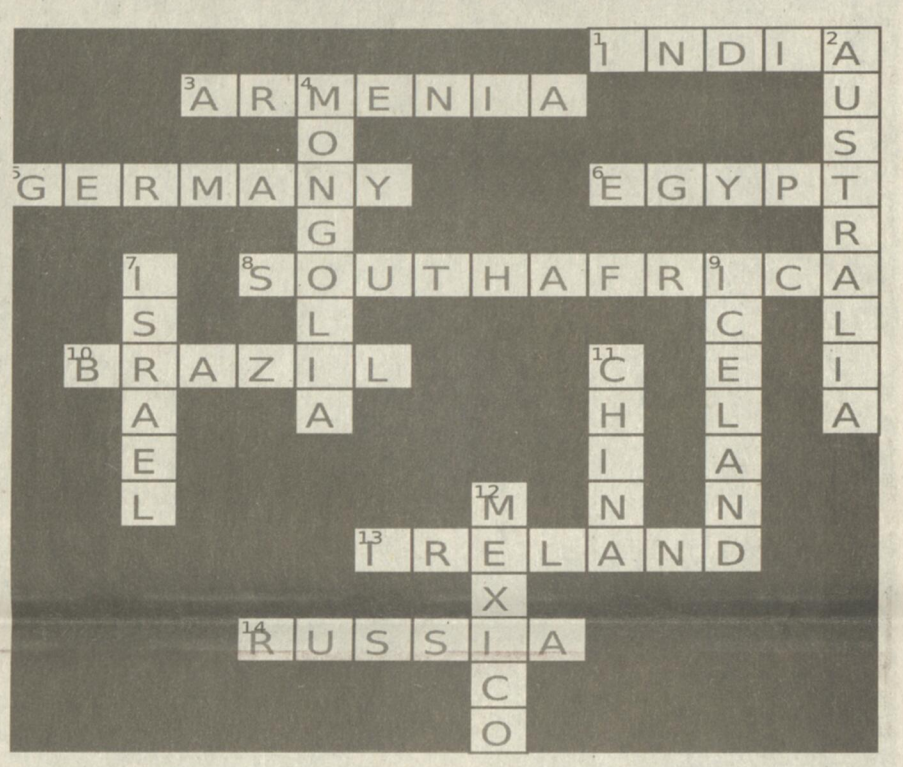
1. Vacation on a boat
2. After sun exposure
3. Open summer shoe
4. Protect from the sun
7. Week long vacation during spring semester
10. Rest
11. Round brown fruit

Down

1. Popular vacation city in eastern Mexico
3. Riding the waves
5. Swimming with fish
6. Traveling in a boat
8. Home to tourists
9. Land meets Ocean

By: Anastasia Macdonald
Asst. Arts & Culture Editor

Answers to last week's crossword



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Taking Back Sunday and The Used
March 28, 2014
6:00 pm

image by Wehwalt/wikimedia commons

image by Omar otiniano/wikimedia commons

Sprick Kickoff Party
March 29th, 2014
2:00 pm

Kenny Metcalf
March 29th
8:00pm

image by FXR/wikimedia commons

Cut Copy
March 31st, 2014
8:00 pm

Celtic Woman
March 31st, 2014
7:00 pm

Blackberry Smoke
April 1, 2014
8:00 pm

IL Dive
April 2nd, 2014
8:00 pm

Willie Nelson
April 4th, 2014
7:30 pm

image by GDuwen/wikimedia commons

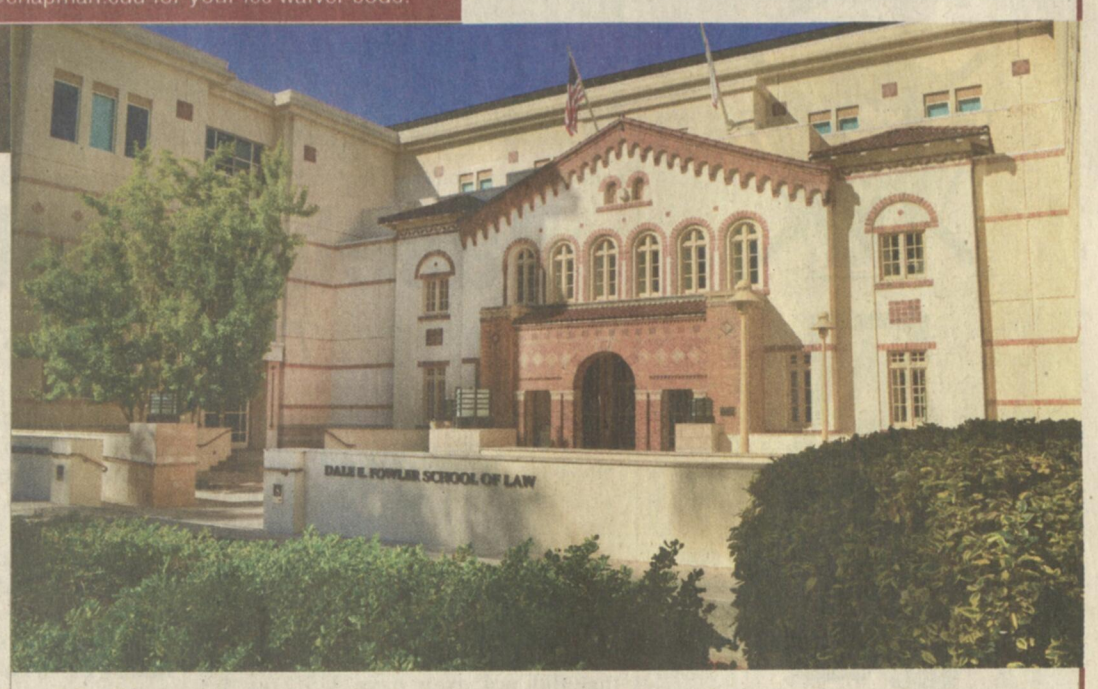
Kassi Karabaich/ The Vista

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY DALE E. FOWLER SCHOOL OF LAW

The law school is located just one block from a variety of restaurants, shops and taverns in the historic Orange Circle and is just a short drive to world class beaches in Newport and Huntington Beach. Students take advantage of externships and job opportunities throughout the region and are within minutes from landmarks such as Anaheim Stadium, Disneyland and the federal and state court complex.

Located on the stunning Chapman University campus in the heart of Orange County's thriving legal and business hub, the Dale E. Fowler School of Law has earned a reputation as one the nation's best locations to study law. A perennial top 10 favorite for Quality of Life, the law school is well-known for its accessible faculty, collaborative student body, friendly staff and amazing location.

Boasting one of the nation's lowest student-faculty ratios, the Fowler School of Law blends real world skills with a broad understanding of the law, capping the three-year JD program with a comprehensive in-house Bar preparation program that has resulted in Fowler pass rates that are among the best in the state.



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY | FOWLER SCHOOL OF LAW

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Photo Courtesy of Bayside

Punk rock group Bayside performs at House of Blues

The group is promoting their latest full length album "Cult"

By Davide de Carle
CONTRIBUTOR

The House of Blues, full of indie Aztec decorations, opened the stage on March 20 to the infamous Punk Rock band, Bayside. The generously decorated room boasted a modestly sized floor, a VIP section close to the bar, a merchandise corner and a three-sided balcony surrounding the proscenium style stage. Some of Bayside's most devout fans were already perched in front of the stage after queuing for up to an hour. Fans ranged from eccentric teens in studded belts and straightened hair, to adults in their mid-twenties.

The audience gave Bayside a warm welcome as they took the stage. The band then began with their song "Big Cheese" from their new album, "Cult." Bayside's entrance drove the fans into ecstasy as people were already crowd surfing and throwing shirts on stage. Despite the album having been released only a month prior to the concert, the crowd's knowledge of the lyrics was clear. Not a single lyric was missed by anyone in the house that evening.

As far as live performances go, Bayside is definitely one of the better performing groups out there, particularly in their genre. Punk rock often has elements that render it slightly less pleasant live than recorded. It is difficult to enjoy a group that is off tempo or whose vocals are drowned by too much percussion or bass. However, Bayside offered a formidable live experience. Lead singer Anthony Raneri and lead guitarist Jack O'Shea showcased their musical talents with a variety of awe-inspiring guitar solos. One truly intimate moment between the two band members and the audience came during an acoustic performance of the song "Don't Call Me Peanut." After the quick succession of up-tempo songs this acoustic performance gave the crowd a much-needed breather and a chance to take out their lighters and sway from side to side.

During the performance, Raneri addressed the audience directly, revealing to them Bayside has been together for 14 years. Along with references to his band history, Raneri also stated the group adored San Diego and asked how many have seen Bayside in concert. With a unanimous cheer everyone in the crowd raised their hands. This is testament to the band's modestly sized, yet loyal fan base. Bayside has released six albums and the House of Blues was only one stop on their "Great American Cult Tour." The tour is promoting their new album "Cult" that was also available for sale right next to the stage.

Despite a truly remarkable performance from Bayside, there were several factors that may have influenced it negatively. From start to finish, with the exception of the acoustic break, Bayside chose to almost sprint through their performance, leaving very few occasions for the band to stay in touch with their audience on a personal level. Songs were played in very quick succession and with no introduction. Other factors can be attributed to the venue itself. Despite its rather quaint appearance and intimate feel, the House of Blues became an airless sauna all too soon due to its underground location. This may be negligible for the regular punk rock concertgoer, yet detrimental for a newcomer. Another factor was the stage space itself. The space the artists had to perform on was relatively small compared to other similarly sized venues. The band could have utilized extra floor space to energize the crowd even more.

All in all, the 150 or so attendants could not have been happier with Bayside's performance. Bayside left the audience in a passionate applause after their last song, "Dear Tragedy." But the band was lulled back on stage one last time for two extra classics, "Devotion and Desire," and "Moceanu." Bayside has sold out shows all along the west coast. They will continue their tour around the country through April 5 attracting more and more fans to their "Cult."

SPORTS

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Elite 8 predictions were made on March 20

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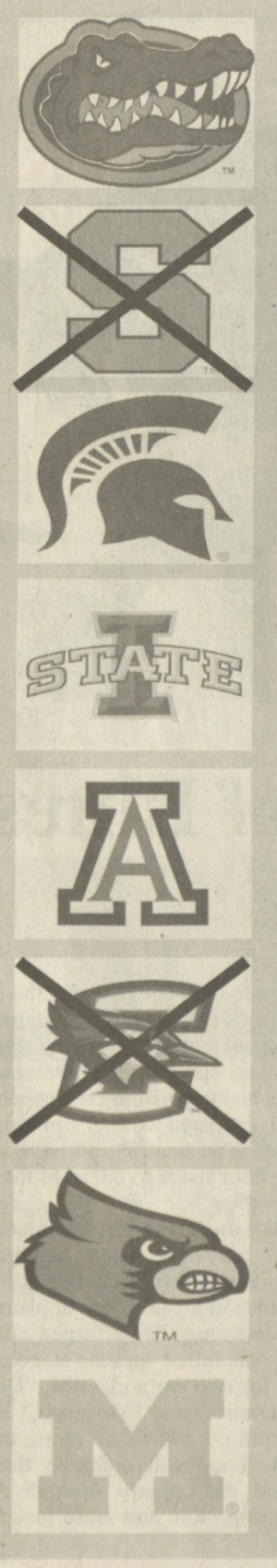
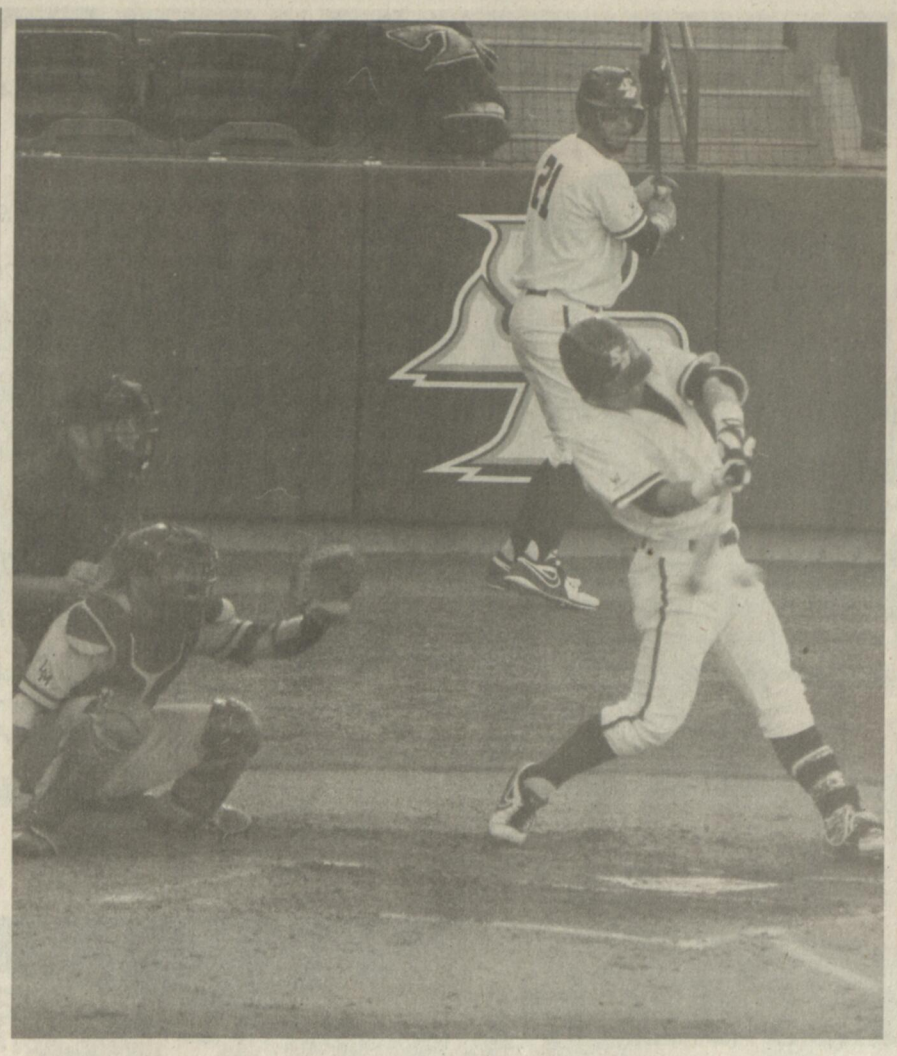
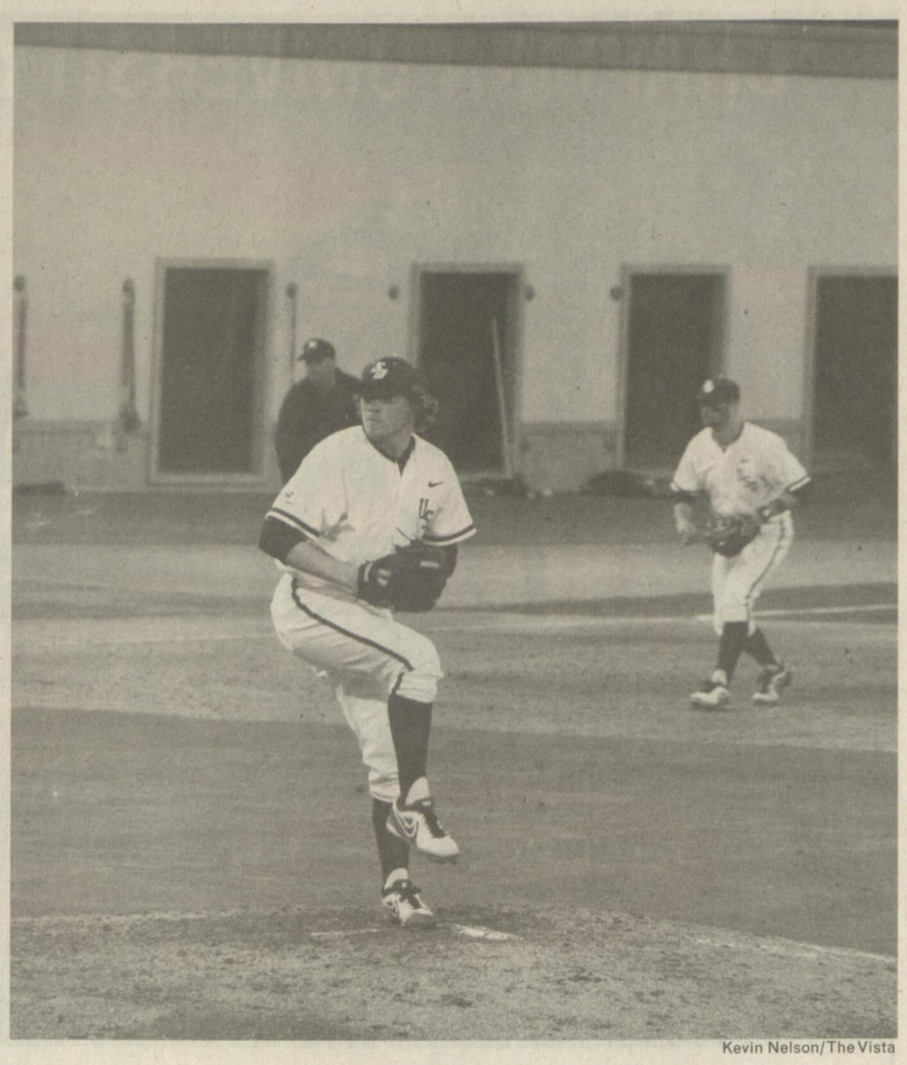






Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Following Joses to Whashington State and LMU the Toreros dropped out of the top 25 ranking.

Baseball falls out of top 25 rankings

Toreros lose to Washington State and LMU

By Matthew Roberson
CONTRIBUTOR

After putting together a six game winning streak earlier this month, the Torero baseball team got rose in the rankings to No. 17 in the country by Collegiate Baseball, an organization that did not even have USD in the top 30 in their previous rankings. The six game winning streak included a three-game sweep on the road against conference rival Brigham Young, as well as a 5-3 win at home against No. 13 ranked Cal State Fullerton Titans.

The victory against Cal State Fullerton came on a walk-off homerun in the tenth inning by sophomore Troy Conyers, a win which can hopefully provide the team with confidence that they can compete with other top programs. On March 18, the Washington State University Cougars ended the Toreros' win streak and got another win the following night. The team also dropped two games at home to West Coast Conference contender, the Loyola Marymount University Lions, before ending the series with a convincing 8-1 victory on March 23. In that win over the Lions the Toreros got hits from eight different players, including a solo home run from senior Josh Goossen-Brown.

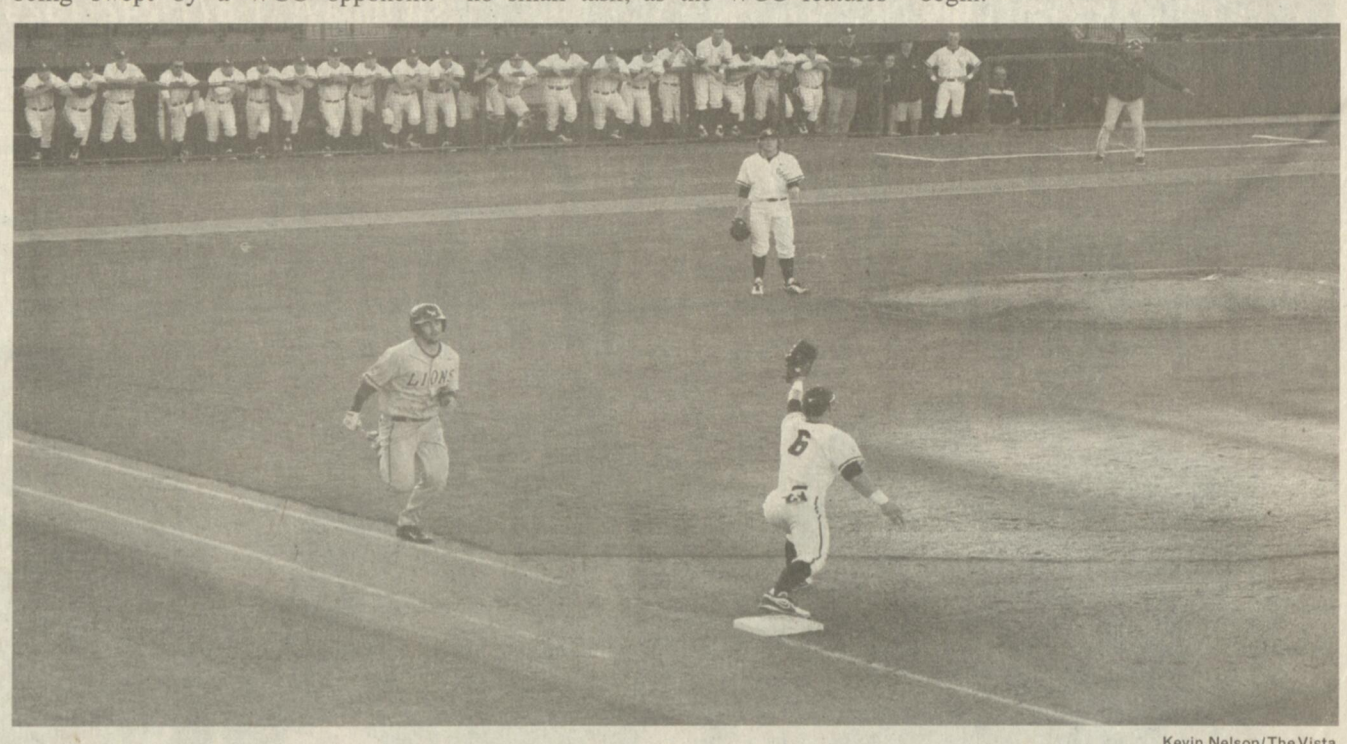
The Toreros feature a very balanced attack offensively, including a whopping nine players with batting averages above .300 as of March 23. The team has also clubbed 20 home runs in only 23 games, something that has helped them score over 10 runs on eight different occasions. The pitching staff has also been very strong in the early part of the season, posting an ERA of 3.16 and an average of 7.79 strikeouts per nine innings through the first 23 games.

Senior Louie Lechich has been vital to the team's early season success. Lechich, a senior from Stockton, California who transferred from Cal, has been doing damage at the plate as well as on the mound. Lechich is tied for the team lead with a staggering .380 batting average and is second on the team in both home runs and RBI as of March 23. As a pitcher, Lechich has a 5-1 record to go with a 2.06 ERA. On March 23 against Loyola Marymount, Lechich turned in a marvelous pitching performance by holding the Lions to seven hits over 8 1/3 innings and limiting LMU's potent offense to just one run.

That win could wind up being a crucial one for the Toreros, who were in desperate need of a victory to avoid being swept by a WCC opponent. Juniors Andrew Daniel and Connor Joe have also been tremendous weapons for head coach Rich Hill's team. Daniel has been a hitting machine, with a batting average of .380 and a team-high eight doubles, while Joe provides most of the power with his team-leading five home runs and 25 RBI through the first 23 games.

The Toreros will end the month of March with a three-game series up north against the Dons of the University of San Francisco before returning home to kick off the month of April against heated rivals San Diego State and Gonzaga. USD will look to bring home a conference title this season, something they have not done since 2010, and qualify for a third straight NCAA Tournament. It will be no small task, as the WCC features several strong baseball programs such as Loyola Marymount and Pepperdine University.

If the Toreros are able to continue playing at a high level, they will no longer be able to sneak up on teams. Having a ranking next to a name signifies that team as a force to be reckoned with, and thus other teams will be giving the Toreros their best shot. The proverbial target on the chest of the Toreros that comes with being a ranked team will make for a very entertaining season presumably filled with high-intensity games. Unfortunately, their four losses last week to LMU and Washington State were enough to drop the Toreros from the top 25 rankings but look to turn their luck around as conference games begin.



Kevin Nelson/The Vista

The Toreros make an out at first during a game versus LMU last Friday.

Women's Softball prepares for WCC

By Sharlene Swanberg
CONTRIBUTOR

After a slow start in preseason, USD softball stepped up their game in preparation for their first season in the West Coast Conference. The team went on a hot streak starting in the beginning of March, earning nine wins in a row.

"We have learned to trust each other not only off the field but on it as well and that has helped us really rally behind each other and win," said sophomore Mary Grabowski, the team's four-spot hitter. Since then, after a 4-9 deficit, USD softball has overcome this shortfall and now reflects an overall record of 15-15S

USD softball is really stepping up to the plate this year and individual players are standing out for their relentless competitiveness and success. Senior pitcher Jenny Lahitte received WCC Pitcher of the Week the first week of games back on Feb. 10. Designated hitter Grabowski, and sophomore utility player Tatum Schultz, were recently recognized as WCC players of the week for their outstanding hitting contributing to many wins for USD softball. Freshman outfielder Olivia Sandusky and senior pitcher Cassidy Coleman have been recognized this season as Muscle Milk student athletes of the week. Coleman has also been awarded on several accounts for her tenacity in the circle with WCC Pitcher of the Week and College Sports Madness WCC player of the week.

Despite individual achievements, the success of Torero softball is achieved by the togetherness of the team. "We are playing well and our team is coming together at the right time," said Head Coach Melissa McElvain. "Our offensive production has stepped up the past two weeks and our pitching and defense has been tough."

Torero softball has one more opportunity to boost their win column before heading into conference games. USD plays a single game against Cal State Northridge on Wednesday, Mar. 26 at San Diego State University. The Toreros have a strong work ethic that is paying off through their performance when it matters most. "We've been working really hard on controlling the little things to become better on the field,"said junior outfielder Kylie McNutt. This game is an opportunity to tie up loose ends before conference games.

The USD softball team is preparing for WCC play with high expectations. Coach McElvain realizes that "with the addition of BYU last year and University of Pacific this year, every conference series is going to be a competitive battle." The softball team is working especially hard this year as they not only practice hard on the field and in the weight room, but have incorporated yoga and sports psychology into their routine. We've been getting stronger at practice as the season has progressed. We're more focused and working harder than ever as we head into conference,"said senior center fielder Dana Prelsnik.

The field is not the only place the Toreros athletes are working hard. Amidst their lengthy days spent getting better, USD softball still finds time to actively recognize and serve the San Diego community. Two weeks ago, at their game versus Seattle University, the Toreros hosted San Diego's Fan For Life and John Brockington Foundation to throw the first pitch.

The organization is a local organ donation foundation founded by former Green Bay Packer, John Brockington, and his wife, Diane Brockington, who is also his organ donor. The foundation was hosted because of Coach McElvain's recent kidney donation this last fall.

This previous Sunday, USD softball recognized San Diego's Navajo girl's softball fastpitch league. Approximately 40 young girls ages 12 and under showed up to support USD softball. After the game, the team signed posters and softballs and took pictures with the young, aspiring athletes."Knowing that our team helps out our community through simple actions makes all the work and time worthwhile," said sophomore pitcher Grace Hernandez. The team's involvement with their community and commitment to their personal and team growth is what gives USD softball their edge to win the WCC championship.

Torero softball opens up their conference schedule with high expectations against BYU at home on April 4 and 5. "Our team is extremely determined to win the WCC conference championship this year. We believe that we have a solid lineup that will get the job done. If we get the little things done and stay consistent we have no doubt that we will win the title," said senior pitcher and "strike out queen," Cassidy Coleman. USD softball has five exciting weekends ahead of them in their battle for the WCC championship title. "We're hitting our stride at the right time," so you can expect USD softball to achieve great success and make history this year," said Prelsnik.

SPORTS

Photographs courtesy of Cindy LoPresti

USD Rec offers scuba diving classes where students become certified scuba divers. Above students in the class go on a practice dive in La Jolla.

Scuba Diving becoming more popular at USD

USD Recreation offers classes to certify students

By Cindy LoPresti
CONTRIBUTOR

For a new sport to try for those tired of the same old worn out options offered on a field or in a pool, look no further than San Diego's own backyard: the Pacific Ocean. This sport isn't surfing, windsurfing, or boogie boarding, it's the sport of scuba diving. Scuba diving has recently gained attention as a must-try activity. It is packed with many of the same characteristics of traditional sports, with the added benefit of unparalleled scenery and an underwater adventure.

Scuba diving is all about competition; there's competition that exists within yourself to become a better, more efficient diver. The ability to exert less energy and conserve more oxygen is a skill that takes the practice, training and devotion of any sport's athlete. Personal performance and improvement is often measured by an increase in time spent below the surface on a single dive. Competition with your dive buddy becomes only natural; for example, competition to see who comes up with the most air or who saw more native species of fish. Divers are constantly competing to better themselves and motivate those around them.

Diving has its own unique way of scoring points. Whether it is number of dives, cumulative hours of bottom time, volume of species of fish identified, or sharks swam with, every diver keeps and celebrates their own points in their own way. These dive statistics can be recorded, maintained, compared and shared through personal dive logs.

Like any sport, diving has its rules. These rules are taught through initial certification classes and reinforced through personal experiences and by learning from more experienced divers who enforce social diving etiquette. There are serious penalties for breaking these rules. For example, exceeding the no-decompression limit for any given depth, has a penalty of time in a decompression chamber. Divers must spend enough time at a safety stop to allow all the oxygen that has accumulated in a diver's bloodstream to slowly leave the body to avoid being doubled over in pain with the bends. Stay off the coral, don't take anything from the sea floor, don't raise dust with fins when there's a diver behind, and stay with a dive buddy at all times. Following the rules has its benefits, including an almost unlimited access to some of the least explored and most beautiful sceneries in the world.

When you become a diver, dives become all about teamwork. Donning the equipment necessary for a successful dive alone is a task that must be done with help. A dive buddy is responsible for making sure their partner has everything they need--air in the tank, weights, a clear mask, a functioning wetsuit--and in turn their partner does the same for them. From dive planning, sticking to the dive plan, helping in emergencies and sharing amazing underwater experiences, teamwork is what it's all about.

Diving is the ultimate adventure sport. Winning is measured in a successful dive, a new and unique experience, an unforgettable experience. It's a physical activity. Like any sport, the better shape you're in, they better you'll do. To dive, you need to be in a state of good health without any serious medical conditions. However, the most amazing thing about diving is that it is accessible to people with physical disabilities. Many instructors are trained to provide courses tailored to physically challenged divers and there are diving societies whose primary goal is to facilitate and promote diving for physically challenged people. It truly is a sport for everyone.

With class registration right around the corner, those interested can use their time living in San Diego to take advantage of USD's Beginning and Advanced scuba diving certification classes. Classes cost $180, and can certify students to get in the ocean in approximately eight weeks while earning .5 credits. Once a diver is certified, they can head to one of the many pristine dive spots around San Diego such as La Jolla Shores, Isla Los Coronados, or the shipwreck "The Yukon."

Padres host Indians at USD

Final spring training at Fowler Park

By Genevieve Cruzan
CONTRIBUTOR

Do not be surprised if you see many Padres and Indian fans on campus this weekend. On Friday, Mar. 28 and Saturday Mar. 29, Fowler Park and Cunningham Field will host a two-game series between the San Diego Padres and the Cleveland Indians.

Starting at 6:10 p.m. on Friday and at 1:10 p.m. on Saturday, the Padres will throw the first pitch on the home field of the University of San Diego Toreros.

The way in which the San Diego Padres are starting off the 2014 season is different in comparison to prior seasons. Instead of going straight from spring training to Opening Day, the Padres have decided to play their final exhibition games in the $13.8 million ballpark which was funded by Padres owner, Ron Fowler.

Not only is Fowler the owner of the club, but also he is heavily associated with USD. Fowler is the chair of the University Board of Trustees. A strong relationship between the Padres and USD has been emphasized by the Padres' new ownership.

"I think the Padres and Indians coming to USD is a great thing for the San Diego community and for the university," Padres Manager Bud Black said. "There's a strong connection between the Padres organization from ownership on down through our front office to those of us on the field with our local colleges and we feel this opportunity to come to USD makes that relationship."

Nevertheless, this two-game series will help the university in terms of marketing and the growth of the baseball program. "It is going to be a great pair of games here at USD between the Padres and the Indians. Events like this are a good way for us to raise awareness within the community about our amazing baseball program," said Lauren Brosamer, USD's assistant marketing director.

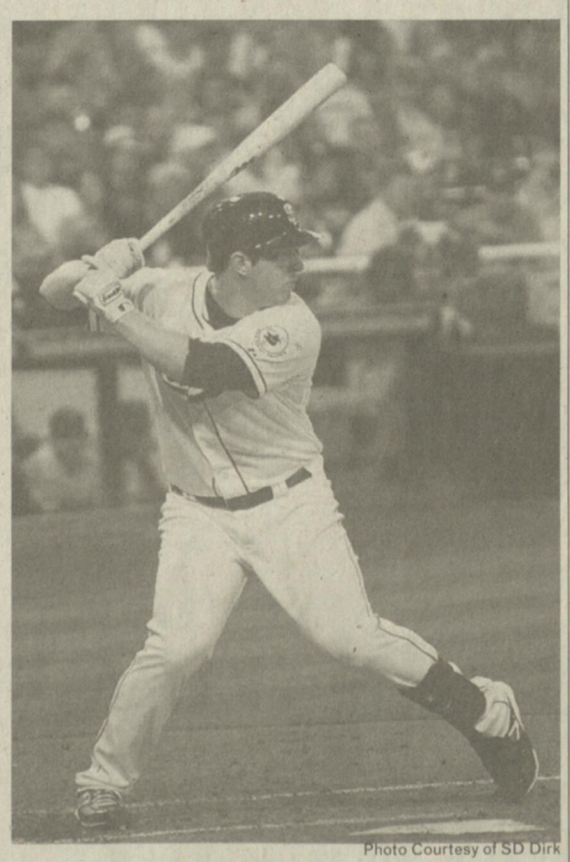
This season, the Padres are welcoming back many players who will play a key role in the game. Righthanded pitcher Casey Kelly is returning from a year-long Tommy John injury. Additionally, catcher Yasmani Grandal is back behind the plate after recovering from a torn ACL. Last season, Grandal was hit while attempting to tag an out at home plate. Shortstop Everth Cabrera was one of 12 MLB players who were suspended for using steroids. Cabrera was suspended for the last 50 games of the 2013 season.

The team also had changes in the coaching staff. Former first base coach Dave Roberts, is now the Padres' bench coach, taking the place of Rick Renteria who moved to the Chicago Cubs. Jose Valentin took Roberts' position as first base coach.

Following the series, the Padres will open their regular season against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Last season, the Padres finished in third place in the National League West, whereas the Indians finished in second place in the American League Central.

Fowler Park is one of the most beautiful college ballparks in the nation, and the Padres are excited to get a change of pace while exploring other baseball scenery in San Diego.

"USD did a tremendous job with Fowler Park and I can speak on behalf of the players and coaches when I say we're all looking forward to playing on such a great field," Black stated.



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Photograph courtesy USD Athletics

Toreros #1 Johnny Dee drives the lane versus the Portland State Vikings in the first round of the CIT. The Toreros have made it to the quarterfinals of the tournament to face the University of the Pacific.

Men's Basketball advances to CIT Quarterfinal

Dee and Anderson lead the Toreros in postseason

By Hunter Jameson
SPORTS EDITOR

The Torero Men's basketball team has been under a lot of pressure as of late. After losing to the University of San Francisco Dons in the West Coast Conference tournament in Las Vegas, NV, the Toreros lost their chance to get an NCAA tournament bid. They were given a gift, when the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament Committee gave them a bid, and would host the first postseason game at the Jenny Craig Pavilion in school history. With the CIT tournament invite, the Toreros enter their fifth overall postseason, with the others coming in 2008, 2003, 1987 and 1984.

Junior guard Johnny Dee was named to the All-WCC First Team after being an Honorable Mention in his first two seasons as a Torero. Dee was fourth overall in scoring in the WCC with 16.9 points per game. Dee also holds the highest free throw percentage in the nation, shooting .943 from the line.

On March 18, the Toreros faced the Portland State Vikings of the Big Sky Conference in the first round of the CIT tournament, and controlled the game from start to finish.

Junior guard Johnny Dee led the way with 22 points for USD, while freshman guard Brett Bailey provided an extra spark in the offense with a career high 13 points.

Junior guard Chris Anderson also recorded assist number 200 for his career, passing current Miami Heat Assistant David Fizdale for the USD single season passing record. He finished the game with 11 points and 11 assists. Sophomore center Jito Kok added 14 points and three blocks to his USD record of most blocks in a season, which is currently at 59.

DeShaun Wiggins helped keep the Vikings in the game with 14 points off the bench, but the Torero offense proved too much to handle as the gave continued. The Toreros won 87-65, earning their first postseason victory since 2008 when they upset the University of Connecticut Huskies in the first round of the NCAA tournament. With the victory, the Toreros earned a trip to Huntsville, TX to face the Sam Houston State Bearkats.

Sam Houston State was a much tougher opponent who have played against strong opponents including Stephen F. Austin who recently made it to the Third Round of the NCAA tournament as a 12 seed. The Bearkats came in with a record of 24-11 and only lost one game at home prior to their game against the Toreros. Anderson controlled the tempo for the Toreros and his statistics proved it, finishing with 19 points and 10 assists. Anderson is 11 in the nation with 6.2 assists per game, which led the WCC. Dee also had 15 points and moved into third place on the all-time USD scoring list with 1,510.

At halftime, the Toreros held a 38-28 lead and it took a strong offensive performance in the last few minutes to earn the win. Anderson broke a 72-72 tie that ultimate sealed the win for the Toreros, as they scored the final five points of the game. The final score was 77-72.

The Toreros are now 18-16 on the season and move on to play a familiar foe in the University of the Pacific Tigers in Stockton, CA for the CIT Quarterfinals. The Tigers and Toreros have played each other twice thus far, splitting the season series one game apiece.

The Tigers won the first meeting 84-67 in San Diego, but the Toreros redeemed themselves with a 70-55 win in Stockton. The Tigers hold an overall series lead with six wins out of 11, but the last time USD played at UOP they came away with a victory. All of the USD postseason games are broadcast live on ESPN 1700AM and a free video-audio link can be found at www.usdtoreros.com.

Photographs courtesy of USD Athletics

Above: Chris Anderson fights of a defender in a game verus Portland State. Below: Brett Bailey attempts to drive past a defender.

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