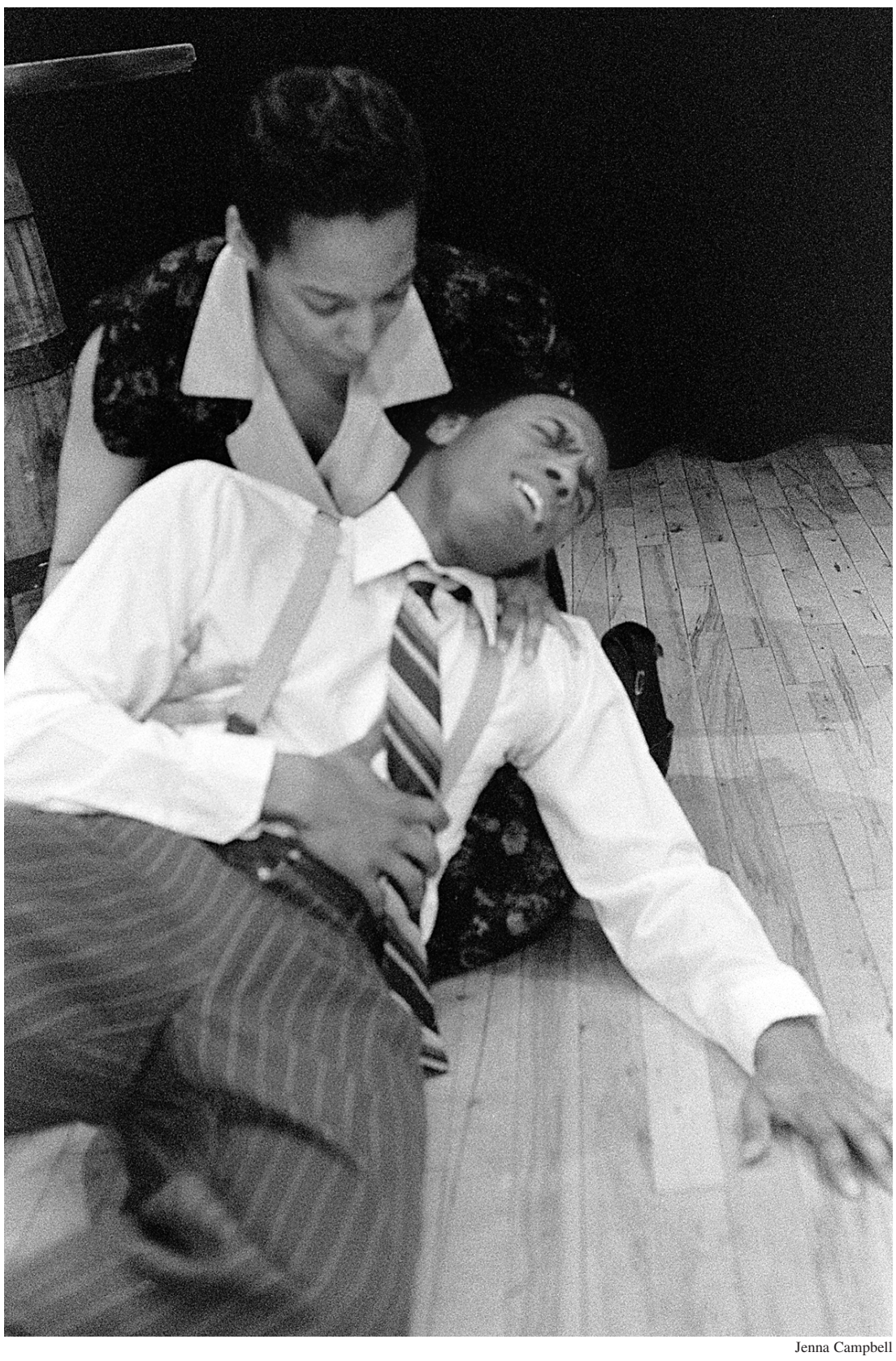
CAMPUS TIMES

FEBRUARY 27, 2004 | SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE COMMUNITY SINCE 1919 | VOL. 112, NO. 16

'Tricked by the Devil'



Jenna Campbell

In "Robert Johnson: Tricked by the Devil," Georgia Mayberry, played by Rob'n Lewis, a graduate of the University of La Verne, cradles Johnson, played by Nasir Najieb, who was murdered at the age of 27. The play is set in 1938, in a Mississippi juke joint where Mayberry works. **See story on page 8.**

LV supportive of gay marriage

Seven of 10 say it's about time

Bailey Porter
Managing Editor

As recent events in San Francisco and Massachusetts spark national debate, the majority of University of La Verne students have come out in support of legalizing gay marriage.

In an informal survey conducted on campus last week, seven out of 10 students here said they favor affording same-sex couples all the legal rights that heterosexual couples enjoy.

"Everybody should be able to choose who they want to marry," said Crystal Murguia, a freshman behavioral science major.

Brandon Jones, a senior accounting major, said marriage should not be politicized.

"They're still individuals and humans and nothing is said about a man and a woman," he said. "Why should it be different with two men or two women?"

But while San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom with the Massachusetts Supreme Court agree that denying marriage licenses to gay couples is unconstitutional, those who favor legalizing gay marriage are still in the minority nationally.

Most Americans, however, support civil unions for gay couples, recent surveys find.

David B. Cruz, professor of law at the University of Southern California, said that there are fundamental differences between civil unions and the marriage licenses that heterosexual couples can obtain anywhere in the United States.

Civil unions give gay and lesbian couples many of the same rights at the state level, but they do not trigger many of the federal rights available to married heterosexual couples.

Because the events in San Francisco and Massachusetts are happening in an election year, both democratic frontrunner John Kerry, who is from Massachusetts and President George W. Bush have had to address their views on the issue:

Kerry supports civil unions, but opposes gay marriage,while Bush is seeking a constitutional amendment to define marriage as an institution between men and women.

Meanwhile on campus, Corina Dubon, a freshman psychology major, agrees with the Massachusetts court decision.

However, she said it is a necessary part of the election debate because people who oppose same-sex marriage will want their voices heard.

"I don't necessarily support gay marriage. I think civil unions are alright because it's not dragging the "m" word through the mud so to speak," said Tom Anderson, a freshman journalism major.

Joy Helou, a senior biology and chemistry major, said that because the constitution keeps religion out of politics, the decision to marry should be up to the individual.

However, this debate does have a place in politics because it will give the American people the chance to voice their opinions, she said.

"They make a big deal out of it when they shouldn't be. They're blowing it out of proportion, but maybe they need to to see what the people of America want," she said.

On May 17, gay and lesbian couples will be able to marry in Massachusetts.

Opponents of same-sex marriage have drafted bills that would make marriages between homosexuals void.

"We do not uphold same-sex marriage," said Brian Parcel, pastor at Westmont United Methodist Church in Pomona, Calif.

The United Methodist Church has been the center of media attention in the past few years because of its unwavering stance on the issue of homosexuality.

In recent years, however, members of the denomination have worked to change this causing division in the church, he said.

The two aspects of church law forbidding clergy to perform marriages for homosexual couples and the ordaining of practicing homosexuals has led some clergy and laity to protest the laws and do it anyway, he said, leading to reprimands or revoking of ordainment.

Cruz said that it is clear that many people base their opinions of the definition of marriage on religion, but the government cannot make justifications in the same way.

Cruz said under the separa-

Continued on page 3

Debate scores in Singapore

Erin Zabarnick
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne Debate team is still on top and coach Ian Lising is making sure that it stays there.

Lising, director of forensics and assistant professor of speech communication, lead three ULV debate teams to compete in the 24th World Universities Debate Championship Dec. 27, 2003-Jan. 3, 2004, at Nanyang Technological University, in Singapore.

This year, ULV did not make the break (the point before finals) and placed 90th out of 304 teams in the championship.

"This was the most competitive world championship," said Lising.

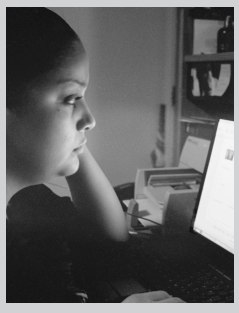
ULV's teams were: "team A" Travis Raymond and Juan Garcia, "team B" Rob Ruiz and Elissa Salas and "team C" Jacob Leveton and Manuel Perez.

"I love being on debate and being able to travel. We are such a close-knit team," said Salas, a senior political science major.

In 2000, ULV ranked second in the world. In 2001, the team made it to the semifinals ranking fifth overall, making the ULV team the highest ranked

Continued on page 2

INSIDE TODAY'S CAMPUS TIMES



U-100 will be making a comeback . . . . . .Page 2
Myspace.com offers online social interaction . .Page 6
Theatre Department presents 'Trick the Devil' . .Page 8
Baseball takes Sagehens in Claremont . . .Page 10

Grads to walk in Jan.

Nila Priyambodo
Staff Writer

University of La Verne students who finish their coursework in December may get to walk the following January.

In December, the University proposed a plan for a January commencement tentatively scheduled for January 2005.

Undergraduate and masters candidates, who complete graduation requirements after June and do not participate in the May 2005 commencement, are eligible for the January graduation ceremony.

According to Richard McDowell, provost, the proposal is for annual January commencement ceremonies, following current graduation requirements.

Ruby Montaño-Cordova, associate dean of student affairs and commencement director, named various reasons for the proposal such as the increase in the number of people, both the graduates and their guests, participating in May graduations.

"Last year, there were over 2,000 graduates and participants, and because of that, we lost the smaller and intimate ceremony," Cordova said. "Our ability to service the guests decreases as the number of participants increases."

McDowell said students who do not fulfill their requirements for the May commencement can graduate in January without having to wait a year.

"It will make it possible for a higher proportion of our students to complete degree programs and minimize appeals to complete degrees after leaving ULV for several years," McDowell said.

Despite his approval, McDowell recognized one minor problem: "There is more pressure on grading immediately before the commencement," he said.

Some students, like senior behavioral science major Angela Black, will not graduate in May and can benefit from a January commencement.

"I wouldn't want to hang around until May to graduate," Black said. "A lot of people just need that one extra semester to graduate so a January commencement is a good idea."

The location of the January commencement is planned to be the Supertents, which takes into account expenses and the weather.

Registrar Marilyn Davies said nothing is final and the proposal is currently being debated by policy committees.

Debate...

Continued from page 1

American team two years in a row.

Last year, ULV ranked 12th in the world.

This year's outcome has the team striving to do better next year. "It's not a disappointment. Our team still performed really, really well given that it was such a competitive tournament," said Lising.

The ULV debate team has made a name for the University among the world of debate. ULV has beat out Yale, Princeton, MIT, Oxford and NYU in competitions.

Lising has been elected for the third time in a row as World Council Chairman, making him a keynote speaker and integral part in planning and running the world debate tournaments.

He also co-authored the adjudicator's guideline, a book of rules and regulations for the judges at the debating events.

"The most amazing thing about every student at La Verne is that they don't quite know yet what they are capable of," Lising said.

"The next student reading this article could be the next world champion."



Jason Cortez

Rob Ruiz, Ian Lising and Elissa Salas listen as the house debates the issue of gay marriage legality. Lising, the coach of the ULV debate team, uses these debates as practice for the World Intercollegiate Debate Championships held at the end of the year. This year Lising plans to take Ruiz and seven other ULV students to the World Intercollegiate Debate Championship.

'First year' course to replace U-100

Jay Aguila
Staff Writer

Just two years after its cancelation, the freshman course University 100 is scheduled to be reinstated in Fall 2004.

The one-unit course was started 13 years ago to help incoming freshmen make the transition from high school to college.

It dealt with such issues as homesickness and time management.

"It gave freshmen an opportunity to get accustomed to the transition from home to college," said a senior computer engineering major Eric Dueñes, who took U-100 in fall semester 2000.

By the end of its last run in 2000, however, less than 20 percent of faculty participated in the program, said Brian Armstrong, leadership development and transition program director.

Greater faculty participation was critical for the program, Armstrong said. "Ultimately the program was not meeting its outcomes."

In a recent push to lower the student dropout rate here, a committee called the Transition Task Force was put in charge of getting the freshman course back on track for last fall.

The task force, however, did not feel confident with the old model so it postponed reinstating the course for another year.

Armstrong said the cruse will be different from the previous U-100.

The benefits, he said, are that: students feel connected to campus, they get to develop a relationship with a full-time faculty member and discussions on transition issues will be focused on more than they were in U-100.

"National data says that programs are more successful when they are academically based and even more when the school's faculty teaches them," said Loretta Rahmani, dean of student affairs.

One of the concerns of the task force is to gear the new First Year program toward majors.

Rather than being placed with just any professor, new students would be placed in classes that would focus on their field of interest.

"This is something that is still being figured out," Rahmani said.

But not all students and faculty are excited about the course's reinstatement, even in its new-and-improved format.

Some faculty members have expressed concern about adding the additional overload class to their already busy schedules.

Others raised questions about the timing of this reinstatement – which would call for addition overload pay – as departments across campus are looking to trim their operating budgets.

And juniors and seniors on campus, who took the class during its last go-round said they found it to be of little value.

One of the concerns of the task force is to gear the new 'First Year' program toward majors.

CAPA Dean's List, Fall 2003

The following CAPA undergraduate students in the School of Continuing Education earned a grade point average of 3.75 or greater in the fall 2003 semester.

Davona Anderson
Therese Anderson
Josefa Ariaz
Judy Arriola
Michael Bias
Edwin Bischoff
Jennifer Boggs
Jessica Bohatch-Garcia
Stephen Boss
Peter Brozek
Stephanie Bustos
Alexandra Butros
Valerie Carter
Juanita Castellanos
Kathryn Cooper
Linda De Zubiria
Michelle DeLaRosa
Theresa Dirden
Toni Eastwood
Anthony Edeson
Rudy Escalera
Erika Espin
Andrea Esplin-Troop
Michelle Fisher
Jill Frater
Marisela Fregoso
Kathleen French
Timothy Garcia
Amy Gauthier
Joan Giliberto
Tracy Glendenning
Albert Gonzales
Veronica Gonzalez
Krysta Gordon-Rand
Charlotte Gouldby
Rebecca Grant
Tracy Gutierrez
Lawrence Hamilton
Annabelle Herrera
Heather Hollowell
Tom Hosey
Trina James-Knerr
Franciella Jimenez
Annet Johnson
Mark Keller
Celina Kent
Edward Kostich
Clifford Lacy
Amber Larson
Grace Lee
Kimberly Lenoue
Jeffery Lewis
Melody Litos
Francisco Lopez
Gerardo Lopez
Monica Martinez
Clarinda Matsuoka
Janette McDonald
Siamak Mehrmand
Mark Morales
Robert Nunez
David Plouffe
Carol Potter
Katherine Race
Alvin Ramos
Deborah Ramsey-Johnson
Susan Ray
Lina Reynolds
Michael Rivera II
Kenneth Todd Ruiz
Danya Sanders
Victoria Scheele
Tracy Scott
Martha Solano
Paula Sosta
Stacy Spell
George St. Louis
Debra Staveley
Josefina Steinmetz
Kathleen Stevens
Gina Thomson
Michael Tierney
Tracey Washington
Loraine White
Christopher Williams
Stacie Williams
James Wu
Sandra Yagi
Robert Yount, Jr.

SAE hosts workshop on leadership

Julie Kim
Staff Writer



Gloria Diaz

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity hosted its 69th annual Southern California Regional Leadership School on Saturday. The event brought out keynote speaker Jim Pope (left), past national president of SAE, and Bill Kahale (right), president of the SAE Long Beach Alumni Association. Pope promoted the well-rounded SAE member in his speech. The day also featured seminars and model initiation.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers from chapters all over Southern California and Nevada gathered at the University of La Verne for their annual regional leadership school Feb. 21.

Fourteen different universities attended the one-day conference to discuss several topics within the fraternity, develop leadership skills and meet fellow SAE brothers, said James Breitling, adviser for ULV's chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Some of the attendees were the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA and Cal State Los Angeles.

"The regional leadership council gives you different experiences," said Chris Uttecht, 22, a communications major at San Diego State.

One specific issue amongst the SAE brothers was the negative portrayal of fraternities and sororities.

"We're always doing bad stuff on the news, but no one focuses on our philanthropic works," said Brandon Avakian, 23, a finance and philosophy major at Long Beach State.

Fellow Long Beach State student Lorenzo Occhipinti, 20, a marketing major, agreed: "There's a TV mock-up of fraternities."

SAE has been known to hold several charitable works every year, said Robbie Jeffers, president of the ULV chapter.

"The Make-a-Wish Foundation and Habitat for Humanity of La Verne are just some of the organizations we are a part of," said Blaine Bacher, vice president of the ULV chapter.

Another issue discussed was the hefty initiation fee. It varies from school to school, but at ULV, it costs $275 per semester to be part of SAE, Breitling said.

"We need to have our fraternity grow for the expenses to go down," said Jim Pope, an SAE alumnus and the keynote speaker for the event.

Several workshops were held throughout the day to train SAE members for leadership roles.

"I want to expand my leadership abilities and bond," Occhipinti said.

The fraternity, which was founded in 1856 by eight students from the University of Alabama, has steadily increased in membership over the years and now has the most members in America.

It was the first time the regional leadership school was held at ULV, Breitling said.

Classes go hybrid

Beatriz Mendoza
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne will offer more alternatives to teaching and learning for faculty and students through hybrid courses in the fall.

Meeting part-time in the classroom and part-time over the Internet, hybrid courses aim to improve the learning environment of students. The plan may alleviate classroom space and parking issues.

"Classes that meet for three hours are too long," said Jay Jones, director of the office of instructional technology and research support.

"It's not the most effective way to teach because students get tired," he said.

Some instructors and students have already taken the initiative to test the online courses.

Senior psychology major Akia Hassan is one of many students who have taken online courses offered at ULV.

"It's convenient because it's online," Hassan said. "And if I need the professor's help I can still talk to him."

Faculty members know that it can be just as hard to teach a class for three hours as it is for students to stay awake, especially in the evenings.

"Adult students come from an eight hour day with family obligations, and they're not in a good condition to learn," Jones said.

Parking space is another motive for turning hybrid.

By offering hybrid courses students will no longer have to hustle for parking space as much as they normally would.

Holding class online will add flexibility to class scheduling for faculty.

"Often, classes overlap," said Registrar Marilyn Davies. "We're hoping that it will help us with the scheduling of classes."

However, not all students are ready to give up their seats.

"It's better if I'm in a classroom learning," said Kristine Stokes, a sophomore liberal studies major. "But it's convenient for someone who is committed and has a busy schedule."

Davies said the freedom of hybrid courses require commitment and responsibility from both students and faculty.

"You have to be independent and on top of things," she said.

"It's not going to be for all students and faculty, but it will be a great learning opportunity."

Marriage...

Continued from page 1

tion of church and state and with examination of equal protection and due process, courts determine whether a law brings harm or discrimination against individuals.

"Religion cannot always be used to engage in secular, rational argument," he said.

Vermont's law is constitutionally objectionable, Cruz said.

While civil unions provide the same rights as marriage, they are presented as a separate institution.

Cruz said he believes this shows the inferiority placed on homosexual couples as second-class citizens when the constitution only recognizes one class of people.

Parcel said the issue of same-sex marriage should be removed from politics and be considered individually and not by the government.

"I don't think the state should legislate morality," Parcel said.

Derek Keepers, a freshman psychology major, said he feels many people "have trouble differentiating between what's spiritual and legal or political.

"As citizens we should only be responsible to the political or legal decisions."

Murguia said it is time for each state to re-examine marriage.

"Views on everything have changed since back then; gays and lesbians were not tolerated but also women had no rights and blacks were slaves," she said.

"I think people should have the right to choose – whatever makes them happy," said Charles Turner, a junior history major.

Sophomore communications major Julie Sanchez-Alvarez does not oppose same-sex marriage because it does not effect her.

It will be interesting to see how the multiple sides of the issue play out in politics this year, she said.

STUDENT TRAVEL & BEYOND
Backpacks? Hostels?
3 Cities in 4 Days?
This ain't your parents' travel agency... it's yours.
London.....$368
Paris.....$368
Amsterdam.....$368
Rome.....$368
Mexico From $199
» 4 day cruise on Carnival
Waikiki From $491
» 6 days
Fare is round trip from LAX and prices are per person. Subject to change and availability. Tax not included. Restrictions and blackouts apply. Fares are valid for students and youth under 26. Package rates are per person based on double occupancy. Prices do not include tax and are subject to availability. Restrictions and blackout dates apply.

BOOK IT BEFORE
THE THRILL IS GONE.
STA TRAVEL
www.statravel.com
7280 Melrose Ave. (323) 934.8722
54 South Raymond Ave. (626) 793.5595
ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET

SF mayor took brave first step

More than 3,300 gay and lesbian couples have been married in San Francisco since Valentine's weekend as a result of the decision made by newly appointed Mayor Gavin Newsom to make the action legal in the city.

Was this action legal? Maybe not. But was it a step toward bringing all people under the umbrella of equality? Yes.

Although California State Law defines marriage as "a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract between a man and a woman," Newsom believes this law is unconstitutional and has launched a campaign of civil disobedience to challenge it. Couples continue to flock to the City by the Bay to take advantage of the opportunity, despite the fact that these marriages may not ultimately hold up in other cities and states.

It's not simply a matter of breaking the law, but rather about civil rights and a matter of bringing about needed change.

However one may feel personally about gay marriage, what Newsom has done is taken a first and heroic step toward guaranteeing equal rights for all Americans. He has begun a movement, which is – as it should be – gaining momentum.

Very often it takes such bold action to affect needed change. If it weren't for brave Americans like Rosa Parks sitting at the front of the bus, the civil rights movement might have evolved more slowly.

Every movement needs someone to break the rules now and then to wake people up and realize what is happening. Nothing is accomplished without making a stir.

President Bush has openly opposed gay marriage and is taking action to change the constitution to prevent them. Likewise Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has urged San Francisco city officials to stop performing same-sex marriages. He fears that these peaceful protests will result in civil unrest.

But San Francisco not only has the right, but should continue to marry couples and issue licenses until a court injunction is issued. The courts have refused to do so and without an injunction, same sex marriages will continue until Mar. 29 when the case goes to court.

All these couples want to do is get married.

Forbidding them from marrying is discrimination just like older forms of discrimination. Interracial marriage was once illegal until being challenged in 1958. Since then, interracial marriage has become common and has ceased to be an issue of such debate. If we can learn to overlook color boundaries, can't we learn to overlook differences in sexual orientation as well?

San Francisco has made history in the United States and in the civil rights movement with its brave actions. Even though Massachusetts fights the same battle on the other side of the nation, San Francisco and its mayor are the first to openly defy these laws.

So now that San Francisco has taken the first step, who will take the next one?

Rethinking the dry campus

Why is the University of La Verne a dry campus? The administration's main answer: "Because we don't see any benefits in changing this tradition," which can be interpreted as "Because it's always been like that."

Founded by the Church of the Brethren in 1891, ULV decided to ban alcohol from the campus. Since then, however, times have changed, and tradition should not keep us from seriously considering the advantages and disadvantages of reform.

One advantage of a dry-campus is to protect the reputation of ULV by strictly excluding alcohol from the academic environment. Other reasons include the problems of underage drinking.

"When a 21-year-old student is allowed to drink in his room and his roommate is underage, he will drink, too," said Loretta Rahmani, dean of student affairs. "And underage drinking is a crime that we can not allow to happen on campus grounds."

But shouldn't ULV trust their adult students?

Does a dry-campus actually work? Does it make angels out of young people living and experimenting as comes naturally? Is it at all realistic?

"I don't think that the dry campus makes our students drink less," Rahmani said. "It just keeps alcohol away from the residence halls and social events."

This leads to the questions concerning where the students drink. They drink in apartments off campus, often more than a two-minute walk away.

As the campus rules also forbid being drunk on campus, those students are not supposed to return from the parties but stay there till they are sober. What if that is not possible? The students will have to return to their home, hopefully by a designated driver, if one actually exists. And if they did not, and are wise enough not to drive drunk, it is not much better having them walk intoxicated through the dark streets at night.

Allowing students to drink on campus and bringing the parties to the dorms would decrease students driving drunk or walking through La Verne at night. It would also improve the student spirit, as more students would stay and party in La Verne instead of going home over the weekend.

This might also have economical benefits for ULV. With the reputation of good student-spirit, the school might be able to attract more students.

Alcohol is not harmless, but legal for students 21 years or older. At the age of 21, the state gives citizens the freedom to decide whether to drink or not and to face the consequences anywhere in the state of California – anywhere except on dry campuses.

At college, students should learn how to make good life choices, but they will not learn this without the freedom to make those choices, and perhaps a few mistakes along the way. This does not mean that ULV should change their policy right now, but these arguments should be considered instead of saying, "Because it has always been like that."

Cal Grants on chopping block

Even with the passage of Propositions 57 and 58, which Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said are necessary for him to balance the budget, student grants for college face a grim future.

With the Mar. 2 deadline to file for Cal Grants quickly approaching, now is the time for students to finalize their paperwork and hope for the best. Cal Grants have been providing the opportunity for students to attend college, private and public, for the past eight years. But the state budget crisis has put Cal Grant funding in jeopardy. Cal Grants are funded by the state and have been a guarantee in the past for students who need the grants to fund their education. The state's student aid program may soon undergo a major change.

Schwarzenegger's proposed budget will cut more than $30 million for the 2004-2005 school year budget in state grants to college students seeking financial aid to attend private schools.

Under the Governor's proposal the Cal Grant program will decrease by about 44 percent. According to the California Student Aid Commission, a student may currently receive a maximum of $9,708 a year when awarded a Cal Grant. However, with the new budget proposal, a student will receive a maximum of $5,482 starting next school year. A private school student would only be receiving roughly $500 more than a student attending a state school. Some private schools may have to cut admissions and services.

State schools will also face harsh changes. It is expected that 10 percent, or approximately 7,000 of UC and Cal State students will be rerouted to community colleges. However, these schools have limited funds and cannot absorb all of these students.

The state of California is known for providing an affordable education to any person in the state that wants to go to college. If the state wants to sustain this tradition the new budget proposal will have to be carefully rethought.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Any Greek who has walked the University of La Verne campus knows Bob Rivera ["LV mourns mentor," Feb. 20]. As stated in your story, he was the "godfather" of the ULV Greek system. On a campus where Greek life was disregarded, frowned upon and even ridiculed by members of the La Verne faculty, Rivera was its champion. As a member of the local Sigma Tau Xi and a founding member of Phi Delta Theta, I appreciate that Rivera was a mentor and a supportive guiding force for us as we made the transition from a local into an international fraternity. He was the uncle to every Greek and the contributions to California Rho of Phi Delta Theta, the Greek system and to the University of La Verne will surely be missed.

Vince Wetzel
Class of 1996

Letters to the Editor

The *Campus Times* encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The *Campus Times* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel.

Campus Times
Spring 2004

Editor in Chief
Kenneth Todd Ruiz

Managing Editor . . . . . .Bailey Porter
Editorial Director/Copy Chief . . .Melissa Betsy Lau
News Editor . . . . . .Amanda Egan
LV Life Editor . . . . . .Max Zänker
Arts Editor . . . . . .Valerie Rojas
Sports Editor . . . . . .Chrissy Zehrbach
Photography Editor . . . . . .Adam Omernik
Assistant Editor . . . . . .Jonathan Corral

Reporters
Jay Aguila, Ken Colby, Oscar E. de León, Adrianna Gardner, Monique Jimenez, Julie Kim, Taylor Kingsbury, Janelle Krug, Sara Lupu, Jamie Mahoney, Adrian Medrano, Betty Mendoza, Michael Myers, Krista Pocino, Nila Priyambodo, Amby Sarabia, Erin Zabarnick

Photographers
Jenna Campbell, Sylvia Castellanos, Jason Cortez, Gloria Diaz, Caroline Franke, Sara Kirk, Desiree Quintero, Blanca Rocha, Reina Santa Cruz, Jessica Valerio

Editorial Cartoonist . . . . . .Adam Omernik
Distribution Manager . . . . . .Erin Zabarnick
Advertising Manager . . . . . .Jason Walker
Advertising Assistants . . . . . .Gloria Diaz
Kevin Schatz

Chief Adviser . . . . . .Elizabeth Zwerling
Photography Adviser . . . . . .Gary S. Colby
Photography Staff Coordinator . . .Kevin J. Holland
Layout Assistant . . . . . .Eric Borer

The *Campus Times* is published weekly by the Communications Department, except during examination and vacation periods, by journalism students of the University of La Verne, 1950 Third Street, La Verne, Calif. 91750. The *Campus Times* is a laboratory publication for Newspaper Production classes, Journalism 220, 320 and Photography 327.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the *Campus Times* editorial board. Signed columns are the opinion of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Campus Times.* Letters to the Editor are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. Letters must be typed, no more than 400 words in length, relate to a topic covered in the *Campus Times*, and are subject to editing for clarity and space.

Letters and comments may be sent via e-mail to **ctimes@ulv.edu**. The *Campus Times* may also be found online at **http://www.ulv.edu/campustimes/**. For advertising information, call (909) 392-2712.

©*Campus Times*, 2004

FROM THE EDITOR...

Bluescreen of democracy, Part II



KENNETH TODD RUIZ

Beware the spectre of continuity. After looking at mortal vulnerabilities in the electronic voting systems being prepared for the coming election cycle, I dare to overstate the case against them.

Worse than any ulterior motives of the company we would entrust the democratic process to, Diebold, who makes many of the systems, has demonstrated time and time again they're generally incompetent and often dishonest.

More damning than my shrill alarmism, the best examples of their flaws come from their own performance record.

Federal law requires the software running these terminals to be independently audited and certified to standards set by the Federal Election Commission.

California election law mandates that voting companies inform state officials when they make any changes to the software, which would need to be recertified.

Diebold broke this law during last November's recall vote when they "upgraded" software in all 17 counties using their system – without informing the state. Software used in Los Angeles County had never been certified by anyone. Ever.

Whether or not they patched the software to steal all votes for Arnie, Cruz or Gray, the fact that they could change the software without anybody knowing is a show stopping problem.

In the fall, a former worker in a Georgia warehouse belonging to Diebold said employees loaded software patches onto

machines just prior to the state's 2002 gubernatorial election.

Again, this was done quietly without anyone looking at, let alone certifying, the changes.

Short of their security shortcomings, the systems just don't work very well.

Too many machines reportedly malfunction, freeze, or crash during operation.

It's maddening enough when a document or e-mail vanishes in a computer crash, why take a gamble and risk the spontaneous flat lining of the Democratic Process?

Among the more worrying malfunctions are the ones that are not obvious, such as instances of more votes being tallied

than were cast, machines registering a vote for the wrong candidate, or votes simply vanishing.

Yet we are told to trust them.

Hard to trust a company that hired five convicted felons into management positions, including a cocaine trafficker, a

fraudulent stock agent, and a programmer busted for falsifying computer records.

The programmer worked for a Diebold subsidiary that wrote the underlying software used by the voting terminals.

There needs to be at least a token gesture of accountability.

Currently, your vote disappears without any indication of how it was recorded.

Diebold has resisted all calls for a simple paper "voting receipt," like those produced by ATMs.

As it stands, without any paper trail, a recount would be impossible.

There is one solution to any concerns about your vote.

After looking at the issues with e-voting machines, California plans to provide paper ballots for voters uncomfortable with the electronic terminals. Voters in other states can elect peace of mind by requesting absentee ballots.

Eventually, the technology may be mature enough to insure a fair and accurate count.

But until that time, don't lose your voice by gambling with your vote.

Kenneth Todd Ruiz, a senior journalism major, is editor in chief of the Campus Times. He can be reached by e-mail at **kruiz@ulv.edu**.

Challenging a California legacy



MELISSA BETSY LAU

For the past 21 years, I have lived by a morbid human graveyard where hundreds were tortured and shamelessly slaughtered.

Busloads of students and tourists visit the site with smiles on their faces, excitement in their eyes and cameras in their hands.

And for the past 21 years, I have received my ashes there, symbolic of the start of lent.This year, however, I refused to walk reverently into a disrespected cemetery disguised as a sanctuary.

How can people praise God in a structure oozing the history of inhumane torture, enslavement and slaughter?

Having attended private, Catholic school, product of a California Mission, from kindergarten through high school, I have heard countless attempts to explain the worthiness and virtuousness of the church.

In the fourth grade, I studied the legacy of the California Missions. I was told how beautiful the structures were and how significant they were.

Students should be encouraged to study the entire truth, the fact that Native Americans had a choice: the choice of becoming slaves to build a shrine for a God with no existence to them or to be murdered while defending their freedom as human beings and individuals.

Why is it that fourth graders are never directed to study how missionaries threw Native American infants into cactus plants until their parents confessed the location of those who escaped.

If you saw a work of art, but knew that the process of its construction required the genocide of innocent people, would you still consider it a work of art?

Not to dwell on the past and the mistakes made by our senseless, ignorant forefathers, but the tainted blood from those mistakes has obviously trickled down to our generation.

Post September 11th paranoia lingered with myths of Islamic practices rooted in violence, in convenient forgetfulness that our own, although Christian-founded, country was established through a neatly-packaged concept called Manifest Destiny.

And to think that the church, considered canonizing Junipero Serra, the one who allowed the torture of these Natives?

Over time, I wonder how some Catholics can walk into a church, specifically a Mission, to practice a religion with such a violent past.

For lent the Catholic Church should give up

Melissa Betsy Lau, a senior journalism major, is editorial director and copy chief of the Campus Times. *She can be reached by e-mail at* **lachicanachinita@yahoo.com**.

Let the truth be told



CHRISSY ZEHRBACH

Some things in life are inevitable. As hard as anyone may try, everything ends up happening the way it is intended to happen.

In sports, losing is one of those things that is often unavoidable. It's a part of the game. It happens.

As much as we'd all like to think it is possible, no one person or team can win all of the time. That doesn't happen.

Now, you have the choice to deal with a loss as you wish.

You could cry about it, but my advise is to get over it.

In journalism, however, there is no choice.

The job of a journalist is to be accurate, honest and present the facts.

Although it may not be the desired outcome, sports teams inevitably lose.

So when the fact of the matter is that a team lost, there is no way for a journalist to avoid saying just that.

So how do you write an article that makes the team sound as good as they usually are, or as good as they can be or as good as they should be?

These questions warrant three simple answers: you don't... you can't... and we won't.

Journalist write about the facts that are presented in front of them.

They must give an accurate description of the actions they have witnessed.

If the game doesn't happen to be the best game ever played, a journalist has the right to say that.

Putting a loss in a positive light is called public relations and it has no place in a newspaper.

Reporters are normally not trying to put down the athletes, teams or their skills when they write articles.

In any athletic contest, there is one winner. That means the other team loses. There is no two ways around it.

There is usually no hidden agenda or malicious intent to mar the name of an athlete or team in an article.

Journalists are simply providing unbias coverage of an event; that's their job.

Recently this almost blunt cruelty was misconstrued as a lack of school spirit for the University of La Verne.

But that is far from the truth.

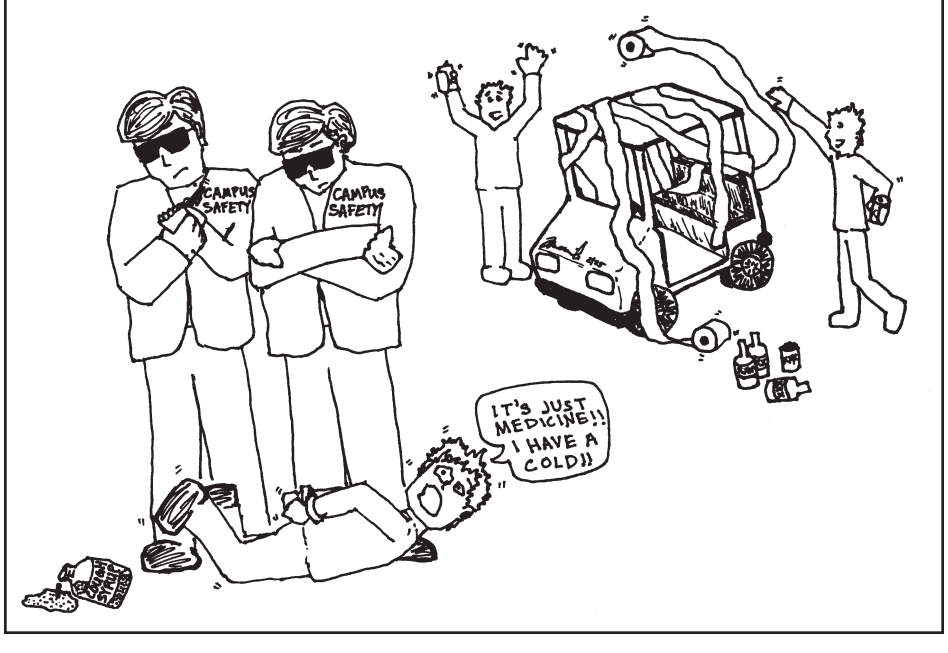
As much as the staff and I love to write great things about our home teams, there are boundaries and responsibilities we have to follow.

We can only do so when the opportunity arises.

It's nothing personal, so don't take it that way.

Chrissy Zehrbach, a junior journalism major, is sports editor for the Campus Times. *She can be reached by e-mail at* **sqweet@aol.com**.

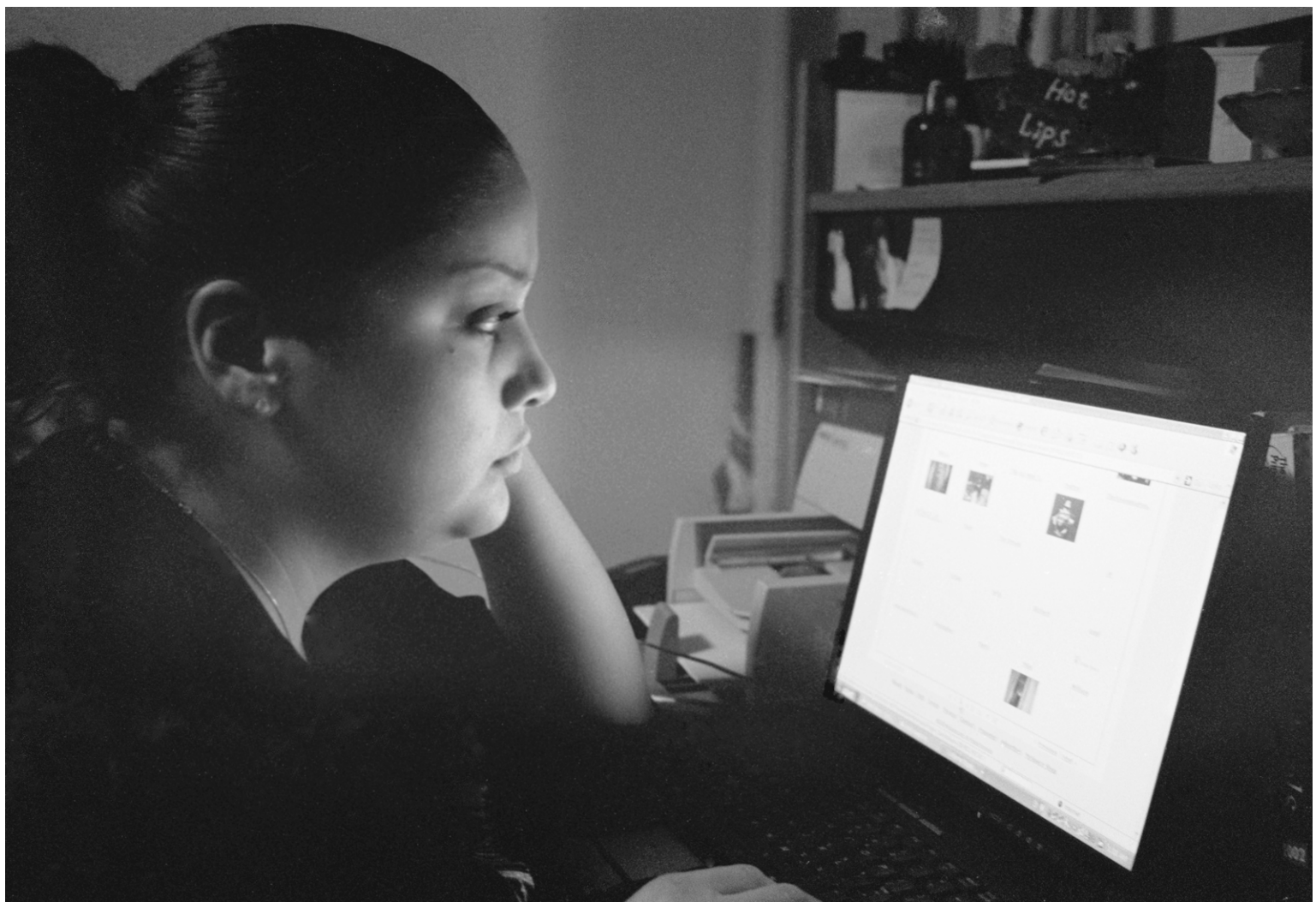
ULV's dry-campus vision



Leopards meet at MySpace.com

Students hook up online

Ken Colby
Staff Writer



Desiree Quintero

Junior Jasmine Carrillo spends late nights looking through the pages of MySpace.com. Carrillo browses through the thousands of profiles available, and looks at different member's photographs. Many students use this site as an opportunity to network, make new friends, and possibly start romantic relationships. After finding new friends online, the user can meet them at special MySpace parties.

"MySpace is a great place to go when you have nothing to do," freshmen Jeff Craig said.

MySpace.com is a Web site that allows friends, family and complete strangers to meet and hook up. "It's a place where you get to meet people with your same interests, talk to them, and eventually if you're into that, date them," freshman Alison Jones said.

Like in most internet communities, you have a user profile, however, unlike your Yahoo profile this one has spark to it, as you don't only list your name, and hobbies. Instead, you list your age, sexual preference, where you are from, what schools you have been in and more. Listing who and what you are seeking (friends, relationship, hook-up, etc.) it is a rather personal registration form.

"The registration is a little bit scary, they get very personal, but after being on it for a while, you realize why it is tailored that way," Jones said.

After you are registered, you have many options for your next step. On your home page, you can look for friends, check your personal mailbox, write journal entries or post a picture.

Looking for friends is very simple, as the whole point of MySpace.com is to "hook up" with people. You meet people for one of three reasons, friendship, relationship/dating or networking. This goes along hand in hand with the registration form. When you search the site for a "friend," you can narrow your search for whichever purpose you hope this friend will serve. After you find your friends, you do not have to give out your email address because MySpace.com provides you with an inbox that all members can send information to. This cuts down on worries of privacy invasion and allows for easy communication of all MySpace.com friends.

Journals are where MySpace.com gets really interesting. They cover the most random topics you could imagine. Some users use it as a daily journal, while others have rather random entries. For instance, one user had an entry on how much he is in love with his dog. A little strange, until you read his next entry, where he describes how he wants to eat the arm of the girl next door. If MySpace.com does nothing more for you, many journal entries guarantee a good laugh.

After you get familiar with the site, you are able to post up to 10 pictures. You set a default picture, which shows on your profile and journal entries. It acts as a signature for everything you post on the site. With your pictures, you can include a caption, giving people a chance to live in the moment of your picture. After you post your picture you can submit it for evaluation to boost or slash your self-esteem.

"I did it once, but never really used that feature," Craig said. "I figured it would be inaccurate because the only people that would waste their time ranking people would probably be hot people bashers."

The veteran MySpace.com user can add special backgrounds to your profile to give his profile even more individual looks.

"MySpace is addictive, you have so many things to do, and so many people to meet you never get bored," ULV sophomore Michelle Baccus said.

Since its creation, MySpace has logged more than 1 million members and became a veritable Internet phenomenon.

"It has become important to me, I meet random strangers with the same interests as me, and they become good friends," Jones said.

And the trend does not stay online. On MySpace parties, like tomorrow night at the Key Club in West Hollywood, former cyber friendships get in touch with the real world. So if you are looking to "hook-up" with friends, or just find out if you are hot or not, MySpace.com is a site for you. "It's all what you make it to be," Craig said.

La Verne students bring cell phones home

Valerie Rojas
Arts Editor

They can be found anywhere. From street corners, to grocery stores to that car weaving in and out of lanes in front of you on the freeway. Cell phone use is no longer a luxury. It has become a necessity and some people are foregoing the use of the traditional phone line, trading in their land line for a phone they can take anywhere and everywhere.

"A cell phone is always with you," Marty Garcia, manager of T-Mobile Wireless, located in the Montclair Plaza, said. "You never miss a call."

The ease and simplicity that cell phones have lent to the average communicator, have made the trend of cell phone usage quite common, especially in or around college towns.

Using cell phones in place of a conventional telephone line is nothing new for college age students who find themselves living in an apartment with two or three of their peers.

Stefanie Milbrandt, a sophomore computer science major at UC Irvine decided that when she and her three roommates agreed to spend the next year of their education as roommates, that they would not be using the same phone line to meet their communication needs."It just makes things a lot simpler," Milbrandt said. "They have their phones, I have mine and we never argue about who pays for what."

Instead of arguing over what phone calls were made by whom, roommates, who each keep their own separate phone lines deal with their expenses in their own ways.

Garcia, who often makes appearances at local universities with T-Mobile, has said that it is the portability and simplicity of today's phones that make cell phones so increasingly popular. As new advances continue to be made in the cell phone field, customers continue to take advantage. A cell phone is no longer just a cell phone. It has become a camera, a connection to the internet, a video game and a primary source of communication. This sense of simplicity and advancement has helped in the rate of those choosing cell phones over land lines. However, using a cell phone at all times in lieu of a land line presents a problem.

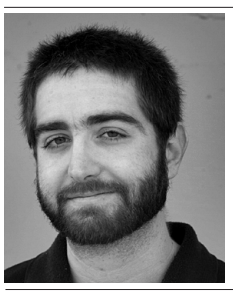
In the event of an emergency, dialing 911 from a cellular telephone connects you to the highway patrol. Because there is no address linked to the cell phone, it is not connected to the normal emergency response system. This may cause a delayed response to any emergencies and a back-up in the flow of calls assisted by the actual highway patrol.

This threat has caused officials to urge cell phone users to retain from using their cell phones in emergency situations that do not occur on public roads.

Cell phone usage has its benefits and its downfalls, those best to be decided by the consumer. However, as cell phone technology progresses, there is no doubt that cell phone popularity will as well.

Commentary

Gay marriage trumps Gulf War



Taylor Kingsbury

Okay, I know this is supposed to be an entertainment column, and there is certainly nothing entertaining about ignorance or intolerance.

But when we speak of entertainment, we are certainly referencing media, and lately our media has been inundated with discussion of gay marriage.

The impending presidential election has, for obvious reasons, been the focus of much of our recent news. But the hot-button topic we want each candidate to address is not our skyrocketing deficit, resolving the aftermath of our decimation of Iraq, or the restoration of the basic human rights we have given away in the name of domestic tranquility.

No, what we really want to know is what our presidential hopefuls think about those silly gay people who think they should have the right to enjoy the same celebration of love that straight people are privy to.

The really amazing thing is that, while the election is still in the walk-on-eggshells phase where candidates don't want to turn off potential voters, our primary candidates are openly endorsing homophobia.

But, we're getting ahead of ourselves here. The most vocal opponent of gay marriage has been our current fearless leader, George "war president" Bush.

In between ludicrous statements like "I think we are welcomed in Iraq," Bush has spouted off interminably about his view of marriage as a union between a man and a woman. There is even talk about a constitutional amendment that will establish this as the federal government's definition of marriage.

But, I'm sure Bush would be the first to say that he's no homophobe, and that the current laws on marriage do not allow one's spouse to be of the same sex.

Well, since our politicians love their semantics, why don't we take a look at the terms they are using to defend their ignorance.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "spouse" as "(one's) husband or wife." Seems reasonable, but if the law defines one's marriage partner as such, then gay marriage is not implicitly barred, since nothing in the definition or law states that one must be the opposite sex of their spouse.

Bush and his equally conservative-minded cronies insist that their main objective in opposing gay marriage is to preserve, let's say it all together now, "the sanctity of marriage."

Sure, we've heard all about it, but what does it mean? "Sanctity" is defined as "holiness" and is derived from the Latin word sanctus, which means "holy."

Now, wait just a minute….. Doesn't that mean that our government officials' reasons for opposition are based on religious beliefs? Whatever happened to that whole "separation of church and state" thing?

The main problem with this view is that we are defining marriage as a legal contract, and not the symbolic act it is meant to be. When we talk of denying this right to homosexuals, we are depriving them of their right to feel and express love, something that no federal document should have any bearing on.

The truth is that we don't dislike gay people…. as a concept. The ratings for "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy" are soaring, and "Will and Grace" continues to enjoy a successful run, despite predominantly gay humor. See, I told you this was an entertainment column.

We are okay with these outlandish, exaggerated, stereotyped characters, yet the thought of two of our neighbors uniting legally bothers us. It seems that we love gay people when they are visibly different than us, but we don't want them to live the same as us.

Homosexuals are not deviants, and their desire to legally marry has no sinister motive. Gays are not trying to tarnish the institution of marriage; they simply want the ability to marry the person they love, and to not have their elected officials telling them they are unholy for doing so.

I have been privileged to know some outstanding homosexual people, and though I can not share their sexual orientation, I have found that we are all looking for the same things out of life.

Our human nature makes us want to fall in love, settle down, build a home, raise a family, live happy lives. In this respect, you don't have to be homosexual to support gay marriage, you just have to be a human being. It's scary that so many of our politicians, and the citizens who support them, are incapable of this.

If you agree with their holy sentiment, then consider this: Our divorce rate is higher than it has ever been, more than a third of murder victims are killed by their spouse, and we live in a country where we can get married at a drive-thru window. Exactly where is the "sanctity" we're fighting so hard to defend?

Taylor Kingsbury, a senior journalism major, is a columnist for the Campus Times. He can be reached by e-mail at happyendingrocks@hotmail.com.

Diet survives death

Students stick with Atkins

Amby Sarabia
Staff Writer

Despite the recent death of Dr. Robert C. Atkins, students on campus are still jumping on the Atkins diet band wagon.

Atkins died at the age of 72 and, according to the Wall Street Journal, at a weight of 258 pounds.

On the official Atkins web site **www.atkins.com**, the company denies the fact of its founder's obesity at the time of his death.

But the death of the diet guru, who suffered a heart attack, put the Atkins diet into a discussion about the healthiness and use of the new and trendy food plan and products.

The low carbohydrates, high protein diet has become a way of life for people, who are trying to lose as much weight as they can in a short duration of time.

"I've been on the diet since September of 2003," said political science major Xochitl Garcia. "I've lost over 60 pounds in six months."

Initially starting the diet as a bet between her and her father, Garcia's willpower deemed to be stronger than her father's as she cut carbohydrates from her diet and stocked up on high protein foods.

"I like the diet because I can go anywhere and find something to eat," Garcia said.

As a student living on campus with limited funds, Garcia opts for Atkin-made food such as cookies and bread. Unfortunately the food can be expensive.

At Davenport, Garcia makes sure to have a salad with every meal, a type of meat, cheese or vegetables.

"It was hard in the beginning, but now it's not hard at all," Garcia said. "It's a way of life."

Along with cutting carbs out of her diet Garcia has begun to exercise on a regular basis, a must when on the diet she said.

The diet does cause many people to become skeptical. Garcia's mom forced her to undergo a physical with her doctor before supporting her choice to continue the diet.

After discovering her blood pressure and cholesterol level had lowered, Garcia was in the clear and ready to start the diet and loose some pounds,

An article posted on **www.atkins.com** titled "Talking About Atkins to Your Doctor" helps dieters to better understand what type of concerns their doctor will bring up at their visit.

The article discusses the myths and truths of the diet, such as myth No. 1, which explains that eating so much protein will in fact lower high cholesterol rather than raise it.

Sophomore liberal studies major Nancy Reyes is very critical of the Atkins diet.

"I don't think you have to cut so many things out of your diet to lose weight," she said.

"All you have to do is exercise once in a while and just eat smaller portions."

Junior Claudis Funes agrees, "When I need to lose weight, I make sure to exercise more, and I eventually end up losing the weight," she said.

But for some, eventually is too slow.

Once on the diet, Garcia lost 12 to 14 pounds within the first two weeks.

"I can't go back to eating the way I used to because I'll gain all the weight back," Garcia said. "I tend to lose weight slowly."

Losing weight at such a fast rate does not appeal to Reyes, "You only live once so eat what you want," she said.

It is also not the main reason why Garcia has chosen to stay on the diet. "I figure get healthy now so that you don't have to worry about it later," she said.

> 'It was hard in the beginning, but it's not hard at all. It's a way of life.'
>
> *– Xochitl Garcia, junior*

Leo enjoyed U.K.

Adrian Mendano
Staff Writer

Wendy Schwartz, a junior at the University of La Verne, had an experience that changed her life when she studied at Oxford University in England last semester.

The ULV International Study Abroad Center offers an exchange program to Oxford University; Schwartz was the first ULV student to take advantage of this opportunity.

"It was a great experience," Schwartz said. "The people were really nice."

After being in England for a semester, Schwartz realized how much of an American bias our education has.

"In America, you're taught that democracy...is everything," said Schwartz. "It was good to see things from a different perspective."

Although the English education system is similar to America's, Oxford University is unique in its own way. Schwartz took Philosophy of Law and Social Welfare of Capitalism while she attended Oxford. The classes were one on one-tutor sessions.

Unlike in the United States, the teachers at Oxford do not give lectures; instead, the student is expected to do the reading and complete the necessary assignments. Schwartz was able to learn at her own pace with the one on one sessions; therefore the material did not become redundant.

Schwartz was pleased with her performance in the classroom, especially the way she approached learning. She earned an A and a B in her classes.

One aspect of Oxford University that surprised Schwartz was student involvement. "The students have a lot of ambition and everyone actually goes to the events," said Schwartz.

She participated in the freshmen rowing team at Oxford, which was coached by captains from the varsity team. Along with the rowing team, Schwartz was also involved in basketball and fencing. "Fencing is a lot harder than it looks," said Schwartz.

She was fortunate enough to compete and learn alongside students from Germany, Poland, Russia, England, and other countries throughout the world.

Schwartz was lucky enough to make a large amount of valuable friendships. She still keeps in touch with some of her friends through email and she was able to meet a student from Azusa Pacific University who she became friends with.

A prestigious university like Oxford has high standards and it is not easy for students to get into this program.

The fact that Schwartz attended Oxford was a tribute to her success at ULV. Schwartz had a 3.5 GPA before leaving for Oxford.

In addition to this, Phil Hofer, director of the International and Study Abroad Center, helped Schwartz throughout the application process.

Arts, etc...

HAPPENINGS

At the Fairplex

The Model Train Expo makes its way to the Fairplex this weekend, showcasing the finest models. makes and layouts of model trains from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

General Admission is $8, free for children 12 and younger.

"Envisioning the Future," an artistic collaboration between renowned artist Judy Chicago and nationally recognized photographer Donald Woodman, will continue to be presented at the Millard Sheets Gallery.

This unique event, a combination of arts and the community, will continue now through Sunday.

For more information visit **www.fairplex.com** or call (909) 623-3111.

In Theaters

Set in Cuba, in the late 1950s, "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" re-imagines the era and sensuality that was brought to the big screen in 1987 by the film phenomenon "Dirty Dancing" starring Patrick Swayze. "Havana Nights" offers a new perspective on love and dancing, in a pre-revolutionized Cuba. Starring Romola Garai, Diego Luna, and a special appearance by Swayze, himself, Havana Nights hits theaters today.

"Goodbye Lenin," directed by Wolfgang Becker, is the account of the struggles a loving son must face when trying to convince his ailing mother that capitalism has not surfaced in her beloved hometown of East Germany. Set in 1989, this tale of an attempt to hide the fall of the Berlin Wall opens in limited release today.

"Twisted," a crime-thriller starring Ashley Judd and Samuel L. Jackson, is the story of a newly promoted police detective on the hunt for a serial killer targeting men she has recently dated. Directed by Philip Kaufman, it hits theaters today.

—Valerie Rojas

Nasir Najieb brings Legend to life

by Adrianna Gardner

photography by Jenna Campbell

Set in the time of the Great Depression, "Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil" showcases the circumstances and mystery behind a legendary musician's untimely death.

The story takes place in the Mississippi Delta, and the quick-witted Southern tale is more of an introspective look at an individual's life, exploring themes of good vs. evil, mythology and triumph.

With frequent reference to Shakespeare, the play reads like the fall of Julius Caesar meets the biblical story of Job.

"It's about the things that take you down and the things that bring you up," said Whitney Wickham, the play's stage manager, "I love it. I think it's beautiful."

The Cabaret Theatre will host the popular folk legend about blues musician Robert Johnson's late night deal with the devil.

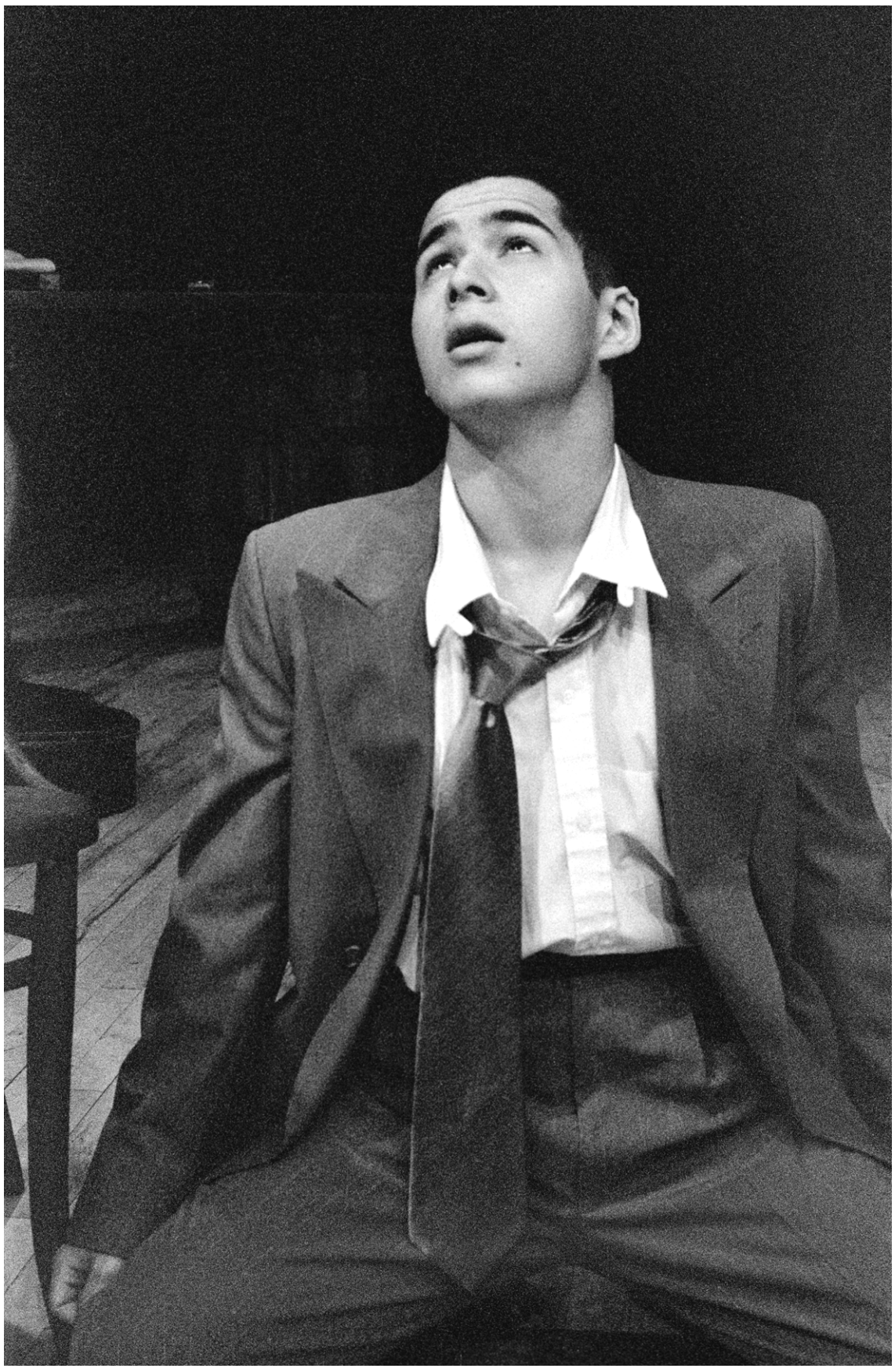
He sells his soul for guitar-playing excellence and skill, a decision that, as legend has it, inevitably changed the pace of his career.

Most of the story unfolds in a local juke joint, a Southern watering hole where people hang out to drink and hear Delta blues.

Although the story focuses on Johnson, the play brings the audience into the compelling atmosphere of the club.

"If you really listen, everyone has their part." said Nasir Najieb, a senior theatre major playing the role of Johnson.

Najieb chose this play by Bill Harris as part of his senior thesis. Najieb's part as Johnson is a demanding role, requiring him to put his personal quality of character into the part.



Keith Watabayashi plays as Kimbrough, a New England academic in search of Robert Johnson's musical inspiration in the play "Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil." The play will run through Sunday in the Cabaret.

With the timing of the play coinciding with this month's focus on African-American history and culture, the depiction of Johnson's life and his influence on contemporary musicians is fitting.

Johnson's innovative style and technique was revolutionary, inspiring such artists as Led Zeppelin, Elvis Presley and Eric Clapton.

Wickham said that the current running and frequency of plays from the theatre department has created an interest in the department.

"He's great," said Elizabeth Pietrzak, theatre manager and director, of this project. "He's organized. He does his homework."

Pietrzak said she was impressed with how well the piece was written and overall pleased with the play, in particular how intuitive the cast members are.

With complete confidence that the play had potential, Pietrzak agreed to pick up the play and aid Najieb in the necessary course of action.

Najieb said that a conscientious set design and use of the department resources allowed them were able to stay under budget.

From lighting to fixtures on the set, Najieb and Pietrzak said they worked tediously to make this project successful.

"I want to do the play justice," Najieb said.

There is much to be said about Najieb's talent.

Prior to this project, the senior won an award from the New York International Independent Film and video Festival, for a docudrama shot in his hometown of Portland, Ore.

Najieb had a part in the movie, "Men of Honor" with Cuba Gooding Jr. and won a Gracie Allen theatre award in New York.

The only expectation Najieb has is for anyone attending "Devil" to bring an

Continued on page 9

Movie Review

'Passion' proves brutal

Film details Christ's agony

Kenneth Todd Ruiz
Editor in Chief

On Wednesday audiences finally had a chance to see "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's controversial and long-awaited interpretation of Christian gospel.

This ain't your daddy's "Jesus Christ Superstar," as Gibson's offering proves to be more Mad Max than Prince of Peace.

An interpretation of the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ, the controversial film is a non-stop procession of violence and brutality. Throw in a few explosions and it would be an instant Hollywood blockbuster.

Remove the biblical context provided by hyper-brief flashbacks, and all that remains is two hours of watching people thrash a man. The film is packed with more inhumanity than the Rodney King tape and milked for 120 minutes. By the third time Christ fell, I was wincing with dread. Every time he got up precipitated yet another slow-motion fall.

Not to say the film is without merit.

In between the splatterfest, "Passion" looks and sounds great. Underneath all the fake blood is a gorgeous setting. Although the film substitutes Southern Italy for Jerusalem, the Mediterranean location fits the bill perfectly.

Occasional aural delights bring sensory salvation from the repetitive sounds of whacking, whipping, smacking and crunching.

John Debney's score is often more inspiring than the film itself, but at times falls to the same horrific level. At its best moments, the soundtrack offers a layered tapestry of orchestral sound, using ethnic instrumentation, choir and female vocals to forge something that is both contemporary and timeless.

And it would be hard not to recommend the film for one standout detail – the dialogue. For authenticity's sake, every actor voices his or her lines in the near-forgotten tongues of Aramaic and Latin. Aramaic is the basis for Semitic languages, including Hebrew and Arabic, and anyone interested in the period for historical or spiritual reasons should buy a ticket to hear these rich tones.

Overall, the talent are well-matched with their roles. As much as Western churches have Anglified Christ and his disciples, the film offers a closer approximation of how they might have looked – thick beards and features that today would cause them trouble at any airport.

James Caviezel's portrayal of the persecuted messiah is uneven. His Christ is an inscrutable neurotic, but veers competently from fear and doubt to calm repose. His role, primarily, consists of reacting to the painful abuse thrown at him, occasionally punctuated by the pithy one-liners expected from the son of God.

> If nailing people to wood ever comes back in style, the film will serve as an excellent guide.

Italian beauty Monica Belluci is underutilized as Mary Magdelene, although the 40-year-old actress gets more screen time than her wallpaper role in the "Matrix" films. She is joined at the hip with Maia Morgenstern, who provides the most convincing performance as Christ's mother Mary.

An intriguing casting selection is Rosalinda Celentano, who creeps throughout the film as a goth-rock reject Satan, although the motives behind her leering smirk are never explored.

As a complete film, however, "The Passion of the Christ" doesn't offer much, except perhaps to Christians interested in Gibson's take on the suffering of their messiah or sado-masochists needing an ultra-violent fix.

The crucifixion scene alone offers such a labored attention to detail that it takes on a surreal documentary quality. Gruesome close-ups catch every moment. If nailing people to wood ever comes back in style, the film will serve as an excellent guide.

Eventually, the violence acquires a cartoonish quality, worsened by the overdone harr-harr-harring of the churlish Roman soldiers. Like an intentionally camp horror film, it was difficult to remember I was not supposed to be laughing along with them.

The most elegant scene in the film is the last one. Sorry to spoil it, but the hero comes back to life. His resurrection is condensed into one simple, mercifully brief shot.

To its credit, the film avoids laboring though each of the Biblical highlights in Christ's life. Water is neither walked upon nor turned to wine. There just isn't time for miracles. Not between the flogging of the Christ, the beating of the Christ, the humiliation of the Christ, the whipping of – well, you get the idea.

In fact, the only miraculous act occurs when Jesus reattaches a guard's ear after disciple Peter severs it in a moment more befitting "Xena: Warrior Princess."

Truth be told, Gibson is working a minor miracle of his own. Thanks to months of debate, he will transmute unwarranted controversy into serious cash.

Any discussion of the film would be incomplete without addressing its detractors. The Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Anti-Defamation League hurled claims of anti-Semitism at Gibson months before the film was released. Just like Martin Scorcese's "The Last Temptation of Christ" in 1988, many complaints were echoed by people before even seeing the film.

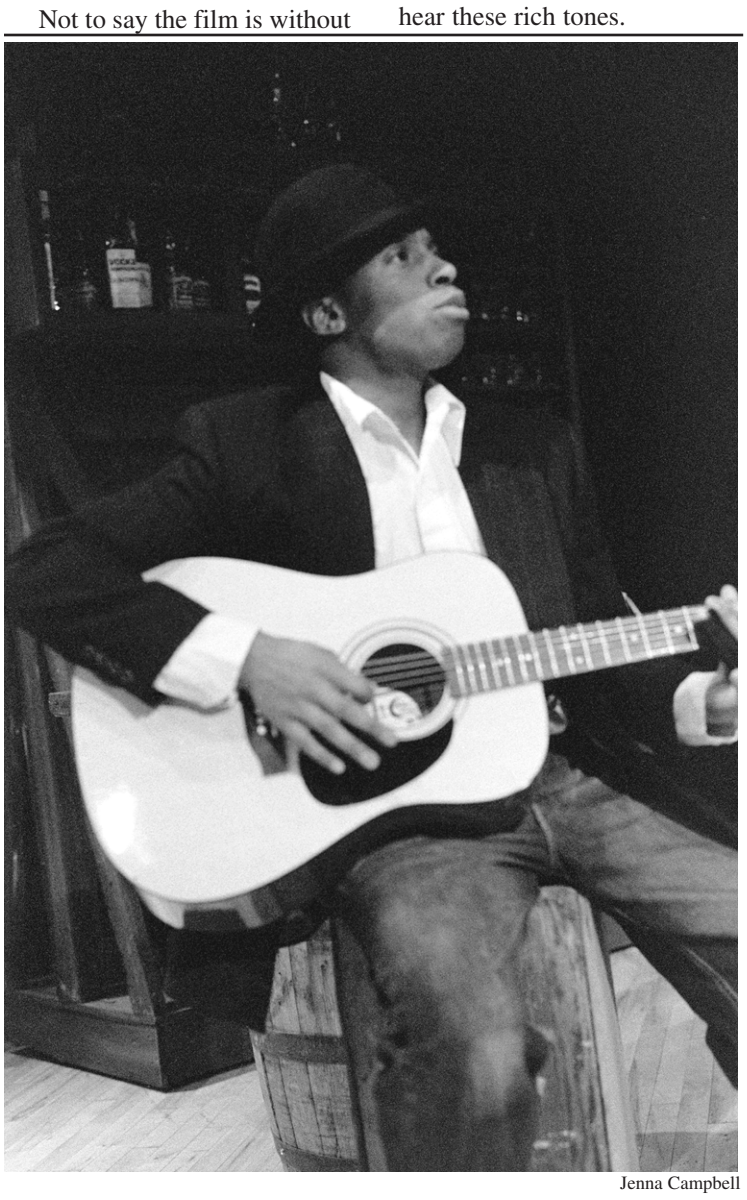
Most critics worried that the portrayal of Jews as Christ-killing bad guys would stir up anger against Jews in general.

Yes, some of the Jewish elders in the film are unsympathetic jerks, but no generalizations are made. And isn't that how the story goes?

Yet the film never suggests any connection between their nastiness and their faith. In fact, most of the film's protagonists, including Jesus, are Jewish and plenty of Jews try to aid him. In one scene, when Jesus is brought before a tribunal of rabbis, it is clearly established that some oppose condemning him, only to be silenced by a powerful few.

But there are problems with the characterizations. While Pontius Pilate is afforded complexity and given human motives for his role in Christ's fate, the rabbis leading his persecution are portrayed as two-dimensional villains.

If Gibson is incapable of understanding why, in the context of his faith's central story, they would perceive Christ's message of compassion and personal empowerment as a threat to their power, how can he claim to understand His passion?



Jenna Campbell

Nasir Najieb performs as Robert Johnson, who sings the blues while reflecting on his life story in "Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil." The play is the senior project for Najieb, loosely based on facts surrounding legendary delta blues musician Johnson. Najieb was drawn to the play by his passion for blues music and the story surrounding Johnson's life.

'Devil'...

Continued from page 8

open ear.

Immersed in the complexities and dramatic tension of the play, Najieb's hope is that the audience can identify with Johnson's struggles and be influenced by his life, as are the blues and jazz musicians of today.

"Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil" can be seen at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Cabaret Theatre.

General admission is $5 and $3 for ULV students. For more information, call (909) 593-3511 Ext.. 4386.

La Verne hosts young thespians

Monique Jimenez
Staff Writer

High school students from 27 Californian schools participated in the 21st Annual High School Theatre Festival hosted by the University of La Verne's Theatre Arts Department on Wednesday and continuing through today.

Students from Bonita High School performed in Dailey Theatre, showcasing a student written piece named "Untitled."

The performance was eye-opening, expressing feelings, anxieties and emotions that people experience in life.

It ended with the statement "You have to find the answers for yourself," a line every student uttered together.

"I felt like I could really relate to the emotions I was performing," Bonita High student Kate Manlove said.

After each performance the students attend a dictation where faculty members, working professionals and an upper-class theatre majors discuss the performance with the high school students, ask questions and give feedback as to what can be improved.

"This is an opportunity for students to show their work and get some positive feedback," ULV Theatre Recruiter and Public Relations Graduate Assistant Jessica Wotherspoon said.

Students who participate come ready to perform and learn more about theatre production.

"I participate in the festival just for the fun, and getting to see other schools perform and what they are doing gives us other ideas as well," Bonita High student Fareez Giga said.

The annual theatre festival is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to audition for scholarships from ULV and see what the Theatre Arts Department has to offer.

On Wednesday a workshop entitled "No More Sound of Music: Creating Contemporary Dance Theatre," was held and led by Kevin Kane, the instructor of ensemble performance at UCLA's Department of World Arts and Culture.

The students are given the opportunity to showcase their abilities in a three-day event allowing them to attend workshops in areas of improvisation, characterization through movement, voice, breathing and body and stage combat.

"They can get on stage and show us what they got," Wotherspoon said.

Volleyball gains win of Hope

Chrissy Zehrbach
Sports Editor

Riding a 3-0 win over Hope International University, the University of La Verne men's volleyball team is heading into one of the toughest weekends on this season's schedule.

"It was important to get a win. We've had a tough schedule up to this point, and with our young team, it's nice to get a win under our belt going into this weekend. It's really important for us, good for their confidence," head coach Morgan Coberly said.

This weekend the Leopards face their main competition for a bid to the national tournament, University of California Santa Cruz.

"It's one of the most important weekends by far," Coberly said. "Santa Cruz is the most important match of the year. A win there really puts us in the driver's seat for going to the Final Four."

The Leopards blew past Hope Tuesday night, 30-22, 30-24, 30-26, never relinquishing a lead by more than one point.

ULV was the dominant force on the court, almost doubling the Royals in kills. ULV put 55 away and allowed Hope only 27, outhitting Hope's .200 with a .394 team hitting percentage – the Leopards' highest hitting percentage this season.

"We played well as a team," said sophomore outside hitter Matt Cornell. "We went in expecting to win and took care of business."

Cornell led ULV offensively with 13 kills. Junior opposite Dwayne Wibeto hit .667 with 11 kills on 15 attempts with only one error.

As a team the Leopards only recorded five blocks in the contest, the same number as their opponents.

"We missed too many serves and didn't block much, but offensively we played well – that kept us in it the whole match," Coberly said.

ULV is 3-7 on the season, a record of which Coberly said does not reflect the strength of the team.

"When you look at our losses – they're all Division I ranked teams," Coberly said, adding that a win against a Division I team would earn points for rankings in Division III, where ULV is currently ranked No. 3.

The squad's most recent

Continued on page 12

La Verne steps to the plate



Sylvia Castellanos

James Ortega hits in the eighth inning, going 3-for-4 at the plate. The Leopards defeated the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, 7-2, at Ben Hines Field last Friday. This is La Verne's first victory over Pomona-Pitzer since the 2001 season. ULV is now 2-1 in SCIAC.

Leos earn first win over 'Hens in two years

Sara Lupu
Staff Writer

With its first conference series underway, the University of La Verne baseball team is showing a tremendous amount of character and focus on the field.

The Leopards faced off with the reigning Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions, the Sagehens of Pomona-Pitzer, and won the series, 2-1.

On Saturday, the Leopards met the Sagehens in Claremont for a doubleheader. The Leopards dropped the first game, 4-0.

"Our offensive effort, focus and desire has to be tough and it wasn't there in the first game," ULV's head coach Scott Winterburn said. "Between games I reminded them of how hard they've been working and what this means to them. In the second game we came out and gave the effort, and just kept scoring."

The Leopards won the second game, 14-3, and claimed the series.

"This was a huge win against Pomona because it has probably been close to three years since they have dropped a whole series," Winterburn said.

The first win of the series came on Friday at Ben Hines Field with a steady rainfall threatening to postpone the game. The rain did not seem to bother the Leopards in the bottom of the sixth inning when the team started hammering out hits and capitalized on Pitzer's errors to rally five runs in the inning.

"We practice when it is raining, so the rain didn't really affect us," Winterburn said. "We had a great mental outlook on the game and set the tone for the weekend."

The teams played on and the Leopards won, 7-2, behind the pitching of senior Scott Lindeen, who pitched his first no-hitter in his college career.

"This was a great personal and team goal that was achieved," Winterburn said. "If there's a guy on our staff that deserves it, it's Scott. No one works or trains harder."

Lindeen sustained an injury last weekend against Biola University when he took a line drive to the ankle. He was unable to condition all week, but felt that he was ready to pitch.

"By the fifth inning I was really tired," Lindeen said. "I think my injury helped me by making me work harder and not get comfortable."

The Leopards tallied 10 hits in the game and received a solid performance at the plate from James Ortega who went three for four with two RBIs.

As far as the rest of the season, conference play looks to be competitive all the way through.

"SCIAC competition has gotten tougher every year since I have been here," Winterburn said. "We won't have one week when we can breathe and take it easy."

With nine seniors, a strong core of returners, and some key transfers, ULV looks to be in the running for a SCIAC title this season.

"We have to come everyday to play; hitters, pitchers and defense," Lindeen said. "I don't like making predictions, but we have a talented bunch of guys that want to win."

With an abundance of offensive and defensive weapons, Winterburn wants the team to focus on the effort that they put forth.

"We have a lot of talent, but a bigger part of that is we are really close and as a team, we have bought into what our coaches are trying to teach us," sophomore designated hitter Jonathan Marty said.

The Leopards (5-3, 2-1 SCIAC) take the field again at 2:30 p.m., today at Ben Hines Field against Whittier College.

Leopards take conference opener

Jonathan Corral
Assistant Editor



Jessica Valerio

The University of La Verne softball team defeated the Whittier Poets, 8-2, Friday. At the end of the fifth inning freshman second baseman Suzy Riker (No. 17) of ULV discusses a disputed tag at second base with assistant outfield coach Kendra Navarro and catching coach Omar Fernandez. The field umpire changed a call on the play, allowing the runner to stay at second base.

One could not have scripted a better start for the University of La Verne softball team in its weekend series with Whittier College.

In a three-game set, the Leopards mauled the Poets with a hitting barrage, excellent pitching and defense to start Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play with a perfect 3-0 record with 8-2, 14-1 and 11-2 victories in rainy conditions this past weekend.

For the weekend series the Leopards (5-4, 3-0 SCIAC) scored 33 runs, hit six homeruns and earned 12 extra base hits, which resulted in an outstanding team batting average and gave Whittier no chance.

"Offensively we came alive on Saturday and truly accomplished our goal," head coach Robin Haaker said. "Our goal was to score eight runs and not settle after that."

The defense was just as lethal, with Leopard pitchers holding the Poets at bay, only allowing five runs the entire series.

"We fundamentally got the job done and had some great plays out in the field," Haaker said. "I was very impressed with our teams overall effort, each player had an impact on the game."

The Leopards started game three with a bang when Amanda Jones hit a two-run home run for the early 2-0 lead.

The game slowed from there when starting pitcher Elaine Martinez ran into problems with her control and allowed the Poets to even the score at 2.

That was as close Whittier would get to victory, with the Leopards scoring nine unanswered runs, three in the fourth plus six in the fifth to cap things off and give them the 11-2 victory.

Starting shortstop Jessica DeGiacomo led the Leopards hitting two-for-three with three RBIs and scoring two runs.

Game two of the series was pure perfection. From the first pitch the Leopards onslaught began as they took advantage of Whittier's pitching and defense resulting in six first-inning runs.

Leading the charge was Martinez, who paved the way in the first with her two-run double bringing home Morgan Dobis and Ashley Savage.

In the bottom half of the inning, DeGiacomo set the tone for the defense with her backhanded grab and throw for the first out.

"As a team we stepped it up and played two great games," DeGiacomo said. "We stepped it up offensively and defensively because we were not satisfied with the way we played on Friday."

The Leopards put the rest of the game on cruise control with their flawless play on offense and defense.

Sparks flew in the top of the third when Amber Guerra hit a rocket over the outfield fence for the three-run shot.

DeGiacomo quickly followed suit with a two-run blast of her own that gave the Leopards a commanding 12-0 lead.

Wanting to join the home run parade, Dobis hit a solo home run in the top half of fourth that landed in the Whittier Hills.

DeGiacomo nearly added her second home run of the game when she sent a line drive deep to the outfield coming inches from the fence, but instead ended up with a double that drove in Dobis.

The Leopards added two more runs and capped off the afternoon, giving them the 14-1 victory.

Mary Olsen pitched a complete game, only allowing one run and one hit while striking out five along the way to victory.

Other outstanding performances were turned in by Martinez who finished the game three-for-three and two RBIs. Jones also performed well with two hits and two RBIs.

"I think after Fridays game, we were not satisfied even though we won the game," Guerra said. "After that game we decided to step it up and play the way we normally do and it showed on Saturday."

The opening game of the series was the closest for the Leopards compared to the other two. Jones took the mound and pitched an absolute gem, only allowing two runs on three hits in seven innings of work with her defense and offense backing her up.

Once again the Leopards did not allow the Poets to get in the game by scoring five runs in the first inning and shutting the door quickly.

The Leopards were sparked by, third basemen Kelley Silagyi who went two-for-two with a homerun and first basemen Savage who knocked in three going one-for-two at the plate with a homerun of her own.

The Leopards added three more runs in the third and fifth innings, respectively, while their defense stopped any threat the Poets tried to mount.

"We got off to a good start this weekend," Guerra said. "As a team we hope to win conference, make it to regionals and do well there. Those are the goals for the rest of the season."

This weekend the Leopards put there perfect conference record on the line with a three game series against Cal Lutheran beginning in Thousand Oaks Friday, followed by a doubleheader Saturday at Wheeler Park.

"The games this weekend were a good start to what we hope to accomplish this season," Haaker said. "Our main focus is to win league, but we are taking every game as it comes."

Become one of
La Verne's finest!

Apply now for a job in Law Enforcement!

Are you interested in serving the community?
Do you want a challenge in life?
Do you want to make a difference?



Sign up to be a Reserve Police Officer

Applications accepted year around.
Must be 20 years of age at time of appointment.
For additional information go to www.ci.la-verne.ca.us
link to Employment Opportunities
Contact Sergeant Nick Paz at 909-596-1913

Reigning champs take third place

Women's hoops ends on a win

Amanda Egan
News Editor

Women's basketball won two out of three games during the past week to finish the 2003-2004 season strong with an overall winning record of 16-9.

"We had a successful season in terms of wins and losses, but we did not reach our main goal of winning back-to-back SCIAC championships," head coach Julie Kline said. "We did prove we are very capable of getting this done, by defeating each team in our conference at least once."

La Verne closed out their season Wednesday night with a bang, defeating Cal Tech, 61-15.

'We did prove we are very capable of getting this done, by defeating each team in our conference at least once.'
-Julie Kline, head coach

The win left the women in sole possession of third place in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"To be in the top three is a good accomplishment," senior Lisa Mila said.

"It was good for us to end our season on a win," Mila said.

Sophomore Audy Macdonald put 17 points on the board to add to the win.

Senior stand-out Sydni Myrick dominated play against the Beavers contributing on offensive and defensive scoring 15 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and blocking four shots.

La Verne was also triumphant at Occidental on Monday night after fighting for an overtime victory that put them on top, 61-53.

Junior Kourtney Hicks scored 18 points for the Leopards and senior Denae Howell added 17.

Myrick led the team in rebounds with12.

La Verne fell to visiting Cal Lutheran on Feb. 20 in the Supertents, 70-60.

The Leopards struggled early in the game, trailing the Regals by 20 at the half.

La Verne entered the court energized in the second half of play, rallying back to tie the game at 52.

With eight minutes remaining, La Verne was unable to continue their persistence on offense and finished ten points short of a win.

Myrick produced an abundance of offense for La Verne, contributing 30 points. She was successful all over the court earning nine rebounds and four blocked shots.

Macdonald supplied the Leopards with 15 points.

"We are losing a very talented senior class this year, they played key roles in our success over the past few years," Kline said.

The Leopards are graduating three talented seniors this season including Howell, Myrick and Mila.

"Our last game was really sad when they were calling our names at the end," Mila said.

La Verne finishes the year with a positive outlook for next season.

"We are returning a strong base for next year, which will provide a tremendous amount of experience going into next season," Kline said. "The coaching staff is heavily involved in recruiting efforts to complement the returnees we do have and add depth to our roster."

Volleyball...

Continued from page 10

loss came Feb. 20 to UC San Diego, 3-0 (30-24, 30-26, 30-22).

"San Diego is a very good team this year, very experienced," Coberly said. "We have a young team that has been playing up and down. But we played steady and didn't let down emotionally."

Cornell was once again the leader in kills for ULV against the Tritons, with 16. He has been the kills leader in nine out of the ten games played this season, averaging 12 kills per game. Cornell's season-high was 20 kills against Princeton University, Jan. 28.

"There hasn't been a lot of consistency, but Matt Cornell has been playing really well lately," Coberly said. "We're trying to get more consistent."

The Tritons, No. 13 in Division I/II, had a team hitting percentage of .409 in the match and seven team blocks.

"They were just bigger, stronger and faster," said Ricky Estrada, a sophomore outside hitter who had 12 kills in the contest. "We didn't play good defense."

But the Leopards were not completely outmatched. While UCSD had 50 kills and 29 defensive digs, ULV trailed on its heels with 49 kills and 28 digs.

"We just have trouble finishing games," said junior setter Dave Doxey.

Hope International was the Leopards' first win on the road this season, but they will look for two more this weekend as they face Stanford University and UC Santa Cruz in Northern California.

"I think that the Stanford match is winnable," Coberly said. "They're a tough team that's thought of as a powerhouse, but I think they're beatable. Offensively we've been strong lately, if we can pick it up on the defensive end, I think we can beat Stanford."

"Stanford's going to be a tough game, but we've got a possibility to win if we play well," Cornell said. "If we do the little things right there's no reason why we couldn't win."

The Leopards have not faced Stanford since 2001, but have already faced Santa Cruz once this year.

The Leopards swept the Banana Slugs, 3-0, Jan. 16 in the Supertents. But Coberly said it will be a different atmosphere in Santa Cruz.

"We beat them pretty handily, but it's tough playing up there. They play a lot better home than away," Coberly said.

ULV is searching for its third consecutive West Coast bid to the Division III Molten Invitational and should be able to clench it with another win over Santa Cruz.

Records set in SCIAC meet

Mike Myers
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne men's and women's swimming and diving teams held their own at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships Feb. 19-21 in Cerritos, finishing in fourth place.

Senior Jason Walters and sophomore Jared Carvito lead the men's team to a fourth place finish by winning two events each.

The men finished with a team total of 242 points at the SCIAC championship meet. First place went to Redlands University with 619.5 points.

Carvito won both breaststroke events, taking first in the 100-yard breaststroke in a time of 59.19 and winning the 200-yard breaststroke in a time of 2:07.83.

"I personally feel like I did a good job, but I still didn't swim up to my expectation," Carvito said.

Walters closed out his SCIAC career at the University of La Verne in a victorious fashion by capturing the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 53.18 and the 200-yard backstroke in a time of 1:54.38. Walters closed out his career winning eight of 12 conference championship races in four years.

The men's team also set three new school records at the meet.

The relay team of Ryan Jensen, Owen Barrett, Carvito and Walters set a new school record when it finished fourth place in the 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay with a times of 1:27.55 and 3:14.36, respectively.

"It feels good knowing that we set a new record, but we feel we could have done better," Barrett said.

Walters also broke a school record in his 100-yard freestyle race.

"Walters is going to be a big loss," head coach John Hallman said. "He is the most talented swimmer to ever come to La Verne."

The women's swimming and diving team also ended up in fourth place in SCIAC, tallying 318.5 total points in the three day meet. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps took first place with 897.5.

The women's team also broke three school records at the SCIAC meet. The relay team of Jessica Egbert, Morgan Delaney, Marissa Garcia and Kristin McKown set a new school record when they finished the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 1:54.73 for fourth place.

The same women took third place in the 400-yard medley relay and set a new school record with a time of 4:09.39.

In a fifth place finish, Delaney also set a new school record in the 100-yard breaststroke, finishing in 1:09.59.

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Men's Basketball, Feb. 23

La Verne	81
Occidental	**94**

Women's Tennis

La Verne	**5**
Chapman	4

SCHEDULE

Tomorrow

Women's Water Polo vs. Cal State Hayward @ 10 a.m. @ La Verne Aquatic Center

Softball vs. Cal Lutheran @ noon and 2 p.m. @ Wheeler Park

DID YOU KNOW?

The velocity of a pitched baseball is about eight miles per hour faster when it leaves the pitcher's hand than when it reaches home plate.