CAMPUS TIMES

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Fires impact health and wildlife

Air quality a concern after fires

Kenneth Todd Ruiz
Managing Editor

While wet, cool weather has helped bring an end to the devastating fires that surrounded Los Angeles from the northwest to the southeast, concerns remain about the health impact on both human beings and the environment.

Arson is believed to be the cause of the fires, but ecological conditions of drought, sustained hot weather, and an insect infestation fueled the flames that blackened more than 750,000 acres.

Air quality officials from the South Coast Air Quality Management District warned Wednesday that dust particulate from the destroyed homes may contain asbestos, a toxic contaminant known to cause lung cancer and other lung diseases.

"Homes and buildings built before 1984 may contain asbestos materials," said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD spokesman. "Homeowners cleaning up debris from these homes should take steps to protect themselves, or hire a licensed contractor to handle the cleanup."

According to the AQMD, the rains of last weekend helped to reduce the level of particulate debris from the air.

Those same rains could prove problematic when the weather makes a full-fledged transition into winter.

As was demonstrated in last winter's muddy follow-up to the Williams Fire above La Verne, the absence of ground cover combined with heavy rain can produce a cascade of watery debris.

A report from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority identified the Deer Creek flood catch basin, just above Rancho Cucamonga, as providing inadequate protection.

"It's an extreme concern of ours," said Assistant Director Vana Olson in the San Bernardino County Public Works Department.

County officials said they would seek federal money to clear out and expand the runoff catch basins, inform residents of the hazards and build sandbag barriers to minimize the threat.

Officials do not expect it to be a serious issue until January or February, as the soil can absorb some amount of rain before it reaches its saturation threshold.

To this end, they are providing sandbags to local residents, according to county spokeswoman Renee Groese.

The threat of debris flooding down will persist for up to four years, Olson said.

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Dynamic duet performs in Founders



Bianca Rocha

Violinist Ida Levin, who made her professional debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 10, was accompanied by Timothy Durkovic, coordinator for keyboard studies at the University of La Verne. As part of the music department's Celebrity Concert Series, Levin and Durkovic played pieces that varied from Bach's "Sonata in E Major" to works by Lavry and Ravel. **See story page 9.**

Online web journals more than digital diaries

Kenneth Todd Ruiz
Managing Editor

Actors are doing it. Athletes too. Even presidential candidates.

With more than 4 million of them online, it is likely that someone you know is publishing a blog on the Internet.

The first Web logs, or blogs, emerged four years ago literally as online diaries, like those found on Web sites such as **livejournal.com** or **xanga.com**.

"Blogging was a way to track stories that I could potentially turn into articles," said John Gorenfeld, a freelance journalist who blogs at **gorenfeld.net**.

Since then the blog has evolved from a novelty shared among friends into a powerful tool for communication.

Today subjects of blogs are only limited by the imaginations and interests of their authors, or bloggers.

No longer do those fleeting thoughts or weighty epiphanies need to pass from the moment - blog it and share it with the world.



One in an occasional series exploring the emerging online culture

Heard a good joke? Share it on your blog. Had a bad day? Get it off your chest and onto your screen.

There are personal blogs, political blogs, commercial blogs, public service blogs, travel blogs, humor blogs and photo blogs – even blogs about other blogs.

Almost all follow the same format, a chronological sequence of entries posted on a single topic or theme.

Blogs fulfill some of the socially empowering promises of the Internet.

In an age where a select few sources broadcast to the masses, anyone with access to the Internet can now reach a global audience.

Without a multi-million dollar promotional budget, this audience is likely to be small.

Still, the very ease of instant global publishing introduces new responsibilities – it is all too easy to send out ill-conceived opinions or reactions.

Journalist Gregg Easterbrook earned biting criticism for comments in his Oct. 13 blog entry at the *The New Republic Online* that were perceived as insensitive to Jews.

In a polemic on Hollywood violence, Easterbrook wrote that the producers of the movie "Kill Bill" were "Jewish executives (who) worship money above all else."

Despite his rapid retraction and apology, Easterbrook was fired from his job as a contributor to ESPN.

"Even the best writers need a blog editor," said Jim Romenesko, an online reporter at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

For the unwashed, unedited masses, creating a blog is a simple process that requires no knowledge of the code that goes into a Web page.

Anyone can publish a blog, as a multitude of free hosts offer accounts to those with Internet access.

Blogger.com is the most popular of these with more than one million users, and the service is now entirely free since being acquired by Google in February.

Creating a blog site on

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INSIDE TODAY'S CAMPUS TIMES



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Aftermath...

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"This isn't going to be a one-season thing," she said.

While humans can take proactive steps to limit the harm done to them, the Southern California's diverse wildlife may have suffered crucial habitat loss.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, a number of rare or endangered species reside in areas affected by the fires.

"There are a lot of endemic species found there that are not found anywhere else in the world," said John Robinson, a program director for the U.S. Forest Service. "There's a whole bunch of sensitive and endangered plants down there as well."

Robinson said that work will begin tomorrow on canvassing the burnt areas to determine what can be done to help the habitats recuperate.

"We are probably looking at 91,000 acres of rehabilitation work," Robinson said.

Steve Loe, a U.S. Forest Service biologist, has estimated that one species alone, the California spotted owl, has lost 10 percent of its old growth habitat.

One species being blamed for exacerbating the fire is the bark beetle, which has destroyed more than one million trees in the San Bernardino mountains, leaving behind dry, highly flammable husks.

"It's been one of the worst die-offs of forest we've seen," Robinson said.

On March 3, 2003, Gov. Gray Davis proclaimed a state of emergency that suspended the notification requirements for residents to remove dead, dying or diseased trees from their property.

According to Paul Jarrell, biology professor at Pasadena City College, the beetles have always been around, and are normally not a major problem for the trees.

"A healthy tree can withstand an infection," he said. "However, the trees are currently very weak because of years of drought conditions."

Beetle eggs are laid by adult beetles in the tree bark, and the resulting larvae feed off on the trees in the area between the bark and the wood, Jarrell said.

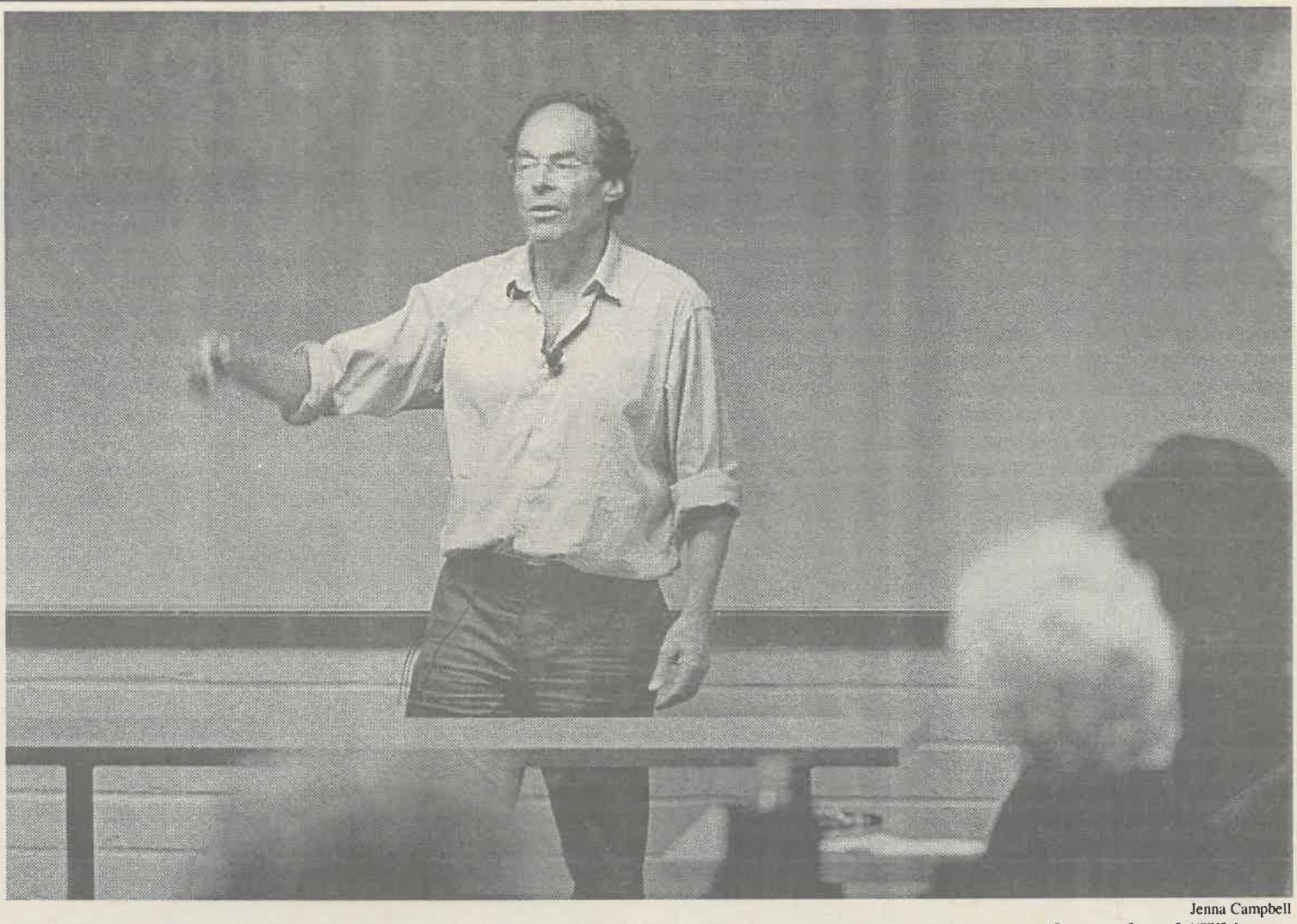
"These weakened trees cannot defend against the beetle, and are basically strangulated."

The problem has resulted in a feedback-loop.

As more trees succumb to beetle infestation, the larger the bug population grows, making the infestation problem even worse.

The State estimated it would cost $450 million to remove the trees, and sought funds from the federal government in April to assist in tree removal, as well as a federal declaration of emergency.

Both requests were denied by the Bush administration in the late October, during the first days of the fires.



Jenna Campbell

Alexander Cockburn, co-editor of "Counterpunch," a political newsletter on the Internet, spoke to University of La Verne students and faculty last week in the Hoover Building. Cockburn also writes for* The Nation, *the* New York Post, *and co-authored "Whiteout: The CIA, Drugs and the Press." His most recent book is titled "The Politics of Anti-Semitism."

Cockburn derides failures of media

Outlets not getting story right

Bailey Porter
LV Life Editor

Amid the political upheaval – world events and media coverage that perpetually shape the lives of every person in contemporary society either directly or indirectly – is an opportunity for Americans to be more critical observers of the news.

Question must be raised about the content of mainstream media coverage and whether the real problems are being addressed by the mainstream media, said journalist and social commentator Alexander Cockburn in a talk given on Oct. 30 in the Hoover Building.

Citing recent examples of various ethical shortcomings in the news media, Cockburn evaluated the *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair who resigned in May after the *Times* found plagiarism and inaccuracies in he majority of stories spanning his short career. This scandal forced the resignations of top editors at the paper as well.

The public was shown evidence that the correction box in the paper issuing the correct spelling of someone's name does not mean the *Times* did not get anything else wrong in the paper that day, he said.

With the dry sense of humor that set the tone of his talk, Cockburn said, "I greeted the news with unmitigated glee."

One example was the fabrication of details in the Jessica Lynch story.

The real story in this case was not the "colorful quotes" that Blair used, Cockburn said, but the Jessica Lynch story itself that was a misconstrued public relations exercise by the Pentagon.

After all, nothing about Lynch as a prisoner of war turned out to be true. She was never treated badly in that hospital nor were there guards outside her room.

Blair's choice to use false information was not important. What should have been the focus and the impetus to launch the paper's self-examination, but wasn't, was the way the media ran with the story without investigating the facts.

Cockburn said that when issues of national security are involved, the mainstream press follows the government blindly.

"War is always good for the ratings," he said, referencing William Randolph Hearst who influenced the Spanish-American War with yellow journalism.

Cockburn furthered his point by breaking down the issue involving *Times* staff writer Judith Miller, whose more than 15 stories on weapons of mass destruction generated much of the pro-war fervor during the same time as the Blair controversy.

'War is always good for the ratings'
– Alex Cockburn, journalist

Using information given to her by Iraqi exiles, Miller took advantage of these defectors' willingness to say anything that would get them back in their native country and in a position of control, including affirmation that weapons of mass destruction still existed, Cockburn said.

She also used the Department of Defense and their political agenda to make statements favoring the defectors' quotes.

At this time, Miller was also pushing a book deal, he said.

"It was a clear conflict of interests," he said.

He added that the government's eventual confession that no WMDs were found was strange.

"I thought at least they'd make something up. A tin box marked 'WMD' would have done. It's a sign of America's decline," he said.

Cockburn advised the audience that the best way to get the news is from multiple sources and to constantly question what the media supplies as news.

He said that no single source should be trusted, not even him.

"There's a lot out there to test," he said.

The newest way to access a much wider scope of media conglomerates is through the Internet.

People have so much access to so much information; before it would take a difficult process to get an article you had heard about in a British newspaper, now it is just a click of the mouse away, he said.

Not only is this information out there, people are taking advantage of it, Cockburn said, using a personal example of being stopped in his hometown by people who recently saw him on a television program from five years ago via the Web.

"I tend to think people see more than we suspect they do," he said.

As Cockburn ended his hour-long talk with a few questions from the audience, he stressed the need for the media to be held accountable for the content of their publications and broadcasts.

The biggest problem in the world today is poverty, he said, with the rich getting richer and the poor, poorer.

The public needs to pressure the media to reorder what is deemed most important and encourage a direction of media coverage that stimulates debate and thus a flourishing of political activity.

Without debate, the United States is not forced to examine itself, he said.

"The media problem is a national, political problem," Cockburn said.

Bill Cook, professor of English, invited Cockburn to speak at the University. "He brings a perspective on the media that reflects 40 years of experience, and his viewpoint is to the left. His writing reflects a perspective that is analytically in-depth and critically perceptive," he said.

Cockburn is an editor for **CounterPunch.com** and writes for *The Nation*, among other publications.

Homecoming weekend to host ULV alumni

Alejandra Molina
Staff Writer

Homecoming at the University of La Verne should be new-and-improved this year as University Relations will also host annual alumni events, bringing together the University's past and present for events and activities that go through Saturday.

"So much of the reputation of the University is about who our alumni are and the accomplishments they have made in their lives." said Beth Elmore, alumni relations director. "It really speaks to what the University is."

Elmore, along with Julie Velasquez, an alumni relations assistant, and the entire University Relations team planned the alumni events.

Associated Student Federation Forum President Travis Berry and Vice President Dana McJunkin also took part in the coordination of these events.

"If the two of us team up , we (can) put resources together," Berry said.

The second annual ULV Homecoming Golf Challenge at 10 a.m. today is the first of the alumni events. Saturday evening distinguished alumni and the classes of '33 through '93 will be honored at the "All Alumni Dinner and Dance" at the Sheraton Suites Fairplex.

After the dinner, alumni and students may participate in Monte Carlo Night.

ULV alumnus Bob Dyer, who graduated in 1963, said he will attend the dinner to celebrate his 40th reunion.

He will also read some of his own poetry and give a brief history of the University at the dinner.

"I've stayed pretty active with the University," Dyer said.

Saturday offers a full day of events for students and alumni. The ULV 5K Community Fun Run/Walk, a fundraiser for the Athletic and Training Education program, will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and check-in at Sneaky Park.

For those who would like to stay in, the Communications Department will offer Coffee at 9 a.m. in the Art and Communications Building.

Saturday will be a busy day, as the Old Town La Verne Harvest Festival will also start at 9 a.m. on D and Third streets in Old Town La Verne.

It will feature live entertainment, animal rides, a petting zoo and other activities for families and children.

The ULV Third Street Fair at 10:30 a.m. between B and C Streets will feature music and a Kids Zone with an inflatable bouncer.

A picnic lunch will be held at 11:30 a.m. on the University Quad.

"It's a tremendous networking tool for the students," said Charles Bentley, ULV public relations director. "Alumni can be great resources for them when they graduate."

The Homecoming football game against the Chapman Panther begins at 1 p.m. in Ortmayer Stadium.

"Events that appeal to a large audience, for example, is the Homecoming game where families come to watch," Bentley said.

"It's not like a UCLA game where people just sit and watch the game," Bentley added. "When ULV games are over, everybody comes down and shakes hands."

Following the game, the All-Alumni Reception will be held at Sneaky Park, the Class of '83 and Friends Reception will be held in Fasnacht Court, and later that evening, the ULV Theater School will present The Rocky Horror Show at the Dailey Theatre.

"It's a chance for the alumni to see how the University is continuing with their mission statement and its direction of helping education for future members of society," Bentley said.

Sunday, Nov. 9 ULV will host Recognition Day and Coffee at the La Verne Church of the Brethren at 10:30 a.m., the Alumni, Friends and Floaters Reunion Potluck will be held at the Old Gym at 12:30 p.m. and the Decade Reunions will be held at 1:30 p.m.

"It's very important that the alumni come back and see where the University is," Berry said.

"We're there at La Verne at different times, but we are all a family," Dyer said.

> 'So much of the reputation of the University is about who our alumni are and the accomplishments they have made in their lives. It really speaks to what the University is.'
> *—Beth Elmore, alumni relations director*

Alumnus Battin talks television

Alejandra Molina
Staff Writer

To give students a feel for the world of television, Emmy award winner and University of La Verne graduate Bill Batin spoke to students in Communications Professor Don Pollock's Introduction to Mass Media class last week.

Battin described his job as a producer and offered tips on breaking into the competitive industry.

"Don't think you can't get into it," Battin said.

Battin was an intern for Fox Sports Network during his senior year at ULV and landed a job there after he graduated in 1995. He started as a production assistant, then became an assistant writer and later earned the directing position.

Battin showed students a series of spots he worked on to promote the NFL playoffs, Stanley Cup playoffs and other sporting events.

From the initial idea to the actual promotion spot, Battin spoke on the process of making these commercials.

He talked about everything from scriptwriting to editing to producing.

"He gave a good description of what he does," said Rich Uranga, senior English and television broadcasting major.

"He works with his team and partners and works on creative sports promos," he said. "Our whole department is on it, it's a good group of people."

The typical budget they get to work with during the playoffs is $750,000, Battin told the group.

Battin also talked about working for national network television and producing spots for 22 regions. He said it was challenging to satisfy each region.

"We can't have Kobe and Shaq in San Antonio, they don't want to see LA guys in Detroit," he said. "The regions won't air it if it has someone they don't like to see."

The TV industry is very challenging and the biggest drawback for Battin is the pressure he gets when working on a spot.

"Each campaign has to be better than the last," he said.

Aside from speaking about the actual production phases, Battin gave the students pointers on how to successfully reach the industry.

"It's a huge industry," he said. "We take priority."

"It's who you know in the business," Uranga agreed. "Through contacts is how you get into the industry."

"He's great," said CiCi Chen, broadcasting major. "He gave us so many suggestions in the field.

Blogs...

Continued from page 1

Blogger.com is a simple process that only takes a couple of minutes and is entirely free.

Users can opt to host their own blog at a pre-existing Web site, or let **Blogger.com** host it for them.

All you need is something to say – or not.

Dissatisfaction with the mainstream news media has resulted in blogs dedicated to calling out the large news organizations on poor work, omissions or contradictions.

Leaning to the left at **atrios.blogspot.com** or to the right at **andrewsullivan.com**, these watchdogs of the watchdogs have pushed topics into public discourse that were not getting airtime.

Public figures have embraced blogs as inexpensive promotional tools.

Actors blog from behind-the-scenes on their latest projects, such as Ian "Gandalf" McKellen's blog at **mckellan.com**.

Early surges in support for presidential hopeful Howard Dean were attributed to **blog.deanforamerica.com**.

Many more can be found in blog directories such as **rootblog.com**, **blogwise.com**, or **blogarama.com**.

CORRECTION

The Campus Times editorial board would like to correct erronious information in an editorial about the new University of La Verne logo, which appeared Oct. 31 on Page 4.

The timeframe for the logo's development was incorrectly stated. It was developed in two-and-a-half months.

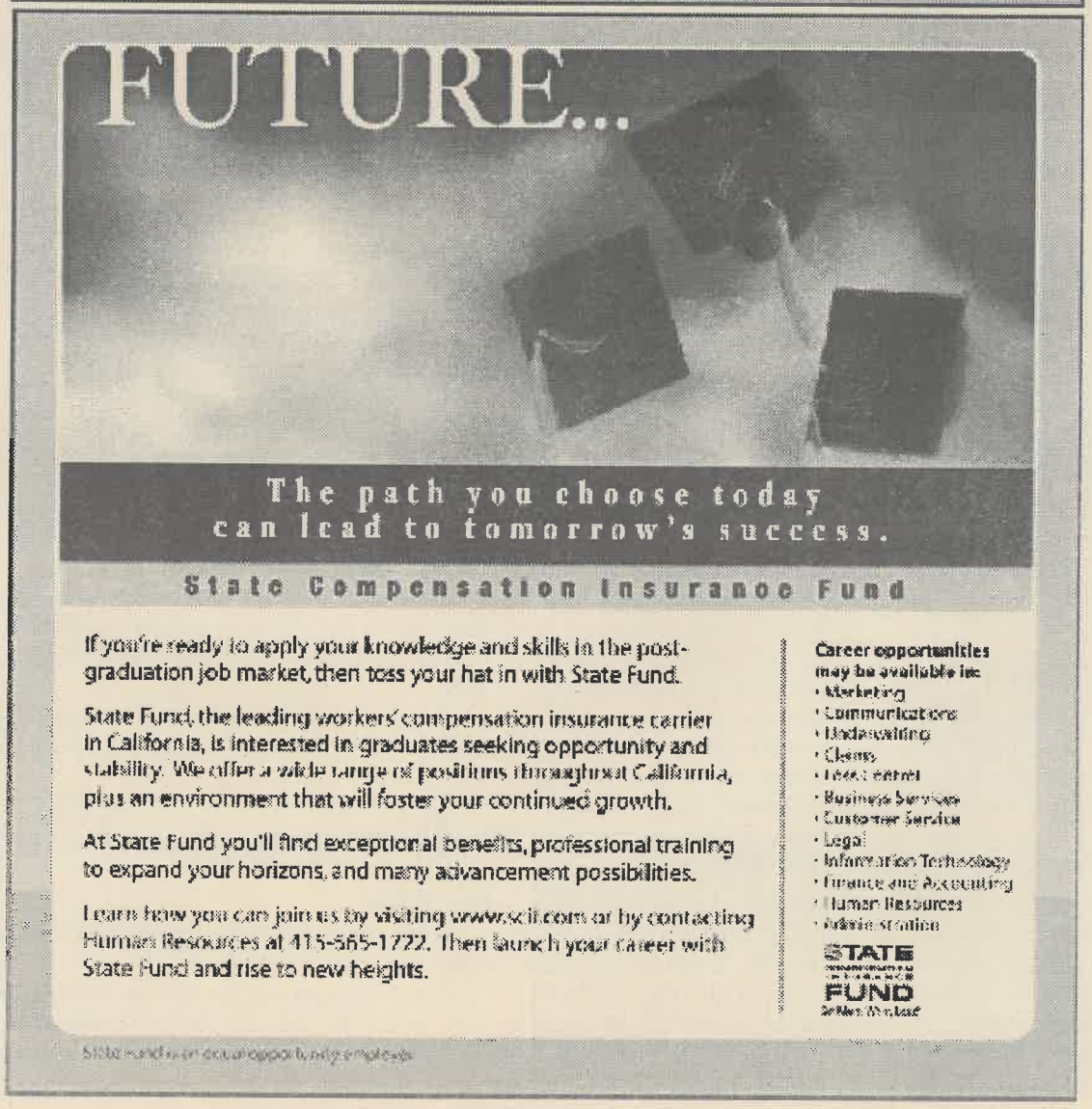
And the constitution of the ULV group choosingthe logo, a total of 60 individuals, included students and University employees.

NEWS BRIEF

Help Sherriffs help fire victims

San Bernardino County Sheriffs association is taking donations to help fire victims during the upcoming holiday season. For more information call (909)777-3404.

–Amby Sarabia



Textbooks sold overseas equal savings

It is coming. We are about halfway there. Yes, the time to buy textbooks for next semester is getting closer everyday.

Each semester students dread taking that walk to the bookstore to buy their textbooks. Why? Because a hefty price tag usually comes with those required texts.

According to the College Board, students spent between $727 and $807 for textbooks and supplies for the 2002-2003 school year. Often students charge the amount to their credit card, putting them in debt.

With the Internet at their fingertips, students have found ways to save a few bucks on textbooks. Amazon.com is among those sites that students have found to give them a better price for textbooks.

Although Amazon has been a godsend to students, there is another revolution in textbook prices. The new trend in online textbook purchasing is by shopping on Web sites based overseas. Sites like **www.amazon.co.uk** are selling books well below the United States selling price.

In a non-scientific comparison of books purchased by University of La Verne students, the required text for CHEM 280, "World of Chemistry Essentials" third edition, is sold for $82.50 new. At **www.amazon.com** the same book is sold for $67.95, while at **www.amazon.co.uk** it is sold for $46.69 (after currency conversions).

Buying this textbook through a Britain-based Web site leaves more money in students' pockets.

So why do U.S. students have to pay more than students in Britain?

Some sources say it is because students overseas are more likely to pirate a high priced book. Others say it is because there are different market conditions in foreign countries.

In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that federal copyright laws do not protect American manufacturers from having their products sold overseas at a discounted price in the United States.

Whether a comprehensive answer is available, the thought of buying a new textbook that is more than $100 in the ULV Bookstore is easily sold for $50 on overseas Web sites.

According to the National Association of College Stores, about half of all students do not purchase all the required texts because of high price.

Students generally find a friend who has the same book, share the cost with a friend in the class, or some borrow the book from a friend - as needed for homework and studying.

Often times students do not have a choice but to purchase a new book when a professor requires the new edition, which only differs in chapter order or page numbering.

Granted, once a new edition of a textbook is printed, it automatically becomes obsolete because publishers will no longer produce additional copies.

If the book still has the same information, what is the need to upgrade to a new edition?

Instead professors could continue to use the same book for a couple more semesters so students can continue to save money on a used copy.

In a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, professors admitted to requiring new textbooks because they had been paid to do so by publishers.

While we do not believe that happens here, it is a rude awakening to find that some professors across the country are partly responsible for high textbook prices.

Publishers try to stop the overseas shopping trend by incorporating restrictions into a contract with foreign vendors. These restrictions prohibit foreign wholesalers from selling to distributors in the United States.

Illinois and Minnesota have passed legislation that encourages libraries at state universities to establish textbook rental programs.

If a rental program were established at ULV, students would save a lot of money.

For example, a $120 textbook that is used for two years, which is equivalent to four semesters, can be rented per semester for a small fee. By the time the new edition comes out, the rental fees have paid for the book.

If a student wants to keep a book, he or she can buy it at full price.

Textbooks used for limited readings can be put on reserve in the library by the instructor, which would save students money or having to buy a book that is sparsely used in class.

Now that the Internet is available to all students, through a campus computer lab or their dorm room, publishers should look into eBooks.

Making textbooks available online with through an online subscription would almost eliminate costs for students and they would be able to access their book from any computer.

With the compounding costs of attending ULV, anything that can be done to save students money is much appreciated.

Additional Book Price Comparisons

MUS 100: "The Enjoyment of Music"
ULV Bookstore: $89.00
www.Amazon.co.uk: $39.19 (£23.00)

HIST 110: "Liberty, Equality, Power"
ULV Bookstore: $100.25
www.Amazon.co.uk: $50.03 (£30.00)

PSY101: "Psychology"
ULV Bookstore: $97.50
www.Amazon.co.uk: $58.66 (£34.99)

False letters lead to doubt

The United States' involvement with the war in Iraq has now stretched to seven months and counting. And while the Bush Administration declared an end to major combat May 1, our armed forces are still engaged and facing hard.

The morale of America's troops is down according to a survey done by Stars and Stripes, a newspaper for soldiers and government civilians abroad. Depression is an increasing problem, and suicides have become an issue.

Soldiers are also still not properly equipped in Iraq, leaving them unprotected and supplies are running low, as well.

To make matters worse, soldiers continue to fight despite the fact that, like the American public, they do not know what exactly they are fighting for. Stars and Stripes revealed that one-third of 2,000 soldiers surveyed in Iraq were on missions that were "not clearly defined" or "not at all defined."

In attempts at a rest and relaxation program, troops have been granted leave two weeks at a time. They are then required to return to duty. Some, however, have not shown up when they were scheduled to leave again. These soldiers have not, however, been declared by the government as absent without leave.

The response the Bush Administration has given to these issues arising in the media is that the media is filtering events in Iraq, essentially to create concern.

But ultimately it is the job of the media to tell the truth. Recently, however, under false pretenses and misguiding of the government, the media did not.

Fake military letters from soldiers appeared in newspapers across the country recently, claiming to be from the 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Infantry Regiment, glorifying the time and success while overseas in Iraq.

This act of fraud seems to be a sort of public relations campaign on behalf of the Bush Administration to get the country on board with the war efforts. It is also a ploy to raise Bush's approval ratings by proving that he has not made a mistake and lied to the country or led the country to war when he should not have.

Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Caraccilo has admitted to writing these letters on behalf of soldiers who he felt were too busy to do it on their own. Names of soldiers were signed without their consent or knowledge, and the letters were distributed to newspapers across the country.

The men and women of our armed forces have been used in this propaganda scheme against their will. They have been through enough as it is, fighting for their country and enduring conditions most of the American public cannot even imagine.

Why does Bush not want the public to know what is really going on in Iraq? How can he try to convince the public that everything is okay overseas when casualty reports keep coming in and soldiers will not return to duty?

American soldiers are providing a service to the country, for their friends and family, and this is how the government repays them? This is not right.

This campaign only makes the government look guilty and desperate. Enough with lies about conditions of America's armed forces and what is happening overseas.

We have a right to know what is happening concerning their country and fellow country men and women.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

To the grammatical cretins from SAE who wrote the word "awsomest" on the Rock:

I dont tink u no gud Englisch an kan't rite rele gud.

David R. Werner
Chairman, Department of English

CAMPUS TIMES
FALL 2003

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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.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Constituent access compromised



MATT PAULSON

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article about Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger's transition team.

The story, compared to what it could have been, was mediocre at best. It was lacking something substantial: an interview with the transition team's head.

The goal of any major media source is to provide stories that mean something to the general population. We see high profile stories every night in the news and we read about them every morning in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The goal of the *Campus Times* is the same. We strive to provide the most prominent stories we can. We, however, face a challenge different from most big newspapers and media sources.

Unlike the *Los Angeles Times*, which simply reports the news as it happens, the *Campus Times*, as a relatively small publication, must find a local angle. People do not come to us for the news; not only because we're a University publication, but we're also a weekly, which means it is often hard to have the latest breaking news. Our stories must be prominent specifically to the La Verne community.

Well, with the announcement of the transition team, the perfect marriage of local and high profile presented itself.

David Dreier, our own local congressman, is to lead Schwarzenegger's transition into office. Not only is this story important to the state of California, its main source was elected to serve our very own community.

So we picked up the story. We were anxious to tell the community what our own congressman was going to do as the leader of one of the most historic transitions in political history. What does this mean for California? What does this mean for us – his constituents?

After repeated calls to Dreier's local office, his Sacramento office and his Washington, D.C., office, I had no luck getting to talk to the Republican from San Dimas.

I left countless messages and never received any calls. I talked to more press secretaries and assistants than I care to tally. No luck.

Eventually, deadline came, and I had absolutely no success contacting Dreier, so I wrote the compromised article without him, neglecting an essential part of the story.

I know Dreier is busy, probably more-so than he ever has been. Leading a non-career politician into office must be one of the most time and energy-consuming activities in which a person can partake.

But I, as a local resident, am disconcerted with Dreier's lack of response. And I am not simply complaining on a personal level for being stiffed.

I am talking about our 2,000-person readership within Dreier's constituency. The whole idea of a congressman is to be in touch with his constituents – to listen to and voice their opinions. These people have voted for Dreier and kept him in office, trusting that he will respect their best interests. But, now, where is he?

Because he now sits at Arnold's right hand, does that mean his local interests sit back in waiting, anxiously jittering for a few seconds of his time?

It just doesn't sit right. Dreier denied me access, which is trivial compared to the other parts of our community that were denied. He denied our school – a university that serves his community. And he denied the community as a whole, which is made up of his constituents, the people responsible for his success.

His appointment as the head of Arnold's transition team is extremely commendable. I am excited that a local boy would see such high profile success. But I do not believe that the local community should be sacrificed in the process.

Matt Paulson, a junior journalism major, is editor in chief of the Campus Times. *He can be reached by e-mail at* **phil6483@comcast.net**.

Questioning the 'reality' of TV



KENNETH TODD RUIZ

It was the summer of 1984. A decade into life on this planet, my friends and I were enamored with the likes of Duran Duran and Depeche Mode, played with cool toys that were More Than Meets the Eye, and mainlined sugar from the futuristic looking Capri Sun.

More than anything, our attentions were gripped by the fierce, double-suplex hold of the World Wrestling Federation.

The hot passions of the Cold War played out on the mat, in the theater of the absurd.

Never was there a truer patriot than Captain Redneck, unleashing his red, white and blue fury as he pile-drived commie brute Ivan Volkov.

It was that June's "Boot Camp" match that proved one of the proudest days to be an American.

On that evening, we encircled the television to see Sergeant Slaughter, later honored with his own G.I. Joe figure, survive the Iron Sheik's "camel-clutch" in one of the most inspiring take-downs in modern American history. I think he got a purple heart for that fabled mêlée.

Alas, my life as an outsider began that day.

Although I did not dispute the consensus on the "totally awesome" quality of the contest, I mistakenly referred to the fact that it was so obviously fake.

From their scorn, contempt and rage, I learned how many prefer to be comforted by lies than find pleasure in the truth.

While the WWF has since abandoned any pretense of legitimacy, today's equivalent is the Circus Maximus of bachelors and survivors that is "reality" television.

And again, I marvel that anyone could disengage their brains long enough to see anything resembling reality in these farces.

This time, however, I know one of the puppeteers pulling the strings on these boorish tan-jobs, grinning and grimacing their way through formulaic tension night-after-night.

Her insights into their pernicious production process were telling.

While her name and show must go undisclosed, she has worked for the past year as a story editor on a recent romantic reality show.

Her title alone says enough: Why would unscripted reality need a "story editor?"

According to her, the crew producing these shows do everything short of provide a written script.

They plant "moles" to induce conflict, force the actors to get drunk before taping and coach them on what to say.

"We'll pull one of them aside and prep them by asking, 'So, are you saying that you are going to go after (another contestant) like a hurricane?' and lo and behold, they will go say that on-camera," she told me.

According to my source, the stories, conflicts and character arcs are carefully planned long before the production begins.

And what the home viewer sees is often footage spliced together from different nights, with no relationship to how it is presented.

It seems like it would just be easier to hire a cast and have them read lines.

And without really being real, what is the point?

I prefer my fiction crafted by capable writers and acted by professionals.

Short of that, I'll take a re-run of "The A-Team" or "Knight Rider" over any Average-Joe-show.

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

There's no room for stereotypes



RIMA THOMPSON

Stereotypes: While we all have them, we all hate the ones directed towards us. Here's a rundown of a few that annoy me immensely.

1. "Is that your real hair?" That's the first thing someone asked me the last time I got my hair done, as if because I am black, I can't possibly have good hair. I wasn't annoyed with Annie, my neighbor, when she asked that because I knew her intention had nothing to do with me being black. It did, however, make me think about other times I wanted to cuss someone out for asking that.

For the record, not all black people have nappy hair and some of us do actually have naturally long hair as well. And it's not just other races, especially whites, which ask me that question. I get it from black people too, which heightens my annoyance. So, yes my hair is 100 percent mine.

2. "Rima's really white. Don't be fooled by her skin tone." Nothing pisses me off more than someone questioning my blackness and basing their opinion solely on the way I talk, dress and where I come from.

Excuse me, for preferring to talk proper English and not go around saying, "Holla back" or "How you be?" Excuse me again, for also not dressing in the proper black attire that consists of Roc-A-Wear, weaves, Phat Farm, Air Force Ones and braids.

And please, oh please, forgive my mother for raising us in safe, family-oriented neighborhoods. What was she thinking? After all, we all know to be considered truly black you must grow up in the ghetto, right?

3. "What's this rapper's name, Rima?" As much as I love my best friend, every time she asks me this I want to literally push her puny butt out of a window.

Unfortunately, this is a misconception many have about black people – that we all enjoy hip-hop music. Well here's a newsflash for some of you: I like about five percent of rap music that is released. The majority of it sucks and there is only so much crap about bling bling or rap wars put to music that I can tolerate. I do, however, enjoy rappers like Rakim, Tupac, Biggie and Heavy D. These were rappers who actually had something meaningful to say, something about 90 percent of rappers lack today.

4. "I know you love fried chicken, Rima." Again, this is another misconception about black people. Yes, I like fried chicken but my blackness has nothing to do with it. My Asian, Caucasian and Latino friends eat chicken, so believe me, it is not an inherently black trait.

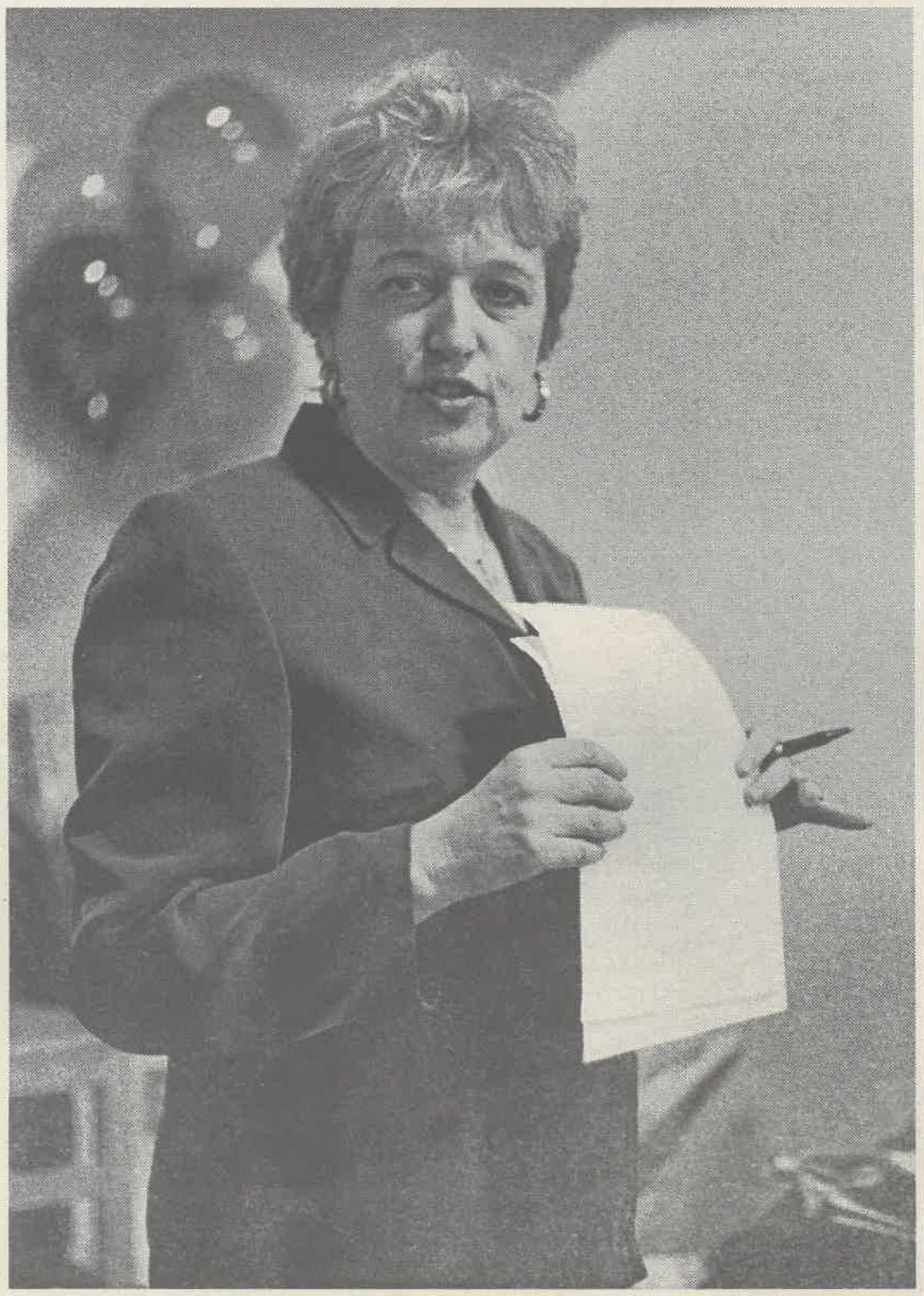
5. "Look at the way she dresses. She's such a slut." I've never had this happen to me, but I've observed it many times. Since when did the way a person dress indicate their sexual activity flow? If you go by the dictionary definition of a slut, it refers to a promiscuous woman. How is it possible to tell how many men a woman has slept with based on her attire?

Just because a woman might like showing some skin doesn't make her a slut. I can name five women off the top of my head who are sluts by the dictionary definition, but go around in long skirts so others don't know. Perhaps more people should adhere to the old saying; "You can't judge a book by its cover."

Sometimes I wonder where people get these ridiculous stereotypes. I wonder more as to why we allow them to persist when in cases like mine and probably many others, they are obviously untrue.

Rima Thompson, a senior journalism major, is arts editor of the Campus Times. *She can be reached by e-mail at* **cmeyes23@aol.com**.

Labinger showcases her work at book signing



Reina Santa Cruz

Andrea Labinger, professor of Spanish, recently finished translating three books from Spanish to English. She said one of her biggest challenges was making long sentences shorter. Her book signing for "An Empty House" was last Friday at the ULV bookstore.

Jessica Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Andrea Labinger, professor of Spanish at the University of La Verne, had a book signing last week for "An Empty House." which she recently translated from Spanish.

Labinger, who has been at ULV since 1981, teaches courses in Spanish and Latin American civilization and culture and also directs the Honors program.

"An Empty House," authored by Carlos Cerda, was first published in Spanish in 1996.

"I translated another novel by Cerda, "To Die in Berlin," a few years ago," Labinger said.

"Carlos asked me to translate all of his books into English and this is the second part of a trilogy."

Cerda, who died in 2001, is one of Chile's most acclaimed contemporary novelists.

"An Empty House" has won several literary prizes, Labinger said, adding that she is thrilled that the North American public will have access to it. Its name in Spanish is "Una Casa Vacia."

"It tells an important story about the detention centers in which many Chilean victims of the military junta imprisoned, tortured and murdered in the 1970s," Labinger said.

> Labinger hopes that this book will be enjoyed not only by the ULV community, but by many others.

Labinger hopes that this book will be enjoyed not only by the ULV community, but by many others.

"I do this kind of work because I enjoy it and because I want the English-speaking public to have the opportunity to become familiar with some wonderful Spanish language fiction," she said.

Demystifying dyslexia

A CAPA student's struggle

Rima Thompson
Arts Editor

It was a day of discovery. So sad that it took so long. From pre-school through high school, there were no answers, just years and years of feeling like a failure. Fortunately, the invisible shutters of confusion opened, and the source revealed its name to be dyslexia.

Victoria Drost, a University of La Verne CAPA student, was diagnosed with dyslexia during her freshmen year of college when one of her professors noticed that she was having difficulties with numbers in assignments.

"My professor in my anatomy and physiology class noticed that I was changing my numbers on multiple choice questions. Like number 13 would come out as 31," Drost said. "He had dyslexia, so he pulled me aside and they tested me for it."

Drost spent years in remedial classes throughout her schooling. Her parents and school officials attributed her learning deficiency to the short coma she experienced from a horseback riding accident as a child.

"We didn't know because back in those days, they didn't test you for it," she said.

They gave her a written and verbal test, as well as a test that required her to write numbers and a letter of the alphabet, which she would repeat back to the tester.

"I scored genius level," Drost said about the test.

Fortunately, Drost is not alone and according to Schwab Learning, an online resource organization for learning about and managing disorders, an estimated 2.9 million American students receiving special education services has a learning disorder.

The Learning Disabilities Association of America categorizes dyslexia – which is the most common learning disorder – as a reading disability. According to the association: "A person with dyslexia is someone with average to above average intelligence whose problem with reading is not the result of emotional problems, lack of motivation, poor teaching, mental retardation or vision or hearing deficits."

However, while people with dyslexia are commonly known as having a reading disorder, many specialists include other problems in their definition of it. Difficulties in math, speaking and spelling, for example, can be a sign that someone is suffering from it.

"Anything like fill-in-the-blank questions and answers I aced, but anything with numbers is really hard. I can't even balance my checkbook," Drost said.

The difficulty for many lies in translating words into concepts; this difficulty often results in poor spelling and reading.

"Reading is understanding what you read," said Marta Bomortino, licensed clinical supervisor for San Bernardino Country Behavioral Health Department. "Patients who have a difficult time recognizing words often lack in their comprehension skills. They spend most of their time trying to figure out what the word is and often bypass the meaning."

Verbally, Drost said she is very intelligent, but sometimes when she writes or speaks she either exaggerates or uses the wrong word.

"It's like I get confused, so I stop and think about the concept of it before writing it down," she said.

To retain long-term information Drost must be able to understand a concept and apply it to something. Making topics into stories enables her to accomplish this.

Letter formation is also an issue for people with dyslexia.

"You don't really see them backwards, you perceive them backwards," Drost said.

When she looks at the letter "x", for example, she writes it down as a "y." Somewhere in the process of her brain, what she visually perceives is mistranslated when it is written.

"It's frustrating, because I'm not stupid," Drost said. "I'm very intelligent, but it's like you feel dumb. It's hard. I'm not a dingy blonde. I do have a brain, you know?"

Typically, the problem with word pronunciation begins in kindergarten and often the problem is not visible until later on

Continued on page 7

Students consider breast implants

Augmentation on the rise and remains risky

Emily Low
Staff Writer

More college women are getting breast implants than ever before. A study done by the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families found last year that 236,888 women underwent breast augmentation surgery.

These numbers have been increasing each year: in fact, the number of teenage girls and women who underwent augmentation surgery more than doubled from 1997 to 2002, according to a study done in March by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, said spokeswoman Diana Zuckerman.

"Many of these surgeries are for women who are replacing old implants that have broken or caused problems. Some women report over 10 surgeries as their implants are replaced over the years," says Zuckerman.

Silicone gel-filled breast implants have never been approved as safe or effective by the Food and Drug Administration. In 1992, the FDA limited their availability to clinical trials, primarily to women who have had mastectomies or breast deformities. Currently, women can also receive gel implants for first-time breast augmentation as part of a clinical trial.

"If I had the money to get breast implants, I would," said Melissa Rodriguez, a junior communications major. "I just want to fill out my shirts. As long as I didn't get them too big. In fact, I know a lot of girls my age who have implants."

Girls and women may be looking at this issue a little too hastily. There are surgical risks involving augmentation, including infection and blood or tissue fluid collecting around the implant, including many more.

Research done in 2002 by L.J. Feng of Modern Pathology indicates that at the body's temperature of 98.6 degrees, silicone implants can break down into liquid form. These researchers have found silicone in the lymph nodes of women with implants, and say it can spread to other organs of the body.

All breast implants will eventually rupture, but it is not known exactly how many years a breast implant will last. Studies done by researchers at the FDA show that most implants last seven to 12 years, but some break during the first few months. Some last up to 15 years.

Studies also show that most women had at least one ruptured breast implant within 15 years, and the likeliness of breakage increases over time. Silicone had migrated outside the breast capsule for 21 percent of women who had broken implants.

The cosmetic outcome can be very disappointing, with breasts looking and feeling very unnatural and asymmetrical, and the saline making a "sloshing sound."

All implants are foreign bodies and the woman's body reacts by forming a capsule of scar tissue around the implants that can become too tight for the implant, a common problem known as capsular contracture. If this occurs, the breasts can become misshapen, very hard and cause mild discomfort to severe pain.

"Breast implants interfere with the detection of breast cancer because implants can obscure the mammography image of a tumor. Therefore, implants have the potential to delay the diagnosis of breast cancer," said Zuckerman, a part of an FDA advisory panel reviewing the safety of saline implants. "This delay could necessitate more radical surgery or even be fatal."

According to a study done in 1997 by R. Herdman of the Institute of Medicine, women with breast implant surgery are at least three times more likely to have an inadequate supply of milk when breast-feeding.

In addition to saline and silicone implants, other kinds of implants became available in recent years, such as soybean oil filler and plastic gel implants.

> 'If I had the money to get breast implants, I would.'
> *- Melissa Rodriguez, junior*

However, clinical trials of these new implants were apparently never conducted on humans. The implants were removed from the market in 2000 because of safety concerns, said J. Laurance of the UK Medical Devices Agency.

Their removal from the market after praise by doctors and patients serves as a reminder that the long-term health risks are not always obvious in the first few years of use.

This year, a new and safer gel breast implant was introduced to the market of plastic surgery. This new implant, like others, has never been tested to determine if it really is safer than other breast implants. They are not approved by the FDA because the manufacturers have yet to submit sufficient evidence of safety.

"I am opposed to breast augmentation surgery because nowadays, everyone is so superficial. Divorce rates are at 50 percent, probably because everyone is too concerned with outer appearances," said Arleen Lopez, a junior communications major.

"Society has allowed the problem and addiction of plastic surgery to become this out of hand," she said.

"I think girls should get breast implants if they want them. But at least inform yourself and be aware of the health risks. I wouldn't ask my girlfriend to do it, but I do prefer bigger breasts," said Michael Harrison, a junior communications major.

What if a woman wants to reverse her surgery after discovering the many health risks? Removal can be even more expensive than the original surgery, and more complicated too.

Some surgeons discourage this decision because they feel women will be dissatisfied with the appearance of the natural breast after the implants are removed. The breast tissue stretches from the implant, and is unlikely to be as attractive as it was before the implant surgery.

Some women lose breast tissue in the removal surgery, and require a mastectomy.

"I think girls and women who get breast implants are revealing serious and profound self-esteem issues. I have been with girls whose breasts were non-existent, as well as with girls with ample breasts. There is a lot to be said about both sides of the spectrum, and both sizes have their advantages and can be equally enjoyed," said Javier Torrez, a senior business major.

Five female students at ULV who admitted to having augmentation surgery refused to further comment on their surgery for the benefit of this article and asked to remain anonymous.

Dyslexia...

Continued from page 6

in life when a higher reading level is required.

As a child, she said, her family did not understand that her difficulties in school were beyond her control. She would come home crying and her parents would scold her for not listening or paying attention in class.

"Of course teenagers don't (listen) but I'd stay after school and ask (teachers) to help me understand it," she said.

The cause of dyslexia is not known for certain, though recent research has shown that abnormal functions in the left side of the brain may be a cause, as this part of the brain is responsible for language, Bomortino said.

"It is also important to note that dyslexia is not a disease, meaning there is no cure, and it is (an) inherited disorder," Bomortino said.

While there is no single test for dyslexia, those suspecting that they or someone they know might have the disorder should undergo substantial psychoeducational testing. Some of the things that should be included in the tests are hearing, vision and problem solving.

Treatment for dyslexia varies from person to person and generally involves collaboration among teachers and specialists. As a child, it begins with developing an individual educational program, which under a federal law requires educators of students ages 3 and older to outline their disability and how it will be managed.

Similarly, ULV's Health Center offers various ways in helping dyslexic students. However, a student must self-disclose they have the disability before help can be received.

They need to first make an appointment with Cindy Denne, director of student health services, to go over policies and procedures.

Once that and all psychoeducational tests are done, a team that consists of several qualified individuals will then try to determine the best learning styles for that particular student.

"Some students might have a processing disorder and it's easier for them to read more material, so they're visual learners," Denne said, adding that for some, books on tape are useful.

The Health Center also uses a program called Kurcweil 3000.

"It's a software specifically for students who have dyslexia," Denne said. "What it will do is it will scan a paper or a book into a machine and the software will literally read to you the text."

The program highlights each word as it is read. It helps to reinforce what a student is seeing for those who have a problem recognizing certain words as they read.

For Drost, she said her professors are very supportive. They allow her to take her tests at the Learning Center and give her more time to complete them.

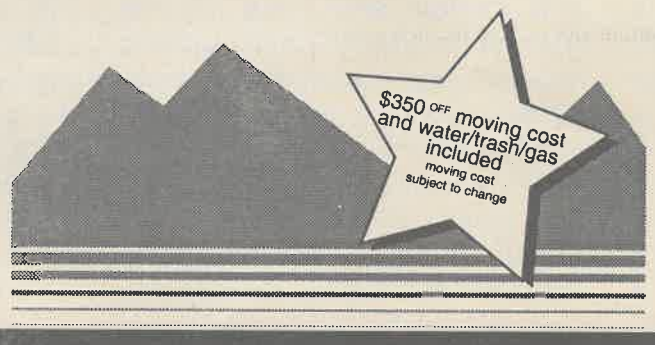
However, she would like to see some support on campus for people with dyslexia.

She struggles everyday to learn and said her grandmother used to tell her to "do the best you can do and be the best you can be."

Drost said she tries her hardest to live by her grandma's words of wisdom and encourages others with dyslexia to get help.

"Speak up," she said. "Don't be afraid to ask some questions. Don't be afraid to stay after class. Get help because it's not all about fun. This is your life and it's your career. You have to succeed."

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Arts, etc...

HAPPENINGS

Quad Series

As part of the music department's "Music on the Quad" series, Joseph Peck's steel drum band will perform at noon Nov. 12 in the University Quad. This event is free.

Tour

Singer/songwriter Mariah Carey has extended plans for her "Charmbracelet" world tour, with new West Coast dates set through Dec. 22 in Costa Mesa.

Tickets for her shows at the Universal Amphitheater, Orange County Performing Arts Theatre, and the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara go on sale at 10 a.m. to the general public Nov. 8, 9 and 11, respectively. Prices range from $45 to $140 and can be purchased through ticketmaster. All dates are subject to change.

For more information, visit **www.ticketmaster.com** or **www.mariahcarey.com**.

CD Releases

After a six-year hiatus, singer/songwriter Sarah McLachlan is back with her latest disc, "Afterglow." Released on Nov. 4, the album is a follow-up to her 1997 breakthrough album, "Surfacing."

Theater

"Metamorphoses," a play written by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Gary Krinke opens at 8 p.m. on Nov. 12 at Fullerton College in the Bronwyn Dodson Theatre. General admission is $15 and $12.50 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the Theatre box office or by calling (909) 992-7433.

New on DVD

Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios' undersea animated adventure, "Finding Nemo," was released this week on DVD. The two-disc DVD features visual commentary with deleted scenes, recording sessions and "Making Nemo" documentary.

–Rima Thompson

ULV's theater dances into the 'Time Warp'

by Bailey Porter

photography by Adam Omernik



In the second act, Janet Weiss (played by Sara Kirk) learns of Dr. Frank N Furter's (Jonathan Serret) evil plans of seduction in "The Rocky Horror Show." The play, directed by Steve Kent with musical direction from Scott Farthing, invites audience members to participate with props, costumes and by shouting out catch phrases that compliment the plot. The production opened Oct. 30 and will continue through tomorrow night.

Excitement and anticipation rippled through Dailey Theatre on opening night of the University of La Verne's music and theater arts department's presentation of "The Rocky Horror Show" last Thursday.

The stage design immediately told the audience that this was no ordinary production. Left of the stage, cameras operated by "Video Vixens" pointed to the narrator, Samantha Kern, who was dressed appropriately with Elvira's signature wig and provocative dress against a candelabra background.

Three screens hung above the stage, projecting these images for the audience. To the right of the stage, a live band was set up for the show.

With a few attention-grabbing props and relying on the expert facial expressions and talent of the actors, the story of Janet Weiss (senior Sara Kirk) and Brad Majors (James Darrah) getting a flat tire and stopping at a castle for help was underway.

The audience was hooked. Following the suggestions from Elvira, everyone used the props set out by the department to encourage audience participation in the tradition of the original cult classic, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Newspapers, for example, protected the crowd from a simulated rain storm encountered by Janet and Brad.

Junior Melissa Stahly, a member of the quartet that accompanied the band, said that the props brought additional interest for the audience.

When Janet and Brad are greeted at the door by the hump-backed Riff Raff, played by Anthony Guerrero, who acted more like a rabid animal than a person, the audience knew they were in for a wild ride.

Seconds later the stage was littered with a chorus of the scantily clad minions of Dr. Frank N Furter, the eccentric leader of the transsexual "Transylvanians," who mysteriously inhabit the castle.

After a wildly enthusiastic round of "The Time Warp," the dance made popular in the original "Rocky Horror Show," the center of this transgender world is introduced.

Dr. Frank N Furter, played by sophomore Jonathan Serret, struts onto the stage in dangerously high stilettos, wearing a large wig and donning nothing more than a corset, a thong and fishnets. Talk about shock-value.

"It's plain old outrageous," said Steve Kent, director of the production.

Janet and Brad tremble nervously in the corner until they too are stripped to their underwear by the Transylvanians.

Enter Rocky, Dr. Frank N Furter's own boy-toy. Why go through all that trouble finding the right man when he can make one, he sings. Rising from the operating table, Rocky, played by Christopher Smith, jumps into a rendition of song with an Elvis-like swagger and husky crooning.

Wearing nothing but a loin cloth and a smirk, Rocky pumps up the excitement of the Transylvanians, and the audience, by flexing his toned body.

By intermission, the energy emanating from those on stage had fully worked the audience into a "Rocky Horror" frenzy.

Not even the minor audio problems that often muffled the singing seemed to phase the crowd.

Bonita High School juniors Sheena Sharma and Jamie Watkins, who heard about the production through their school's newspaper, were more than enthusiastic about the show.

"I think it's a lot of fun," Sharma said.

"We are very happy," Watkins said, "We're coming back tomorrow night."

Brian Smith, who was there to support his son, Christopher, said the show was great.

"Rocky's my son; he got his body from his father," he said.

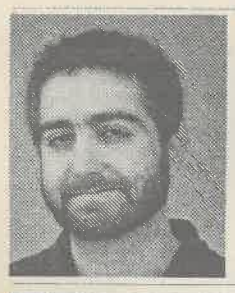
"I had an inkling that we had a real success," Kent said. "It well exceeded my expectations."

Sophomore Brianna Roth's portrayal of Magenta and sophomore Whitney Wickham's Columbia added to the success of the production.

"The Rocky Horror Show" will end its run with shows tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

Feedback

Cinema shrouds sex with violence



TAYLOR KINGSBURY

The overwhelming critical and commercial success of Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" has re-ignited the timeless debate about what should be considered "appropriate" behavior inside a fictional film world.

The central criticism of Tarantino's film is that the R rating is not a strong enough tag to encompass the wide plethora of comedic carnage in "Kill Bill." Those who take exception to this bloodshed insist that "Kill Bill" should have received an NC-17 rating, which is regarded as the kiss of death for any film unlucky enough to be branded with it.

Unfortunately, for once I agree with the moral majority, but for reasons that their squeamish minds have over-looked.

I couldn't care less how onscreen violence affects unstable people who witness it, or how screwed up you claim your kids are because of things they have seen in movies and on television. As the product of a demented childhood during which I enjoyed countless hours of filmed evisceration, I can tell you for a fact that fake violence does not stimulate real violence. You can't peddle that narrow mentality here, and I will defend my claim until the day someone slices my head off with a samurai sword after seeing it done in "Kill Bill Vol. 2."

No, the reason I object to how Tarantino's clout allowed him to release his splatter epic unscathed by the mark of the beast is because the regulations of the Motion Picture Association of America are marred by a lecherous double standard.

According to the rules of the MPAA, Tarantino can flay as many body parts as he wants and still be within the realm of the R rating, but if Uma Thurman showed any pubic hair in the film, "Kill Bill" would have garnered the dreaded NC-17.

It seems as if our society has largely come to terms with the abundance of violence in our culture, but when it comes to showing still-attached body parts, we don't want to see them nude. More specifically, we aren't OK with art's portrayal of-gasp-sex.

The MPAA's rating criteria is fairly loose on most matters, but their guidelines for film nudity are very specific. Brief nudity is acceptable in PG and PG-13 rated films, but only if the naked parts aren't touching other naked parts. In other words: If you show sex, you get an R-rating.

The MPAA remains virtually unchallenged on its throne, so for now, we all seem to adhere to the standard that killing is far better for us than screwing. I am amazed how comfortable we are with their prognosis that we are capable of digesting murder, something the vast majority of us will never encounter, while sex, which all of us are likely to experience sometime in our lives, is still somehow taboo.

There is a deeper and far more perplexing angle to this, however. It is quite strange to me that distributors are so eager to trim the content of their films down to avoid the scarlet NC-17.

The general opinion, and box office performance, has certainly supported this. NC-17-rated films are not successful releases. The R rating has consistently guaranteed a much larger audience for any film, but this fact makes little sense.

According to the MPAA's own 2002 survey, 60 percent of "frequent moviegoers" are between the ages of 18 and 20, so the major demographic has the ability to see NC-17-rated films.

Additionally, the R rating specifies that no children under 17 can be admitted without a parent or guardian, so any younger children who see these films are doing so with the permission of adults, who should certainly know what that rating entails. Since, technically, you have to be 17 to see an R-rated film, why would an NC-17 dissuade anyone from heading to the movies?

Well, we're back to that sticky morality issue again. The truth is, NC-17-rated films are not unsuccessful because we don't want to see them, but are unsuccessful because most theaters will not show them because the "moral right" doesn't want us to see them.

This all seems pretty obvious, so it is curious that the major studio system isn't more adamantly petitioning changes in the MPAA's rating standards.

But, then again, why would they? After all, if they chop out five minutes of sex and gore to get the R rating, studios can ensure that we will be suckered into seeing the film again on DVD when they release the "Unrated Director's Cut." It's actually a pretty ingenious little scam.

So, who do we blame for this debacle? The MPAA, for allowing a rotating board of eight to 13 people to decide what is appropriate for the rest of us to see? The studios, for caving in to the board's decree and not trusting their audience to find a movie outside of the AMC food chain? The theaters, for bowing to conservative standards and refusing to show films with mature content?

How about just blaming ourselves for our continued support of the Hollywood studio system? As long as we devour every wretched sequel they crank out, we send the message that we like the way the motion picture business is run.

I'm not saying that AMC or other chains should allot segments of their multiplexes to porn, but the public should have access to films that are willing to push the boundaries of what we have seen.

I think we can handle it. We're adults, aren't we?

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

Levin, Durkovic deliver smooth sounds

Max Zänker
Staff Writer

Smooth piano and violin sounds, emerging to classical melodies, filled Founders Auditorium Tuesday night, as violinist Ida Levin and pianist Timothy Durkovic took the audience on a musical trip through time and space.

"We knew each other (from) some mutual friends, and we wanted to do something together for over a year now," Levin said.

The audience found itself sinking into the minor melodies with closed eyes and tapping their hands and feet to the more up-tempo beats.

The music spanned from the 17th to the 20th centuries, as the duo entertained the audience with songs from composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms and Marc Lavry, among others.

The program included classical sonatas, Jewish and Spanish dances and even a blues sonata for violin and piano.

"I mostly choose songs I have not played in a long time," Levin said.

The international variety of the chosen pieces resulted from Levin's love for travelling. Her career has taken her to England, the Netherlands, Poland, Israel and several others countries.

"When I see the land, the city and the countryside, a composer comes from, it helps me to understand his compositions," she said.

Levin started playing the violin at the age of three.

At the age of 10, she made her debut in the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

"The violin spoke to me since my childhood," said Levin about her fascination with the violin. Maybe because my mother was a soprano, I always preferred the higher notes of the violin to the lower register of, for example, the cello."

When Levin plays, she describes it as a "big emotional connection" to the composer.

In Tuesday's concert, she huddled against her violin and seemed to merge with the music, swaying to the sound during the slower songs, and playfully hitting the strings, stepping forward and backward to the rhythm of the up-tempo songs.

"I get deep into the music, and I sometimes have a hard time (getting) carried away by the emotions," Levin said.

Junior music major Danielle Cummings enjoyed the concert. She said "Vivace ma non troppo," a movement by Brahms, was one of her favorites performed.

"I have performed this movement myself," she said. "Levin played it very good, very expressive and with clear tones."

Freshman Angel Guerrera preferred listening to Durokovic play the piano and came to the concert for that purpose.

"The classical piano music is like an emotion, like a thrill," he said. "In comparison to pop, it has more work and is more professional. I like that."

Durkovic's hands hardly touched the claviature, they seemed to develop a life of their own as they jumped over the keys and elicited smooth tones from the piano.

The native Guatemalan began his studies at the age of five and had his first solo appearance when he was 11.

Durkovic currently works as a coordinator of the keyboard studies program at ULV.

"It was great playing with Ida," Durkovic said. "We have only been practicing two days. She is a great artist."

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Still winless after all these games

Jonathan Corral
Assistant Editor

In a battle of winless teams trying to fight their way out of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference cellar, Whittier College used a five-play, 93-yard drive with 2:35 remaining for the winning score to hand the Leopards their seventh consecutive loss, 21-14, Saturday afternoon at Ortmayer Stadium.

"All of our games in conference have been really close," running back Jeff Williams said. "We just have a few bad plays that knock us out at the end."

The winning drive ended with a 62-yard touchdown pass from Poet quarterback Jesse Serrato to receiver Alejandro Mendibles, that deflated the Leopards and their fans. Serrato had a game-high 318 yards on 22 for 33 passing and three touchdowns.

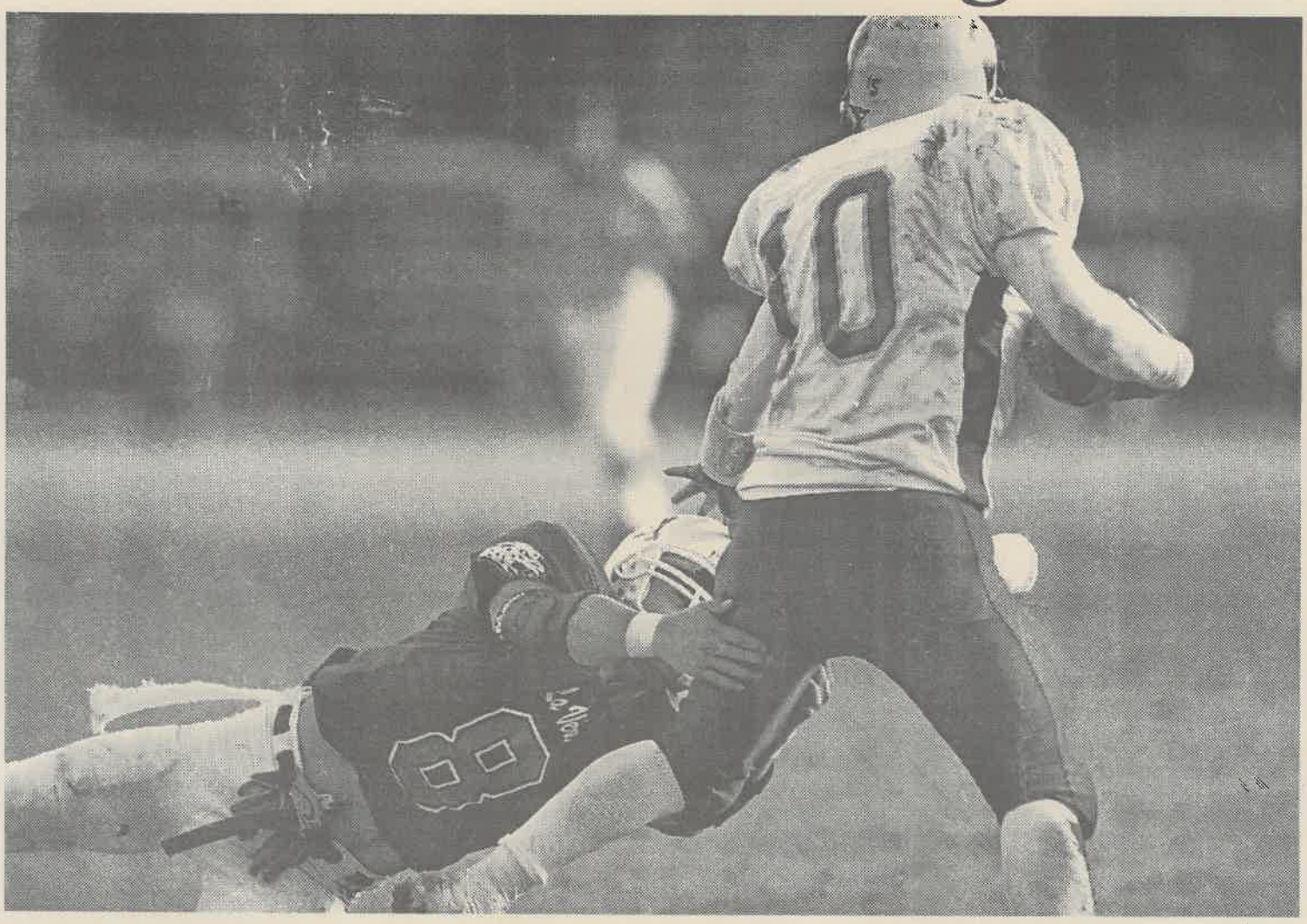
"Their quarterback (Serrato) is a very good player, and he played that way the entire game," head coach Don Morel said. "Whittier has a great ability to make the big play."

The Leopards (0-7, 0-5) had one last shot to even the score, but four consecutive incomplete passes from quarterback Brian Guerrero ended all hopes as the Poets took over on downs.

Despite the loss, the Leopards had an excellent game rushing the ball, as their front line provided huge holes for the tailbacks.

Williams led the charge with 157 yards on 23 carries and two touchdowns.

"We definitely got a lot of push up front, especially from Mike Myers and Jacob Round," Williams said. "That is the most important right there, we moved the line of scrimmage very well."



Adam Omernik

Jeff Magdaleno (No. 8) of La Verne misses a tackle on Poets quarterback Jesse Serrato (No. 10). La Verne continues its season winless after a loss to Whittier in its seventh game, Saturday. The game was close, but Alejandro Mendibles scored with 2:35 remaining in the fourth quarter after a 62-yard pass from Serrato to take the game out of reach for the Leopards, making the final score 21-14.

Also picking up valuable yardage for the Leopards was Ricky Sullivan, who finished with 18 carries for 64 yards and Guerrero with 57 yards, mainly on quarterback keepers.

Of the Leopards' 354 total yards, 293 of them came on the ground.

"Our offensive line did a tremendous job up front," Morel said. "As a team we decided to rotate our backs, and it worked out nicely for us."

One of the major contributions to the Leopards' defeat was their inability to stop the Poet passing game, which netted 318 of their 400 total yards.

"Whittier just made plays when they needed it most," Morel said. "We also had some critical breakdowns on defense that hurt us."

Leading the way receiving was Poet wideout David Martin, who caught 12 passes for 193 yards and two touchdowns.

For the Leopards, always dependable Mike Raffee hauled in three passes for 49 yards, his longest being a 34-yarder.

From the onset, the Leopards showed what type of team they really are as they used a 10-play, 75-yard opening drive, capping it off with Williams' first touchdown from 2 yards out for the 7-0 lead.

The Leopards held the Poets scoreless the entire first half with strong team defense, led once again by Gabe Segovia who had a team-high of eight and a half tackles.

Contributing nicely was freshman Adrian Medrano and sophomore Roger Logan, who had six and five tackles, respectively.

Bouncing back from a horrible first half, the Poets wasted little time in the second as they scored 1:45 into the half with a 32-yard touchdown pass from Serrato to Martin, to even the score at 7-7.

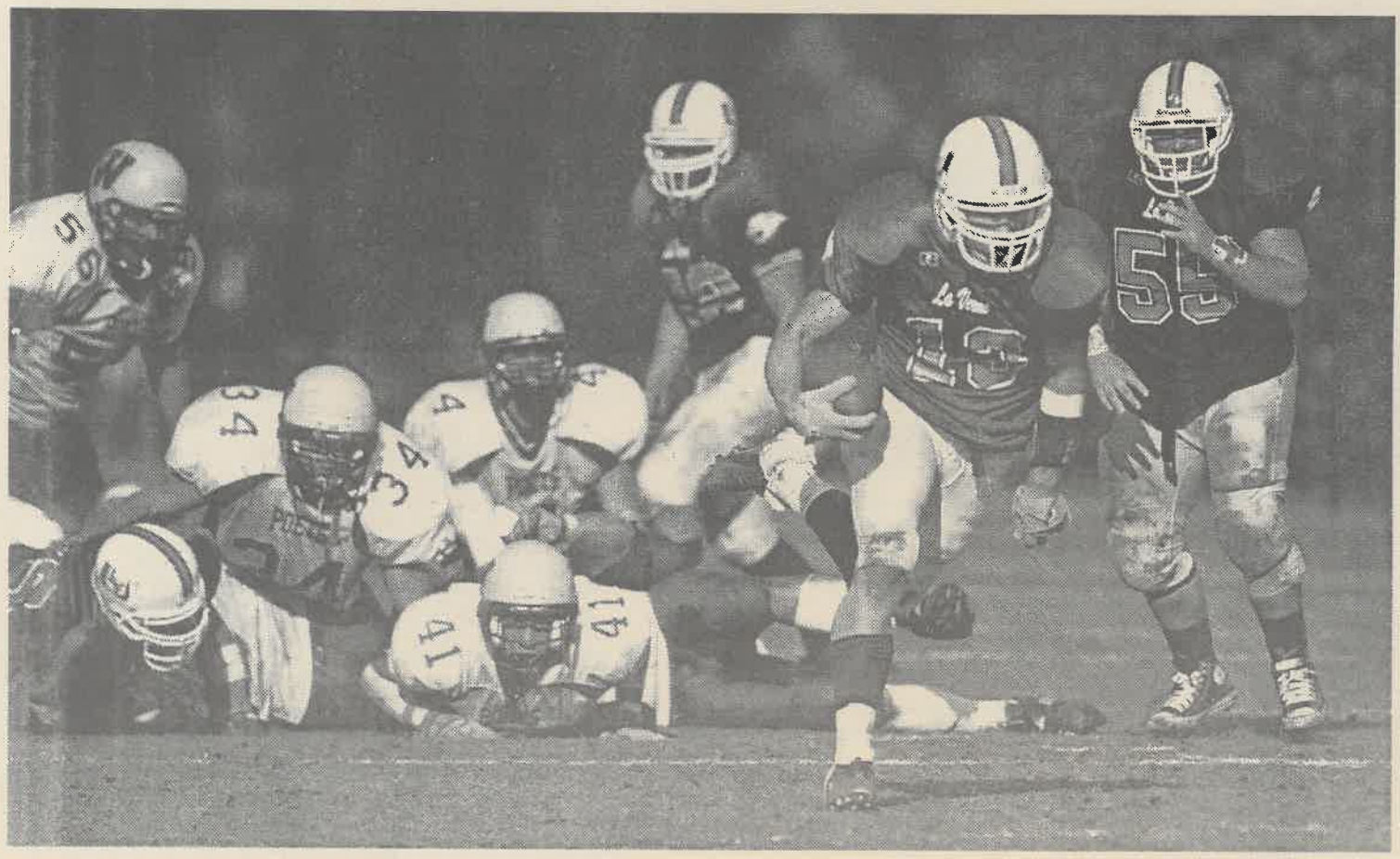
The Leopards countered with Williams, dashing 50 yards to the end zone for his second score of the game, recapturing the lead at 14-7 midway through the third quarter.

Not to be outdone, the Poets responded with a marathon drive of their own, resulting in a 30-yard touchdown pass from Serrato to Martin to catch the Leopards at 14 with 1:48 left in the third quarter.

With the homecoming game against Chapman at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Ortmayer Stadium, the Leopards have two games remaining to break out of the winless column.

"We are ready for a win," Williams said. "Last year we finished with two straight wins, and we are going to try and do the same thing."

To finish the season last year, La Verne topped Chapman (29-21) in Orange and Occidental (24-22) at home.



Adam Omernik

Jeff Williams (No. 13) of La Verne broke away to make a 50-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. The play marked one of the most exciting moments in the game for the Leopards, bringing them, for a short time, back into the lead, 14-7, over the Poets.

Volleyball wraps up another title

Leopards prepare for playoffs

Chrissy Zehrbach
Sports Editor

The University of La Verne women's volleyball team finished its season in true championship fashion with wins this week over Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Cal Lutheran.

Although ULV had already clinched the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title last week with a 3-2 victory over Redlands, they did not let up on competition.

The Leopards took care of CMS in three games Tuesday night in Claremont with scores of 30-26, 30-20, 30-19.

"Everybody is giving us their best shot in game one – we're their last big match," head coach Don Flora said.

Dominating the entire match, the Leopards had a team hitting percentage of .367, holding their opponents to .136.

Amy Smith led the team in kills with 11 for a .409 hitting percentage. Smith also tallied 10 digs. The leader in digs on the evening was Amy Kratochvil (10), who was playing in her first game back after an ankle injury in game one of the most recent Pomona-Pitzer contest. Tricia Schary also recorded 10 kills, hitting .500.

In front of a home crowd last Friday night, the Leopards took down Cal Lutheran 3-0 (30-27, 30-16, 30-19).

Smith and Schary were once again on fire with kills, recording 13 and 12, respectively. Smith also had a match-high 16 digs in the contest.

Although the Leopards recorded a team hitting percentage of only .233, they held Cal Lu to -.021.

"We pretty much shut them down and did our job," said Amanda Thomas, setter.

The Leopards were slated to play Caltech Thursday night – the final match of the regular season. Results were not available at press time; however, Flora projected a win in the match.

The squad headed into the Caltech match on a 10-game winning streak after falling to the No. 1 team in the nation, Juniata.

"It feels good to know that our two losses are at a tournament to nationally ranked teams," Thomas said. "Hopefully we'll get to see them later."

ULV is ranked No. 3 in the nation – the highest position it has held this season, in what Flora calls the "last poll that matters."

With a win over Caltech, the Leopards would finish conference with a perfect 14-0 record, stretching the SCIAC consecutive wins record to 36.

These numbers project a .964 winning percentage – the best winning percentage over a four year span ever in SCIAC history, Flora said.

"It's a tribute to a lot of players over these four years, and a major tribute to this senior class," Flora said.

The Leopards look to keep their record alive for next season to continue their success.

"It's kind of neat to continue the SCIAC streak into 2004," Flora said. "It sets the tone for a deep run into NCAA playoffs."

With a high seed in the Western Region, ULV will be making an appearance at regional playoffs.

"It's going to be equal to some of the best volleyball we've seen all year," Flora said. "Our team is mentally ready for the challenges ahead."

There is a possibility that the Leopards may host the tournament in the Supertents.

"I hope we do," Thomas said. "If we did, we'd have a really good turnout."

The team will know Sunday where playoffs will be held. Regionals will take place Nov. 14-15.

In the time being, the Leopards will continue their preparation for the tough competition ahead.

Flora said team practices will pick up in intensity so the team can work on focus and efficiency.

"We want to get great at what we're good at and get better at some of our weaknesses," Flora said.

"For the most part I think we're prepared," Thomas said.

The Leopards will resume action Nov. 14. Time and location to be announced.

> 'We want to get great at what we're good at and get better at some of our weaknesses.'
>
> *-Don Flora, head coach*

Runners advance to regional meet

Jonathan Corral
Assistant Editor

All the hard work this season comes down to one race that will tell all.

With that in mind, the Leopard cross country team lined up and let it all hang loose, leaving their mark at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships Saturday morning at La Mirada Park.

Not qualifying as a team, the Leopards would not leave empty handed, as they will send seven individuals to the prestigious Division III regional championships, Nov. 15 at McKiver State Park in Oregon.

The individuals making the journey to Oregon include Cecilio Barrera, Frank Huerta, Angel Guerrero and Efrain Partida on the men's side. Barrera and Huerta earned all-conference honors by finishing eighth and 14th, respectively. Barrera crossed the finish line in 27:36 and Huerta in 28:05. Guerrero stopped the clock in 29:03 and Partida in 29:23.

Other finishers included Derek Chacon (30:37), Ruben Trujillo (30:41), Nathan Lahr (32:31), and Jose Luis Chavez (33:58).

On the women's squad, lone senior Gloria Gomez, Alexis Candelaria, and newcomer Jessica Varney earned their tickets to regionals by being competitive in a tough field.

Of the three, Gomez was the only all-conference finisher, finishing the four-mile course in 24:55 for 11th place. Candelaria and Varney crossed the line with identical times of 25:52, finishing 27th and 28th, respectively.

"As far as their training goes, I am going to pretty much keep it the same," head coach Pat Widolff said. "I just hope we can peak a little bit more come race time."

Rounding out the women's team, Nicole Knight finished in 29:04, Susan Ardon (30:27), Kelby-Lynne Butlerweck (30:49), Akia Hasan (31:40) and Lisandra Gonzalez (34:06).

With the season over for most of the team, Leopard cross country has a bright future ahead of them. With their young squad coming back as well as a surprise addition, one cannot help but smile.

"With the group we have coming back, it should be an exciting year," Widolff said. "We just have to keep our core nucleus together and work extremely hard over the summer. If we do that, we will have an exceptional team on both sides."

Bittersweet season closes

Chrissy Zehrbach
Sports Editor

The University of La Verne women's soccer team ended its season Wednesday afternoon on a three-game losing streak, gaining the final loss against Occidental, 1-0.

The two teams were tied for fifth place in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. ULV's loss drops the team down to a sixth-place final standing.

With a little less than seven minutes remaining in the game, Occidental's Martine Donovan scored the only goal in the match, ending the scoreless competition.

"We played very aggressive, we just couldn't finish," head coach Wendy Zwissler said.

The big game of the week was Saturday's match-up with the top SCIAC team, Redlands. Redlands (9-1-2), the No. 4 Division III team in the Western Region handed the Leopards a 2-1 loss.

"It was intense for the entire 90 minutes," said senior Amanda Egan.

Recovering from a 1-0 halftime score, the Leopards evened the score in the second half.

"We came back in the second half and had a lot of nice energy out there," said senior Ashley Polan.

Courtney Lowry scored ULV's lone goal off an assist from Chelsea Riggins.

"Chelsea had a nice cross, nice patience. Courtney was our finisher – she knocked it in with ease," Polan said.

Redlands came back with a second goal as the game neared its finish to take the victory.

"Redlands is always good competition," Egan said. It's always a good game – they're a real physical team. I'd have to say they're our biggest rivalry. We go out there and want to beat them so bad," Egan said.

The Leopards end the season with a 3-8-1 conference record, 3-13-2 overall.

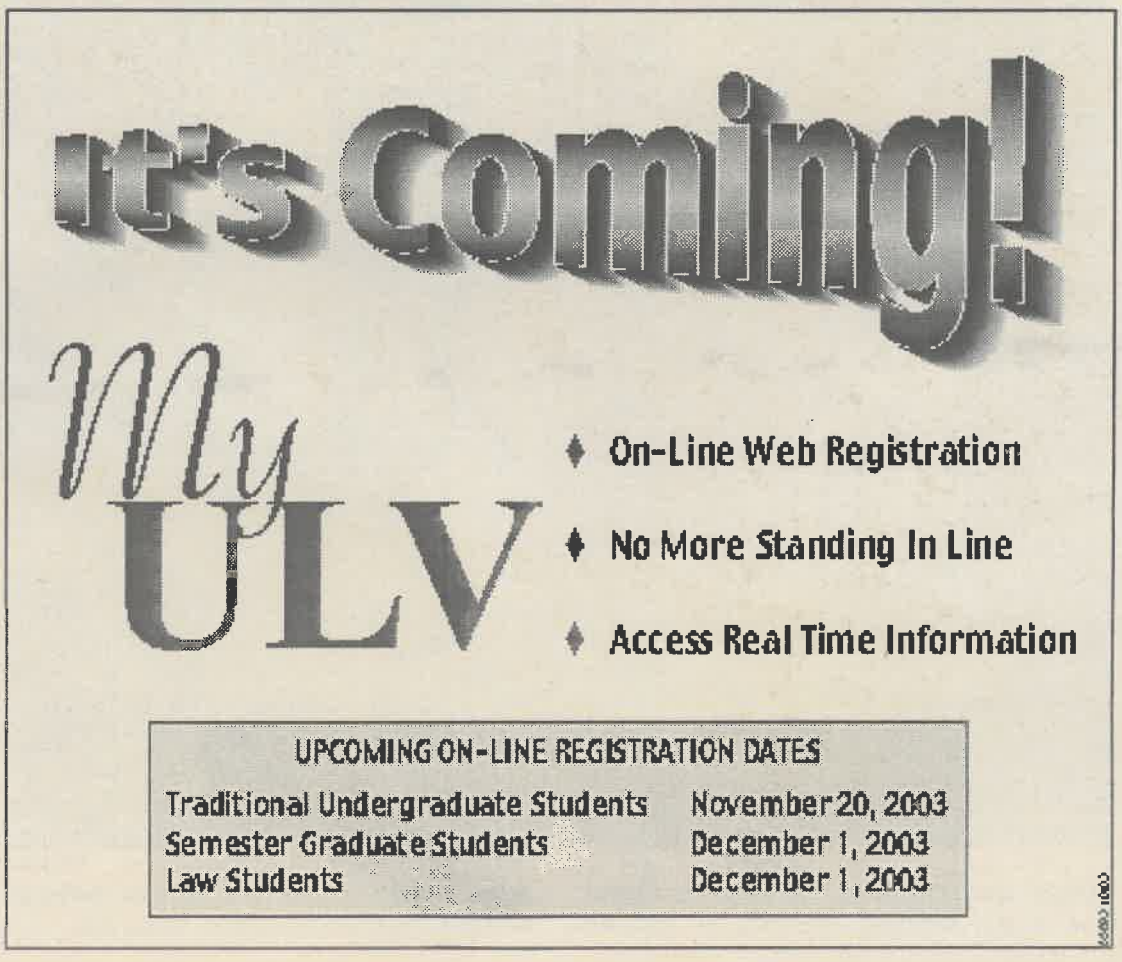
"Our record doesn't show how good a team we are," Polan said. "It's disappointing because we have a lot of talent we couldn't show."

Egan said the best word to describe the season would be "unlucky."

"It could have gone either way every game," she said.

"We worked hard and never gave up," Zwissler said. "It's just one of those seasons you get every now and then."

This season is the first in 11 in which the team has had a losing record, Zwissler said. But she is optimistic for next year with 15 players returning.



Soccer earns final win over Tigers

Men finish season at 5-8-1

Max Zänker
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne men's soccer team took the final Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference game of the season with a 2-1 win over Occidental Wednesday.

Down 1-0 at halftime, midfielder Daniel Aguirre and forward Edgar Manzo put two points on the board in the second half. The Leopards held Occidental for the remainder of the game, earning a win.

The win over Occidental ended a four-game losing streak, the most recent loss of which came against Redlands on Saturday at Ben Hines Field, 4-0.

Redlands leads SCIAC now with 13 wins out of 13 games.

"They knew that we had given Claremont a tough fight the week before, so they had to show their best game," head coach Cres Gonzalez said. "I hate losing, but Redlands really showed a top performance. They are ready for the playoffs."

The visiting Bulldogs opened the scoring with a double strike in the 26th and 27th minutes as midfielders Jacob Huber and Adam Acosta created the 2-0 lead for their team on assists from Eric Rolwing.

Redlands sophomore Jason Cloyes and freshman Sergio Juarez added to the final score of 4-0 in the 62nd and 74th minute.

"We played them hard, but we caught a couple of lazy goals," said forward Steven Lane. "In the last four dropped games, we played tough, but we made a lot of mental errors."

"We played the four best conference teams, and it is the end of the season for our young team," Gonzalez said. "Our opponents are especially very strong in defense. We have to play against junior and senior defenders with freshman and sophomore forwards."

The Leopards end the season with a record of 5-8-1, barely missing Gonzalez' season goal of "at least six wins," yet achieving a fifth-place conference finish.

Gonzalez stressed the progress his team made throughout the season instead of complaining about the missing wins.

"Of course, we would like to be in a better situation with our wins, but for me, the team's discipline is more important," he said. "The players have a lot of fighting spirit, that gives the coaching staff a lot to work with."

The Leopards had a great start into the season, when they beat Caltech and Whittier, 4-0 and 8-1. But the team had to wait for further success until it faced the only two teams they left behind in the conference standings again.

ULV won the rematches against Caltech and Whittier by scores of 3-0 and 1-0.

The young team consisted of 14 freshmen and sophomores and only three junior and senior players.

"We still have a lot to improve, mainly our aggressiveness on the field," said sophomore sweeper Eddy Geenen. "But this season showed that there is a lot of promise for the future, and that is very exciting."

Gonzalez is excited about the things to come for the team as well.

He was especially pleased with his team's progress over the season.

"We have most of our players for another two or three years," he said. "I believe that we have the potential to win the conference before those players receive their graduation."

'We still have a lot to improve, mainly our aggressiveness on the field. But this season showed that there is a lot of promise for the future, and that is very exciting.'
—Eddy Geenen, sophomore sweeper



Amy Babin

La Verne forward Steven Lane (No. 17) was beaten to the ball by Silverio Martinez (No. 2) of the University of Redlands. Martinez headed the ball past the Leopards' offense for a counter-attack.



Amy Babin

Daniel Aguirre (No. 3), La Verne midfielder, crossed the ball past University of Redlands defender Andrew Zink (No. 5). The Leopards were unsuccessful at the finish, losing 4-0.

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Men's Water Polo, Nov. 5

La Verne	2
Redlands	6

Men's Water Polo, Nov. 1

La Verne	8
Whittier	7

SCHEDULE

Today
Men's water polo vs. Claremont @ 4 p.m.

Tomorrow
Football vs. Chapman @ 1 p.m

Sunday
Men's water polo vs. Air Force @ 12:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

The huddle formation used by football teams originated at Gallaudet University, a school for the deaf, to prevent other schools from reading their sign language.