

Revellations

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

- **Tuesday, March 9th** 5:30-7pm—Trivia Night at The Pub
- **Thursday, March 11th** 8pm-10pm—The Sing Off: An A Cappella Showcase
- **Friday, March 12th** 8am-10:30am—CABreakfast
- **Friday, March 12th** Celebration of Roger Revelle's Birthday
- **Friday, March 12th** 2pm—Baseball: UCSD vs. Sonoma State

Winter Quarter Issue



Revellations is now in print and online!

Do you like what you see? Well you can view our full newsletter and read more articles like these by visiting our website: <http://revellations.ucsd.edu> and clicking on the corresponding link. This quarter Revellations has a double issue filled with articles ranging from academics to entertainment. If you would like to join Revellations or would like to submit your work please email revellations.revelle@gmail.com. Enjoy!

What's Inside This Issue?

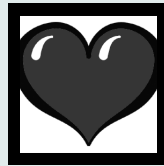
Multiple Articles on Valentine's Day	UCSD's Hidden Treasure: The Grove Café
Student org Spotlight On: R.E.A.D.	Price Theatre: A Blockbuster Deal!
UCSD's New Art Piece	The Olympics: 21st Century Style
Relief Provided; Needed for Earthquake Victims	Fist College 1st: Beyond the Accolades
Health Care Today	5 Things You Didn't Know About RCC
The UCDC Experience	Get Lost In A New Wonderland
The Revelle Experience: Non Science Majors	Revelle College Apartments
The Deal with Hum	Speaking Out: Student Opinions
The Emerging Leaders Program	The Blind Side: Will It Take You by Surprise?
Medical School Applications	Year Two: The Year of Wisdom
Animal Treatment	The World is Ending: Stay Tuned for the Details

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None of the statements contained in this publication necessarily reflect the views of the University administration.

Valentine's Day by Victoria Walton

Yet another Valentine's Day has passed! This is a day that causes differences in maturity, experience, and relationship status to peak and become grossly visible. We have all been through each phase, as maturity fluctuates. The first stage is when you have a boyfriend or girlfriend and you flaunt it on Valentine's Day. I like to call these people: the Pink People. These are the people who carry around gargantuan pink teddy bears or obscenely large balloons that shout out to the world that it has been 2 months and exactly 12 days since you started dating. It is this stage of people that cause entire grocery stores to cover their walls with pink, fluffy accessories and cards and candy and everything else that could be Valentine's Day themed. It is hard for everyone else to visualize the romantic meaning of a giant, 3-pound chocolate heart, but Pink People give gifts and spend money on such things because, at their stage of life, it is the best way to express their feelings even if everyone else may find them shallow, hard to stomach, and ridiculous. The second stage consists of people who are single and thus channel their desire to not be single into sarcasm and bitterness during this holiday, and thus, I call them the Purple Bruises. I know this is a somewhat unpleasant name, but it works because purple is still a color of passion, and this group of people often experience some level of discontent during this day, which is why they are bruised. In this stage, a person is either passionate about not having a Valentine and wanting that to change, or passionate about not having a valentine and trying to convince everyone that they are proud of it. You might say such statements as "I don't even want a Valentine" or "It's just a commercial holiday anyways." The fact of the matter is that Valentine's Day is a lovey-dovey couple's day coated in red hearts, and if you are in the second stage, this is not a holiday for you. For some Purple Bruises, this day is a painful reminder of the fact that you are not currently dating someone or in love. I personally have spent quite some time as a Purple Bruise, but I think it is good for you because it makes you thankful for the third phase, which consists of whom I like to call the Red Ones. The Red Ones are named for those who are in rela-



tionships, either married or long-term, and Valentine's Day is not really a big deal, it is more of a day to take a few extra moments to tell your significant other how much they mean to you. Often, for this stage of people, Valentine's Day does not include gifts or anything of the sort. But if it does, you can be sure these gifts are going to be red. This is because red is completely opposite in meaning to pink. Pink, as in Pink People, are inexperienced, fun, naïve, and all smiles all the time. This is completely normal, necessary, and is characteristic of how most of us are when we first start dating. By contrast, the color red is deep, intense, moving, sincere, honest, and is not all smiles. This color, as well as the Red Ones, is the color of love, of life, of body, of mind and soul. When you are a Red One, you love someone for who they are, know them better than anyone, reveal your inner self, and laugh at them and yourself without being shy. Now, I am not talking about true love, that is a topic for a whole other article. But love is something we all experience. You love your mother and father, sister and brother. Love is all around us in the media, within our peers, and at home from what we've learned from our parents. I know some of you embrace Valentine's Day and await its arrival each year so you can tell that special someone to "Be Mine" with a heart-shaped candy or go on a first date. Some of you treat it as a normal day, with a few sarcastic remarks to close friends, or deep thought about those in your past and the excitement of those who will be in your future. You may even forget about Valentine's Day as a whole. There are also those of you who remember being both a Pink Person and a Purple Bruise and sigh with relief that you have made it to where you are confident and happy, whether single or not. And whether you spent the day with your beloved, sharing food, holding hands, and exchanging poems and gifts, or with merely your thoughts or your homework, remember these stages and that life is all about growing up.

UCSD's Hidden Treasure: Grove Cafe

by Dipika Gopal

Do you walk by the Old Student Center often? Have you ever noticed an eatery called The Grove? Now that's what I thought. The Grove is a hidden treasure of UCSD's campus. It is nestled in the Old Student Center just across from the Main Gym. After a short respite they are back and running, offering a new menu, great low prices, and smiles all around.

Just recently, Grove Cafe was reopened. Although financial and logistical obstacles came in their way, they were able to return full force. After speaking with the manager of The Grove, Thomas Frank, it was apparent how much he loves what he does and really believes in being able to provide a service to the students. As an enterprise under Associated Students, The Grove is entirely stu-

dent-run and student-funded. They are open from 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. So, if you are ever on your way to that 8am Chemistry 6C class, or just trying to get through a long day at 3pm, The Grove is a convenient place to have some coffee or a small bite to eat. The Grove prides itself on its competitive prices and delicious food. Their menu ranges from breakfast items including bagels, bagel sandwiches, and pastries, to lunch sandwiches and pizzas. In addition, they have any sort of mocha, cappuccino, and coffee blend you could ever want.

In addition to a great menu, they have The Grove Lounge just next door for a quiet and cozy place to sip a cup of coffee and study. The outside patio just in front of the eatery is also a nice

place to sit and eat a sandwich on a sunny day. This provides a peaceful and calm alternative to the bustle of Price Center that can sometimes be overwhelming. To Thomas, the manager, "it is about more than the Grove, but about the whole Student Center." Grove Cafe often collaborates with the Food Co-Op and the General Store in events for students. He thoroughly enjoys the community atmosphere created in the Student Center, as it is perhaps the one place on campus that is truly by the students and for the students.

As Thomas so eloquently put, to those of you who like the The Grove as your "secret hideout" from the bustle of campus, spread the word, and make it "everyone's secret hideout."



Student Org Spotlight On: R.E.A.D

by Megan L. Ouyang

R.E.A.D. (Reading Educates And Diversifies) is a non-profit student organization new to campus this year. R.E.A.D. promotes a philosophy of "students helping students" on campus. Essentially, the idea is to instill a sense of global citizenship among students, so that they not only better themselves, but better youth around the world. The campus club is a part of the San Diego chapter of Room to Read, a non-governmental, non-denominational organization that works with local communities around the world to build and support educational infrastructure. This includes building libraries, establishing schools, and providing education to girls.

However, none of this can happen without your help! R.E.A.D. is looking for members, who are dedicated to, or even just intrigued by, the importance of quality education. They will be hosting several exciting events in spring quarter, so if you love to plan or have some great ideas, consider joining!

For more info, find R.E.A.D. on Facebook: **R.E.A.D. at UCSD**

Questions? Email: triton.read@gmail.com

Want to know more about Room to Read? <http://www.roomtoread.org>

Price Theater: A Blockbuster Deal!

by Megan L. Ouyang

Have you seen any good movies lately? Perhaps you were wowed by Avatar or Sherlock Holmes over winter break. Or maybe not. Did you miss your chance to see that blockbuster everyone is talking about? If so, you'll be happy to hear that you have a second chance to see that movie after all. Even better news, you can still experience it on the big screen, the way it was meant to be seen. We all know that while renting movies is convenient, it's not the same as watching a film on the silver screen.

Behold, Price Theater! Probably one of the least utilized deals on campus, the theater is a prime place to take a break from studying for those looming finals. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, films just out of theaters, but not yet released on DVD, are featured. At only \$3 for UCSD students (\$5 general admission), it's affordable too. Also starting this quarter, the theater began implementing a frequent movie watcher card. The small green punch card can be picked up on your way into the theater, and provides an even better deal on top of an already great one. For every three movies you watch, the fourth is free.

Don't let the cheap price fool you into thinking "cheap quality" either. The several times I've seen a movie at Price, I found the experience to be quite enjoyable. There's no stress in buying your tickets—show up only five to ten minutes before the show starts. You can sit almost anywhere you want, as the theater is usually empty. The seats are nicely cushioned, inviting you to sink into them. Film and sound quality are also exceptional. Once the film gets started, you hardly remember you're sitting in a lecture hall. So what are you waiting for? See a movie today!

Valentine's Day and White Day

by Joyce Huang

In Ancient Rome, February 14 was a holiday to honor Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage and queen of the gods. A similar festival, Lupercalia, was associated with fertility and was celebrated from February 13 to February 15 (though it was later abolished). Later, there was a Roman priest by the name of St. Valentine who would secretly marry couples and thus prevent men from becoming soldiers. He was caught, arrested, and executed on February 14. Perhaps all of these had a separate, unrelated contribution to the development of Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day greetings first became popular in the Middle Ages. During this time period, lovers expressed their love for one another through songs and vocalizations. Written Valentines did not exist until the end of the Fifteen Century. Some of the oldest Valentines from this period are on display in British museums today (imagine having your proclaimed love displayed for all the world and future generations to see...and you thought YOUR Valentine's Day card was romantic). Sending Valentines became a fad in Britain in the nineteenth century. In 1847, Esther Howland established a business in America making and sending handmade Valentine cards based on British traditions.

Unfortunately, the Valentine's Day we know today has become a sort of "commercial holiday," where many gifts and even cards are given as social obligations rather than declarations of love. And if you think about it, Valentine's Day seems to be specifically catered to unmarried couples; if you already have a spouse, there is no longer as much of a need to impress them with gifts, is there?

According to the U.S. Greeting Card Association, approximately one billion valentines are delivered each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card- and gift-sending holiday, behind Christmas.

In Japan, Valentine's Day has a sister called White Day. Celebrated one month after Valentine's Day, White Day is a Japanese holiday in which men return the favor to women. In Japan, Valentine's Day is female-only, where females give gifts, usually chocolate, to males. The type of chocolate has two categories: *giri choco* (obligatory chocolate) and *honmei choco* (chocolate showing genuine affection). White Day was established to be the opposite of Valentine's Day; the intent of White Day is for men to give gifts to women, either as a social obligation or as serious expression of love. In both holidays, handmade chocolate is preferred because it is a sign that the receiving person is the giver's "only lover."

On White Day, males who received something on Valentine's Day are strictly expected to return the favor. White Day gifts include cookies, jewelry, white chocolate, white lingerie (yes, you read that right), and -

Valentine's Day Continued...

marshmallows. Among the Japanese youth, cookies means "I love you", candies "I like you", and white chocolate "Let's be friends." The general rule is that the return gift must be two to three times the cost of the Valentine gift; this is referred to by the term *sanbai gaeshi*.

White Day was first introduced in the 1960's by a Marshmallow manufacturing company that marketed marshmallows to men on March 14. Back then, it was termed "Marshmallow Day", intended to be an "answer day" to Valentine's Day. Gifts began as marshmallows only, and then spread to other edible gifts, the most prominent being white chocolate.

Similar to Valentine's Day, White Day has become, for some people, more of an obligation than a true proclamation of love. Many woman give men gifts on Valentine's in hopes of receiving gifts on White Day (and considering the gifts they receive are socially expected to cost more, there is really nothing to lose). Of course, there are many young Japanese who celebrate the holiday with genuine intentions and send heartfelt gifts to their crushes and objects of love. On average, two-thirds of men give presents to their girlfriends and wives, less than one-fourth to coworkers and friends, and only one-tenth to relatives. Though White Day takes its origins in Japan, it has recently begun to spread to South Korea and Taiwan as well.

South Korea takes the love-related holidays one step further by having a Black Day. Two months after Valentine's Day and one month after White Day, Black Day celebrates singleness (black being the opposite of white, equated to relationship status being the opposite of singleness). On this day, people who did not receive anything on Valentine's Day or White's Day come together to bond and celebrate their singleness. Really brings another meaning to the term "Singles Awareness Day," doesn't it?

UCSD's New Art Piece by Sandra Lertpaichaiyon

The Stuart Collection has a new project proposal! Along with all the 17 creative art masterpieces displayed all over campus, the 18th one will be displayed in a specific area in Warren College. From the students' most known art piece, the "Sun God", located on the grassy area between the Faculty Club and Mandeville Auditorium, to hidden pieces like the "Red Shoe", located along Torrey Pines Road, this new work of art will be sure to grab attention. This interesting piece is called "Fallen Star".

Do-Ho Suh is a notable Korean artist who has lived in Seoul, Korea, and New York City, USA. He has had the opportunity to continue his art studies at the Rhode Island School of Design and Yale University. Suh is best known for creating intricate sculptures, as his work draws attention to the public eye with his unique style in sculptures. His artwork has been in many prominent and major exhibitions, like the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris in 2001. With his creative talent, Do-Ho Suh promises that this upcoming piece will be remarkable for both himself and for the world.

"Fallen Star" will be Suh's first major, permanently situated, outdoor installation piece in the United States. "Fallen Star" is an architectural artwork that beautifully investigates the cultural meaning of space and explores the notions of home and displacement. "Fallen Star" depicts a small house that cantilevered, in mid-air, and landed on top of the seventh-story of EBU1, the headquarters of the Jacobs School of Engineering at UCSD. The house is cantilevered out over the edge of the building. Promising to be an unforgettable piece, the building can be considered as the students' 'home' away from home. Students from all over the world come to

this university to further their interests and studies. Although the building fails to even resemble the warmth of a real house, it is a representation of the students' temporary house. UCSD housing offers a living transition for those who decide to live on their own.

UCSD is honored to be given an opportunity to showcase and recognize this artist's talented artwork.

You can help us with this and many other up and coming incredible creations. The Stuart Art Collection independently raises money in order to fund the art works. Donations to help fund these artworks will be greatly welcomed and appreciated. They are also fully tax-deductible. If you would like to donate, please make the check out to UC San Diego-Stuart Collection. Please mail it to the following address:

**Stuart Collection, 0010
UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0010**



"Fallen Star"

The Olympics, 21st Century Style

by Mallika Padmanabhan

Glinting blades, flashing cameras, ice flying through the air. Flags waved, dreams fulfilled, hopes dashed. The world's eyes have been fixed on Vancouver, BC since the XXI Winter Olympic Games started with a dazzling opening ceremony February 12th. It's a time of heightened sensation and reaction, as public a stage can get for the world's greatest athletes. Every triumph shines a little brighter; every scandal leaks out that much faster. For the past several weeks, people around the world have gathered around their television sets and computers to tune into the action in the ice rinks and on the slopes. With technology rapidly progressing before our very eyes, it's not surprising that the Olympics are now captured during every moment and from every angle—and that the casual viewer can now access this coverage from their television, computer, or even mobile phone.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games website is a prime example of the new level of technology and accessibility that many have come to expect and demand. The homepage is a rainbow of color and houses a main menu bar with links to each of the sports; just below that is another menu bar that allows visitors to, among other things, watch videos of highlights and medal ceremonies as well as search for athletes using an interactive global map. And of course, the page would not be complete without obligatory Facebook and Twitter widgets linking straight to those social networking web-

sites.

A decade ago, there was not much focus on the Olympic website; the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney had an online presence but for the most part it was through the official Olympics website. But that level of web design is probably more common these days in classrooms, for high school students putting together projects using the programming code they've learned at summer school. Hands down, the Vancouver 2010 website is impressive; there's no doubt that a whole division of programming and marketing professionals were in charge of designing, assembling, and maintaining it. Missed the record breaking run in women's moguls? Weren't able to get home in time to watch the stunning triple axel jump combination during the pairs' figure skating? No worries, chances are you can catch all that and more online—and if not on the official website of the XXI Olympics, then definitely on YouTube.

This growing role of technology in the Olympics, and sporting events in general, brings up new worries and concerns. Is the tendency brought on with technological advances to focus on spectacle and visual thrill starting to trump the pure athleticism that used to dominate the Games? At what point does the heavy marketing presence turn the whole Olympics into a sort of advertising gimmick? Just a week before the Opening Ceremony, the United States Olympic team released pictures of their athletes clad in uniforms designed by

Ralph Lauren. The design was impressively chic; the tailoring was sleek to say the least. One might stop and ask how much of that move was motivated by the spirit of the Games—versus the chance to make a huge profit.

There's no question, the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games have been a production of triumphs, scares, and surprises with the lead roles being played by top-level athletes from around the world. Just as in many other facets of life, technology has played an increasingly important role during this two-week extravagance of skates and sleds, pucks and... those things that curlers use. Even though they have diverged so far from the days of the ancient Greeks, it seems as if the Olympic Games are not disappearing anytime soon. I know I'm already looking forward to London in 2012 and Sochi in 2014, but if they start presenting the medals online to save production costs, I might just start Tweeting in fury—through the Olympic site, of course.



Relief Provided, Needed for Earthquake Victims by Ryne Sanders

The basic stats are as follows. An earthquake measuring 7.0 MW struck the island of Haiti 16 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince, at 4:53 pm, January 12, 2010, and followed with 52 aftershocks measuring above 4.5 within twelve days. The Prime Minister, Jean-Max Bellerive, declared that as of February 3, authorities had identified 200,000 people deceased and 300,000 treated for injuries.

Immediate relief efforts faced problematic obstacles. Toussaint Louverture International Airport could not accept the first major shipment of food and medical supplies incoming until days after the earthquake occurred; the destruction of much of Haiti's major sea port and warehouses further obstructed the flow of relief. The United States military took control of the airport's activities, however, and kept the airport at least operational.

Despite the logistical issues, global response to the crisis was exemplary. Within four days, an estimated \$150 million had been raised; the American Red Cross alone raised \$112 million in six days. The United Nations appointed former United States President Bill Clinton to coordinate the international relief efforts within Haiti, and he has since traveled twice to the island nation, offering support from his own charity, the William F. Clinton Foundation.

Though a critical period has passed, aid is still needed. Money for tents to provide shelter from the Haitian spring rains, reconstruction of homes and businesses, and continued medical attention are in short supply. We need to remember that charity is not a fad; prior to the earthquake, the Haitian poverty rate was as high as 83%, and this disaster will only escalate the urgency for renewal. If you would like to get involved in the ongoing relief efforts, you can use the following web address to access a comprehensive list of organizations offering relief to the victims: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/impact/>.



1st College First: Beyond the Accolades by Ryann Vasquez

Heading into the final stretch of the Spirit Night competition, in which all 6 colleges compete in spirit-related events to win the Cup of Cheer and a year's worth of bragging rights, Revelle College found itself in 2nd place, 4.5 points behind Warren College. After a strong finish in the last stretch of the competition, Revelle edged out Warren to win the Cup of Cheer for the second time in 3 years.

As one of the 2010 Spirit Commissioners and a member of Revelle College Assembly, who coordinated Revelle's Spirit Night efforts, winning the trophy was the elusive stamp of success, it finally put all our hard work into something tangible. While winning was one of our top priorities, on Spirit Night when we looked into the stands and saw nearly 4,000 people cheering, screaming, and

wearing the Triton colors with pride we couldn't help but feel that we had won something much more valuable than a trophy. UCSD has often been accused of lacking "school spirit," yet on Spirit Night all you had to do was take a glimpse



into the sea of yellow and blue to know how untrue all the accusations really are.

As amazing it was to be able to run down onto the court after

hearing "In first place...Revelle College!!!" and finally getting to hold the trophy we had so earnestly fought for it was much more rewarding to see all our hard work actually affect people in a positive manner. After Spirit Night there were countless Facebook statuses all relaying the same message. "Proud to be a Triton." "Proud to be a Revellian." While our initial goal was quite simply to bring the trophy back to Revelle it seemed we accomplished much more than that. We showcased something that naysayers said didn't exist... Spirit... not just in Revelle but at UCSD as a whole.

In the end, all six colleges' efforts to continue to foster Spirit at UCSD made the entire university and our athletics department the real winners of the night. Revelle just happens to have a trophy to show for it.

Health Care Today by Dipika Gopal

Is it normal that, today, over 30 million people are uninsured in America? Health insurance costs are increasing at a faster rate than income promotion can keep up with. In a declining economy where every other person is afraid of losing his/her job, paying for health insurance drops lower and lower on the priority list. I believe it is a right for every adult and child to have health insurance. Something so basic as one's well being should not be overlooked. The current administration is working hard to realize health care legislation that will, over time, alleviate the stress of cost and availability. Health care reform, as the Obama administration sees it, involves an underlying belief in universal health care: everyone deserves to be insured. Effort is being put into cutting costs where resources are being used carelessly and excessively and allocating funds or organizations to provide those who cannot afford any health insurance with basic coverage. In addition, a concept that has long been in the minds of some physicians is gaining ground: preventive medicine.

Three separate bills have emerged from the House and Senate, more or less focused on a Democratic revamp of the health care system including subsidies for those who require insurance, prohibiting health care providers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions, and a government aided insurance exchange where basic coverage will be made affordable and mandatory otherwise faced by a penalty. The Senate Finance Committee settled on a bill that resembles parts from each of these, however without a public option. Most of what politicians are struggling with is not about the actual concept behind the overhaul, but about how much government is too much. With all the auto industry and bank bailouts, people are concerned about too much government involvement, as it quite directly hints at socialism. In terms of health care, the public option has its fair share of pros and cons. According to some, the public option is the most efficient and widespread way to provide the most people with insurance. Economically, the government insurance exchange would merely provide another option for people who are self-employed or without a job to purchase insurance. Democrats say it is a way of injecting competition into the market to keep private insurance companies in check. Others claim it will drive companies out of business and be unreliable due to varying yearly government bud-

gets. With a government plan there may be cost managing by averages and trends that may put a hold on certain expensive tests or procedures even though they may be essential for a patient's recovery. Uniform health care, as proposed by the government, will force physicians to follow a standard flowchart or textbook mindset. The experiential knowledge of practicing physicians will be trampled upon by a standardized method for arriving at a differential diagnosis or treatment plan.

These reforms have substantial impact on the culture of medicine and the role of a physician. With the current proposal of a public plan and the endeavor to provide every individual with health insurance, it may be difficult to sustain the sharp increase in patients. Hospitals will have to be proactive in methods to handle an increase in volume keeping in mind a reduced budget. There will also be a shift of emphasis to primary care and preventive medicine. A system where physician-patient communication is secure and efficient and a team of health care professionals is accessible to the patient's various needs will be beneficial. The primary care physician will play an important role in educating the patient on proper diet, exercise habits, and an awareness of disease processes. This saves a patient much discomfort as well as a substantial amount of money.

Physicians, politicians, and the public are concerned by how much health care will be transformed and who or what will have to pay the price. As students, we may not feel the direct need to pay attention to the debate or be involved in any way for a number of possible reasons. However, I think we can make a difference just by being aware of current developments in the options presented to us. Staying informed forces us to think about these issues and really consider how we would change the system if we were in charge. If not for any other reason, these reforms will affect our health coverage in the immediate future as working individuals as well as later in retired life. So take this time to think about yourself and others and how we can best care for each other.

5 Things You Didn't Know About RCC

by Jennifer Uren

Here at the University of California, San Diego, we like our acronyms. You meet your friends for lunch in PC, not Price Center. Your study group doesn't meet at the Center for Library and Instructional Computing Services; you grab a table at CLICS. And ACS is located in AP&M – it takes too long to tell people that Academic Computing Services is in the Applied Physics and Mathematics building.

With all the letters floating through conversations, it is understandable that many students respond with only a questioning look when someone mentions RCC. But RCC is an important acronym to know – it stands for Revelle College Council, the main student governing body in Revelle College. Here are five things that you should know about RCC.

1. YOU have a representative on council!

That's right. Every Tuesday night, as Revelle College Council holds their weekly meetings and discusses issues, there is at least one person who is actively planning programs and events to address your concerns. The Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes each have one representative, and the Freshman class has two. Even Commuter and Transfer Students have a representative to address the concerns of their communities. These representatives often put on programs that target their constituents, so if you have suggestions, they are a perfect resource to use. Contact information for all RCC members is available on the Revelle College website, under Student Organizations.

2. Those students in navy blue polo shirts at the 10th Week BBQ? That's RCC.

If you've ever attended a 10th Week BBQ, you probably received your food from a student wearing a navy blue polo. Those are RCC members, who collaborate with Revelle Staff to put on this quarterly event. But RCC also plans the Next Step Program, a faculty mentorship program for juniors and seniors, conducts a quarterly Meeting on the Plaza, and hosts RCCrepes. The snacks and sundry items sold in the Why Not Here? Lounge are an RCC enterprise opera-

tion. If you've ever read Infolink, or checked out an event on the Revelle Website Event Calendar, those are updated by RCC. RCC is involved with many varying staples of the Revelle Community.

3. RCC funds 13 different Revelle Standing Committees.

One of RCC's major responsibilities is to approve funding for Revelle's thirteen Standing Committees. Each quarter, every student pays a Student Activities Fee of \$9. After dividing the total money from this fee among five different accounts, RCC helps allocate funding for various events like Roger Revelle's Birthday, CABreakfast, CAN's Cultural Dinners, and the Watermelon Drop. RCC also funds part of large events like Spirit Night, Revelle Semiformal, and the annual ELP Event.

4. RCC meetings are open to the public.

RCC meets every Tuesday afternoon at 4pm in Galbraith Hall 174. Although it is often just the council members discussing projects, events, and policies, RCC meetings are actually open for anyone to attend. There is even a special section of the agenda reserved for Public Input from any attendees. Those interested in contributing their concerns or questions, or even just observing what RCC does, are welcome to come in, introduce themselves, and watch proceedings. In addition, RCC holds a quarterly Meeting on the Plaza, where a typical meeting is held in a more public place like Revelle Plaza or Plaza Café. These are excellent opportunities to find out what your college council is discussing.

5. There are 20 positions on Revelle College Council, and elections are coming up!

Revelle College Council consists of twenty council member positions, fourteen of which are positions that hold elections in Spring Quarter. More information about these positions can be found on the RCC website, available through the Student Organizations page on the Revelle College website.

So the next time someone tells you an event was sponsored by RCC, or that someone they know is running for RCC, you should remember these five facts – and that it stands for Revelle College Council, not Riverside Community College!

The UCDC Experience

by Duran Kamgar - Parsi

When I first arrived at UC San Diego and was browsing around talking to different representatives of the various majors I heard of the UCDC program for the first time. The representative for the Political Science department explained the program – live and work in Washington D.C. for a quarter while taking classes. I was immediately drawn to the idea, especially because I had met someone in Summer school the previous summer who happened to also be a Revelle Political Science major, and who also happened to have participated in the UCDC program – he loved it. I had never been to Washington D.C. before but by all accounts it was (is) an absolutely beautiful city. I vowed to apply for the UCDC program at some point before I graduated. You don't even need to be a political science major in order to get into the program, you can intern *anywhere* you want. For example, I've met a computer science major, a math major, an environmental studies major, someone studying architecture, and of course, dozens of political science majors.

Applying to the UCDC program is a pretty simple, you just need to fill out an online application, two letters of recommendation, a resume and cover letter critiqued by someone at the Career Services Center. In fact, this quarter UCSD was scrambling to fill the slots (UCSD has a quota of students they are supposed to send each quarter and if they do not, UCSD has to pay the room and board fees) – basically if you applied for Winter Quarter you would have been guaranteed a spot. So, if you are considering applying, make sure you have two individuals (thanks Liora) lined up to write you recommendation letters, because you will be needing them when you search for internships. The next step is applying for an internship; try applying to as many places as possible, and maybe contact past students that have interned at those places to find out what the work was like. Some internships are great, others end up being quite boring so do your research. One of my roommates has to lick envelopes, stamps, and answers phones all day.

I'm interning at a think tank, and even after a month I'm loving every min-

ute of it – I'm doing research that is being used directly in the reports we are churning out to government officials and other Non Government Organizations. What I love about my job is that I am solely responsible for my own work. I've started other writing and book reviews as well. The atmosphere in the office is fun and friendly. Washington D.C. is a really amazing place – there is so much to do and see. There are free clubs only a few blocks away, there are tons of restaurants, and of course there are more museums than you care to imagine. Oh, and, if you're lucky you'll get to see Obama walking his dog in the morning and have a little chat with him!

I would definitely recommend UCDC to anyone and everyone looking for a great experience, and something cool to add to a resume or grad school application!

Get Lost In A New Wonderland

by Marissa Lovio

We are all familiar with the magic of Disney movies; the enchanting people and kingdoms we met in these classic stories captivated us as children. We would pop in the VHS and enter a different world that was so mesmerizing; sometimes tragedy struck, but we were always left with a happy ending. *Alice and Wonderland* was one of those classic Disney movies. As children the characters and the "make believe" world seemed to steal our attention. As we got older it was hard not to believe the popular theories that the novel, turned into a movie, was all based on the writer's opiate drug experiences. Nevertheless, *Alice and Wonderland* is truly a Disney classic. Should classics really be tampered with?

Tim Burton, the acclaimed cinematic genius behind such works as *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* has tried his hand at improving this classic with a new story line and bringing it into the new century by making it 3D. In the original Disney cartoon, we remember Alice leaving her sister in a garden to follow a rabbit down a hole. Here, Alice drinks a potion and enters a magic wonderland where she meets such characters such as Chesire Cat, Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts. After a long adventure where she visits a tea party and a kingdom, Alice is awoken by her sister, back in the garden where she first saw the rabbit.

In Tim Burton's remake of *Alice and Wonderland*, we meet Alice as a young adult at her own engagement party to a man she does not love. When her fiancé proposes, Alice spots the rabbit she met years before and she quickly follows the rabbit through a maze and down the rabbit hole. Alice, is again, thrown into Wonderland where all the characters from her past remember her, and they seek her guidance in overthrowing the Red Queen. Alice then embarks on a quest to save her childhood friends and the Wonderland she enjoyed so much as a child. Tim Burton casts his usual favorite actors such as Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter and Helena Carter as the Red Queen. Tim Burton has a unique and visionary style that makes all of his films truly enchanting to watch, making me quite hopeful his version of *Alice and Wonderland* will not go down in flames like some other poor remakes. *Alice in Wonderland* comes out nationwide March 5th. Come get lost in a new Wonderland!

The Revelle Experience: Non-Science Majors

by Duran Kamgar-Parsi

“God damn Revelle.” That was a phrase I uttered quite a bit in my first year at UCSD after transferring in 2008. I am a transfer student, majoring in Political Science major in Revelle College. I’m sure many, if not all, of my fellow non-science majors in Revelle share have had the same feeling of angst and despair when looking at all the math and science classes we had to take just to graduate. Organic Chemistry? Physics?! How can these classes possibly help me at all, I wondered. In fact, they’ve contributed significantly to the lowering of my GPA by at least a point; there goes that 4.0! But, now that my journey at UCSD is coming to an end and I’ve begun to reflect more about my experience here, I realize that I wouldn’t trade my choice of college for the world.

I could have taken the easy way out and chosen Muir, or gone the route most Political Science majors take and chosen ERC, but at the end of the day I believe that Revelle has given me more than any other college could have given me; it has helped me become a more well rounded person. As I have started venturing out into the world, taking jobs, internships, and getting started on my career – I realize how important it is to be well rounded as a person. I feel like I can hold my own in a discussion about almost any topic with anyone, and I have Revelle to thank for that.

It was by no means an easy journey, as I’m sure any non-science major can attest to; I have never been good at math. Never in my life would I have thought that at the end of my college career I would be able to say that I had learned and passed multiple calculus classes and physics – but I’ve done it (and this is coming from someone who could barely get out of Algebra in high school, mind you)! Being a non-science major at Revelle adds an extra layer of difficulty to the already daunting prospect of being a University student. High level Political Science courses require tons of reading, analysis, and paper-writing. Sprinkle chemistry, biology, and calculus classes on top of that, and you’ve got the perfect recipe for an insomniac’s recipe. At times, there were points I wanted to cave in and request a transfer to another college, but in the end I chose to stick it out, and one and a half years after transferring, I’ve finished everything.

***“I realize that I
wouldn’t trade
my choice of
college for the
world”***

There are many unfortunates like me who happened to land a spot in Revelle; and the best advice I can give is to embrace the challenge and the journey. Revelle has one of the best college atmospheres, and that also greatly helped me get through the difficult times. At the end of the day I feel confident that I will be better prepared for a wider variety of circumstances and have a broader skill set than my fellow classmates who have gone through some of the other colleges. In these difficult economic times, any edge over the competition can prove its of vital importance.

I still utter the words “God damn Revelle” to myself every so often, but now my tone is that of endearment. It really is like a love-hate relationship. Revelle has dragged me, sometimes kicking and screaming, into becoming a better person coming out than I was when I arrived. And just think, now I know how to take integrals of stuff and calculate the angular momentum of a car going around a banked curve – my life is complete!



Revelle College Apartments by Joyce Huang

Two looming cranes tower majestically over Revelle's Fleet housing, flanked with a cluster of steel columns. On September 1, 2009, the Revelle College Apartments took their first rudimentary breath of life. At the moment they are nothing but scattered groundwork and building foundation; over the next year they will expand and develop, and by August 2011, Revelle will witness the addition of three new apartment buildings to its residence halls.

The Revelle College Apartments project spans approximately 158,000 square feet and is located on what were previously the basketball courts and open lawn area of Revelle housing (west of Fleet Housing, south of the Housing & Dining Services Administration Building). The construction site also bites into an extensive part of parking lot P104, so expect a lot of traffic and congestion in the Revelle parking lots between now and Fall Quarter 2011.

The Apartments will consist of three connected buildings with dissimilar stories of five, eight, and ten, making them some of the tallest residential buildings in all of UCSD. The project de-

sign is a hinged "C" shape, with a central quad area east of the three buildings connecting them directly to the Fleet housing.

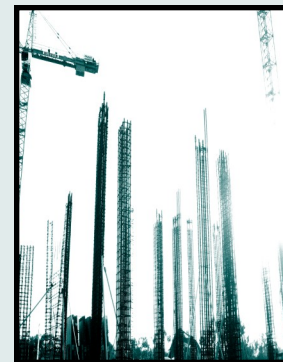
Expected to be a sturdy concrete building structure, the Apartments will house approximately 510 students and 6 staff, with 516 beds separated into 87 apartment-like suites (85 students and 2 staff), with 6 bedrooms (2 doubles and 2 singles) in each apartment, complete with a kitchen, common room, and shared bathroom. Staff rooms will exist as two 3-bedroom suites. The apartment building will also include meeting and conference rooms, laundry rooms, lounges, study spaces, and a mailroom: everything to enhance life within the Revelle community before students hit the end of their housing contract.

The construction project will implement modern and up-to-date features, including shading devices (to obtain solar power), natural ventilation and lighting, efficient energy systems, renewable power, water conservation, and high performance architecture. It is said that this building will attain national recognition for its eco-friendly qualities; whether it is myth or fact is not yet certain, seeing

as how the buildings are not actually finished.

In the meantime, Revelle parking lots P103 and P104 will undergo landscaping and adjustments. Also anticipated is a new market and café to support the 500 new residents that would otherwise cause overpopulation in Plaza Café and Roger's Place (and the last thing you'll need is having to fight for that last sandwich or slice of pizza).

Thus, in another few years, the majority of second-year Revellians will no longer be re-located to Sixth College (though they will have the choice to). But at least when you're living in Revelle, the journey from home to York Hall isn't a grueling 15-minute uphill walk.



The Deal with Hum

by Mallika Padmanabhan

In what year did Plato write his famous work, *Symposium*? Chances are, you will live a full and successful life without ever needing to know the answer to that question. In case you were wondering, I don't know. But I would have never even stopped to consider some of its complex topics if it wasn't for a five-quarter sequence that dramatically changed the way that I approach texts and broader philosophical questions.

The Revelle Humanities program spans over two millennia of human history, focusing on the development of philosophy, literature, and religion in the Western world. Along the way, students play confidante to Saint Augustine's religious transformation, travel with young Candide on one of literature's most satiric voyages to the New World and back, and observe a young industrial worker named Gregor struggle to maintain his identity and freedom after becoming a cockroach.

While taking the Humanities sequence, I was exposed to literary and philosophical works that I would have never otherwise read, forcing me to drastically challenge and rethink ideas that I had previously accepted without much question. Granted, most of the texts from HUM 1-5 are written by old dead white men. But the ideas discussed in their works are very much alive and relevant today: how human knowledge develops, the state's role in religion, whether social inequality is justified, if there is such a thing as fate. Do humans have free will? Homer, Milton, and Kant, among others, all ask this question in their own ways. In some classes, you might passively read one paper arguing one side of this ongoing debate. In HUM, you will be confronted by convincing arguments on both sides. Then you must make up your own mind. The bad part? There's no right or wrong answer. The good part? Same thing.

It's rigorous to say the least. Think of HUM as an academic version of being thrown into the middle of the ocean and told, "Okay,

now learn how to swim." But there is a glimmer of hope: you're not thrashing about in the water alone. For those of you lucky enough to take the HUM sequence in full—I cannot reiterate how rewarding it is to take the full program at UCSD—you'll experience it with friends, roommates, and academic colleagues at your side. And these companions provide more than just company in the suite at 3 a.m. the night before a paper is due, although itself is reassuring, you'll see. You might even find yourselves discussing ideas covered in lecture or section on your own time, and you'll be surprised at how much you take from the seemingly distant texts.

Are these ideas ever clear cut? Hardly. In HUM 3, I once wrote five pages of a paper arguing that the God in John Milton's *Paradise Lost* follows the ideologies of a 16th century thinker named Erasmus before switching three days before the paper was due to instead argue that God is more like Erasmus' philosophical polar opposite, Martin Luther. I can confidently say that to this day, I still do not know if I believe my own argument. But I came up with a plan, supported it the best I could, and ran with it. And that, the HUM professors and TAs will tell you, is really all you can do.

So especially to you first-year Revelians who are just starting to get your feet wet in Humanities 1, don't get scared off by how many characters are in *The Iliad*, or by the heavy thud the Bible makes when it lands on your desk. Yes, the HUM sequence is going to be challenging. But stick with it, approach each course with an open attitude, and you just might find yourself looking back over those five quarters as one of the most academically rewarding parts of your undergraduate career. I know I do.



Speaking Out: Student Opinions by Jennifer Uren

This quarter, students were invited to attend a forum on the "Affordability of UC and the Current Budget Crisis", moderated by Professor Rona-Tas, the UCSD Representative of the Gould Commission. At a time when academic departments and student services are being impacted by severe budget cuts, Professor Rona-Tas wanted to solicit student input and opinions on how their college experiences were being affected by the recent changes. Issues discussed included how the increase in student fees has impacted graduation plans, choices in housing, financial aid and loans, and prioritization of work and student activities. Despite the numerous on-campus protests last quarter, few students attended this forum, missing an opportunity to engage in a casual, intelligent discussion about the real concerns of UCSD students.

At a time when many changes are

being made in response to the budget crisis, administrative officials are seeking student opinions on the changes that will be affecting them. Town halls, forums, discussions – students have more avenues than ever to express their opinions. However, few students take advantage of these opportunities, not realizing that they have the ability to influence the decisions made on this campus.

In an effort to empower and inform students, student government organizations are beginning a number of campaigns and programs to encourage students to contribute. Revelle College Council is teaming up with college councils from the other five colleges to run a Visibility Campaign, informing students about what their college governments do and how they can contact their representatives. Freshmen can expect the Freshman Council, made up of Freshman Representatives from all six

colleges, to be visiting each dining hall and talking to students about what they want from their college experience. Revelle students should look out for their Revelle College Council AS Senators, Jaclyn Storey and Arvind Satyanarayan, who will be holding "Office Hours" in Plaza Café on Mondays from 1-2 pm. All of these programs provide ample opportunity for students to discuss their opinions with their representatives in student government.

Whether a concern about fee increases, an opinion on the dining halls, or a comment about parking and transportation, university officials and student leaders want to hear what the UCSD community has to say. Take advantage of these opportunities and make your voice heard!

The Emerging Leaders Program by Ryne Sanders

Four words best summarize the Emerging Leaders Program: Cheesy Awesome Panda Sauce. It begins with a weekend retreat into a remote corner of the world, where rope courses challenge the new recruits to work as one in the invigorating mountain air. Weekly symposiums further enlighten its members with leadership skills, which are put to strenuous use for a variety of responsibilities. Commitment to volunteering for the community promulgates a common sense of accomplishment and fulfillment that forever bonds those who partake in the ELP learning experience.

An experience it is indeed. Each week guest speakers at the ELP sessions offer their expertise on a broad range of subjects, from conflict mediation to stress relief and time management. Once, in a workshop on public speaking, Vice Chancellor Penny Rue herself provided us with tips garnered from an extensive background of oration, teaching us to express ourselves with more confidence and eloquence. In the course of her visit she said, regarding speech organization, "Tell them what you are going to tell them. Tell them. Tell them what you told them." I thought these were particularly wise words. The tools given in ELP enable its participants to tackle projects on the large scale as well—to identify and break cycles of social oppression that tie us down to the status quo. The pessimist may question the possibility of combating such wide-scale issues as poverty, global warming, and health epidemics—and it's true, a group of twenty-five individuals will find it difficult to change the world on their own. In the first week of Winter Quarter, though, we volunteered our time at a homeless center in downtown San Diego, which we all agreed permanently impacted our lives. Now I believe that once you make a peanut-butter-and-jelly-sandwich for an impoverished man, you cannot say that change is impossible. ELP offers more than helpful tidbits on team organization; it offers purpose.

Of course, ELP is not isolated from the UC San Diego community. ELP's ultimate goal for the year is an awesome campus-wide event that you can rest assured will overload the senses with light and sound! Look for more information as the big day approaches this Spring Quarter.

The Blind Side: Will It Take You by Surprise?

by Megan L. Ouyang

The Blind Side is the highest grossing football movie and sports drama in the country, and with good reason too. But you don't have to be a football fanatic to understand, or enjoy, this movie. Much more than just your typical sports plotline, the movie concerns itself with overcoming hardships of race, prejudice, and socioeconomic status. You can't help but feel warm and fuzzy after seeing this movie.

Based on a true story, *The Blind Side* follows the story of Michael Oher, a homeless black teenager, who has spent his life on the streets of Memphis, neglected by an overburdened foster care system. Just another name in a file, Michael hardly exists, and as a result, his education, among other things, has been sorely neglected. He can barely read and hardly ever speaks. Then, by a fortuitous stroke of luck, at 17 years old and on the verge of aging out of foster care, Michael is taken in by the Tuohy family, a well-off white family from the suburbs. With the Tuohys' support, belief, and generosity, Michael literally rises from rags to riches, in more ways than one, to become a football star.

A major boon of the movie is its believability. Boasting a script that engages clever dialogue and presents inherently likable main characters, the story flows along smoothly and naturally. The streets of Michael's old neighborhood are just as gritty and depressing as the suburbs are manicured and full of hope. Additionally, while it may be categorized as a "football movie", the sport serves mostly as backdrop, and gives the movie direction. The biggest trial presented before Michael is not learning to play football, or even being recruited by colleges. Instead, before he can even start to play high school football, Michael first has to focus on academics to be eligible for tryouts. This is especially refreshing, as most sports movies seem to somehow forget that school even exists, and sports stars skirt by an entire movie without even touching a book.

However, even given the strong points, not even this movie was impervious to being Hollywood-ified. One of the major themes revolves around Michael's extreme protective instincts, the ability

which enables him to be such a formidable football player. This strength was identified when school officials were looking over Michael's academic history. He had performed poorly on every single standardized test, except one; he had scored in the 98th percentile in "protective instincts". Now, in all my years of taking standardized tests, I have never been tested in "protective instincts", let alone understand how you could possibly test such an attribute. Perhaps I was never tested on this because I grew up in California, and this story takes place in Tennessee, which has different standards. However, after looking into the Tennessee Board of Education, I discovered their standardized tests are very similar to California's. Luckily, this was the only thing that I really had a problem with.

While it is Sandra Bullock's name that is featured on the movie poster of *The Blind Side*, the other actors cannot be overlooked. Bullock, in one of her best roles, certainly does carry the movie along, portraying the vivacious Leigh Anne Tuohy with amazing earnestness. Tim McGraw is surprisingly true to the character of Sean Tuohy, a man who is happiest when his wife is happy. However, the real stand-out to me was Quinton Aaron, who portrayed Michael Oher. Aaron quietly took center stage in his first lead role in a movie. Although not given very much dialogue, Aaron's expressions always perfectly revealed emotion perfectly. In fact, I'd argue the movie would not have come across as poignantly if Michael voiced his emotions more than he showed them.

Using football as a jumping point, *The Blind Side* is truly a story about humanity and the amazing things that can come about when you help another. It is quite possibly one of the most "feel good" movies of 2009, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.



Medical School Applications: The How To...

by Dipika Gopal

Applying to medical school can be a long and very expensive process. However, it is crucial that one stays on top of deadlines and tasks in order to produce an error free and powerful application. The application process usually starts about a year before one actually matriculates into a medical school. However, this does not mean the brainstorming for essay topics and activity descriptions cannot happen before. I will run through the basic timeline of the application process and then mention some tips that I feel have benefited me or that I should have done for a better experience.

The application process consists of three steps: primary, secondary, and interviews. The primary application is submitted to a central application service: American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). It consists of a personal statement, usually one page in length, a list of activities you have been involved with including a short description of each, demographic and biographical information, your academic record, the schools you wish to apply to, and a list of recommendation letters you will be sending. The application becomes available to submit around June 1st. However, one can, and should, get these materials ready before that date to ensure a timely and complete application. At this time, transcripts are also sent to AMCAS so that they can verify the grades you have reported. After submission, AMCAS usually takes from two to four weeks to finish this process and sends you a confirmation email saying your application has been sent to the schools you designated.

Starting as early as July, invitations to fill out secondary applications will arrive, mostly by email. Most schools send out a secondary application to all students who submit a primary application. Some schools screen the pool and send secondaries to only a select group of students, as is done in the University of California schools. As this is a very intense and time consuming process, one can start drafting essays right after the primary is submitted so that secondary applications do not become overwhelming. Assuming the primary application was sent in early June, secondaries usually are completed by August or September.

After the secondary is submitted, it is a waiting game: first waiting for an invitation for an interview and after that waiting to hear the school's decision. This process varies a lot with regards to timing. Interviews can happen as early as September. Many interviews happen during fall quarter of school, so it is advisable to keep a light academic load that quarter to allow for traveling and missing class. Acceptances can also come any time from October 15th till the day before a school starts the year. May 15th is the day that each medical school applicant has to narrow his/her decision to one medical school and has to withdraw from all other held acceptances. Schools usually start the year in August or September. Thus, one can see it takes about one year to finish the entire application process.

The most important advice I can give is to start everything early. The prompt for the personal statement: "Why do you want to become a doctor" is extremely broad and requires you to reflect on your life thus far. It is important to start brainstorming ideas for the personal statement as early as possible because your first idea may not be your best one. Also, for most people it takes many drafts to complete a polished product. This brainstorming can start right when you enter college and as you do your co-curricular activities. It is also useful to think of your motivations for wanting to enter the medical field as they may have arisen early in your childhood. Sometimes it is hard to really pinpoint why exactly you are interested if there was not a clear moment in your life where you felt medicine was a calling. Perhaps it was a gradual process that started as an interest in science and evolved into an interest in medicine. A lot of times experiences shape us in a way that we are not aware of. It requires a lot of thinking and reflecting to realize these changes and be able to articulate them on paper. It is not too early to start writing even six months before you plan to submit your primary application. It is also advisable to submit the primary application earlier rather than later. This is not to say that an early application with errors is better than a flawless application submitted later. In order to submit early, one should start working on it early as well. The application itself opens up in May giving you about a month to fill it out and make sure everything is correct before the first submission date in the first week of June. As obvious as this may seem, spelling errors and typos can be overlooked as you tend to read what you want to read. Having another person look at it can be beneficial. Starting early also applies to the secondary application process. Some days, you can receive five or more invitations to fill out a secondary. This can become very overwhelming and can cause needless stress. Essay prompts for some schools can be found beforehand on the school's website or on studentdoctor.net.

Medical School Continued...

Continuing with the theme of starting early, interviews also require some preparation. The amount of work one needs before interviews really depends on each person's comfort level with talking about oneself and impromptu speaking. If this is your cup of tea, you may not have to do a lot of preparation. However if it is difficult for you to articulate your points quickly on the spot, you may want to practice answering some questions in front of a mirror aloud so you can hear and see yourself. Practicing with a friend may also be helpful as they can tell you if you sound honest or if your statement was complete or not. While some questions are not possible to prepare for, there are some standard questions which you can anticipate such as: Why medicine? Why that particular school? What are your strengths and weaknesses? One of most cliché, but useful, pieces of advice is to simply be yourself. It is very obvious to the interviewer if you are trying to portray yourself as someone you are not. They respond to confidence, honesty, and sincerity.

The overview presented here, hopefully, has given you idea of what the application process involves. There are many resources that can help you through the process. The Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is the official book that AMCAS publishes about all the medical colleges with statistics, descriptions of the college and their curriculum, costs, deadlines, and much more. This can help in deciding which schools to apply to. For help with essay writing, there are books published on how to write a personal statement as well as how to respond to secondary essay prompts. There are also books about how to prepare for your interview which can be found at any bookstore. The Career Services Center, here on campus, is also a great resource for the above mentioned literature and medical school packets made by counselors. You can also drop off your personal statement to be read by a professional reader! Making an appointment with a counselor can be useful as they may remind you of something that you have forgotten or make you think of something in another light. Friends are also a great sounding board for brainstorming ideas and formulating thoughts.

This all sounds daunting. I remember the feeling when I just started. However, having gone through it, I find it amazing how much I discovered about myself that I previously was not aware of! I hope this has helped you understand the process a little more and maybe give you some ideas on how to go about starting. Good Luck!

Year Two: The Year of Wisdom by Ryan Vasquez

Sophizesthai: to devise, become wise. It is from the Greek word 'sophizesthai' that the English language derives the word 'sophomore.'

I'm a little over a quarter into my second year and the title "sophomore" never seemed so befitting. The first year seems to be the trial and error stage of college. You meet tons of new people, engage in new experiences, and learn new things about yourself and others. While you continue this pattern in your second year, perhaps on a lesser scale, the glamour of this "new-ness" begins to fade. Geisel is no longer the "cool" looking building that appears as though it came right out of a Star Trek Episode; rather, it is the library that becomes your home during finals week. Organic Chemistry is no longer the class you just hear horror stories about; rather it is the class you start telling your own horror stories about. Perhaps most importantly you realize college is nothing to be scared about.

While the new-ness and the thoughts of "OMG I'M IN COLLEGE...I'M FREE" fade, you begin to gain wisdom. You now know the most effective ways to study, you begin to realize who your true friends are, and you discover parts of yourself you never knew existed. While second year students may feel like the middle child in a family, where high school is a distant memory yet graduation is still years away, I have found that this is perhaps one of the most important times in one's life. It is the chance to blossom. It is the chance to mature. It is truly the chance to mold yourself into who you want to become.

After my first quarter at UCSD I found myself staring at my grades on the computer trying to face the reality that I had actually failed Chem6A. Nearly a year later I find myself staring into the same computer elated that I had gotten an A in Chem6C. What changed you ask? Well I learned from my mistakes, I learned that success takes effort. Sophizesthai, I became wise.



"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated" - Gandhi
by Victoria Walton

Animals. We love them, we eat them, we play with them, and we befriend them. As an animal lover, I flatter myself into believing I have a special bond with them, that they speak to me and connect with me on a sublevel most people cannot understand. It sounds so Pocahontas-ish, I know. But the reality is, most people love animals and I may go so far as to say, identify their necessity to human survival; however, there are too few people trying to save the animals from abuse and exploitation, while the majority scoff and proclaim the human species has enough problems as it is. This concept that humans must be saved first above all other forms of life on this planet is something I want to challenge and I want to question.

To begin with, have you ever questioned yourself why you (or those you have witnessed) recoil in disgust or vehemently abstain from viewing the pictures, hearing the words, or reading the material that animal rights' activists present to you? Well, of course, it would seem obvious you don't want to view emaciated dogs or bloody chickens in tiny cages or pit bulls with large gouges across their faces.

But, really, truly, why? Have you ever considered what that psychologically means when you avoid knowing about what is going on? What fascinates me is how people justify and comfort themselves by sim-

ply not seeing the material, which somehow makes all the suffering and animal deaths ominously float away from existence. Out of sight, out of mind, right?

It reminds me of the events which happened back in the 1940's in Germany. America, Britain, and other powerful and supposedly responsible nations coined the term, "Holocaust". Oh yes. It was a time, for the most part, when these nations stepped back and closed the curtain because they couldn't stomach what was occurring or were not in a state to help the Jews. This is human nature. To offer help and service and time only when it suits you. But on no other terms.

There are some solutions, however, vegetarianism and veganism is one way a lot of people try to help animals from being killed. And yes, I believe it does help. I have been a vegetarian and know the comment of those around me justifying their participation in eating animals because "that cow is going to be dying anyway" and one person not buying and consuming a sirloin steak is certainly not going to stop meat production. Well, you're right and you're wrong. We live in a market that rests on supply and demand. If you abstain from eating meat, that is one less person buying hotdogs, buying sausage, buying chicken breasts. Not to mention influence. We have powerful influences on our friends and those around us. I know when I was a vegetarian, or pescatarian (consuming only fish), my mother bought less meat and strived to cook more creative meals with healthier foods like eggplant lasagna instead

of the normal meat lasagna.

And this is great if you have the motivation and discipline to quit meat altogether. But, as I found out from personal experience, it is not for everybody. So I think the most helpful and powerful tool you can use to try and save animals from abuse, is education. Being aware and cognizant of the certain products that harm animals and never shying away from learning a thing or two about how you can help. I understand that those Humane Society commercials are depressing and sad (trust me, I cry every time) and you know all they want is money. Well, if you ask me, instead of donating money to ease your conscience or because you don't know how else to help, I would advise you volunteer at a pound or buy an extra bag of dog food to donate. Really, I believe hands-on work to help those poor animals and gain a more open mind is the way to go. Not to mention, studies show that those who surround themselves with animals (i.e. dogs) are happier, more satisfied with themselves, and live longer.



The World is Ending, Stay Tuned for the Details by Marissa Lovio

Take a minute to picture the year 2012; no, we won't be flying in space ships or teleporting ourselves around the globe, but the year 2012 is full of global happenings. 2012 may bring your expected graduation year or another personal milestone, the summer Olympics will be held in London, in the fall our vote will be courted by different campaigns for the presidential election, and lastly THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END.

It is impossible to escape the 2012 theories and "science" seen floating around online, in magazines, as well as specials on channels that I originally believed had a bit of credibility. The constant 2012 bombardment is not just seen on the cover of the National Enquirer but also plastered for the world to see on almost any communication portal. Frankly, flipping through the channels and seeing the "End of the World" melodrama does not hook me enough to make me stop and watch computer engineered videos of the apocalypse. I am often more worried about my possible demise on that looming organic chemistry midterm before giving much thought to the 2012 speculations. Despite my doubts, I decided to do limited research on the 2012 theory to get basic facts on the theory, facts which are stripped from the sensational drama.

The 2012 theories mainly stem from the end of creation as represented on the Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar; many cultures, but most notably the Mayan, used this calendar. This Long Count Calendar was used to see periods of time longer than 52 years because until then calendars calculated time in periods of 52 years. The Long Count Calendar to us just appears as random dots, dashes and lines, but historians cracked the code to the calendar allowing them to estimate dates and years. A huge point of controversy is how to correlate the Long Count Calendar with the Gregorian calendar we use today. There are many hypotheses on how to relate the two, and the most popular deduces August 11th, 3114 BCE as the beginning of the world; thus making it the first day of the calendar. According to the Long Count Calendar, a set of numerals that marked the end of the first creation will repeat itself on December 20th, 2012 and the next creation will begin on De-

cember 21st, 2012. The Mayans however did not see the end of creation as a doomed apocalypse or end of time, but rather as a celebration of completing a cycle of creation. According to the Mayans we are currently in the 13th cycle of creation and December 21st marks the first day of the 14th cycle of creation. The Mayans also predicted dates after December 21st 2012, but those calendar dates were not completed that far into the future, so they made "distance dates."

The Long Count Calendar is undeniably a magnificent feat for the Mesoamericans and their desire to look so far into the future is just further testament to their intelligence as a culture. When one really ponders the facts, the December 20, 2012 apocalypse is really improbable. These dates are truly just speculations because there is no proven or correct way to correlate the two calendars. The historians' speculations could be decades off, we could have passed into 14th creation some time ago. The Mayans celebrated when one creation ended and marked it as a change in time; this change has been exaggerated into the apocalyptic Armageddon we see sensationalized on TV series, books, articles and movies such as 2012. Additionally, if the Mayans had believed that the 13th creation would be the last they would not have created anniversaries and celebratory dates past the year 2012. Remember the Y2K hysteria during 1999? Now we can look back and laugh at the extremists who thought the world's computers would crash and we would be thrown back into the Stone Age. I firmly believe we will also look back at the 2012 melodrama with a chuckle. After my findings, there is truly no way I can use the 2012 theory as an excuse to get out of organic chemistry. Now, instead of worrying about the looming end of times, I must focus on my finals, which feel just as menacing.

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Ryann



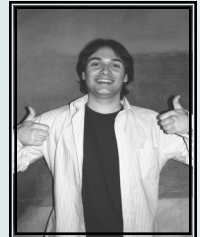
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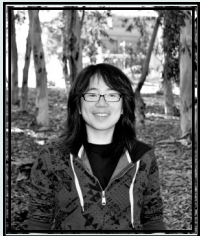
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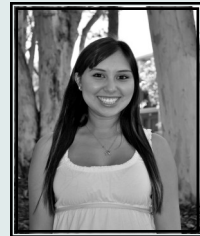
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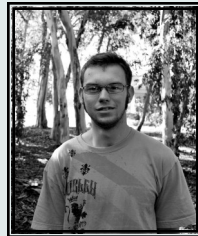
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