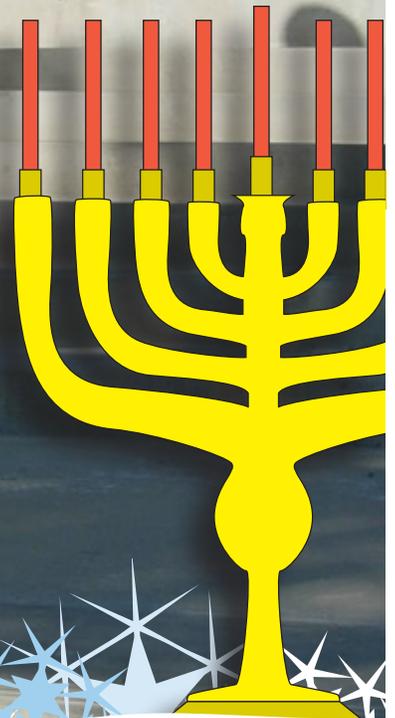


The Summit

November 23 2011 Volume 35 N° 3



GROSS



*Grossmont celebrates
winter holidays* Pages 8-11

Henrietta Lacks project updates

Pages 5-7

Photo by Nikki Ogilvie,
design by Derek Dubler

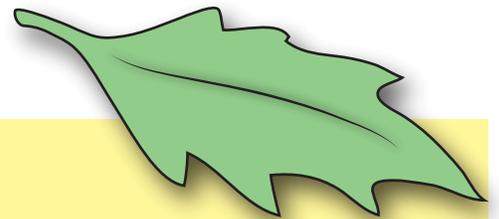


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Semester In Review



Fantabulous Fundraiser- the health and sciences complex was a glittering venue for the 50 and fantabulous fundraiser.

Photo by Miriam Raftery,
East County Magazine

Scholarship winners Nicolle Fedor of Grossmont college (Left), and Amanda McCord, of Point Loma Nazarene University, flank Lee Swanson, President of the San Diego Press Club.



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After dance off, two chosen as mascots

By Issac Jeitler

Tryouts for Gizmo, the Grossmont Griffin Mascot, were held Thursday, Oct. 27, outside the Tech Mall. The ASGC-sponsored event featured half a dozen contestants trying out for the role of Grossmont's feathery mascot. Griffin Radio supplied the beat thumping music while members of the ASGC gave commands for the potential candidates to perform.

Each contestant bounced across the quad wearing the mighty Griffin headpiece, pumping up passing students with their own versions of school spirit. Potential mascots also showed off their abilities to persuade onlooking students to participate in dancing festivities.

After the initial trials, contestants were then pitted against each other in head-to-head elimination style competition. From dance offs, to "getting low" to gathering students for dance groups and even a soul train of students, the finalists threw down all their moves to sway the judging crowd.

After a "thriller" display of talent, the duo of Devereaux Watson and Mel Milstead were ultimately named the "Gizmos" of Grossmont College. Students should be on the lookout for their local neighborhood Griffin. the nexttime they step out of their classroom, they might bump into the mythological half-lion, half-eagle.

Jeitler is the features editor of GC Summit
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Devereaux Watson (left) and Mel Milstead (right) as Gizmo

Halloween brings music and spooky characters

By Issac Jeitler

Once again this semester the air buzzed with breathtaking music pumping through the soul, but this time more of a festive variety was played as Halloween was upon us Monday, Oct.31 Members of the Future Broadcasters of America (FBA) were out in force, selling pizza at a dollar a slice, and cans of soda at 50 cents each.

Griffin Radio's own DJ Dev was out in the quad as well, spinning Halloween hits on his portable audio system.

While there weren't many ghosts on campus, there certainly were ghouls and an assortment of other mythological beings and fairytale characters to be found wandering about.

Rumor had it that a flash mob of zombies was to be on campus, but unfortunately the plans for the event evidently died, creating disappointment among expectant onlookers. However, a smaller contingent of ghostly creatures did occupy the upper quad for a short period of time.

Students were cautioned to be extra careful and on the look out for little children "trick or treating" in their neighborhoods.

Jeitler is the features editor of GC Summit

Journalists sought

Interested in writing or photographing for the GC Summit? You can either enroll next semester in Media Comm 132-A for three units of academic credit, or send your stories and pictures to us via email.

For more information, please contact the instructor at:

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Lacks' life dramatized in 'page-to-stage' production

By Dylan Burke

The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks spawned numerous projects and events on campus, including "page-to-stage" on Thursday night, Oct. 27, during which a local theater group gave a dramatic performance of excerpted material from the book.

The dramatization began with Rebecca Skloot, author of the book on Henrietta Lacks, learning about cells from her biology professor Donald DeFler (Brian Rikel). Erika Phillips portrayed Skloot and Rikel played four roles during the performance.

After learning about cells Skloot does some research on her own and finds out about the cells of Henrietta Lacks. She attempts to contact the Lacks family several times before finally getting in touch.

Skloot eventually was able to engage with the Lacks family, learning how unethical the medical industry was by not sharing any of the profits from the "immortal" cells that grew to be a multimillion dollar industry. Another theme is how the African

American families have been used for unethical experimentation throughout their history.

The conclusion of the performance showed the Lacks family emerging from under their burden getting on with their lives.

Alyce Smith Cooper gave an incredible performance playing the Henrietta Lacks' fourth child, Deborah "Dale" Lacks, who became Skloot's chief source and informant. After the performance, Cooper confided that she "was only given a week and a half" to learn the script and rehearse. She said she was appalled by the treatment of the Lacks' family by the medical industry. "It was absolutely unethical, if that happen to your family you would think that too," she said.

Cooper played her role so energetically and convincingly that the audience interrupted with applause one scene in which she was pouring out her grief over her mother's immortal cells.

Abner Genece who played the role of Joe Lacks also gave a strong performance; the actors were good in this act, making this observer actually feel he was inside the Lacks' home.

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Grossmont debate team tackles Lacks controversy

By David Hurst

The debate team considered the pros and cons, October 25, of whether the descendants of Henrietta Lacks should be compensated for her unknowing contribution of the HeLa cells to the medical community.

Advocates for the Lacks family were represented by Vanessa Spear and Bryan Hatton while Gabriella Johnson and Jake Weber provided the opposition. The debaters were assigned their stances by their professors and argued accordingly. The debate was held in front of 100 spectators and a three-judge panel consisting of Bonnie Ripley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology; Patrice Braswell-Burris, Ed. D., Disabled Student Services & Programs Specialist and Umoja Coordinator; and Joel Castellaw, Professor of Communications/Speech.

The pro-side argued that the family deserves compensation for the HeLa Cell produced and taken from their relative Lacks. The opposition argued that the cells were taken years ago and while the act of taking her cells was not moral, there were no laws in place against it back in the 1950's and no laws were actually broken.

The crowd was overwhelmingly in favor of the Lacks family but the opposition was named the winner of the debate by the three judges and backed by James Hazelwood, who explained to the advocates post debate what that should have done to strengthen their case. Braswell was the lone judge in favor of the Lacks' family advocates.

Each debater delivered some fine points but in the setting of the debate, facts won over emotion. Spears made the point that the act of using the Hela Cell will no longer be illegal because the family will give its official consent as a result of compensation in the form of 5% of all profits due to the use of Lacks cells.

Baker did an excellent job of countering Spears pointing out that taking the cells was not illegal in the 1950's and that while Lacks family members are related to her, their cells are not the ones in use. Hatton used Weber's argument against him that distribution centers would lose revenue by paying off the Lacks family. He suggested that without Lacks there would be no distribution centers.

From this observer's standpoint, Hatton seemed the best debater with is use of energy, humor, facts, and counter facts that allowed him to stand out amongst his peers. Johnson attempted to liken body tissue to toilet tissue in that once it leaves the body it is no longer property of its owner, an argument that didn't go over well with the pro Lacks crowd.

The issue of morality eventually fell to the issue of legality and the opposition walked out with a victory.

Hurst is managing editor of the GC Summit
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Student art interprets Lacks' legacy

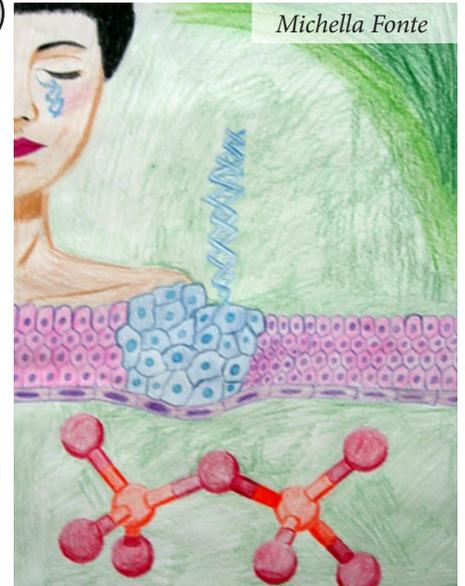
Story and photos by Barbara Boyd

This semester, the legacy of Henrietta Lacks was a project throughout the Fall semester at Grossmont College. Following are pictures, from around the campus, of students' interpretations of Henrietta Lacks—her life and legacy.

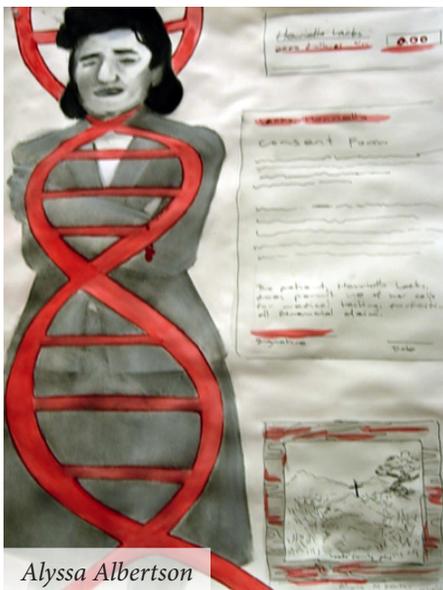


Jack Rushton

Group project, ART 120



Michella Fonte

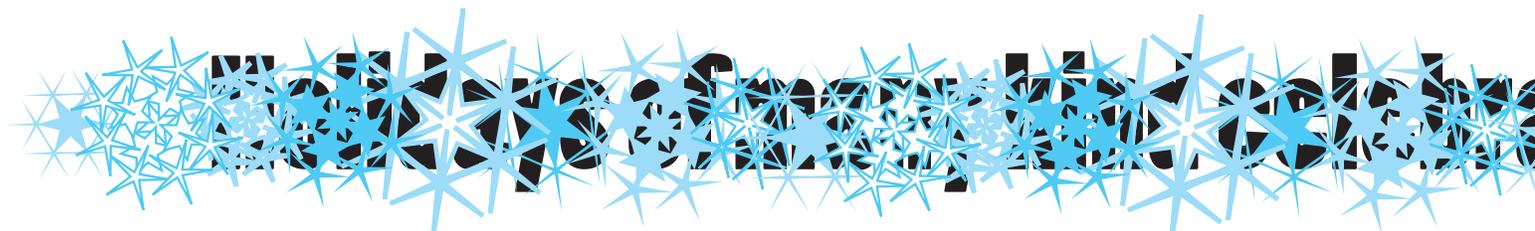


Alyssa Albertson



Mia Dean

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Christmas (Christian)

By Issac Jeitler

Throughout the world many different cultures and countries celebrate Christmas in their own ways, including events, services and origins. Christmas focuses on the birth of Jesus Christ, Christianity's foremost figure. However, other non-Christian societies choose to celebrate the day as well.

There are many different opinions on why Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December, some of which involve ancient Roman dates revolving around the winter solstice. Biblical texts have no specifically assigned a date for the birth of Christ, yet in the early 4th century the Roman Church declared the 25th of December as Christ's mass. That date began as a day of atonement.

While Christmas mass originally took place at midnight, congregations over generations have become more lenient with the tradition as families tend to put their children in bed before that time. Churches have complied to the change by holding mass at an earlier time in the evening.

The tradition of gift giving is a tale of the past, one of generosity and harmony. As a man born into a rich Greek Christian family, Nicholas was a very religious man. Having lost his parents at a youthful age, he was taken into care by his uncle, Nicholas the Bishop. Growing up in the church, young Nicholas became a man of faith himself. During his travels he assisted families in need and even slipped gifts of money inside peoples shoes and stockings that they had left outside.

Through his constant good deeds, he became revered by the public and poems were written about doing good deeds so that Saint Nicholas will stop by and give a festive treat. Over time, western culture adopted gift giving and other modern trappings of Christmas, renaming Saint Nicholas as Santa Claus.

In today's generation, not all families who mark Christmas are highly religious, but use it as a time to celebrate and start anew. Since the winter holidays come close together, the entire fourth quarter can be considered a time of happiness.

Christmas is a time of joy, a time of giving thanks, a time of abolishing sin and being with family. Traditional families attempt to spend time with one another as it may be the only time of the year relatives can be together. Being able to see family can be enough of a tradition to supply happy thoughts and keep them content for another year.

Decorations can be found all over the world, expressive light systems synchronized to caroling tunes have become common in the United States. Simpler traditions are infrequent compared to the Christmas tree in the living room or a wreath hanging on a door. Including the ones you love in a tradition can make it that much more enjoyable.

Tasha Noonkester tells her children, "imagine you have all the money in the world" before handing them magazines full of holiday gifts. After cutting out different items, the family puts the clipped items inside envelopes designated for the family member they would purchase it for. On Christmas Eve, the family then gathers around and exchange envelopes. Noonkester commented, "it's pretty funny to see what they would buy for their siblings and parents."

Joy Marie and her family have the tradition of choosing an item that has been significant to them over the year. They then write the year on the item and use it as an ornament. Joy mentioned, "before each gets put up we tell the story about why that particular ornament was chosen."

While certain traditions may be as simple as a ham or turkey dinner, drinking eggnog or just being with those you love, there is no denying that the Christmas spirit is out there.

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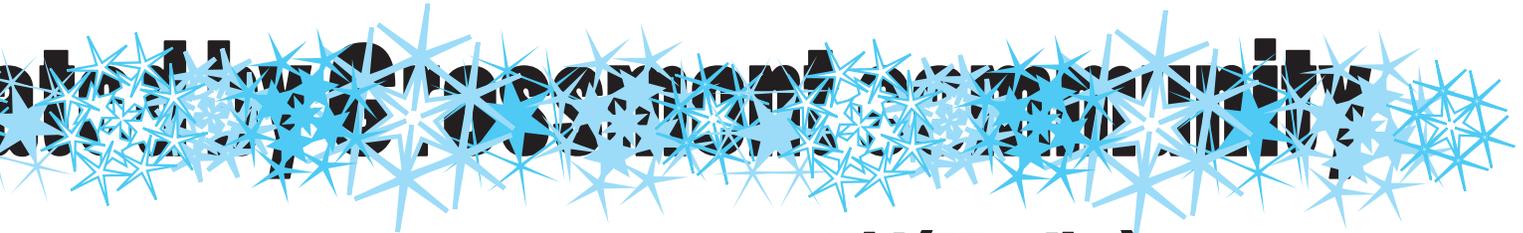
Chanukah (Jewish)

By Kellen Brauer

Every winter, Jewish people across America have a celebration known as Chanukah with unique games and food to add to the festivities.

Media Communications 132 instructor Donald Harrison is one of those people that gather with his family for the eight-day celebration in which they light the candles of the menorah and play dreidel.

"It's (Chanukah) our way of having a gift-giving holiday and staying true to our religion," said Harrison. "Instead of getting all of your gifts at once like Christmas, you get one each night of Chanukah."



Eid (Muslim)

By David Hurst

Eid is a Muslim Holiday celebrated twice over the course of a Gregorian 12 month calendar year. It falls on the same day of the Islamic calendar which is lunar, as opposed to the solar Gregorian calendar. Eid ul-Fitr falls after fasting during Ramadan. There is also Eid ad Adha, or Great Eid, which comes after the pilgrimage to Mecca. Eid ad Adha fell on November 6th.

Mohammed Moustafa, a lead tutor at the Grossmont tech mall, said, "Out here in San Diego we have a big Muslim community with a lot of mosques. We gathered at the convention center at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Beach. A lot of families came and a lot of kids had fun. There is a lot of food and a lot of amusement. ... The people dress in their best clothes..."

Moustafa as well as Grossmont students Sally and Suaseul, Muslim sisters from Iran who did not give their last name, spoke of the importance of the Sunnah of Eid, which is the first prayer before the ceremony. In countries that have a majority Muslim population Eid is a four-day event. That is not the case for most Muslims celebrating Eid in the United States where four days off of work can leave you without a job, or with a bad grade. "Moustafa said that in his native country, Iraq, that all four days are just like the first day is celebrated stateside. "Back home it's an open invitation to visit family (over the course of four days); we take those four days off." Gifts are also a part of Eid. Sally said it is important that "You find poor people and give them money or help them out in any way that you can."

(Continued on page 12)

"Ancient Israel was occupied by Hellenists who wanted to bring their religion to Israel. They required the Jews of the time to worship the Greek gods and installed idols of their gods into the Great Temple," said Harrison. "Of course the Jews were very upset and the group that revolted were known as the Maccabees. They were led by Judah Maccabee.

"Somehow, this small group was able to throw off the rule of the Greeks, then they went to the Temple to get rid of the idols that the Greeks had put in," continued Harrison. "They then lit their eternal flame and it looked like there was only going to be enough oil to last for one day. It was going to be eight days before they could come back and when they came back and it was still burning so they considered it a miracle."

"So Chanukah was a military victory but the rabbis didn't want to celebrate military victories. So the story of the miracle that happened that kept the oil burning for eight days became the central religious theme in the story of the restoration of the temple," continued Harrison. "And so to remember that we have an eight-branched menorah (with a ninth branch for a candle for lighting all the others)."

It is also customary during Chanukah that the Jews play a game called dreidel in which they spin a four-sided top. "The Dreidel has four Hebrew letters, and depending on which letter you land on, that's how much you win," explained Harrison.

The four Hebrew letters, representing the saying "a great miracle happened there" are nun, gimmel, hei and shin, which mean respectively that you get nothing, all, half or have to put in coins respectively, according to chabad.com.

Chanukah also has its selection of unique foods to go along with the tradition.

"Because this is a celebration about oil, we make some foods using cooking oil," said Harrison. "One of which is potato pancakes which we call latkes and traditionally, people will fry up the Latkes and eat them with apple sauce or sour cream."

Harrison spends Chanukah with his father-in-law, wife, children and grandchildren and describes Chanukah as more of a "nuclear family holiday."

"When I was younger, it was sort of like the cool holiday because you got presents," said Harrison. "But as I got older, it was more important to me to carry on the tradition with my children."

Brauer is news editor of the GC Summit. He can be contacted at kellen.brauer@gcsummit.com

Kwanzaa (Pan-African)

By Nicolle Fedor

As the end of the fall semester approaches, many holiday festivities are just starting, but one such holiday is not religiously based.

During the Black Freedom Movement of the 1960's, Dr. Maulana Karenga, an educated, passionate and self-determined activist, arose as a great pioneer within the African-American, and later Pan-African, community.

After years of intense studying in the field of African ethics in Ancient Egypt coupled with theories in nationalism, Dr. Karenga began his mission to give back to the African and Pan-African community both nationally and internationally.

According to Dr. Karenga's website, the main focus of Kwanzaa, meaning "first fruit" in Swahili, is to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday [Christmas] and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant [Anglo] society."

As opposed to religion, Kwanzaa "is a communitarian African philosophy" that celebrates the deeply rooted African values in community, culture and family for seven days.

Each of the days represent one of seven Principles of African-ness, meaning *Nguzo Saba* in Swahili, by which Dr. Karenga adopts his doctrine.

Each day the Swahili greeting "Habari gani?" is said, and the correct response is the represented Principle honored that day.

The official Kwanzaa website states that The 7 Principles of African-ness are:

Umoja (unity)—To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia (self-determination)—To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (collective work and responsibility)—To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

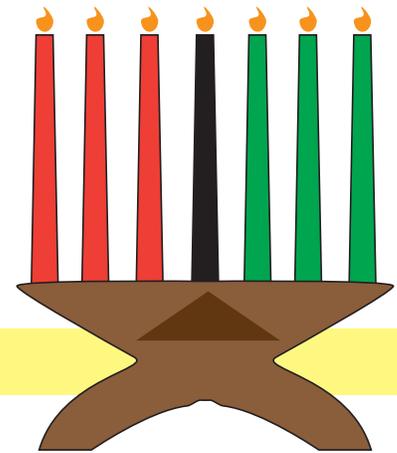
Ujamaa (cooperative economics)—To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (purpose)—To make our collective vocation the building and development of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (creativity)—To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (faith)—To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

For more information visit www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org



Kwanzaa Kinara

Holiday travel (US)

By Jessyka Holguin

Everyone looks forward to this time of year. It's that time to travel, to visit our family and friends. It's that time when you have to figure out what you're going to get that aunt who you see once a year. It's that day you have to spend five hours in the car with all five of your family members.

But don't worry. Even though it's the busiest time of the year for traveling. Everyone else has to go through it too. So you're not alone!

Many students told the GC Summit that they spend their holidays in the Los Angeles area. Gregory Mejita, for example, is traveling by car with his family for the holidays. Nelly Mercado says she'll be spending her holiday snowboarding in Big Bear and Mammoth. Emily Tretaneir said snowboarding in Colorado or Utah is an annual tradition for her family.

Among others traveling outside California is Nikki Rowlands. Her father lives in Honolulu Hawaii. So she gets to spend her Christmas on "the beach" every year!

For other students, winter break means work not travel.

Rhiannon Burton said she will be spending most of her time working in the candle shop in Parkway Plaza, so one of the aromas of the holidays will be all around her.

Daniel Arthur and his family take advantage every year of the offerings in Southern California. He and his family expect to join his Coloradoan grandparents at the Hotel Del Coronado. Similarly, Jesse Kendrick is planning with friends to take a boat for a first-time Catalina visit.

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Yalda (Iran)

By Dylan Burke

Yalda is celebrated on the Northern Hemisphere's longest night of the year. Depending on the shift of the calendar, Yalda is celebrated on or around December 20 or 21 each year.

In Iran, foods common to the Yalda celebration include watermelon, pomegranate, nuts, and dried fruit. The Eve of the Yalda has great significance in the Persian/Iranian calendar. For Ancient Persians the Sun God symbolized light, goodness and strength on earth. Yalda is a time of joy.

Media Comm Prof. Michael Emami recalls one year his father came home with watermelon for Yalda, but "it was very cold that night" and all the juice and meat in the melon had been destroyed. Nevertheless, "we didn't let that spoil our night. My father said the hell with it as we roasted the seeds and spread limejuice and ate the inside, I'll remember that night for the rest of my life."

Here in San Diego at Sufi Restaurant there will be a celebration on Dec. 16 for the Yalda Holiday

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New Year (Turkey)

By Issac Jeitler

New Year's in Turkey is quite possibly the most celebrated holiday of their year, according to Elif Kizil, an international student from Turkey.

Many traditions for a Turkish New Year have been adopted from other countries and the day is celebrated with many other traditional customs all at once. Yes, eating turkey is popular in Turkey, and celebrating around giant pine trees associate the festivities with a delightful aroma.

Elif Kizil



While it is prohibited by the Islamic religion to drink intoxicating beverages, many Turkish people nevertheless partake in the celebration by drinking.

Kizil is studying English as a second language here at Grossmont College. She previously earned a degree in photography in Turkey then came to the states to further her studies. Her aspirations for being a photographer have no bounds; she is rarely without her camera affixed to her hip. She has been visiting schools in San Francisco and New York to decide where to earn a Master's Degree in Photography.

(Continued on page 12)

Football bowls (US)

By Dylan Burke

The holiday season is coming yet again. Can the days of mega-football games like the Rose Bowl and the Super Bowl be considered to be winter "holidays" like winter's various religious observances?

For many Americans, the argument can be made that Super Bowl Sunday is a holiday. In fact, according to USDA, millions of Americans mark Super Bowl Sunday with friends and family, making it the second highest day of food consumption in the United States after Thanksgiving.

Almost always, the most watched television event or episode in the world ever year is the Super Bowl, and even many workers in the restaurants and stores ask for the day off to the point where the general manager will close the store early to give his or her employees their opportunity to watch the game.

However, Grossmont's Athletic Director Jim Spillers says he doesn't spend much of his time watching the sports events during the holiday season, explaining: "I get 98% of my sports fulfillment through my every day."

Randy Abshier, the Griffins baseball coach, says the Bowl games aren't that big a deal for him. After all, he noted, he's "a baseball coach, I like baseball."

In my own experience Souplantation/Sweet Tomatoes is closed for Thanksgiving and also Christmas, however no other winter holidays--not even New Year's Day or Super Bowl Sunday--are specified as days so special there's no point in even opening.

The Bowl games are welcome forms of entertainment for Americans who are alone for the season or have little attachment to their families.

The Rose Bowl is nicknamed "The Granddaddy of Them All" because it is the oldest bowl game. Traditionally this game is played on January 1, New Year's Day--except when New Year's begins on a Sunday, and then the game is played on Monday.

No matter which teams are competing, some people like to watch Bowl games on television while recuperating from partying the night before. The Super Bowl has the added attraction of offering funny commercials.

So are Bowl games holidays? Clearly that depends on who you ask. If they're not actual holidays, they certainly feel like them. Family and friends are together, there is plenty of food to eat, there is happiness shared by everyone and for most people they're enjoyable.

Burke is sports editor of the GC Summit
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Students show inventions to help disabled patients

By Issac Jeitler

Over past decades, interests in nursing departments across the United States have been growing exponentially among students. Part of their fascination is the technological advances these departments have been helping to make in the treatment of patients.

The 4th annual Assistive Technology Show was sponsored by the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program on Nov. 15 here at Grossmont College. Second year OTA students were asked to find people with disabilities who needed assistance with their everyday life needs. Some of those needs and activities included; only having the use of one hand, arthritis and being able to care for a child, and work while confined to a wheelchair. OTA Instructor Darlene Cook said her "students were assigned to assist with grooming and household needs."

At more than a dozen different booths, students went through the motions of explaining the functionality of their products while describing how they came up with their concept. Booths contained information about each case study, the specific problem the study addressed, the occupational impact the product will have, how the product will solve the problem and a breakdown of costs to build the product. The only limiting factor in their constructive thinking was a budget of only \$25. Cook added, "students are to use everyday items to help improve the life of their case study."

Students showcased ideas like the Prep Perfect, Leisure Laptray and Kiddie Konnects. Molly Civinskas, designer of the Kiddie Konnects, created her product for a client who spent most of her life in a wheelchair. Being unable to take her child outside for walks was the problem and Civinskas developed an easy solution through unsnapable swing bars. These bars allowed her client to connect a baby stroller directly to her wheelchair with the option of unsnapping and rotating the stroller back to her for easy access to change and fulfill whatever needs the child has.

It was clear to anyone in attendance that the OTA students took their work seriously and had a deep appreciation for helping out and giving back to their patients.

Jeitler is features editor of GC Summit. He may be contacted at issac.jeitler@gcsummit.com

New Year... *(Continued from page 11)*

New Year's will be a time when Elif plans to be back home to Turkey to relax with her friends and family. "I have been in Turkey for twenty-four New Year's celebrations," she declared.



Molly Civinskas demonstrates the functionality of "Kiddie Konnects"

Eid... *(Continued from page 9)*

Eid usually includes a big feast. Eid ul Fitr usually features Sheer Khurma, a dish made of saviyaan, a local long form of pasta with dates cooked in milk. During Eid ad Adha, Quorma, a type of curry, is usually served. Kabobs are also served at both celebrations.

According to Islamic tradition, Eid began when Abraham had a dream that he should sacrifice his son Ishmael to show his obedience to God. God then intervened so that instead of sacrificing his son Abraham sacrificed a sheep. The food from the sheep was distributed to the poor people.

Hurst is managing editor of the GC Summit. He may be contacted at david.hurst@gcsummit.com

She said she enjoys being with her loved ones, listening to the live celebratory music and cheering along with others around the world when the count-downs to New Year's begin. Happy New Year! - "Yeni yilin kutlu olsun!"

Jeitler is features editor of the GC Summit

COMMENTARY

Going topless not a crime

By Rosie D'Agostino and Russ Lindquist

Imagine a shirtless woman. Good job. Now imagine a woman defecating on a public sidewalk. Legally, they are comparable: in most of our country, our state, our city and right here on the Grossmont campus--both women would be criminalized under either or both Public Indecency and Obscenity.

If a male student at Grossmont takes his shirt off on campus, nothing would happen. However, for a topless woman, campus policeman said he would "probably give a ticket for public indecency." The officer then clarified that such a charge, though a misdemeanor, could result in the woman being required to register, for her entire life, as a sex-offender. The supposed indecency of the hypothetical topless woman would cause her to be legally equated with child molesters.

Grossmont faculty, staff and students that we interviewed offered several defenses for the status quo:

- *Women's chests are more important than men's
- *Women's chest are more distracting than men's
- *Topless women would be too judged
- *Toplessness would imperil women to vastly increased rape
- *Women simply "should not"

Interviewees varied as to whether they believe men should be held to the same chest-criminalizing standard as are women--plenty holding the traditional standard: immunity for men. However, none believed that topless women should be classified as criminals, and certainly not as sex-offenders.

Yet several said that topless, "disobedient" women should be "punished" with "a fine" or "a ticket." Pressed whether an offending women who refused to pay her fine should be punished with some jail, as is typical of those who flat-out refuse to pay their fines, one student said, "Well, yeah, because that's disobeying a judge."

Asked whether a mother who breast-feeds in public should be considered a sex-offender, all interviewees said no, yet several said that the women "should cover up." Pressed as to whether "should" meant that the women "should be legally required" to cover up, two students said no, but that, "the mothers just should."

As for the distinction between allowing mothers to breast-feed in public but not allowing women generally to go topless, several students agreed that, "[Breast-feeding] is natural." We reminded them that, "a woman's body is natural."

Dean Baldwin, a Learning Center specialist in the tech mall, says he agrees somewhat with the preventative spirit of legal measures that proscribe toplessness for women. A father of five girls, Baldwin said, "Often I don't like the way that they go about it, but government does have a role in protecting," especially, he said, when families are becoming more frequently splintered and without a moral center. To leave women at the mercy of being too much on public display is reckless, he said. Still, Baldwin spoke of his world travels--how, in plenty of places, publicly topless women are not always considered deviants; he specifically named Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Pacific Islands.

From the respective and collective points-of-view of these writers, an important thing to remember is that a topless woman is neither comparable to someone who defecates on a sidewalk nor should a topless woman be listed along side child molesters. Currently Penn State's Jerry Sandusky is accused of having sodomized eight children. If found guilty, he will be a registered sex offender for life; if a male and female both walk topless into Grossmont's tech mall--one of them might end up on the same list.

D'Agostino is a student at Grossmont College, working on her General Ed. Lindquist is Editor-in-Chief of the GCSummit russ.lindquist@gcsummit.com

Page minimums are bad

By Russ Lindquist

Written words best express ideas when the writer's aims are clarity and conciseness. Invariably. How concise can I be? How much must I write? Use enough for clarity of the idea, enough to fully explain the point--and absolutely no more. If a painter's goal is to attract viewers' eyes to a single dot on a canvas then how much more than the dot should that painter paint?

In the first couple weeks of November, I interviewed a dozen or so faculty members of academic subjects, especially professors of English. Effectively, I had only one question: "Can you offer--or even imagine--a justification for page minimums?"

Certainly, I can think of good reasons for page *maximums*; for example, teachers should be spared having to sift through the droning on of writing that is neither engaging nor focused.

(Continued on page 14)

Exhibit focuses on murders and torture of Mexicanas

By Nikki Ogilvie

Walking through the Hyde Art Gallery, I was drawn to photographs of two young women who could not have been much older than I am. Below the photos was a small shelf with informational packets and a bowl full of dried corn husks. I could not figure out what a bowl of husks had to do with these two photos, but as I looked closer, I noticed each husk had a name written on it. Curiosity took hold of me, and I picked up one of the packets sitting on the shelf and began to read a list of over 282 names, all of which were young Mexican women who had been murdered, beaten or mutilated in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Over the past 10 years, the Mexican city of Juarez has suffered the murder of 268 females and the disappearance of 250 more women. In 1999, the murders reached Chihuahua City. The horrible wave of violence against women in Mexico and Latin America is unfathomable, but worse, according to the exhibit materials, the Mexican authorities have done virtually nothing about it. The laws that currently exist are not being upheld and the legislation to regulate violence and sexual assault against women is desperately needed. There is no one single perpetrator, but "a generalized atmosphere of impunity facilitates all of them."

The simple liberties that all of us have come to expect, such as the right to live in safety and the right to due process, all have been repeatedly violated in Mexico. For years, the victims' families have led scores of protests and rallies against the authorities failure to respond and protect the citizens of the city. Justice For Our

Daughters (JFOD) was formed in 2002 in Chihuahua City, and is made up of the victims' families, supporters and legal advocates, all fighting for justice and human rights in Mexico. The group tries to call attention to the growing population of working young women in Mexico, and to end the stigmatization against women who must work to support themselves or their families.

JFOD also demands, "the creation of new laws to promote public safety, proper legal management of missing person cases and scientifically accurate identification of human remains." The protestors also demand that state officials who fail to uphold their duty to fulfill the laws should be punished. Further, JFOD contends, the Mexican State of Chihuahua, in its failure to protect the women, is "responsible for the perpetuation of these crimes", and should be subject to sanction from the international community.

The organization asserts that both families and supporters of the victims have been subjected to repression by agents of the Mexican State, just for demanding justice, seeking support from the international community and exercising their right of freedom of expression. The protestors have been beaten, falsely accused of crimes, defamed publicly and harassed, all because they fight for the rights that give their lost daughters justice.

JFOD has become a larger scale campaign, with protests held around the world on Dia De Los Muertos, the Mexican Day of The Dead, as well as marches held in America to the Mexican consulates. An online petition at press time had drawn 5,499 signatures -- myself being the 5,499th.

Personally, I have not been moved by something so much in quite some time. Standing in front of the photographs of Julieta Marlina Gonzalez Venezuela and Minerva Torres Albeldano, two faces of hundreds, I felt an emotion inside of me that had not been stirred in a long time. If I had seen an exhibit of every girls' photo, it would become so large in scale that it would not have felt real, but in seeing just two faces out of nearly 300, the reality of it became overwhelming. This is happening as we go about our daily lives, and, according to reports, officials just step aside and turn a blind eye. As for me, my eyes are now opened.

To sign the petition or get involved, you can go to:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/NIUNAMAS/petition.html>

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Page minimums... (Continued from page 13)

However, teachers' respective and collective decrees of page minimums often evoke boring, unfocused writing from students--writing aimed at, as much as anything else, filling up space. Invariably, the teachers agreed that is the students' tendency: to simply find ways to add words. I blame page minimums, the assignment of which I say is indefensible.

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SPORTS

Shane Pennix bound for Division I college football

By David Hurst

Defensive end Shane Pennix was a dominating force for the Griffins defense this year. The 6'4" 245 pound sophomore from El Cajon's Valhalla High School was a unanimous all-conference selection and is the only Griffin up for all state honors after leading the team in sacks with eight.

Pennix said the season is extra special considering he is El Cajon-born and bred. "It feels really good. It's always good to be one of the best on the team and one of the best in the local area."

There is no question that Pennix will take his talents to the next level. "I'm just trying to chase my dream of going to a D1 (Division 1A) college and hopefully making it to the league (National Football League)."

The NFL dream will have to wait a few years, but Pennix is in the process of fulfilling his dream of playing on Saturdays at the Division 1 level. Pennix has D1 offers from Nevada, USC, Iowa State, Arizona, Boise State, and Utah. USC and Boise State are perennial college football powerhouses, the others are definitely a relevant part of the college football landscape.

The El Cajon native says he doesn't mind leaving his roots if it's for the right fit. "Wherever I feel comfortable, it doesn't matter if I go out of state." Grossmont can take credit for Pennix as a student, but he was athletically D1 ready coming out of Valhalla. "I had five offers on the table out of high school but I got a little lazy on my grades and messed up on my SAT so I had to go the JUCO (junior college) route for two years. After this season I'll be good." He then credited Grossmont College for the education it provided him over the past two years. He is now academically eligible to play at a D1 school. "Yes Sir!" Pennix beamed, "my grades are good."

After making the game-winning interception against Fullerton in a 19-13 Grossmont victory earlier this season, Pennix credited the defense for making big play after big play.

Grossmont College fans and El Cajon natives alike can take pride in the fact that somewhere next season on television they may be able to catch Shane Pennix making big play after play at the Division 1 level.

Hurst is managing editor of the GC Summit. He may be contacted at david.hurst@gcsummit.com



Shane Pennix celebrates another great play (Photo: Andy Wilhelm)

Dunking fun at Grossmont

By Dylan Burke

The Associated Students of Grossmont College (ASGC) and the Inter Club Council (ICC) sponsored the Grossmont Fall Semester Festival in the quad Wednesday, Nov. 16, for the "improvement of student life." Among other things, that meant students possessing good pitching arms being able to dunk professors, administrators and others into a water tank.

One of the volunteers was Carmen Fuentes who said, "It is on my bucket list and it's not everyday you get to be dunked into the tank."

The purpose of this event, according to Roberta Steele of the Forgiven Christian Club, was "to have a good time in these tough times. With teachers giving their students a lot of work, give the students a break." ICC President, Dylan Keeling, also the ASGC vice president added, "The purpose is to get more of a presence on campus."

The cost for three throws was \$1. Perhaps for Grossmont students it was worth every penny to be able to dunk their respective class instructor in the water tank.

Burke is the sports editor of the GC Summit. He may be contacted at atdylan.burke@gcsummit.com

Motocross

racer shares life on the fast track

Story by Kellen Brauer

Editor's Note: Our mild-mannered news editor leads a very different life off campus. We asked him to share that life with GC Summit readers

During the month of October, I finally was able to make my long awaited debut racing a 450cc dirt bike. In my career of racing Motocross, I started out racing 80s, and then I raced a 100cc, then for the past three years was on a KTM 250f. Midway through 2011, I switched to what is known as the premier-size bike to ride and got a Honda 450f to go out and compete with.

Testing on the bike began in June and the buildup to get back racing again was growing. So my dad and I set the date in mid October to race at an International at Glen Helen Raceway in San Bernardino, an event that I had won twice before.



Being a weekend-long event with two races on Saturday and Sunday each, my father, my trainer, and I arrived on Friday and began preparing. As the sun rose Saturday morning, I was very eager to get out there and see where I stacked up against the competition. The weekend of racing consisted of four Motos (races) where the lowest score from all four Motos would win the overall event. I had high hopes but low expectations being my first race on the 450 and the first race in nearly a year.

As the gate dropped on Moto 1, I got a 5th place start out of 15 or so riders. Being that my race is combined with another class, it was hard to tell what my exact position was. I passed

**“ I had HIGH hopes
but LOW expectations ”**

one rider during the race and after the finish went to look at the official results. To my surprise, I finished second in my very first 450 race! I also realized that my competition who had won the first Moto was a gentleman I had raced before and beaten.

Now I had the fire in my belly so to speak and was amped up for Moto 2. When the gate dropped, I got about a fourth place start and was right behind the leader of my class. I put my head down and stuck with him as best as I could. My arms began to pump up and he slowly pulled away.

Shortly after, he caught lap traffic and before I knew it, we were wheel to wheel again. As the white flag waved and the final lap started, I knew it was time to make a move and did it on the first big uphill. I made a small mistake at the bottom of the second uphill and he got to the inside and made the pass back. In a last-ditch effort I swung way wide out of the final corner and we went over the finish side by side. Unfortunately, I was a hair behind and finished the day with 2-2 scores. Though frustrated at the loss, I was very excited at how well I rode and was looking forward to Sunday.

For the rest of the story, search “Kellen Motocross” on www.gcsommit.com

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