

The

# SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | FEBRUARY 2015

*Lights, Camera, Summit!*

## THE MOVIE ISSUE

BLACK HISTORY FILMS  
50 SHADES OF GREY  
AMERICAN SNIPER  
AWARD PICKS



MUSIC FESTIVALS | SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW | MEET THE PRESIDENT

# Table of Contents

FEBRUARY 2015

## 6 Rod's Reel Referrals

Celebrate Black History Month with Rodney Ousley's film picks.

## 8 Mr. Grey Will See You Now

The much-anticipated "50 Shades" hits the big screens, but how does it match up to the book?

## 10 A Timely Performance

American hustler Bradley Cooper wows in *American Sniper*.

## 12 Coming Into Focus

It may be young, but Grossmont's baseball team is poised to shine.

## 14 The Flood Comes in

Get to know Tim Flood, Grossmont's new interim president.

## 16 Adjuncts Show They're Essential

Adjunct faculty plans rallies to showcase its importance to higher education.

## 18 Festival Season

Check out some of the hottest music festivals.

## 19 A Kick-Start to Kicking Butt

The career center is a great starting point for your perfect vocation.

## 20 Theater Preview

*Romeo and Juliet* and Shel Silverstein are these month's stars.

## 22 February Trends

Visit your one-shop stop for spring fashion, beauty tips and celebrity updates.

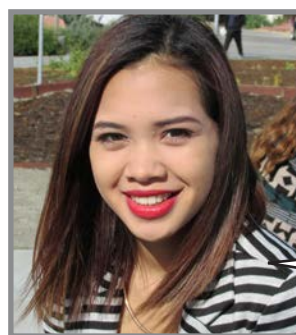


# CAMPUS LOVE LINES

What's the worst pickup line you've ever heard?

Your hair's a little short for your age.

—Cambria Ruth



Do your feet hurt? Because you've been running through my head all day.

—Ari Blanco

What's the best pickup line you've ever used?

You have your body for the whole year, I just want it for one night.

—Austin Hopwood



I went out to dinner with this girl and her ex-boyfriend showed up and fist fought me in the middle of the restaurant.

—Adam Diaz

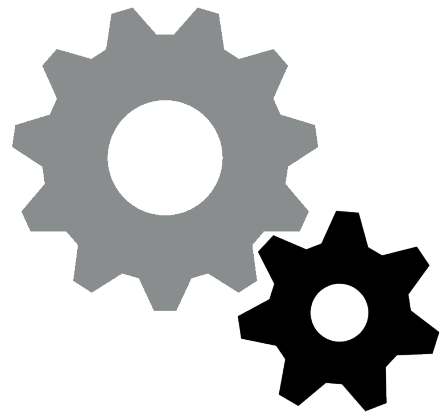
What's the worst date you've ever had?

One time I put my crush's favorite perfume and a bear in her locker, and she friend-zoned me.

—Samuel Heidtbrink



# GET INTO GEAR



The start of a new semester is a great time to refocus.

| BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ |

**W**elcome back Grossmont Griffins! A new semester welcomes us with open arms and minds. Getting back into gear can be tough for some students, especially when having such a long break off and indulging in extreme relaxation. The campus is filled with many studious young adults hoping to build their futures, and the school is booming with helpful resources. That should help Grossmont students like Dallus Lanz, who said, “My goal for this semester is to finally buckle down and apply for a transfer to a CSU, and I plan to achieve my goal by consistently working.”

Here are some tips to stay motivated throughout the rest of the semester:

## TAKE ONE THING AT A TIME.

The worst mistake students can make is putting off their work, or trying to complete too much at once.

Take the time this semester to plan ahead and pick certain times to do certain assignments. It is essential to break up work evenly to cut out stress.

## GET SOME REST.

There is a fine line between taking a nap during class and getting the appropriate rest while at home.

Don't be that kid falling asleep in class this semester; do the right thing by not staying out at all hours of the night and by getting the essential eight hours a sleep a night during the weekdays. The weekend is a different story.

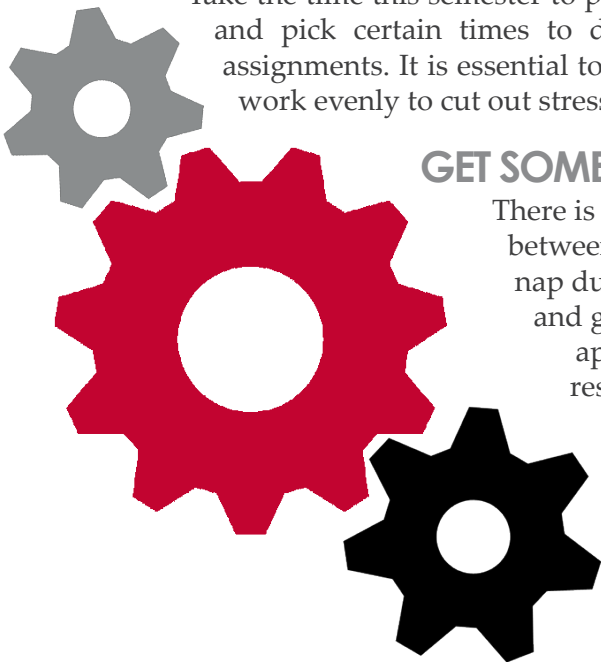
## PUT DOWN THE PHONE

Erase the text, tweet, hashtag, like, reblog or email. Put that cell phone down during class— and throw it to the bottom of your backpack or purse. When class starts to get boring, the first thing students tend to do is check their social media. Once there, that endless scrolling could send you completely off track and make you miss out on vital information during class.

Grossmont English 120 instructor Micah Jendian gave some quick and easy tips to help students get motivated for the semester:

1. **Maximize EVERY learning opportunity** (and virtually everything in school and out of school provides us an opportunity to learn and grow).
2. **Set yourself for success.** Be realistic about what you have on your plate; don't let over-commitments outside of school lead to an under-commitment to your learning.
3. **Go personally introduce yourself to your professors** if you haven't already. (They are people, too.)

Let's make this semester a good one, Grossmont. Focus on your school priorities and try to make some more progress.





## SUMMIT CONTRIBUTORS



**Dorion Billingslea** writes about fashion and entertainment. He loves that he is able to write about what he's passionate about. He said he's already learned a lot from being at The Summit and writing news. So far this school year has gone well for him, and he said he hopes it continues that way with great people.

**Dylan Haugh** is in his second semester on The Summit. He enjoys exploring the outdoors and hitting the beach. Haugh gets "pretty retro" with his music and is a big fan of The Doors and Led Zeppelin. He enjoys writing about sports is his top ambition, and he's played basketball, soccer and baseball for many years.



**Sheridan Martinez** has been The Summit's editor-in-chief for two years, and this is her final semester as editor. She loves writing about the dance department, hard new stories and opinion pieces. A journalism major, Martinez would like to transfer to SDSU and become a journalist/editor-in-chief of a major magazine in the future.

**Martha Mundo** is a staff writer for The Summit. Her beats include the Academic Senate and Faculty Federation, as well as visual arts. She also covers the Hyde Gallery, which is currently featuring "Fragmented Phenomena," a showcase of three contemporary, ceramic-based artists from the Los Angeles area through March 5.



**Rodney Ousley** is a Navy vet who loves stand-up comedy, writing and the Knicks. A self-diagnosed Netflix junkie, he speaks almost entirely in movie quotes, and his favorite compliment is, "You have a great taste in movies." When he's not on the couch, you can catch Ousley playing basketball or long distance running. He also makes himself laugh...a lot.

**Ashley Stout** is the deputy editor of The Summit. This is her first year writing for the magazine, and she is eager to produce many stories. Stout loves writing, making videos for her YouTube channel and doing yoga in her free time. She is a journalism major who hopes to transfer to SDSU and eventually write for a big-time fashion magazine in Los Angeles.



**Lara Talib** is in her second semester at Grossmont, and this is her first semester writing for The Summit. She wants to major in journalism while minoring in Arabic. She loves to read, write and swim, and the beach is her favorite place ever.

**Elias Totah** is a first-year college student at Grossmont who would like to major in journalism and communications. He loves breaking down sports and sharing his knowledge on all kinds of news stories. He has his own sports blog as well ([elissports.sportsblog.com](http://elissports.sportsblog.com)). Totah was a staff writer at West Hills High School for three years, and is always looking for opportunities to write, anywhere and anytime.



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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

**A**ccording to Chinese astrology, 2015 is the Year of the Ram, which means it should be a year of promise and prosperity. Come celebrate in a joyous Chinese New Year celebration, funded by the World Arts and Cultures Committee and hosted by the World Languages Department.

On **Feb. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**, there will be a host of activities celebrating Chinese culture on the main quad. White Dragon Martial Arts will perform **Lion Dancing**, one of the Chinese New Year festivities, and Shaolin martial arts for an hour.

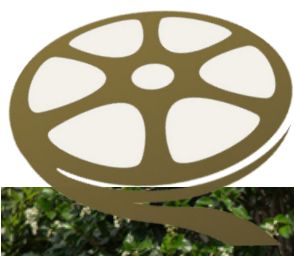
Clair K. Liu, adviser to the Chinese Club, will also give a presentation, will kick off the event with a brief talk on the significance of the new year in Chinese culture. This event is open to the public, and there will be **free Chinese New Year food for tasting**.



COURTESY OF THE CHINESE CLUB

▲ White Dragon Martial Arts performs a Chinese lion dance.





# Rod's Reel Referrals

"SELMA" STILL, COURTESY OF HOPOHBATTLE.COM



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

Since 1976, February has been the designated month dedicated to the celebration of the arts, culture, and accomplishments of the African-American community. In keeping with these traditions, I have compiled a short list of some of my personal favorite films that both educate and entertain, making them my current must-sees of the month.

### CURRENTLY IN THEATERS: *SELMA*

*Directed by Ava DuVernay. Starring David Oyelowo, Tim Roth and Oprah Winfrey. 2014.*

A historical film based on a series of protests and marches that took place in Selma, Ala., in support of equal voting rights in the American South in 1965, "Selma" is a rousing drama that retells the events leading to one of the most noteworthy triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement; the eradication of adverse voter registration laws in the South.

Told primarily through the eyes of one of the most prolific figures in American history, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this movie acts as part feature film and part documentary, as it juxtapositions between the actors and real-life stock

footage of the actual events that occurred. Even the narration of Dr. King's movement throughout the film is presented by real-life logs and records from the FBI, who were monitoring his every move during the time the film took place.

### STREAMING ON NETFLIX: *THE LOVING STORY*

*Directed by Nancy Buirski. 2011.*

A gripping documentary that tells the true life story of Mildred and Richard Loving, the interracial couple who bravely lobbied the Supreme Court and brought about the overturn of anti-miscegenation laws that criminalized interracial marriage in the United States.

Mildred, an African-American housewife turned civil rights activist, and Richard, a Caucasian son of a rural working-class laborer, shocked the small town community of Central Point, Va., by getting married in Washington, D.C., in 1958. The Lovings were arrested and ordered to leave that state. They were only allowed to return home to visit their Virginia families separately with their children, but never together as a couple. Mildred decided to take



a stand, and over the course of a nearly 10-year battle with the Supreme Court, the Lovings prevailed and helped change the face of the American modern family.

### ON DVD/BLU RAY: **MALCOLM X**

*Directed by Spike Lee. Starring Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett and Al Freeman, Jr. 1992.*

Based on the autobiography of the same name, this classic film deeply examines the life of African-American activist Malcolm X, from his humble beginnings as a small-time criminal, to his eventually incarceration where he finds solace with Elijah Muhammad (Freeman), the leader of the Nation of Islam. He finds his destiny by becoming one of the most powerful and efficacious leaders in recorded history.

Representing the stark contrast to the peaceful protests of Dr. King's nonviolent resistance movement, the drive and determination of Malcolm X and his followers stemmed from the utter frustrations within the black community in a time when violence and injustice were the norm. This film accurately portrays the slightly darker perspective of the Civil Rights Movement, not always fully represented in history texts, that accurately portray the individuals who were willing to take up arms, lay down their lives and overcome racial inequality by any means necessary.



## Grossmont honors black history in month-long celebration.

The spirit of Black History Month is alive and well at Grossmont College for the month of February, as the campus presents a myriad of artistic, thought-provoking and even delicious activities for students to totally immerse themselves into the culture sharing experience.

The festivities **began Feb. 9, with Dr. Antoinette Linton**, a guest speaker from California State University, Fullerton and her lecture series "A New Perspective of Science Lecture Hall Engagement: How to Get Your Mind Right for Class." This event was followed by the **Feb. 11 screening of "Something the Lord Made,"** the story of the black pioneer heart surgeon Vivien Thomas, and the Feb. 19 showing of "American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs," a documentary on the Chinese-American civil rights activist.

Rounding up the mid-month activities was the **African American Read-In on Feb. 17**, a pro-literacy and African American authors appreciation rally that was originated by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. Hosted by Grossmont College English professor Sydney Brown and student guidance counselor "T" Ford, faculty and students gathered to read excerpts from famous African American authors in the tradition of the first sit-in held in 1989.

If you missed out on any these exciting events, there is still plenty more to come. A **black male/female relationships workshop will be held Feb. 26** in Griffin Gate, at 11:30 a.m. And the Grossmont College Choir will be presenting a choral reading of award-winning poet Margaret Walker's piece **"For My People" on Feb. 26** at 7 p.m. in Building 26, Room 220.

Finally, the Grossmont Griffin Center Grill has been presenting **"Jazz Kitchen, A Taste of Africa" menu specials every Wednesday** of the month. The final one will be held Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This specialty menu boasts authentic South African culinary delights such as Ethiopian peanut chicken soup, Sukuma Wiki greens and coconut pie.

—Rodney Ousley



# MR. GREY WILL SEE YOU NOW

The much-anticipated “50 Shades” hits the big screens, but how does it match up to the book?

| BY LARA TALIB |

The highly anticipated book-turned-movie “Fifty Shades of Grey,” starring Dakota Johnson as Anastasia Steele and Jamie Dornan as the ever-so-intriguing Christian Grey, came out on Valentine’s Day weekend. Fans of this book have been waiting for this movie for quite some time, considering the book came out in 2011. Finally the wait is over, and Christian can seduce all of us through the big screen as well.

The book follows Anastasia Steele, an inexperienced literature student who gets entangled in the web of Christian Grey, who is a very charming, very beautiful, very erotic man. Anastasia cannot help but become quickly seduced by Christian when she interviews him for the school newspaper, and Christian also becomes quickly enthralled with this mysterious girl. But, like most men, Christian comes with baggage, a mysterious past and a very strange fetish for BDSM. Most logical women who aren’t trapped by Christian’s looks and success would run for the hills, and fast, but Anastasia doesn’t. She agrees to become his sex slave, even though she knows deep down nothing good can come of it.

The book gets very sexual, and very fast. The very first sex scene came within the first 10 chapters.

Although captivating, it was too erotic for my—and plenty of others’—tastes. As many fans may know, the ever-so-famous tampon scene between Christian and Anastasia has been cut out of the movie. In an interview with *Variety*, Director Sam Taylor-Johnson said it “was never even discussed as being a part of the movie and was never going to be shot.”

The movie was supposed to have both an NC-17 (no one under 18 allowed even with an adult) version and a R-rated (no one under 17 allowed without an adult) version was supposed to be released as well, but because of budget issues, that idea was quickly thrown out the window. The final rating from the MPAA is R-rated for “strong sexual content, including unusual behavior, dialogue and graphic nudity and language.” The number-one thing people are most concerned about is just how sexual the movie actually is. It’s estimated that the movie has 20 total minutes of sex scenes, which is about a fifth of the movie.

When it came down to it, the movie was pretty horrible. The acting was subpar, and there was close to no chemistry between Anastasia and Christian. The sex scenes were awkward to watch; the director did an amazing job at

portraying Christian as someone he totally is not in the book, and emphasizing Anastasia’s awkwardness. Throughout the entire movie, Christian said several things he never would have said in the book, and although he did say, “I’m fifty shades of f-ed up” in the book, the placement of this part in the movie had more people snickering than actually feeling sorry for him.

Viewers don’t really get the chance to hear Christian’s back story on why he is the way he is because the movie is primarily focused on Anastasia, so it makes it seem like Christian is just this horrible guy and Anastasia is just this dumb girl who is in complete lust. Grossmont student, Alyssa Hynic said: “I don’t want to watch it because it got horrible reviews, and it sort of supports sexual abuse.”

The sex scenes throughout the movie were short enough to the point where it didn’t seem like viewers were watching a porno, so it definitely shouldn’t be considered erotica. On the other hand, the few scenes in which Christian is “punishing” Anastasia were really hard to watch for some viewers. There were definitely a few people cringing at the idea of being punished at the hands of Christian Grey. *Cont. on next page.*



Critics of the book's main problem was that "Fifty Shades of Grey" was on the verge of being very abusive, and didn't show off a healthy sexual relationship between two people. Christian made Anastasia, and all the other women he had relations with, sign an agreement between the two stating in full detail what was expected of both parties—not limited to bondage, whippings, and making sure that Christian was referred to as either, "Mr. Grey" or "Sir." The movie did a good job of keeping the sex scenes, although plentiful, pretty short.

The audience sees Anastasia's full body naked, but not Christian's—just his butt and his abs, but never his frontal area. The book itself didn't show off a healthy relationship between two people, but seeing it first hand on the big screen definitely

added to that notion. Grossmont student Ranier Martinez said: "I wouldn't have even watched the movie if I didn't read the books, it (the book) was such a let down."

Overall, the book was okay, and the movie was not. Critics on IMDb.com gave it four out of 10 stars, which is totally justifiable. The only good thing about the movie was the soundtrack and Jamie Dornan. The only good thing about the book was the cute relationship between Anastasia and her best friend Kate. More people are probably watching the movie because they read the books and are curious. Either way, people are still watching it, even with the horrible reviews. According to theguardian.com, "Fifty Shades of Grey" has surpassed "Avatar" with \$248 million just on its opening weekend.



IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDb.COM

#### GOOD IDEA

Watching "50 Shades" with...

- Your significant other
- Your BFF
- Yourself

#### BAD IDEA

Watching it with...

- Your parents or grandparents
- Your siblings
- Someone you just met

## INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWN DANCE COMPANY TO VISIT CAMPUS.



IMAGES COURTESY OF NDT



The Nederlands Dans Theater, one of the world's most well-known dance companies, will showcase two special events at Grossmont on **Saturday, Feb. 21**. This is the first time the Dutch contemporary dance company will be in San Diego in 50 years.

Founded in 1964, the Nederlands Dans Theater has three different companies—its original NDT, as well as its junior company NDT 2 (ages 17-22) and NDT 3 for more advanced dancers (ages 40 and above).

NDT will offer two events at Grossmont. There are 50 spots available in the **NDT Workshop**: An Intermediate Contemporary Master Dance Class. There will also be an **Open Rehearsal and Q&A** with NDT 2. Both events will be held in Building 42, Room 001.

Grossmont dance chair Kathy Meyer, said she's excited students can take this opportunity to learn from one of the most well-recognized modern dance companies.

—Sheridan Martinez

**NDT WORKSHOP, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Cost: \$10 for Grossmont students; \$25 for the public.

**NDT 2 OPEN REHEARSAL/Q&A, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**

Cost: \$10 for Grossmont students; \$20 for the public.

PURCHASE  
TICKETS  
ONLINE AT  
EVENTBRITE.  
COM



# A TIMELY PERFORMANCE

American Hustler Bradley Cooper wows in *American Sniper*.

| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

**D**irected by the quintessential American gun-slinging movie icon, Clint Eastwood (“Gran Torino,” “Dirty Harry”), “American Sniper” offers a rare glimpse into a harrowing depiction of the post 9/11 war on terrorism coupled with one man’s struggle to balance the responsibilities of family and patriotism in this Academy Award-nominated drama.

Based on the 2012 best-selling autobiography of the same name, “American Sniper” recounts the life and times of the man deemed the most lethal sniper in US military history—Christopher Kyle, aptly nicknamed “The Legend” by his fellow servicemen and “The Devil of Ramadi” by the terrorist insurgents he hunted. Oscar-nominee Bradley Cooper (“American Hustle,” “Silver Linings Playbook”) portrays the enigmatic Kyle as the film chronicles his military career, during which he is credited with more than 150 confirmed kills during four tours of

duty in Iraq while simultaneously trying to maintain a family life with his long-suffering wife, Taya Kyle, portrayed by Golden Globe-nominee Sienna Miller (“The Girl,” “G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra”).

Cooper absolutely conquers this role with emotional, as well as physical, depth, as the actor completely

**This film spares no details on the harshness that war can bring, but it differs by taking into consideration the effects these decisions can have on a man’s soul.**

transformed his body by gaining 40 pounds of muscle and embarking on the rigorous Navy SEAL training program prior to shooting the film. Physical appearance aside, Cooper also expertly conveys the psychological conflict of a serviceman’s commitment to duty, coupled with the traumatizing aftereffects of PTSD. Cooper recently earned his third Oscar nomination

in a row, and rightly so, for his most recent performance in this film.

The film itself also garnered six Oscar nods in total, including Best Picture. The numerous sniper mission scenes are equally as thrilling as they are emotionally wrenching, providing the audience with first-hand accounts of the judgment call of whether or not it is necessary to take a life, seen directly through the scope of Kyle’s rifle. Director Eastwood is known for his no-holds-barred approach to grit and violence, but this film never takes the consequences of these decisions lightly, as what tends to happen in more fantasy-based action and war films.

But this film is not without its flaws. For instance, some of the disparities between the novel and film, while common in almost all film adaptations, are made even more prevalent due to the recent proven inaccuracies surrounding the validity of Kyle’s accounts.



These tall tales range from Kyle claiming to have pummeled former Minnesota governor and popular professional wrestling star Jesse Ventura in a bar fight, to sniping looters during Hurricane Katrina. The many holes in Kyle's story, coupled with the cartoonishly off-putting mechanized prop babies that were awkwardly passed back and forth between Cooper and Miller in nursery scenes early in the film, have attributed a wealth of hilarious Internet memes as well as to much of the controversy currently surrounding this film.

Speaking of controversy, there is, of course, the outcry from members of the Middle-Eastern and Islamic communities on the negative overall representation of the people of the Iraqi region. Obviously, this is a story told through the eyes of an American Navy Seal, but there is not one singular redeeming quality or character from the "opposing team" to offer more balance in the film in order to present itself a little less like a pro-American propaganda snuff piece. The story is told from a completely one-sided perspective, as practically every Iraqi citizen Kyle encounters inevitably turns out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

"American Sniper" is an amazing film and, quite frankly, is needed now in a time where tweens regularly obliterate hordes of enemies with gunfire in video games and witness countless murders with reckless abandonment on television and movies. While rated R, this film spares no details on the harshness that war can bring, but it differs by taking into consideration the effects these decisions can have on a man's soul.



## GRIFFIN-SPEAK

The **Grossmont Speech Team** took home third place at the SDSU and Point Loma Swing Tournament, held Feb. 6 to 8. Students also brought back several individual awards, including Brian King, who won first place in Novice Division Extemporaneous Speaking; Hannah Conway, who took third in Novice Division Prose; and Cameron Martin, who placed third in both Open Division Poetry and Open Division Dramatic Duo with Kian Kline. Congratulations, Griffins!

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# COMING INTO FOCUS

It may be young, but the  
men's baseball team is  
poised to shine.

| BY ELIAS TOTAH |

PHOTO BY ELIAS TOTAH

**A** game against Victor Valley was all Grossmont's baseball team needed to make itself presentable for all of the county to watch. Coming out with a 7-4 victory on Jan. 31, Grossmont showed how well it could perform offensively by hitting the ball effectively.

Second baseman Tanner Perry showcased his abilities, going 4-5 with two doubles and two singles in a win against Victor Valley. Other players contributed and showcased a stellar performance as well. Center fielder Keith Kruger went 2-4 with two singles and two fly-outs, and first baseman Georges Garcia had a game for himself with a 2-4 hitting performance.

After the game, head coach Randy Abshier discussed his roster and how he feels about this upcoming season. "Our lineup is potent, though, it is a learning process," Abshier said.

Of the 30 players on the team, 22 are freshmen. "Youth" is definitely a key word that comes to mind. Abshier feels that going young and starting fresh is the route to go. Six seniors went on to play at four-year universities, but Abshier

**"With a great mixture of pitching and hitting, the sky's the limit for what this team can accomplish this season."**

**—Head Coach Randy Abshier**

still feels confident in his group of guys to win. He was very excited to talk about his team, and individual players as well, especially the stellar performance of second baseman Tanner Perry. He has great athletic ability to put the ball in play and he has great ball placement. With Perry's ability to hit the ball effectively, Grossmont

can contend for a league title— if Perry consistently hits the ball the way he did against Victor Valley.

What really stood out was the way the pitching staff performed. Abshier rotated through four pitchers throughout the game. To start, right-hander Shawn Walker pitched well through five innings, and the bullpen performance did its job as well. Grossmont allowed four runs on 11 hits, which is exceptional.

Freshman outfielder D.J. Lewis was excited about the team's performance: "We kept our foot on the gas pedal and never let up."

Abshier agreed. "With a great mixture of pitching and hitting, the sky's the limit for what this team can accomplish this season," he said.

**Breakout Players: 2B Tanner Perry- 4-5, two doubles, two singles | CF Keith Kruger- 2-4, two singles | 1B Georges Garcia- 2-4, two singles.**





# SPRING SPORTS OVERVIEW

Root, root, root for the home team!

| BY DYLAN HAUGH |

## Women's Sand Volleyball

This is the inaugural season for sand volleyball for Grossmont and 17 other California community colleges who are geographically separated into four divisions.

According to the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) website, it's the first sport to be added in a while: "After years of discussion and great perseverance from many individuals and organizations, women's sand volleyball has officially become the 24th CCCCCAA sanctioned sport. This is the first new sport sponsored by the CCCCCAA since women's badminton was added in 2000 and women's golf in 1995."

The Griffins begin their new season with a familiar face at head coach, **Jamie Ivers**, who also coaches women's volleyball at Grossmont. Ivers has quite the beach volleyball pedigree, having won the illustrious Manhattan Open, the mecca of volleyball tournaments in the United States. The Griffins open their season at home on **March 13** at 10 a.m.

## Men's Volleyball

Former Griffin and current head coach **Travis Lee** hasn't skipped a beat since becoming the man with the whistle in 2012. In his first season, he took the Griffins to their best ever finish, eventually losing in the California State Finals. He leads a poised Griffin unit that has vengeance on its mind after being bounced in three-straight sets in the first round of the 2014 State Championship. The Griffins still have eight home games left on the docket this season, so go fill up the gym! The next home game is against Long Beach on **Feb. 20**.

## Women's Softball

After a thrilling 2014 season that saw the Griffins finish second in league, the season would culminate in the first round of the CCCCCAA Softball Southern Regionals at the hands of Cypress College. After a meager 14-20 first year, Head Coach **Doug Hartung** has turned the program around with two straight appearances in regionals and an impressive 45-34 record in that span. The Griffins first league game is set for Wednesday, Feb. 18 versus the defending Pacific Coast champs Palomar, who went 18-0 in league play last season.

## Men's Baseball

Griffin's skipper **Randy Abshier** enters his 11th season at the helm. Griffins baseball has been a rejuvenated powerhouse the past two seasons (47-26), cranking out two consecutive seasons with more than 20 wins, and the program saw nine Griffins receive scholarships to

play college ball at four-year universities. Coach Abshier has a crop of young talent this season, with an unprecedented 22 freshmen on the roster. He had this to say about his standout freshman second baseman, **Tanner Perry**: "He's a guy that should have been somewhere out of high school, he's that good." Check out Perry's skills at the next home game versus East Los Angeles on **Feb. 20** at 2 p.m.

## Women's Badminton

After only playing four games last year; Grossmont added four more games to the schedule, along with four tournaments. More exposure and competition is sure to help this budding program. Head Coach **Bill Gillespie**, who also teaches exercise science at Grossmont, has the reigns again. The badminton team will open up its season **Feb. 28** at the Grossmont Tournament.

## Men's/Women's Swim and Dive

With the exception of Feb. 22, the men's and women's swim and dive will be competing at the same locations for each meet. **Brian Harvey** is the head coach of the men's team, while **Larry Larsen** oversees the women's team. There are **three dual meets** in San Diego County: At Southwestern on March 3, Palomar on March 15, and San Diego Mesa on March 22. All the events begin at 2 p.m.

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# THE FLOOD COMES IN

Get to know Grossmont College's interim president.

| BY DORION BILLINGSLEA |

When former Grossmont College president Dr. Sunita Cooke left to be the new superintendent/president at MiraCosta College last month, there was a small void. But don't panic, the school has a great man named Tim Flood filling in.

Flood, who has been Grossmont's vice president for the last five years, will act as interim president while a search committee searches for an official replacement by next fall. So who is the man behind the helm?

Born in Tacoma, Wash., Tim Flood moved to San Diego when he was 2 years old. Throughout high school, he transferred through several schools but managed to graduate to try to pursue college. Flood went to Grossmont right out of high school, but then decided to leave because of work pressures.

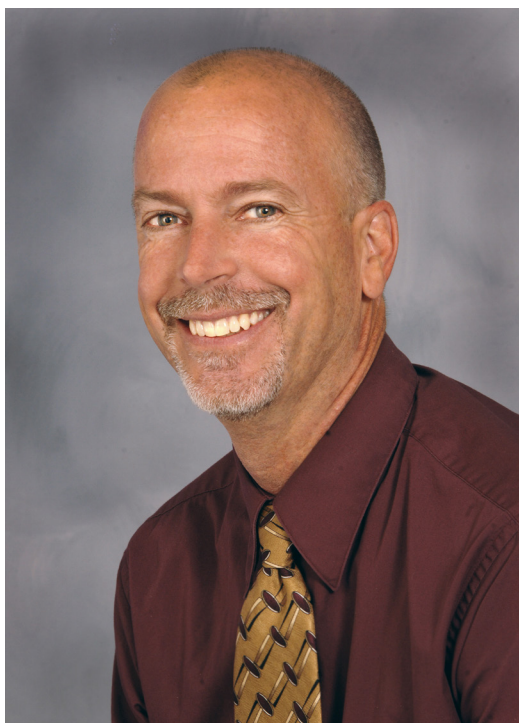
Flood has held many jobs, including being a groundskeeper, laborer and heavy equipment operator in the maintenance department of Grossmont Union High School District. At the same time, he worked a second job as a custodian with Bullocks Department Store in Grossmont Center to help make ends meet.

Realizing he wanted to go back to school, Flood returned to Grossmont College as an adult re-entry student.

"I was scared to death and questioning myself," admitted Flood, who was apprehensive to come back to college as an adult. He said he thought that people would look at him and ask, "Why is a man this old in college?"

But Flood was able to break that fear by realizing that everyone in college is just there to get an education. He also had his family and professors who helped him in the process.

"Everyone should have that one mentor or friend to help them



▲ Tim Flood | Photo by Stephen Harvey

through college," advised Flood, who earned his associate degree at Grossmont before moving on to National University, where he received a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in public administration.

Now as the Grossmont College's interim president, Flood said it has been really interesting to be a higher level up from being vice president.

"Bringing the right people to the table, putting in recommendations—

and it's even more non-stop, but I have a passion for it," he said, adding that it's not too different from being vice president, just with more responsibility and a greater sense of the whole institution.

Other than working, Flood enjoys surfing, which he has been doing since middle school, and spending time with his wife and two sons. He said he considers his family to be his greatest accomplishment. "Marrying my wife has to be one of my biggest accomplishments because she is out of my league," Flood said. His other big accomplishment would have to be getting his master's degree.

Taking on the president's position also comes with some fears about accepting such a big job. He admitted he has felt nervous and has had a particular fear of letting everyone down.

"When you're in the footsteps of a past president like Sunita Cooke, you want to try to be as good as she was," he explained. "She encouraged me to take the spot, but I'm really excited for her, and I'm thankful for everything she has done." Flood added that he's grateful to have a wonderful staff to help him, so he knows he won't let anyone down.

Many students struggle through college, and Flood knows what those students are going through because of how he struggled both mentally and sometimes financially.

"Continue to work hard for what you want and never give up," he said. "Keep pursuing your goal and dreams no matter how hard it gets."





PHOTO BY ELIAS TOTAH

▲ Sophomore Ali Majidzada shoots a free throw.

## RIVAL COURTSHIP

### Grossmont battles Cuyamaca.

| BY ELIAS TOTAH |

If any game meant more for the Grossmont Griffins, it was this one. Each time a team steps on the court, it always wants to make a statement to its opponent, but that's never more true than when you face your rival—in this case, Cuyamaca College.

The Griffins took care of business with a 59-46 win over its sister college on Feb. 4, thanks to a lot of talent that contributed to this victory.

Guard Kaelen Mitchell ended the night with 16 points and three rebounds. He shot the ball well, and Cuyamaca seemed to have no strategy to stop him. Mitchell led the Griffins in scoring, and also contributed mightily defensively.

The second leading scorer, guard Robert Romero, played great basketball as well, adding 13 points and eight rebounds to Grossmont's stat line. Ali Majidzada, a sophomore standout from Mira Mesa also contributed seven points and six rebounds for the Griffins.

The key player in this game was guard Shane Shelton, who played great defense, stealing the ball three times. Shelton's energy is what sparked Grossmont to open up a big lead on Cuyamaca and ultimately win the game.

Sophomore talent Martin Panayotov said he was proud of his team's performance: "We played well tonight. A true all-around game we displayed out there."

Cuyamaca freshman guard Chase Parsons said he thought his team could have played much better: "We are better than this. It did not show tonight, but we are."

Each time Grossmont is up against Cuyamaca, it's a battle. This time, Grossmont played promising ball and commanded the entire game, not letting its rival have control of the lead once.

## INTERNATIONAL FACES



This is **Raizo Yukawa**, an international student from Kobe City, Japan. This is his second year at Grossmont College, and his last semester before he goes off to either San Diego State or Cal State Long Beach. Raizo said he loves the San Diego weather, the friendly people and the beautiful beaches, which he was surprised to find are much cleaner than Japan's. After his time here in California, Yukawa said he plans on going back to Japan and pursuing his economic major. —**Lara Talib**

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## ADJUNCTS TO SHOW THEY'RE ESSENTIAL

For most who do not know what “adjunct” means, it’s “a thing added to something else as a supplementary, rather than an essential part,” according to Merriam-Webster. At many colleges, including, many teachers from Grossmont, City and Mesa Colleges are referred to as “adjuncts.” However, many take issue with the idea of adjunct faculty being “unessential.” In reality, **many colleges rely heavily on adjunct faculty.**

In education, an “adjunct professor” is considered an instructor who is not yet full-time faculty, so he or she takes on any classes from their choice of study, be it math, English, foreign languages, etc. at different schools--kind of like a substitute teacher, but for the entire semester. Because they do not have full-time positions, or the benefits that go with them, many adjunct professors work at multiple schools, adding up to the equivalent of several part-time jobs.

It can be a tough road, and this month, many adjuncts want to bring that issue to light across the

nation through National Adjunct Day. Held Feb. 25, the protest is hosted by labor groups.

The idea was proposed via social media by a San Jose University adjunct professor, who wanted to have **a day where adjunct faculty walk out to grab the colleges' attentions** and increase their support.

At Grossmont, tables will be set up to talk from Feb. 23-25 about the

money that needs to be put into the California state budget towards adjunct needs. They will have letters, stamps and envelopes for students

to send to the governor and other important figures in Sacramento.

The rallies will begin the day of the walkout in the main centers of the schools; **the Grossmont rally will be held at 2 p.m. in front of the LRTC.** Hosts have strongly encouraged other professors to bring their classes, saying it will be a great learning experience to let students know what is really going on in their campuses.

—Ashley Stout and Sheridan Martinez

## MAINTENANCE

There is new and improved renovation in certain areas on campus, and Ken Emmons, chair and director of facilities, said more projects at Grossmont College are still to come over the semester.

Over the summer, the facilities department took down Building 38A, a modular-type building, and put together Parking Lot 88 to replace the area. Key repairs and potholes in the roads were a big fix.

Emmons, who has been the director of facilities since May 2013, brought along nearly a decade of experience working for Gafcon, a construction services company. These skills will come in handy next summer with the replacement of street lights around Grossmont, a remodel of the arts and communications buildings, all of the pool equipment being replaced, and the renovation of Parking Lots 2, 3, 4 and 4A, totaling up approximately 60 projects that Grossmont has to address.

Lighting upgrades are also on the agenda. Facilities has already installed LED lighting in a few areas around campus, and is looking to upgrade more of the buildings with lighting issues. Emmons and his team have some work to do with developments to make this campus sparkle.

—Elias Totah

### ad • junct

#### Noun

A non-essential component; something intended to be used for supplementary reasons.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, FEB. 21

#### Grossmont Open House

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Free parking, tour and info

#### Salsa Master Dance Class with Michael John Saltus (42-001)

10:30 a.m. to noon | \$10 admission

### MONDAY, FEB. 23

#### “Flow” documentary (Griffin Gate)

6 to 8:30 p.m. | Free screening in student center

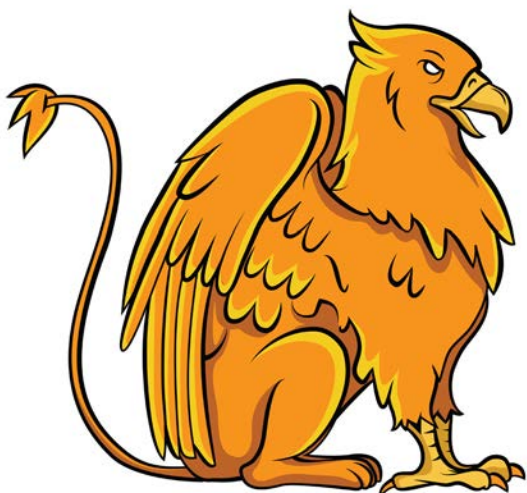
### THURSDAY, FEB. 26

#### California Dream Act Workshop, FAFSA Q&A (Griffin Gate)

6 to 7 p.m. | Free workshop in student center

#### Grossmont College Chorus Performance (26-220)

7 to 8 p.m. | Free performance





# HEALTH NEWS

## EARN A BS IN NURSING ON CAMPUS

The nursing program at Grossmont has been taken to a new level. Starting next fall, all nursing students can continue their education through Point Loma Nazarene University without even leaving the Grossmont College campus.

The two colleges recently announced the partnership that will allow students to **earn a bachelor's degree in nursing through a community college**. Each fall and spring semester, a select 25 will be chosen to be in this special program.

Still receiving the same level of education, the tuition for this accelerated degree program is \$16,200—several thousand less than it would cost with room and board at the Point Loma college. A university advisor from Point Loma will be hired full-time to offer scholarships and enrollment assistance for the students.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for our graduates to benefit from Point Loma University's excellent nursing program," said former Grossmont president Dr. Sunita Cooke.

Dr. Bob Brower, the president of Point Loma Nazarene, agreed: "Together we can better meet workforce demand and support student success."

With this program, the community's need for nurses with bachelor's degrees will be filled quickly, building new possibilities for future students.

—Ashley Stout

## FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Grossmont College has acquired a new type of health resource that is now available **completely free to Grossmont students** who are currently enrolled at the school. This semester the health services department has welcomed Matthew Ring, a licensed mental health counselor, to help students with more than just their physical health.

So far, individual, couples and group mental health counseling is available. **Counseling for all types of personal issues are now offered**, including: Alcohol, drug, gambling and Internet addictions; cultural issues and adjustments; depression and suicidal thoughts; difficulty coping with the pressures of life; friendship and love; grief or loss; isolation and loneliness; life transitions, rape, domestic violence, self esteem issues, stress, anxiety and much more.

It can be difficult for college students to deal with typical and social life issues. That's why school officials want students to feel comfortable and to **have the option to speak to someone who might be able to help**.

Health services and counseling are located in The Griffin Center (60-130). For appointments or questions, students can call 619-644-7192.

—Sheridan Martinez

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# FESTIVAL SEASON

Check out some of the hottest music festivals.

| BY DYLAN HAUGH |

One of the biggest attractions of spring and summer is attending music festivals, which bring the youth together in one big melting pot. Many travel from all over the world to see and hear some of the biggest musical attractions in the world. Here is a quick breakdown of three widely-anticipated music festivals.

## COACHELLA

**Where:** Indio, Calif.

**When:** April 10-12, 17-19

**Headliners:** Drake, AC/DC, Jack White, Action Bronson, Tame Impala, Florence + the Machine, Kygo, Chet Faker, Flosstradamus and Tyler, The Creator.

Coachella is widely considered the king of all the festivals in the United States. Its diversity, artwork and stunning stages have transformed this festival into an almost nostalgic gathering for young people across the world. According to Billboard.com Coachella was the top-grossing music festival in 2014, raking in over \$78 million from broke college students all over the nation.

A short pre-sale for Coachella 2015 took place after the 2014 festival ended, and the remaining tickets for each weekend opened to the public Jan. 7. It took a mere 40 minutes for the festival to sell out of tickets completely. Stars, artists and athletes are spotted each year among the public, which gives it a truly authentic feel.



## SASQUATCH!

**Where:** Quincy, Wash.

**When:** May 22-25

**Headliners:** Kendrick Lamar, Robert Plant, Modest Mouse, Lana Del Rey, Flume, Schoolboy Q, Kiesza, Milky Chance, Odesza, Of Monsters and Men, and Ab-Soul, and Tame Impala.

Sasquatch! has quickly sprouted up as one of the more underrated festivals in the country. Over the past five years, Sasquatch has transitioned from an alternative indie-rock feel into a more versatile festival. Kid Cudi, Outkast, Kendrick Lamar and Childish Gambino have all performed in recent years, adding a hip-hop twist.

What makes this festival unique is its breathtaking imagery all around the venue. The Columbia River runs along the massive Gorge that extends out to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, creating a pretty epic background. In a 2013 interview with Rolling Stone, Pearl Jam's Mike McCready had this about the venue: "The stage overlooking the cliff of the Columbia River as the sun goes down—it's very spiritual."



## OUTSIDE LANDS

**Where:** San Francisco

**When:** Aug. 7

**Headliners:** To be announced.

This festival takes place in the long symbolic Golden Gate Park in the heart of San Francisco. Music, comedy, food and art are all part of the framework for Outside Lands. Each year the lineup is getting better. Paul McCartney, Kanye West, Jack Johnson and Stevie Wonder have all headlined since the festival's outset in 2008. Its folky-rock aura transforms you back to the days when Golden Gate Park hosted the likes of The Doors, Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles.

More than 50 different food vendors are scattered across the festival, fulfilling nearly all food fantasies. Outside Lands also holds a Beer and Wine Land, consisting of more than 60 breweries and wineries from all over the West Coast.



# A KICK START TO KICKING BUTT

The career center is a great starting point for your perfect vocation.

| BY ASHLEY STOUT |

**W**ith school kicked into high gear once more, many students are finding themselves questioning what to do from here. Besides the obvious choice of transferring to a four-year university, some would rather graduate with an associate degree. But where would that take them?

Well, Grossmont's career center offers many options to help you with your career futures and academic choices. Like career-building workshops and seminars all held by our very own Nancy Davis, the career counselor at the college. For those who missed the first workshop, no worries—there are two more coming up in this spring semester to help you with soft skills and job search.

The Feb. 10 workshop was all about the occupational outlook of 2015, presented by Zhenya Lindstrom and Tina Ngo. Ngo took the students through priority sectors and in-demand jobs, which are based around people with an associate degree looking for a job. There are five different sectors:

1. Advanced manufacturing
2. Life sciences
3. Clean energy
4. Information and Communication Technologies
5. Health care

Each of these sections holds multiple jobs for those without a bachelor's degree and pay fairly well. "You start at one of these jobs and it is just a stepping stool to greater opportunities," Ngo said.

Some students made comments like "But jobs that are easy to get, you will get laid off because of overpopulation" and "How do we know that we are secure with these jobs?" Ngo explained how these jobs are there to help build back the job market and provide security.

Lindstrom then continued the workshop with focusing on certain students in the room, and how their majors could be transferred to these middle-skill job opportunities. The fact that she went student to student personally pointing out how their jobs would have been in 2014 to now in 2015 and showing the growth in job opportunities was very comforting to many students.

"Not every major will have the exact job you want but that's when it is up to you to tweak what you are learning and make it work for today's career

opportunities, a job will be there," Lindstrom said.

She pointed out a few websites to help apply and find the right job, including:

- whodouwant2b.com
- path2careers.net
- salarysurfer.cccco.edu
- onetonline.org
- cacareercafe.com

Lindstrom and Ngo took any questions from students and asked anyone too shy to ask aloud to come up and talk to them. I took the encouragement to talk to Ngo, who told me about her path to get where she is now working as a director for the San Diego Workforce Partnership. She said she attended different schools, changed majors and took different career paths, but she said it taught her a lesson that this is the time to do all that—do it now and not later figure out what you want and go for it.

For more information about career opportunities, workshops and more, go to the career center located in the Griffin Center (60-140), where Davis said she would be happy to help with any questions.



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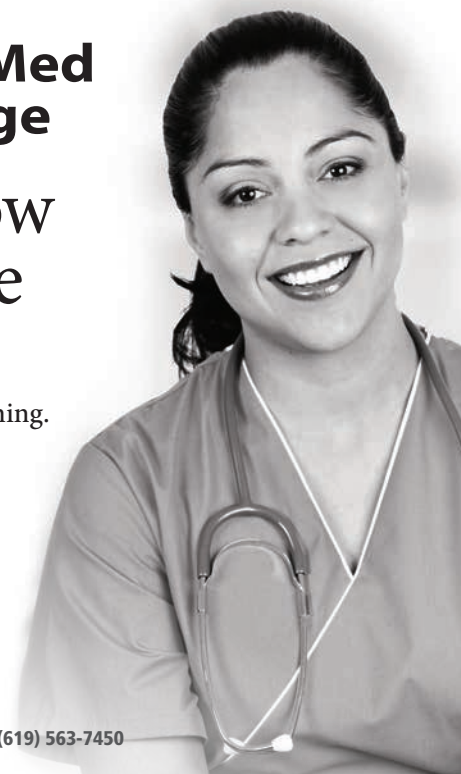
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# Wherefore art thou?

A charismatic duo brings *Romeo and Juliet* to life.

| STORY AND PHOTO BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

The latest upcoming Grossmont Theatre production explores one of the greatest love stories ever told, and it's sure to extol the virtues of a timeless romance with the help of its two charming young stars.

The names "Romeo" and "Juliet" will forever be synonymous to the wistful spirit of young love, thanks to William Shakespeare's enduring and tragic tale. Throughout its countless interpretations on stage and screen, an untold number of performers have taken on the role of the perennial "star-crossed lovers." Continuing the tradition, in Grossmont's inaugural production of the play, is Jillian Jones and Marco Rios.

Much like their titular characters, the two lead actors were brought together from dissimilar-yet-entwined backgrounds. Jones, a 20-year-old theater arts major from San Diego, and Rios, a 26-year-old San Diego State University grad student from Fresno, Calif., met for the first time during the auditions. Jones, admittedly, has dreamed of becoming an actress her entire life.

"I started acting as soon as I could speak," she said. At 8, Jones was admitted into the Fine Arts Magnet Education (FAME!) program at Flying Hills Elementary School, and continued her acting aspirations throughout middle and high school. She currently works at the San Diego Musical Theater as a spotlight operator.

Rios began acting at a young age as well, appearing in touring productions of "Inside the Actors

Process: Characterization" and in the lead role of D'Artagnan in "The



▲ Marcos Rios and Jillian Jones

Three Musketeers" throughout his acting experience. After high school, he was offered a scholarship to study

classical theater, but chose a tennis scholarship instead. He is currently on track to becoming a psychologist, but still had a passion for acting, and began working with the Grossmont Theater Department last year.

Set against the backdrop of the prohibition period, director and theater arts instructor Jeanette Thomas' re-imagining of the classic tale whisks the familiar characters away from 16th century Verona, Italy, into the 1920s American gangster era of Chicago. The language of Shakespeare's original play will remain intact, minus a few scattered references to "fair Chicago," among others. So in actuality, the actors themselves will be tasked with challenge of guiding the audience through this mix of old and new interpretations.

"I've struggled with finding this Juliet," Jones said of the definitive character's contemporary counterpart. "She was not raised in royalty. She was raised in a wealthy American family. She's educated, and I do think she's confident, but she's 16 years old. How confident and how smart can a 16-year-old girl be? Especially in that time period."

Rios concurred with the struggle. "I'll find myself saying lines in a way that I wouldn't have naturally arrived at on my own, and I'm saying it in a way Leonardo DiCaprio or someone I saw onstage was saying it," he said of the process of making the popular character his own. "And I wonder, 'Am I discovering this, or am I just repeating what someone else has already said?'"

*Cont. on next page.*



Unbridled passion and devotion being the central themes of the play, one cannot help but wonder how a pair of actors, who were virtually strangers just a short while ago, began the process of transforming into two of the most iconic lovers of all time. Jones and Rios have made it a point to develop a relationship on and off the stage to create an honest rapport that will resonate onstage.

"Half of it is chemistry," Rios said. "Something happens onstage, and you don't understand why. And the other half is work. It's very much the same way you would enter a romantic relationship. We are wildly affectionate in this show. We have a scene that is post-marriage night, and all that entails. If you don't trust the other person or you feel threatened; just like in a real relationship, it's never gonna work."

Jones said Rios has made her feel comfortable in the role. "I think it's the way his voice bounces off of mine," she said. "This is definitely something that I've struggled with, because I've never been a love interest in a show before. But I love people, and I love getting to know and understanding people. So far it's been very easy with him."

"Romeo and Juliet" will run on March 12, 14, 19 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grossmont College Stagehouse Theatre. Special 2 p.m. matinee performances will also be held March 14 and 21. Tickets can be purchased at the Theatre Arts Box Office, Room 200 A-1, or online at [www.grossmont.edu/theatrebrochure](http://www.grossmont.edu/theatrebrochure).

# AN ADULT EVENING OF SHEL SILVERSTEIN


| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

**F**or two nights only, the Grossmont Theatre Arts Department will proudly present its most provocative production of the season: "An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein."

Based on a series of comedic sketches by the late bestselling author, songwriter and poet Shel Silverstein, this crowd favorite will be performed at the Stagehouse Theatre on **Feb. 20 and 21** at 7:30 p.m.

Silverstein, often considered one of the most influential children's authors of modern time thanks to works such as "The Giving Tree," offers **a rare glimpse into his impudent side** through this collection of brazen one-act short stories, some of which were originally published in Playboy magazine. An array of Grossmont faculty and staff will be leading this performance, in an addition to a few surprise special guests.

This production serves as a fundraising event for the college, and proceeds will be used to help fund the Theatre Arts Department and its future productions this semester. Ticket prices range from \$10 for students to \$20 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the Stagehouse Theatre Box Office (Building 22A, Room 200-A1) or by calling 619-644-7267. As the title implies, this is an "adult evening." **No one under the age of 18 will be permitted.**



## Something Missing

by Shel Silverstein

I remember I put on my socks,  
I remember I put on my shoes.  
I remember I put on my tie  
That was painted  
In beautiful purples and blues.  
I remember I put on my coat,  
To look perfectly grand at the dance,  
Yet I feel there is something  
I may have forgot—  
What is it? What is it? ...

© SHEL SILVERSTEIN



# STYLE CHANGE

BY **DORION BILLINGSLEA**  
AND **ASHLEY STOUT**

**A**s our semi-cold winter is coming to an end and spring is right around the corner, there will be a lot of trends going in and out of style, especially since we will be moving from cool to warmer weather. Some stores are already bringing out their spring collections so everyone is ready for the change.

But even though winter will be coming to a close, that doesn't mean you have to throw those jeans or winter accessories in the back of the closet and just start wearing your summer clothes. There are many types of jeans out there that are great for the hot weather, like cut-open jeans for men and women, or regular jeans rolled up for women. While there may not be a lot of options for men's jeans, there is a whole lot more to choose from when it comes to shorts, which is less of a hassle.

Scarves are always making a good fashion statement to any outfit, and they might help if you're sitting in a class that is quite cold. Jackets can also always be worn with sleeves rolled up or just a jacket as a shirt.

With styles transitioning from winter to spring, it's all about being creative with many clothes and accessories, so you're not wasting your money on things you bought for winter.



## NICKI vs. IGGY?



There's been a lot of speculation about the two rap stars going head to head on who's the best. **Nicki Minaj** has been dominating the charts ever since her first album "Pink Friday," which debuted in 2010 with number-one hits. Her latest album "The Pink Print" is also heading to the top of the charts.

**Iggy Azalea** has been on the scene since 2011 when her career took off with her album "The New Classic." Some celebrities, from Snoop Dogg to Eminem, have even been attacking her on social media saying that her rap is fake. But the charts have been proving everyone wrong, with hits such as "Black Widow" and "Fancy" reaching number one.

Rumor is that Nicki and Iggy are actually cool with each other, and it's just other people making a huge deal about the rivalry.

## FEBRUARY BEAUTY TIPS

1. Looking for a good mask for your face? Using honey could be a great way to clean your skin naturally making it nice and smooth.
2. For fuller lips like Kylie Jenner, extend the lip line using a flesh tone lip liner. Be careful not to go overboard, though!
3. Before bed, make sure all makeup is cleaned and cleared off your skin, so your skin can breathe at night and feel nice and fresh in the morning.

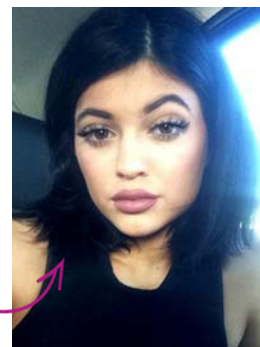


PHOTO FROM @KYLIEJENNER VIA SHOTS



# SINGLE?

The hottest men and women in Hollywood are single and ready to mingle. But we have our top six to look out for while you are walking around in Los Angeles or New York, maybe bumping into one of them will spark that Hollywood, chick-flick true love.



The man who has been single since he's been topping the music industry's charts, **Trey Songz**.



Blonde bombshell **Kate Upton**, who has appeared on two Sports Illustrated covers, has many male fans, but no one to call her own.



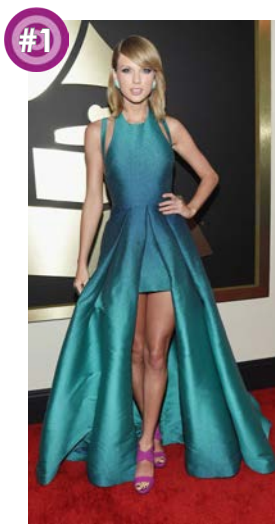
Movie star **Jake Gyllenhaal** is single and mingling in New York, looking for someone to cuddle with.



After calling off her engagement to rapper Future, **Ciara** is now single, sending a message with her gorgeous body and hoping to find someone new.



It was shocking when **Liam Hemsworth** split from Miley Cyrus, but we are loving the newly single Hemsworth, who is ready to use his Aussie charm on a new woman.



The sexiest single celeb has to be **Taylor Swift**. She embraces going solo and writes killer albums about the ones who did her wrong; we don't mind if she stays single because she rocks it well.

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**Q.** Is there such a thing as too much makeup?

**A.** Yes, definitely, because there are some people who will put on a lot of makeup even though behind it they have nice glowing skin. Even if someone does have really bad skin, it wouldn't be recommended to put on even more makeup because it could harm your skin even more. It's always good to just keep it light.

**Q.** Is spending \$100 on shoes too much?

**A.** Of course not, but spend your money wisely, especially if you're on a budget. You need to make sure the shoes are worth it, so get an opinion from someone and always ask yourself, do I have anything in my closet to wear these with?

**Q.** Is it OK to be wearing a dress over skinny jeans?

**A.** You should wear anything that makes you comfortable, but if you want to look fashionable, then definitely wear these separate.

**Q.** Is it OK for a man to get a manicure?

**A.** Yes, it's definitely OK for man to get a manicure because usually men tend to have a lot more dirt under their nails than women, which is noticeable and not cute. You want to make yourself look presentable.

*Email your questions to Dorion at [summit@gcccd.edu](mailto:summit@gcccd.edu).*

# STAFF FLICK PICKS

Check out the staff's choice to win awards season.

## **BELLE — Dorion Billingslea**

My movie pick would have to be the 2013 film "Belle," which is based in the late 1700s. Based on the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the movie is about the mixed-raced daughter (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) of a Royal Navy Admiral growing up in her wealthy family's home in England while facing hard obstacles because of her color.

## **FURY — Dylan Haugh**

Brad Pitt is back in another World War II epic with a star-studded supporting cast. After reaping the benefits of Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," Pitt is joined by Shia LaBeouf, Michael Pena and Jon Bernthal. An old-American war hero, Pitt plays an Army staff sergeant leading his five-man Sherman tank unit travel through battle-torn, foreboding German landscape, taking in the harsh cruelties of war.

## **GONE GIRL — Sheridan Martinez**

The thrilling action drama based upon a book about a wife that goes missing..and all fingers point to the estranged, guiltful husband played by Ben Affleck. I thought this was one of the best movies of 2014 and if it hasn't been Oscar Nominated already.... it definitely should. It had me on the edge of my seat the whole time. This movie has already been nominated several times by Golden Globes and The Academy Awards.

## **TAKEN 3 — Martha Mundo**

Stayed true to its two prequels, "Taken 3" involves yet another hunt, this time for the killer who brutally murdered Bryan Mills' (Liam Neeson) ex-wife Lenore (Famke Janssen). Mills learns a lot about Lenore's current husband and what exactly he has been doing to obtain his rich lifestyle. The whole movie is a nail-biter, and just like the others, will have you at the edge of your seat.

## **SELMA OR BIRDMAN — Rodney Ousley**

My top pick movie of the past year is a toss-up between "Selma," the most poignant film of 2014, and "Birdman," the funniest film of 2014. I don't know if the Oscars have ties, but I'd hate to be the person who has to decide between these two gems.

## **MALEFICENT — Ashley Stout**

My personal pick was "Maleficent" starring Angelina Jolie. Not only was her performance beyond-words flawless, but the way Disney twisted it taking it from the bad guy's point of view intrigued me like no other. It showed that the bad guys aren't so bad after all and that not all story books show the true "love" story. Disney touched many hearts with this film including mine; Jolie executed her role as brilliantly, and the visuals took me into the story book of "Sleeping Beauty."

## **THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING — Lara Talib**

"The Theory of Everything" should get all three Oscars it's nominated for! The acting was brilliant. Eddy Redmayne did a phenomenal job at portraying Stephen Hawking— by far the best acting I've ever seen. It was such a wonderfully made movie. It deserves all the awards it's going to get.

## **WHIPLASH — Elias Totah**

J.K. Simmons and Miles Teller team up in a powerful movie about a first time music student who wins the job of being the drummer of a jazz band, led by an instructor (Simmons) who uses intimidation and anger to push his students to the brink of perfection. This movie has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture and Simmons has been nominated for Best Supporting Actor. This movie is an absolute must-see movie and a five-star in my eyes.

