

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MAY 2015

THE MUSIC ISSUE

**SAN DIEGO
SHOWS**

**KILLING THE
MESSENGER**

**THE HISTORY
OF RAP**

**TIDAL VS.
SPOTIFY**

**FESTIVAL
FASHION**

**TOP SONGS
OF 2015**



+ WHY DOES CULTURAL APPROPRIATION MATTER?

TWO YEARS IN THE EDITOR'S SEAT



I first started my journey on The Summit news team in August 2013, fresh out of high school and eager to start. I took the allotted total of four semesters, and I was editor-in-chief for all of four.

During my time as editor I have learned a lot about myself as a person, and as well as a writer. I have increased and further explored my writing abilities, learned proper news ethics and met some very amazing people along the way. Although each semester there was a new staff, I dedicated my time and effort to each of my peers as much as I could. I loved mentoring the students and helping them perfect their articles, and loved being the person they could come to for advice or help. I'm glad I could that for them and it means the world to me.

There were semesters where I had four other classmates, and there were

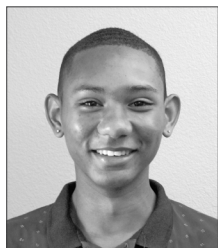
some when I had eight; whichever it was we always pulled through to create the best student newspaper possible. At the beginning of this semester, I promised Mrs. Calo, our adviser, that because it was my last semester officially in the class, I would make this my best semester yet—and I definitely think I have stood by my word. My news staff this semester has worked its butt off and have produced great articles, and I could not be more proud. I have never had such a close and cohesive connection with a news staff as I have this semester, and I'm going to miss them all dearly.

But this won't be the last time The Summit hears from me; I'll be around and be in touch as long as I'm at this school. Whoever is chosen to take my spot will be sure to carry on my legacy. This has been the best experience of my life so far and the most beneficial to my success and future. I cannot thank my staff and advisers, past Dr. Evan Wirig and current Jeanette Calo, enough for everything they have taught me and for coaching me over these years.

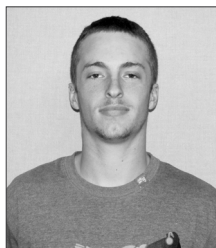
Make me proud future news students! And congratulations to The Summit for improving each edition further. I can't wait to see what the future will hold for the magazine.

Sheridan Martinez

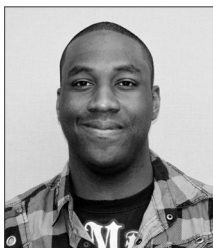
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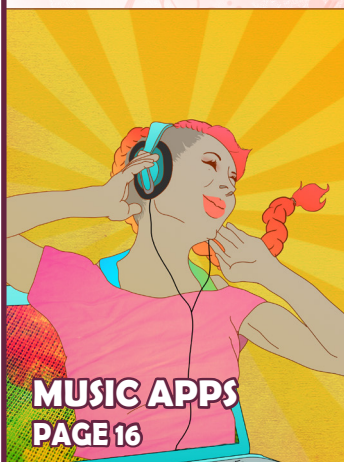


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CAMPUS QUOTES

Who's your favorite musical artist?

Griffins have their own unique musical tastes, from classical to rap and everything in between.

| COMPILED BY ASHLEY STOUT |



Rod's Reel Referrals

SUMMER SMASHES

| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

The criteria for the perfect summer film captured the nostalgia of youth and the carefree spirit of friendship and adventure—that is until July 2, 1996, when the sci-fi blockbuster “Independence Day” hit theaters and crafted the summer thriller niche that showcased the most action-packed films of the year into a neat three-month package.

Whether it be the epic tales of super-powered meta-humans, or a coming-of-age stories that span generations, Americans love a good summer flick. Here are some prominent features you do not want to miss.



CURRENTLY IN THEATERS

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

Directed by Joss Whedon. Starring Robert Downey, Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Elizabeth Olsen, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans and Samuel L. Jackson.

Earth's mightiest heroes reunite in one of the most anticipated films of the year, gaining new allies and enemies in this fast-paced thrill ride. Set more than two years after the team's initial formation, the Avengers have truly become a force to be reckoned with. With Captain America at the helm, Tony Stark, a.k.a. “Iron Man,” is financing an even greater base of operations, and Bruce Banner is exhibiting mastery over his seemingly irrepressible alter-ego, the “Incredible Hulk.”

But with the emergence of two genetically-altered twins, played by Aaron Taylor-Johnson (“Kick Ass,” “Godzilla”) and Elizabeth Olsen (“Martha Marcy May Marlene,” “Very Good Girls”), and the tyrannical artificial intelligence Ultron—voiced by the steely James Spader (“Boston Legal,” “The Office”)—the team must look internally, as well as to each other, to overcome its greatest foe yet.



STREAMING ON NETFLIX

WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER

Directed by David Wain. Starring Paul Rudd, Elizabeth Banks and Bradley Cooper.

A host of before-they-were-famous stars collide for the ultimate summer camp fantasy in this cult classic. Set in the summer of 1981, the counselors of Camp Firewood set out to make the most out of their last day at camp through hot last minute hookups, drug-filled field trips, and arts and crafts lessons with a chronically depressed divorcee played by “Saturday Night Live” alum Molly Shannon. With cameos by comedic heavyweights Amy Poehler, Michael Ian Black and Christopher Meloni from “Law & Order: SVU,” this sleeper hit has stood the test of time and risen to iconic status. The fierce loyalty of its fan-base has spawned an eight-episode series, which will act as a prequel to the film, and will be available on Netflix July 31.

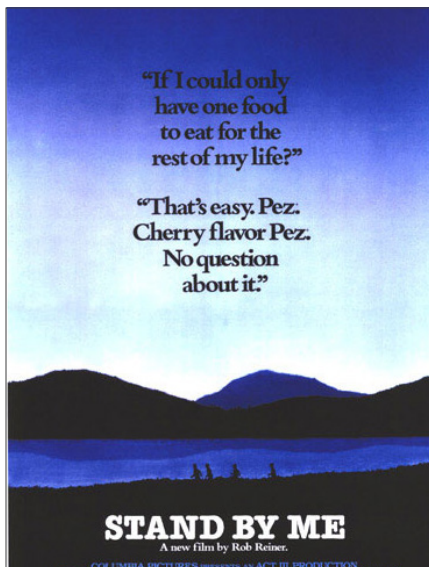


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ON DVD/BLU-RAY STAND BY ME

Directed by Rob Reiner. Starring Will Wheaton, Jerry O'Connell and Corey Feldman.

Four life-long friends embark on an incredulous journey that tests their bond to the limit and ushers them into manhood. Based on the novella "The Body" by Stephen King, author Gordy Lachance (portrayed at age 12 by Wheaton) recounts the story of he and his friends journeying across the Oregon countryside in hopes of finding the body of a missing boy that has become an almost mythical figure in their small northwestern town. Intent on becoming local heroes, the boys travel the rails, dodge speeding trains, cross a dangerous marsh and find the courage to stand up to a gang of local bullies, all in the ultimate test that ushers them into manhood. This August marks the 19th anniversary of this trailblazing film.



1986 THEATRICAL RELEASE POSTER



MIDBEAT.ORG

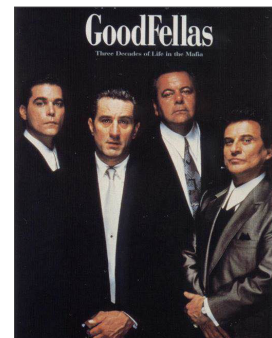
These movie soundtracks deserve a fresh listen.



GALLERYHIP.COM

Purple Rain (1984) is the psychedelic and sexy R&B/ funk soundtrack from part-time movie star, full-time rock 'n' roll enigma Prince, which is widely considered the catalyst for the baby boom of the late 1980s. The Oscar Award-winning score of the film features melodramatic, all-or-nothing love ballads such as "I Would Die 4 U" and "Beautiful Ones," in conjunction with retro dance-pop classics like "Let's Go Crazy" and "Jungle Love." The album is truly a testament of its time; it's a musical time capsule that helped define a generation.

Goodfellas (1990), possibly Martin Scorsese's best work, is a fateful story of love, deception and Henry Hill's rise to the top of the wise-guy chain in the early 1970s. This classic is filled with a diverse soundtrack of early 60s pop and rock songs, including Phil Spector's and The Crystals' timeless classic "Then He Kissed Me" and The Shangri-Las classic "Leader of the Pack," which reached number-one on the Billboard Top 100 in November 1964. And what would a classic Scorsese mob movie be without the 1960s rock 'n' roll? The Rolling Stones "Gimme Shelter" and "Monkey Man," as well as The Who's "Magic Bus" are on this soundtrack. And, of course, Cream's classic "Sunshine of your Love" is the song behind the classic scene in which Robert De Niro quietly smokes a cigarette while contemplating who's going to get whacked next.



No greatest soundtracks list would be complete without the bestselling collection of film-inspired music of all time: **The Bodyguard (1992)**. With record producer extraordinaire Clive Davis and Whitney Houston's timeless remake of "I Will Always Love You" at the helm, this soundtrack went on to win a Grammy Award for Album of the Year, garner two Oscar nominations and sell more than 40 million copies worldwide to date. Follow-up singles "I'm Every Woman" and "Queen of the Night" helped transform Houston from a demure pop princess into a full-out diva who set the blueprint for generations that followed.

The best R&B soul/classic rock soundtrack goes to **Remember the Titans (2000)**, a film on the struggle of high school that goes through the enigma of being the first racially mixed team in the South in an era of prejudice and hate over the color of skin. The soundtrack helps depict the difference of cultures among the team members with songs such as Marvin Gaye's and Tammi Terrell's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and Cat Stevens' classic "Peace Train." James Taylor's classic single "Fire and Rain" and Norman Greenbaum's "Spirit in the Sky" give the movie and its soundtrack a real spiritual and religious vibe.



LIVE IN SAN DIEGO BY LARA TALIB

Summer is the perfect season for rocking out. Some of us might go out of town, some of us might be working, and some of us might just want to stay around town and save a few bucks. Either way, there's concerts for everyone to enjoy.



05/16: LANA DEL REY

Lana Del Rey comes to San Diego for her Endless Summer Tour on May 16 at the Sleep Train Amphitheater. She will be taking the stage with **Courtney Love**. Ticket prices range from \$30 for the lawn to about \$285 the closer you get to the stage. Wherever you're sitting, this will be an amazing show.



05/27: CIARA

Ciara takes the stage at the **House of Blues** on May 27. Considering this is one of the smaller concerts, it'll be a more intimate than the other concerts on this list. Nonetheless, Ciara will be sure to give an amazing show. Tickets are \$40.50 for the night.



07/09: ONE DIRECTION

Even with Zayn gone, the show must go on. One Direction is coming to San Diego once again. This is the band's third time performing in San Diego. They'll be at **Qualcomm Stadium** on July 9 for their On The Road Again Tour. Tickets range from \$35 to \$110, depending on seating arrangements. Much to Directioners' excitement, the band will be taking the stage by itself for the first time in four tours.

07/17: J. COLE

J. Cole has been taking the nation by storm with his much anticipated "Forest Hills Drive" album, and now he's taking over the Sleep Train Amphitheater on July 17 for the Forest Hills Drive Tour. Tickets range from \$50 for lawn tickets, and then go up the closer you are to the stage. This show is will be one for the books considering he'll be performing alongside **Big Sean**, **YG** and **Jeremih**.



07/21: IMAGINE DRAGONS

You're totally not imagining! Imagine Dragons comes to San Diego on July 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Viejas Arena at SDSU**. Tickets start at \$60 and go up to \$200 depending on how close you are to the band. If you're into alternative rock, this is the show to watch.



08/08: BOYS OF ZUMMER

This unlikely duo is taking over San Diego at the Sleep Train Amphitheater. **Fall Out Boy** and **Wiz Khalifa** come down Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. for their "Boys of Zummer" Tour. Tickets start at \$30 and go up to about \$65 the closer to the stage. They'll be alongside the likes of **Hoodie Allen** and **DJ Drama**. If students want a fun concert with both alternative rock and rap music, this is the perfect match.



SANDIEGOREADER.COM



08/13: NICKI MINAJ

Barbiez assemble! Nicki Minaj will be at the Sleep Train Amphitheater on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. **Meek Mill** will be joining the stage with Minaj. People should be expecting to pay around \$40 to \$125 for this concert. The Pink Print Tour is one of the most highly anticipated tours of this summer, so the sooner you get your tickets, the better.



08/16: KELLY CLARKSON

American Idol's very first winner Kelly Clarkson is going to be sweeping the stage on Aug. 16 at the Viejas Arena at 7 p.m. Special guest stars **Pentatonix** and **Eric Hutchinson** will be there for her show as well. Students looking for a fun night with relatively cheap ticket prices (\$35 to \$100) would enjoy this concert.



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08/29: TAYLOR SWIFT

Unfortunately, this performance in Petco Park is sold out. But die-hard Swifties can make the drive to the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where Swift will be performing for four nights: Aug. 21, 22, 24 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. She'll be with **HAIM** and **Vance Joy**. Tickets range from \$40 to \$160. Don't let anything stop you from enjoying her "1989" world tour.

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OPEN MIC NIGHTS

If you don't wanna spend so much money on a full-blown concert, there are open mic nights throughout the week at different coffee shops around the city. If you feel inspired enough to share their talent or just want to go and watch some really talented people perform, it's a great way to enjoy some tunes saving some cash.

LESTAT'S MONDAYS @ 6 P.M.

3343 Adams Ave.
Normal Heights
lestats.com

COSMOS TUESDAYS @ 7:30 P.M.

8278 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa
cosmoscoffeecafe.com

QUEEN BEE'S TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS @ 8 P.M.

3925 Ohio St.
North Park
queenbeessd.com

THE HISTORY OF RAP

These milestone moments brought hip-hop from the underground to the forefront.

| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

For more than 20 years, rap music has consistently been one of the top-selling genres in the United States, turning mere music into a cultural movement transcending age, race and socioeconomic status. In 2015, hip-hop's influence is undeniable, ever present in all the latest trends, fashion and lingo. So to many of the movers and shakers of the 21-and-under crowd, a time when rap was not at the epicenter of all things cool may seem to be unfathomable. The following is a brief history of the struggles and triumphs of rap music's early years, which made the art form the juggernaut it is today.

A PUNK-ROCK PRINCESS USHERS HIP HOP INTO THE MAINSTREAM.

Hip hop's origins may stem from the hard knock streets of 1970s New York, but the first official Billboard number-one rap hit, "Rapture," came courtesy of the disco-funk rock band, Blondie. Front-woman Debbie Harry, with her platinum blonde hair and signature 80s glam, was a stark contrast to what hip-hop was soon to become, but many gave her credit for name-dropping rap pioneers Fab Five Freddy and Grandmaster Flash in her verse. "Rapture" was also the first rap video to be featured on MTV.



GANGSTA RAP VS. THE WHITE HOUSE

In the early 1990s, sparked by the boisterous rap-rock anthem "Cop Killer" by rapper Ice-T and thrash metal band Body Count, former President George H.W. Bush, along with former Second Lady Tipper Gore, launched the Parents Music Resource Center to increase parental control over music lyrics and content. Many hip-hop artists felt that these leaders spoke of the genre in one felled, generalized swoop that singled out and demonized the rap artists of the era while ignoring the very same infractions within other genres. The ongoing violence and tensions between East Coast and West Coast rappers, culminating in the murders of rap legends Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls, only further exacerbated the situation.



THE GREAT GRAMMYS BOYCOTT

In the first year hip-hop was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, officials of the Grammys opted not to televise the presentation of the award for "best rap performance" to DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince (Will Smith). Having already been scrutinized by many in the hip-hop community for their bubblegum lyrics and crossover appeal, the hip-hop duo boycotted the award ceremony, not only for refusing to air their segment, but also for the overall disregard for the artistry of their contemporary hardcore counterparts like N.W.A. and Public Enemy. Rap superstars LL Cool J, Salt-n-Pepa, Flavor Flav and many others joined Smith and Jazzy Jeff for a separate ceremony on the popular 80s show "Yo MTV Raps" to officially accept the award.



BOYZ IN THE HOOD

Starring N.W.A. member Ice Cube and future Oscar Winner Cuba Gooding Jr., this film was the first in a string of growing-up-in-the-hood films that brought characterization and realism to the violent and aggressive lyrics of gangsta rap. Preceded by light-hearted dance flicks like "Wild Style" and "Breakin," Boyz In the Hood offered a gritty, true-to-life account of hardships of growing up in Compton, Calif., which inspired the gangsta rap music of the West Coast. This film was followed by other "hood conscious" classics like "Menace to Society," "Friday" and "Poetic Justice," starring Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur.

MESSAGE IN METAL

KILLING THE MESSENGER IS HERE TO STAY.



STORY BY DYLAN HAUGH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANA BECERRA PHOTOGRAPHY

Since the band's formation in 2012, the rugged metal core band Killing the Messenger has swept metal heads and rockers off of their feet. In just two and a half years, the San Carlos-based band won the 2013 Vans Warped Tour "Battle of the Bands." The next year, the independent band completed its debut album "What Matters Most," vaulting to seventh place on the iTunes metal charts in the first week.

Lead singer Ahren Gray, guitarist Kris Armbruster and drummer Willie Malpica all attended Grossmont College together while starting to riff with each other outside of class. Over a few solid months of recording, they added guitarist Jon Arbar and bass guitarist Robert Lathrop to form KTM.

It's all for one and one for all when it comes to writing and composing songs for the band's album. All five members have their own written song along with everyone else's helpful niches along the album. The onus is not on one person, giving the band real authenticity instead of putting one face on the poster.

"We all put effort into writing and adding our own flair," Arbar said. "Not only do we play guitar, sing and play the drums, but we also have input on other aspects of the song before it's produced."

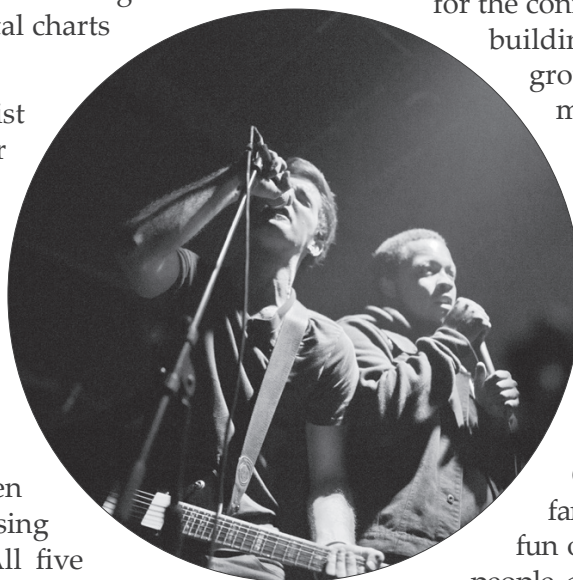
For as proverbial as it sounds, the band isn't in the industry for the fame, girls and money. KTM rocks out for the connections and kinship that's quickly building between the band and its growing fan base. Anywhere you find metal and mosh pits, KTM feeds off that energy.

"There were about 5-6 pretty big sized mosh pits at our last show," Armbruster said. "Pretty sure they threw out 10 people during the set."

"That's why I joined the band, to be on stage," he added with a laugh.

Gray echoed the importance of their fans: "All of us do this for the love and fun of it, but the biggest reward is when people come out to our shows, support us and talk about what they are going through."

Gray attended Grossmont around the time the band recorded the album, which was a very emotional time for him. Like everyone else, he was going through a break



up and decided to write about it. The outcome was the band's hottest single "What Matters Most."

In metal core, the lead singer's voice is a very cognitive piece in the band. Everyone knows about the old age homage in using honey to preserve the vocal chords. According to Gray, the best way to maintain his fiery voice is to "keep on screaming."

"It's like a muscle," he advised. "You have to maintain it and work it out."

Improving and getting to the next step is a common goal for bands, and 2015 has been the year of progression for KTM. This past year, the band when on its first road trip tour in their brand-new van, affectionately named "Blastoise," which had no troubles traveling through Northern California, Washington, Colorado and Utah, as well as their favorite venue on the trip—an Indian reservation in New Mexico.

The band is setting up for their biggest gig of the year, KTM and six other bands will take part in San Diego Vans Warped Tour "Battle of the Bands" at Soma for another chance to perform at the coveted Warped Tour. The band will be performing two unheard songs in the set, and the members are urging fellow students to show support May 22, since it will be judged on its draw and its performance.

Earlier this year, Killing the Messenger was opening for the renowned metal core band Attila, which was a big-time show and venue for the smaller San Diego band. Unbeknown to the band, members of Attila, who have had three albums reach the Billboard Top 200, watched KTM's set and said they liked it a lot. Attila guitarist Chris Linck stopped Gray to give him some words of encouragement: "Keep doing what you're doing. You guys got something going here."

In the end, the synergy, unparalleled love for the music and the aspect of reaching out and connecting with others, is what matters most for Killing the Messenger.



KILLING THE MESSENGER (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): ROBERT LATHROP, WILLIE MALPICA, AHREN GRAY, KRIS ARMBRUSTER AND JON ARBAR.

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MESSENGER
MAY 22
AT WARPED TOUR'S
BATTLE OF THE
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WHY CULTURAL APPROPRIATION MATTERS

BY RODNEY OUSLEY

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Cultural appropriation in its simplest form is adopting the aspects of another culture's art, traditions and expressions—not to extol its virtues, but to exploit it in order to create a spectacle or for profit. These occurrences are particularly harmful and apparent in minority groups with a history of being marginalized and oppressed.

Jazz music was born during the post-reconstruction era of New Orleans at the height of segregation and Jim Crow laws. Eventually the genre took America by storm during the Harlem Renaissance. Trailblazing African-American musicians, composers, and vocalists like Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk and Billie Holiday, poured their pain into every note, symbolizing the hardship of the times. Despite its roots in African and Louisiana Creole stylings, the first mainstream jazz recording was courtesy of "The Original Dixieland Jazz Band," an

all-white male review, followed by Paul Whiteman, dubbed the "King of Jazz," who made millions off of the genre while many of his black contemporaries received a fraction of his fortune and notoriety.

Cultural appropriation in its simplest form is adopting the aspects of another culture's art, traditions and expressions—not to extol its virtues, but to exploit it in order to create a spectacle or for profit. These occurrences are particularly harmful and apparent in minority groups with a history of being marginalized and oppressed.

"Mozart said it the best: 'The truth of the matter is, that all music production is based off of standing on the shoulder of giants,'" said Grossmont audio production professor Jim Papageorge, a

professional musician and record producer who was a member of the Grammy Awards Recording Academy voting process for more than 30 years.

"One of the most bitter complaints along these lines was from bands, like the Rolling Stones, inviting [African-American artists] to jam with them," Papageorge said. "The Stones then ripped off their best chops, and went on to write 'Satisfaction' and 'Let's Spend the Night Together' and didn't credit the black artists. They didn't pay them."

Fast forward to 2015: Iggy Azalea, a statuesque Australian-born blonde bombshell who effortlessly glides over electro-pop beats with a manufactured Atlanta, Ga.-twang, conquered the billboard charts with her monster single "Fancy." Azalea was nominated for four Grammys including Best Rap Album, and crowned the star of hip-hop music by Forbes magazine. Somehow Azalea's rise

to success was undeterred by a ghostwriting scandal (writing one's own rhymes is unspoken "law" in hip-hop) as well as the onslaught of criticism she received for the song "D.R.U.G.S." on the Grand Hustle raptress' 2011 mix tape "Ignorant Art," where she refers to herself as "a runaway slave master" complete with an impeccably timed flick-of-the-wrist whipping motion in the corresponding music video.

Perhaps the most damaging factor of cultural appropriation is the effects on the youth. Currently the country is reeling over the string of untimely deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of law enforcement, a plight that has been constant in America for more than 100 years. As protests, riots and the #blacklivesmatter campaign sweep the nation, many of the benefactors of black culture, from outside the black community, have remained silent on the issues. This attitude of complacency is

adopted by their fans, who partake in black culture, fashion, music and trends yet remain willfully ignorant and apathetic to the fever pitch raging before their very eyes.

Discord could be more successfully avoided if individuals exercised the same amount of enthusiasm in adopting the latest styles and trends of another culture, as they do fully engrossing themselves in the history, struggles and values of the particular culture being emulated.

The damage is evident, judging by the slew of racially insensitive themed college party in recent years such as the "Thug Party" held on Martin Luther King Day 2014 at Arizona State University, where students dressed in black-

face and perpetuated negative African-American stereotypes. Or the 2013 "USA vs. Mexico" party at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. Deemed the "racist rager" by protesters of the college's Kappa Alpha chapter, attendees were encouraged to come dressed as either a stereotypical American or Mexican, and members of the latter group were instructed to "catch" the others, as seen in photos and videos posted online.

When partaking from aspects of another culture, sensitivity and respect must be exercised. Confusion and strife occurs when these particulars are mutually exclusive. Education is key. Quite possibly, discord could be more successfully avoided if individuals exercised the same amount of enthusiasm in adopting the latest styles and trends of another culture, as they do fully engrossing themselves in the history, struggles and values of the particular culture being emulated.

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THE PIANO LESSON

**SYNOPSIS BY
RODNEY OUSLEY**

**ILLUSTRATION BY
ARIADNA FERNANDEZ**

Heritage and confronting demons of the past are two of the central themes in Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's topical family drama "The Piano Lesson," which is currently being performed at Grossmont College's Stagehouse Theatre.

The play is set in the household of the Charles family, a clan of humble yet hardworking African-Americans living in Depression-era Pittsburgh. The family's already precarious patchwork begins to unravel when wayward son, Boy Willie, returns to the family home with the intent to sell off the family's prized heirloom—an antique piano procured by the family during the days of slavery from the Sutters, the white family who owned their ancestors.

The piano was originally purchased as a gift for slave-master Sutter's wife. The Charles family's ancestor, a carpenter, carves the faces of his family into the piano as a physical testament of their family's legacy; he later obtains the piano and passes it on from generation to generation. Old dissensions arise when the family begins to see visions of Sutter's ghost. The lineage of the piano is retold throughout the story by family patriarchs Doaker Charles and Wining Boy.

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

[CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

In spite of the protests from younger sister Berniece, Boy Willie wishes to sell the family keepsake in order to purchase the land their slave ancestors once toiled and to make a name for himself as a sharecropper. Even though Berniece has become emotionally detached from the piano after the death of her mother, the last caretaker of the beloved family artifact, she hopes to someday pass the instrument along to her 11-year-old daughter Maretha, who is unaware of the history of its true origins or its connection to the current disturbances in the household. Things become even more complicated for the widowed Bernice as she is courted by two possible prospects: Avery Brown, the local town preacher, and her brother's equally dubious business partner, Lyman, who also has eyes for promiscuous barfly, Grace.

This marks the first time a portrayal of an August Wilson production in the more than 50-year history of the Griffin Theatre Department. Directed by department chair Beth Duggan, "The Piano Lesson" is fourth in a series of plays documenting life in each decade of the 1900s entitled "Century Cycle."

Productions will continue at Grossmont College Stagehouse Theatre from May 14-16 at 7:30 p.m., with a special 2 p.m. matinee showing on May 16. General admission is \$20; student admission is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the Theatre Arts Box Office, Room 200 A-1, or online at grossmont.edu/theatrebrochure.



"The Piano Lesson" Cast and Crew (Left to Right): Michelle Bales (Assistant Costume Designer), Aimee-Marie Holland (Stage Manager), Nick Cade ("Wining Boy"), Yusuf O. Yusuf ("Doaker"), Glynn Long ("Boy Willie"), Lily Bradley ("Maretha"), Janelle "Ellie" Wilson ("Berniece"), Betty Brezil ("Grace"), Jarel Lewis ("Lymon"), Kian Kline ("Avery") and Danielle Dudley (Set Designer). Instructor and director Beth Duggan pictured at top right. Photo courtesy of Grossmont Theatre Department.

LARA'S REVIEW

Watching the play, two things came to my mind: "Hey, this is really good!" and "What a good looking cast!"

Grossmont's take of "The Piano Lesson" was interesting to watch. At the very start of the play, we meet Boy Willie (Glynn Young) who had us all intrigued from the start. We then meet his business partner and sidekick Lymon (Jarel Lewis) who seemed to have a thing for Boy Willie's sister Berniece (Janelle Wilson), who we end up meeting later.

This sets pretty much the play with only a few others joining later, like Maretha, (Lily Bradley) who plays Berniece's daughter and the kids' uncles, Wining Boy (Nick Cade) and Doaker (Yusuf O. Yusuf.) Avery (Kian Kline) came in towards the end of the play for a few appearances as Boy Willie's and Lymon's love interest.

All of the actors in the play were either students at Grossmont or "community members." This was actually the second play this semester in which Young could show off his amazing talent, the first being "Romeo and Juliet" in March.

The play was amazing. It was so funny and the audience could really tell that the actors really got into it as well. And honestly, it helped that they were also a really good-looking bunch (Glynn Young, please date me!). It was really fun to watch the actors come together for this play because of the chemistry between them, especially all the men together.

I liked watching this play a lot more than "Romeo and Juliet"; I guess it just seemed more my style. My only concern would have been the ending of the play—it seemed a little too chaotic, and I felt like it should have ended on a less abrupt note. Other than that, I give it 4 out of 5 stars! —Lara Talib

The hottest music apps compete for the most consumer downloads.

| BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ AND ASHLEY STOUT |



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College students spend 8 to 10 hours on their mobile phones, according to a study by Baylor University. That's a lot of time to spend, and much of it is spent listening to music—on the way to school, between classes, in classes, on the way home and while studying.

So how do you get your music? There are basically two options: free or paid. You can use the free stuff like Pandora, Youtube and Soundcloud, which give you the music you want but with many advertisements in between. Or you might throw down the average \$1.29, for individual songs bought on iTunes or the Google Play store.

Then there's subscriptions. Spotify has been the most popular option among college students. But Tidal has recently stepped up as a formidable competitor. Which one deserves your hard-earned money? Let the debate begin!

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 14]



IN SPOTIFY'S CORNER: SHERIDAN MARTINEZ

Spotify Premium is a music app that lets you download and listen to unlimited amounts of music for just \$9.99 a month regularly, or \$4.99 a month with a student discount which is preferred for us broke college students. Right now, they are doing a special promotion where you can get three months of premium for just 99 cents!

Spotify is great music app because you can download full-length albums, make your own playlists and save other people's playlists, and it offers plenty of genres of all different music to choose from. You can also stream Spotify from your phone, tablet and computer. Don't feel like searching for music or building your own playlist? You can also stream Spotify Online Radio; similar to Pandora, it plays music based upon a certain genre or artist you pick.

If you don't feel like making the monthly commitment to Spotify, you can use the normal free version, but it has a bunch of ads, you can't select which song you want to listen to and it doesn't stream in HD. What is the difference between HD music and regular music? I guess you'll have to hear the difference—which most people don't. Studies show that the average person can't really tell the difference.

"Since the dawn of digital music, a small but very loud segment of music fans have led an outcry against its sound quality," Josh O' Kane recently wrote in The Globe and Mail. "But for the majority of listeners, it's a barely noticeable trade-off for the sheer quantity of music the Internet exposes them to."

I personally prefer Spotify Premium because it's your best bet and worth the few bucks for all the features. All that the app entails is just what I need to stream music all day every day and nothing less. I've had it since December and I've never had a problem with it—and I use it every day. I like it also because I can play it from my computer and pick the songs off of my phone, using it like a remote. With more than 15 million paying subscribers since launched in 2007, you be the judge of which is preferred.

FIGHTING FOR TIDAL: ASHLEY STOUT



Tidal is a program dedicated to the on-the-verge artists who want to widen their fan bases and become bigger than they are now. Launched in March, Tidal styles itself as "an advertisement-free, lossless, CD-quality music and music video streaming service with extensive curated editorial expertise." Owned by Jay Z and his company Project Panther, Tidal has more than 25 million tracks and 75,000 music videos.

The publicity for Tidal was enormous. In March, many famous artists changed their icons to blue on all social media, and posting #TidalForAll to let it be known something was coming. It caused a huge stir in social media, and everyone was intrigued. This project was different than others, because this program was owned by the artists for the artists.

With more than 500,000 users, a solo artist needs an amount of plays to earn a US monthly minimum wage of \$1,260. Signed artists need to have 180,000 plays to receive \$0.007 per play on Tidal, and unsigned artists need to have 29,302 plays to receive \$0.043 per play.

"This is a platform that's owned by artists," Jay Z said in an interview with The New York Times. "We are treating these people that really care about the music with the utmost respect."

While many say Spotify is the wave of the future, the company's take of the money has had many big names in the music industry back out completely, including Taylor Swift, Garth Brooks, AC/DC, Tool, Led Zeppelin and Jason Aldean. Some don't see Spotify as the "boogeyman" these artists do, but still want to protect their music.

Tidal's prices are higher than its competitors because it is owned by the artists. Starting at \$9.99, you get Tidal Premium which is standard quality music and high-quality music videos. For \$19.99 a month, you get Tidal HiFi, which includes lossless high fidelity sound quality and high-def music videos. There is also an option for a 30-day free trial for both the Premium and HiFi subscriptions.

So Tidal for one or Tidal for all? I say Tidal for all. Spotify's greed and lack of respect for the artists as they should have caused many to pull out. If that isn't a sign you are giving your money to the wrong services then I'm not sure what will show you. Tidal's quality, message and one-of-a-kind music videos are only available on Tidal. Your money will be worth it!

TOP SONGS OF 2015

BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ

So far, 2015 has been another great year of music, and there are plenty of new and upcoming artists from so many different genres of music, with new beats and playful lyrics. Here are America's 10 top songs so far, according to the Top 100 Billboards.

1. **"See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa, featuring Charlie Puth:**

From the soundtrack of "Fast and Furious 7," this song just came out in the beginning of April and the video already has more than 129 million views. It is currently number one on the hip-hop billboard charts.

2. **"Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson, featuring Bruno Mars:**

You can easily catch this song on the radio every hour of the day because it's so catchy. Not going to lie, it gets me pumped when I'm driving to school in the morning.

3. **"Trap Queen" by Fetty Wap:**

This random catchy song came out of the blue and is definitely a weekend party song to listen to with friends. You can catch Fetty Wap at Hard Summer Music Festival in Pomona on Aug. 2.

4. **"Earned It" by The Weeknd:**

Off the soundtrack of "Fifty Shades of Grey," this song is amazingly good and perfect for the movie soundtrack. You can also catch The Weeknd at Hard Summer Music Festival in Pomona on Aug. 1.

5. **"Sugar" by Maroon 5:**

Although this band has drastically changed over the years, it is still just as good as ever, and constantly topping the charts with their new age pop music.

6. **"Love Me Like You Do" by Ellie Goulding:**

Another hit off of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" soundtrack, this is a cutesy song to sing to your significant other, and it's always on the radio.

7. **"Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon:**

This song has been on the charts for nearly 25 weeks and it's climbing it's way up the list.

8. **"Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran:**

It's another catchy love song, but as hot as it was, it has slowly working its way back down from the number-two slot.

9. **"GDFR" by Flo Rida:**

A total party/getting ready song, and yes it means "going down for real." Don't worry, it took me a while to get too.

10. **"Want To Want Me" by Jason Derulo:**

It may be last, but it's definitely not least. Derulo's very catchy music always gets stuck in your head and tops the charts.

MY TOP 5

Here are some of my top picks, since I don't always typically listen to music that's on the radio 24/7, and my music tastes cover various genres and artists.

1. **"Flawless" by Beyoncé:**

This could possibly be the best song ever created. It's self-empowering and body positive, and, most importantly, it's confidence boosting. Beyoncé is brilliant for putting those three factors into a single song. #FEMINIST #IWOKEUPLIKETHIS

2. **"Feeling Myself" by Nicki Minaj, featuring Beyoncé:**

The best two female artists to collaborate, this is another self-empowering song. These ladies know how to make serious song playful and funny.

3. **"You Know You Like It" by DJ Snake, featuring AlunaGeorge:**

Besides just his top song "Turn Down For What," DJ Snake makes even better and catchier songs, and this is one of my absolute favorites.

4. **"Somebody" by Natalia Rose, featuring Jeremih:**

My favorite song off of the radio because I love getting ready to it and singing it with my BFF.

5. **"Often" by The Weeknd:**

Another great song by The Weeknd, he captivates people with his unique voice. This was the first song he's released since 2012 and it was an amazing comeback thus far.

ILLUSTRATION BY ARIADNA FERNANDEZ

FESTIE FASHION

Festival season has officially kicked off, and everyone knows fashion is right up there with the music. If you are a college student on a budget, here's your more-bang-for-your-buck guide.

| BY ASHLEY STOUT |

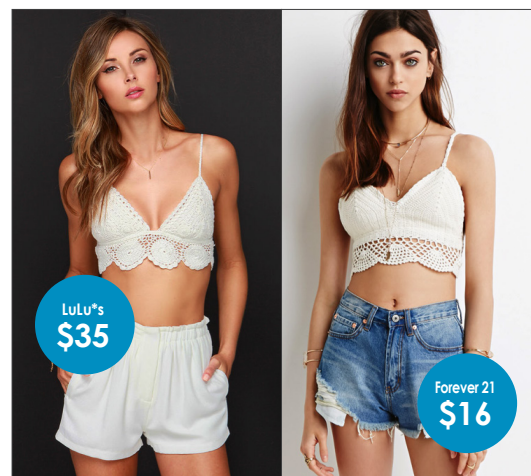
Boys may think they have it easy, but if you want to grab that festival babe's attention, you got to know a few tricks.

Bandannas are in, and anything colorful or printed will show a girl that you are out-of-the-box. Try H&M Loves Coachella collection for \$5.95 (see below). You'll have a cool and hip bandanna to catch some good looks.

Don't be that guy with his shirt off. If you really want someone's attention, abs are not the way. Instead, a cool, comfortable and loose shirt with a print will be sure to make you stand out and not look like a tool. A patterned tee for \$14.90 from Forever 21 will do the trick.

Lastly, **sunnies are all in for guys**, but you want to get the right pair to keep your eyes shaded and looking cool. Stand out with a hippie circle pair from the swap meet for \$10, or for a more fresh look, you can find a cheap knockoff pair of **Ray-Bans** from \$10 to \$15.

Get shopping! Festival season is ready to be conquered by you.



That crochet bralette top from LuLu*s you have been dying for is \$34.95. Well, no need to fear—Forever 21 has an almost identical top for nearly \$20 less! At \$15.90, this top is just as cute and just as trendy.



Now those \$144, one-of-a-kind black lace pants from Nordstrom that you have been dreaming of are about to become a reality. The H&M Loves Coachella collection has many pieces to obsess over, but the \$24.95 flared lace pants will have you doing a double take at your dream pants. Now that's a steal!



Why go far when you have music festivals in your own backyard?

Flaunt your look at these festivals. ►

LED USA

Where: Valley View Casino Center

When: May 22-23

Headliners: Bassjackers, DVBBS, GTA, TJR, Feed Me.

PRIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Where: Balboa Park

When: July 18-19

Headliners: TBA (5 stages and 127 artists)

DIRTY PARTS FESTIVAL

Where: Lakeside Rodeo Grounds

When: June 20

Headliners: New Politics, Kongos, Big Data, Saint Motel.

KAABOO

Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds

When: Sept. 18-20

Headliners: The Killers, No Doubt, Zac Brown Band, Snoop Dogg, Foster the People.



Lastly what is a good festival outfit without the perfect shoes? Urban Outfitters sucks you in with their hipster charm, but it's their prices that can make you gasp. Those Jeffrey Campbell knee-high gladiator sandals are worth handing over your firstborn child for! But before you drop \$250, how about \$19.99? Kmart offers nearly the same cute knee-high gladiator sandals, minus the newborn child.



SUMMER GLOW

Shed some light on the hottest season with these beauty tips.

| BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ |

With summer just around the corner, making the right beauty decisions and buying the right products can be very crucial in enhancing your skin and keeping it hydrated during the warm weather. There are many new beauty products coming out for summer, and there is still time to go out and buy them to prepare for the hot weather coming our way. To shed some light on keeping your skin glowing and healthy, I have come up with some beauty tips for the upcoming summer months ahead.

Hydrate and moisturize.

Summertime is when it gets stupendously hot, which means your skin will start to get dry. You must *must* moisturize your skin, a few times a day, and especially after washing your face. Skin tightens immediately after washing it, so it is extremely important to moisturize because it keeps the moisture in your skin so it won't become dry; it also prevents wrinkles from forming.

Lather up the sunscreen.

It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to wear sunscreen as frequently as you can during the summer. Never leave the house without some sunscreen and do not underestimate the power of the sun rays. Just walking out to grab the mail could ultimately leave you sunburned depending on your skin type. Do not return back from the semester looking like lobster! Here's a quick reminder on what the SPF (sun protection factors) stand for and what they do:

- SPF 15 blocks 93 percent of UV rays
- SPF 30 blocks 97 percent of UV rays
- SPF 50 blocks 98 percent of UV rays

Wear makeup to the beach.

You don't have to wear a full face of makeup, but the basics are all right. When I go to the beach, I wear e.l.f. tinted moisturizer on my face, which acts as a foundation and has SPF in it and have my brows fully done and filled in. Don't ever be afraid to rock your favorite makeup look even if you are going to the beach. #EyebrowsOnFleek

Lay off the tanning.

Tanning too much can lead to skin cancer and other major skin-related diseases. If you must tan at all, only go for 30 minutes or less for direct sunlight or if on a tanning bed, 15 minutes or less. Your skin is not used to direct sunlight for extraneous hours. If you want that summer tanning glow, get yourself some self-tanner and call it a day. Your skin is precious and needs a break sometimes, and you only get one body, so treat it accordingly.

Try the contour craze.

Don't worry, it gets easier the more you practice, but it can seem difficult at first. Bronzer is the typically brown shimmery powder used on cheeks, but contour is a different type of powder, usually a shade of brown as well but with gray undertones that give the face a contoured effect if applied correctly. Highlighting is a follow up to contouring that accentuates your best features with a lighter white powder. You contour your cheeks, jawline and forehead with thin lines of contour powder and highlight all the rest of the areas in between to enhance your facial features to the full extent.

Follow these tips to make sure you look hot and hydrated, and have a wonderful summer.

BEST SUMMER BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Sephora's Escape To Rio Getaway Essentials Kit is fully equipped with a beautiful bronzer duo, two bright nail polishes, two eyeliners and a bronzing tanning mist. **\$29**

Too Faced Endless Summer 16 Hour Long-Wear Bronzer is a brand-new bronzer and perfect for summertime to keep your skin glowing all day. **\$30**

Stila's Ready, Set, Summer! Makeup Set includes a duo of a pretty subtle peach lip-gloss and a 10-in-1 high-definition beauty balm with SPF 30 to keep skin hydrated and highlighted. **\$15**

Tarte's Play It Safe Essentials Set offers five products, including Tarte Guard sunscreen lotion broad spectrum SPF 30, maracuja bronzing serum gradual self tanner, Brazilliance skin rejuvenating maracuja self tanner, Amazonian clay waterproof bronzer in Park Ave Princess and Brazilliance skin rejuvenating maracuja self-tanning face towelette. Amazing for the price! **\$34**

Kat Von D Shade + Light Contour Palette has been on shelves for quite a while now, but it doesn't stay there long. This is by far the best contour palette out there, and is fully worth the price. It's even better than Anastasia Beverly Hills. **\$46**

Too Faced Natural Matte Eye Palette is a brand-new product and has nine beautiful neutral matte eye-shadows, perfect for that summer bronze look. **\$36**

Anastasia Beverly Hills Artist Palette has just recently been released and has 12 beautiful bright shades of eyeshadow that are perfect for summer. It includes half matte shadows and half shimmery shadows, the perfect combination. **\$30**

St. Ives Timeless Skin Collagen Elastin Facial Moisturizer is my personal favorite daily moisturizer. I use it every day and it makes my skin feel amazingly smooth and it smells great. The best part is it comes in a 10-ounce container and can be found at drug stores. **\$6**

NET WORTH

Irvine Valley proves to be the Griffins' Achilles heel in the state finals.

| BY DYLAN HAUGH |

The inaugural CCCAA Women's Sand Volleyball season came to an end earlier this month. Grossmont headed into the state tournament as the second overall seed. Grossmont quickly pushed through regionals under the guidance of head coach Jamie Ivers and outstanding number-one team Lauren Hays and Lexi Reddick.

The real test was going to be at Irvine Valley Community College, where of four teams, only one school would be crowned champions. The host Irvine Valley, Grossmont, Golden West and Cabrillo were the four participants.

The Griffins came out hitting in their first match up, making light work of Golden West with a clean sweep (5-0) in the team's one through five pairings. With the championship going to the school with the most overall victories, it was a make-or-break game for the Griffins with favorite Irvine Valley defeating Cabrillo 4-1 in its first round.

The Griffins were in control of their own destiny; three wins over Irvine's five pairings would deliver Ivers and her players the team championship. Unfortunately, the Irvine Lasers came out with heavy-hitting and precision strikes, delivering a (5-0) knockout win.

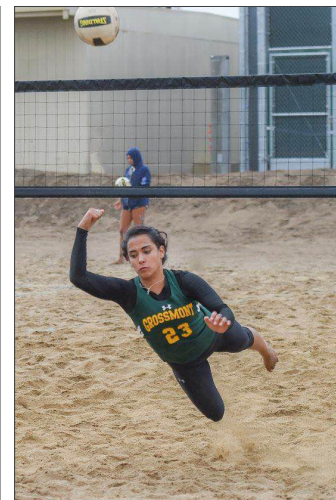
The Griffins didn't let the setback define their season. Ivers had her athletes ready to go just 15 minutes later versus Cabrillo. The Griffins would defeat Cabrillo (2-1) before clinching second place overall.

A day later, Grossmont's top three pairings—Hays and Reddick, Lindsey Spinning and Megan Angerstein, and Tiffany Cobian and Brooke Callahan—would all participate in an eight-team pairing playoff to crown the top duo from each pairing division.

All pairings would advance to the finals before coming up short versus Irvine Valley's top two pairings, leaving the Griffins settling for second best in individual play as well.

With the end of the season come the awards. On top of being the PCAC individual champs, Captain Reddick and her partner in crime Hays also took home the PCAC Duo of the Year award, another outstanding achievement for two already impressive careers at Grossmont.

The following students were members of the 2015 PCAC Women's Sand Volleyball All-Conference team: Lauren Hays, Lexi Reddick, Brooke Callahan, Tiffany Cobian, Katie Rademacher, Samantha Griffo, Gillian Newman and Rachel Linden. Congrats on your fantastic season and bringing in those awards, Griffins!



Clockwise from Top: Brook Callahan spikes the ball while Tiffany Cobian looks on. | Samantha Griffo flying for the dig. | Players flaunt their state awards (L to R): Lexi Reddick, Lauren Hays, Tiffany Cobian, Lindsey Spinning, Megan Angerstein and Lauren Hays. | Rachel Lindon looks to set up Gillian Newman for the kill. | Photos from Grossmont College Women's Sand Volleyball Facebook page.

SPORTS RECAP

The spring semester is winding down, and with that Griffin athletics will officially enter its off-season mode. Here's a recap of how the athletic programs performed this term.

| BY DYLAN HAUGH |

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The men's volleyball season was a win-or-bust type season for the players. The Griffins would go 16-5 while going an impressive 13-1 in conference to pick up the Pacific Coast championship. The team **advanced to the final four in state playoffs** before being ousted by El Camino (3-2).

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The tennis program had a very productive first season on its brand-new courts. **The women's team went 9-3 and an impressive 7-0 in conference play.** The team qualified for the regional playoffs as well, before being eliminated in the first round.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's program finished 9-8 on the year while making the regional playoffs before losing (5-0) in the first round to Irvine Valley. That cinched the 2015 Wilson/Intercollegiate Tennis Association **Coach of the Year** award for Coach Scott Strange.



PHOTO BY JOHN AMARILLAS

CHRIS WAGNER PRACTICES HIS SERVE.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSMONT ATHLETICS

SHORTSTOP MELISSA EGGLESTON TAKES A SWING.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

The Griffins compiled a 17-18-1 on the season while going 11-7 in conference, just missing out on the regional playoffs. Grossmont did enjoy some bright spots in its lineup and pitching this season. **Shortstop Melissa Eggleston hit .339 this season to go with an amazing 28/30 in steal attempts.** Pitcher Nicole Balingier pitched her way to a 14-13 record with a stifling 2.95 earned-run average.

MEN'S BASEBALL

The Griffins came into the season with a lot of young talent and new faces. The 37-man roster had 25 freshmen on it, easily one of the youngest teams Head Coach Randy Abshier has managed. The team never managed to gain traction in Pacific Coast Athletic Conference, finishing at 18-18 and just 12-12 in conference. **Three Griffins were named to the 2015 PCAC all-conference team:** Catcher Diego Reynoso, second baseman Tanner Perry and first baseman Jorge Garcia.

BADMINTON

The badminton team saw an improvement from last season's 0-4 mark. It's a credit to Head Coach Bill Gillespie for **scheduling more games and really jump-starting this young program.** The Griffins would end the year at 2-6, but with much promise for the 2016 season.

SWIM AND DIVE

The men's and women's swim and dive teams both **took part in the 2015 State Swimming and Diving Championships.** The women's team ended the year ranked sixth out of 36, while the men finished up 12th out of 31.



PHOTO BY DYLAN HAUGH

THE PADRES' NEW LED SCOREBOARD.

COLLEGE NIGHTS AT PETCO PARK

Petco Park is quickly becoming the main attraction in San Diego. The Padres' ownership has seen quite an **attendance increase** compared to last season, with attendance rising from an average of 27,103 to 32,393 in just the early stages of the season, according to baseball-reference.com.

San Diego's baseball team is hoping it can get a lot of loud and passionate Grossmont students, especially to attend their College Nights, which are **held on several Thursdays throughout the season.**

- **May 21 vs. Cubs** at 6:10 p.m.
- **May 28 vs. Pirates** at 7:10 p.m.
- **July 24 vs. Marlins** at 7:10 p.m.
- **Sept. 3 vs. Dodgers** at 7:10 p.m.
- **Sept. 24 vs. Giants** at 6:10 p.m.

Tickets typically don't sell out, and they're just \$12 at the stadium's box office with your school ID in hand. **If you buy them online and enter the promo "COLLEGE," tickets are just \$10.**

If you haven't been to Petco this season, there have been some major upgrades, including **Wi-Fi availability and a new audio system.** But the best upgrade may be the brand-new LED scoreboard in left field. The new screen measures approximately 61 feet high by 123.5 feet wide, covering nearly 7,565 square feet and nearly five times the past video display.

Technological upgrades aren't the only improvement for the ballpark. **New food and beverage areas** have been added, including Rimel's Rotisserie, Cardiff Seaside Market, Phil's BBQ, Ballast Point Brewery and Stone Brewery.

For more info, visit padres.com.

—Dylan Haugh



The Arabic Club hosts its Arab Cultural Day.

BY LARA TALIB | PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS BY NEBRAS GORGEES AND EDMOND QULA

Festivities and food were the highlights of Arab Cultural Day, hosted by Grossmont's Arabic Club on April 22.

Authentic Arabic food was for sale, and students and staff performed a traditional Arabic Dance called the "Dubka," which is also known as the "circle dance" to non-Arabs. There were also informational posters about different countries, and, to add to the authenticity of the day, little trinkets and different artifacts from the Middle East were shown on the tables around the quad.

The Arabic Club held a similar event this fall, but people could really get into the Middle Eastern vibe this time around because there was a lot more going on. "It went a lot better than last semester, because there was more variety, and participation," said Dr. Sonia Ghattas-Soliman, Arabic professor and Arabic Club advisor.

The club tries to do something big every semester in order to share the culture. A few years ago, the club actually staged a traditional Arab wedding, and while it was fake, it seemed real because of all the traditions they honored.

"It's a good way to give people a more positive outlook of the culture, especially now," Ghattas-Soliman said.

Throughout the semester, Arabic Club also holds movie nights. They've already had one this semester and they plan on having near the end of the semester, just in time to be a positive distraction from finals and school for students. It's open to everyone, so bring along loved ones and come enjoy a Middle Eastern movie.



Top: A Grossmont student shows off her henna skills. **Left:** The event included Yoursa, a professional belly dancer. She said that this type of dancing comes from ancient times when Arabian tribes were worshiping goddesses. **Above:** Student volunteers brought different Mediterranean dishes to sample.



Above: Students perform the Dubka, a common dance in the Middle East. **Right:** Suhaila Mohammed, a student in Grossmont's jewelry design class, sells her collection.



This year's **Literary Arts Festival** featured many lively voices within the creative writing community. But the voices that stood out the most had to be the new ones—the voices of our own student body, who came together to share a few of their own pieces on the second night of the festival.

Overall all the pieces were outstanding, and the audience that filled **Griffin Gate on April 28** was responsive. It was clear that nerves were also present, but once each student took the podium, it seemed like the nerves went away.

Instructors Karl Sherlock, Sydney Brown, T. Greenwood, Gina Bardard and Ryan Griffith selected the best student pieces from their classes to present in this event. I asked a few questions to a couple of the students whose creative nonfiction performances stood out. We expect so much more from the creative writing department in the years to come. If you would love to learn more about the program, visit grossmont.edu/english/creativewriting.



MICK CORRERI

How It Feels To Be Shrimp-Dick Me

EXCERPT: "If my little man were a character in a Christmas movie, he would be Baby Grinch. It is nothing to shy away from. What my dick lacks in size it more than makes up for in personality."

What's your favorite part about creative writing?

Creative writing has flare and personality.

Were you embarrassed to present your piece?

Not at all. I made sure to wear my big-dick jeans.

What's your favorite type of writing?

It's a tough call between nonfiction and fiction.

JENNA HILGEMAN

American Apparel to Zeus: A Meditation of Sexual Violence and Rape

EXCERPT: "Every 107 seconds, another American is sexually abused. 107 seconds passes forty-two times in Creative Writing class."

What's your favorite part about creative writing?

My favorite thing about creative writing is that it's fun! I'm not an English major, so I am only taking a creative writing class because I enjoy stringing words together as more of a hobby than something I am extremely invested in.

Were you nervous to present your piece?

I was incredibly nervous to read my piece in front of everyone! I don't have a problem with public speaking at all, but since my piece contains a lot of gritty and explicit details about difficult times in my life, it was definitely intimidating to share all that stuff with strangers.

What's your favorite form of creative writing?

My favorite kind of writing is creative nonfiction. It's nice to reflect on life and culture and extract something from that worth sharing with other people.

ANISA FLOWERS

Black Woman, Made Of Moonlight, Magic, And Macabre

EXCERPT: "But in Lush, when that white woman walked up to me and without saying a single word stuck her cold, long Skeletor fingers through my afro and gripped like she was bracing for a disaster, exclaiming how much she just 'loved my ethnic, tribally-styled hair,' I just stood there, frozen..."

The wild geography of my gravity-defying curls is the house of black girl beauty reclamation; she was breaking and entering."

GROSSMONT ALUMNI DANCE THEIR WAY TO THE TOP

Former Grossmont dance students took the stage May 7 to showcase their talents and love for dance.

The alumni graduated in classes ranging from 1991 to 2011, and have all gone on to pursue a career in dance as an instructor, choreographer, dancer or even dance company owners. All 17 alumni came together on this night, traveling from various places—some flying in from Europe, some road-tripping down from Los Angeles and San Francisco.

“All of the choreographers that were highlighted in the Alumni Dance Concert are working professions in the field of dance, and I can’t think of a better example of student success at Grossmont College,” said Kathy Meyer, the dance department chair who has been planning the special concert with the alumni for over a year.

The Joan B Kroc Center theater in La Mesa was fully packed from side to side, and filled with cheers and many rounds of applause through the 12 dance pieces, all of

which were choreographed by the alumni and some of which included their students and other dancers. Each dance looked very professional, and you could see the passion in all the performers’ eyes. Most of the genres were modern or contemporary, but there was also a tap piece, as well as a hip-hop piece at the end that was cut.

A few of the dances painted stories for the audience to see. “From Here To Eternity,” choreographed by Christopher Enders, showed a young couple falling in love and showed their life together. They got married, had a child and grew old together. A child even came on stage with them to act as their daughter, which was Ender’s former ASL teacher. It was a very touching piece and by far my favorite of the night.

Another piece choreographed by Laurie Marie Muniz that literally told stories was entitled “Stories from the Living to the Dead,” which displayed personal stories of Spanish culture portrayed through contemporary and



PHOTO BY STEPHEN HARVEY

modern dance, as well as spoken word. The short stories in the dance were excerpts from “Cuentos: Stories from the Living Dead: Blessing, Tres Hermanas, Abusada, Abuela and Sandunga.” The dancers’ faces were painted

like Dia de los Muertos skulls and wore folkloric dresses to match. It was another beautiful and powerful piece. This was a wonderful show, and I was happy I was lucky enough to attend.

—Sheridan Martinez

LOWRIDER CELEBRATION BY TYLER HEMMINGS



Low-riders were parked in the quad April 14 for enthusiasts to admire. More than 100 students attended the event, for which Manny Cepeda, a Latin Grammy-nominated musician played lived music with his trio.



GROSSMONT BRIEFING

Facilities: New Projects

Grossmont College's facilities department has a lot of revamping and new projects on its agenda.

First, the Arts and Communications building is going to be rebuilt January 2017. Task force members met April 3 to discuss the matter and what the plans will be to remodel the building. The next task force meeting will be held on May 1. The final touch-ups and layouts will be finalized towards the end of May for this project.

"The Arts and Communications Task Force is scheduled to meet May 1 to approve the final schematic design and to review the conceptual three dimensional building elevations," said Ken Emmons, Grossmont's facilities director.

In addition, construction of the teaching and performing theater should also begin in January 2017, said Emmons, adding that these projects will help to further develop Grossmont College.

There was also a submission for all parking lot repairs and roadway fixes at Grossmont College as well. Public bid opened on April 7, and more progress on this matter will be resumed on May 15. Project Manager Don Kramer will be in charge of parking lot and roadway construction over this summer.

Yoga: Serenity Now

Every time you walk around campus, you can see other students carrying their yoga mats. That's because yoga is one of the most popular classes at Grossmont.

Students enrolled in the courses are prepared for all activities, which are filled with so many different workout activities that strengthen your body and mind.

There are three different types of yoga classes at Grossmont College: beginning, intermediate, and adapted yoga. Beginning yoga teaches the fundamentals of various workouts and gives you an introduction to the course, while intermediate is a little more challenging. It involves more interaction with the body, so expect to get a full workload of yoga at higher speeds.

Adapted yoga is for advanced and more experienced people who have taken yoga for a long time. A lot more challenging than the other two yoga classes, adapted yoga gives you the workout of a lifetime and helps you move on your own at different gyms and maybe even with differing instructors.

The yoga classes are extremely well instructed because of the teachers and staff involved. A well-respected yoga instructor, Jennifer DeMarco focuses on the spiritual aspect of the course, making you feel at ease with yourself as she helps your body to calm down. DeMarco, who is currently teaching yoga at Grossmont and Southwestern Colleges, has been highly recognized for her teaching abilities in several types of yoga classes. She said she likes to also combine her methods and put everything into one concept just so it can be a bit of help for the student to adapt.

Grossmont's yoga classes let students learn different concepts in the discipline, ultimately allowing them to grow and invest in the physical and spiritual journey.

—Elias Totah

NEPAL'S NEEDS BY DYLAN HAUGH

Since the devastating 7.8 earthquake hit the remote country of Nepal in April, financial and military aid has poured in from all over the world.

The death toll from the initial shock has reached over 8,000 people, and about 10 percent homes were destroyed or damaged. Aftershocks are still being felt across the country, and another earthquake that hit May 12 killed an additional 75 people. Many citizens have been sleeping in the streets in fear that structures will collapse around them.

In an interview with PBS Newshour, Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala called for "courage and patience" and urged those who had initially assisted to "once again extend your helping hand."



PHOTO BY JOHN HAUGH, LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND USAR TEAM

Grossmont students can help the people of Nepal by donating food, money or clothing to any of these organizations: The Salvation Army (salvationarmyusa.org) and The Red Cross (redcross.org), as well as Save the Children (savethechildren.org) and UNICEF (unicefusa.org), which are focusing on children's needs for clothing, blankets, sanitation, health and nutrition.

Sadly, some people are looking to cash in off this tragedy, so be wary of scams. Do your research on certain sites before donating, and look for websites ending in .org or .edu.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS A WORTHY CAUSE

| BY ELIAS TOTAH |

The Boys & Girls Clubs of East County make a difference in young children's lives. Holding fundraisers and other special events helps raise money and awareness for the national organization, which provides a safe place for children to go after school.

The Buffalo Wild Wings franchise helped raise awareness by having a full day of donating all meal purchases to the Boys & Girls Club foundation. Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants have donated more than \$1 million to local organizations that help youth and families in need, aid military families and support relief efforts as well.

In June, the organization will hold the Circle of Friends cruise. Donors will enjoy a day on a private yacht to benefit the children who attend the clubs. It includes food prepared by a private chef and beautiful sceneries to admire.

In July, the 42nd Annual Golf Day at Sycuan Resort and Casino will be filled with fun activities for the children and their families to enjoy themselves. Supporting the organization by purchasing a foursome of golf for the day would be ideal, and wearing your most tropical golf attire to this event is an absolute must.

Other upcoming events are around the corner, starting with the Auction Stampede at Barona Resort and Casino on Oct. 23. This event attracts more than 350 supporters who are eager to bid for a lot of items donated by local and national businesses.

The Boys & Girls Club foundation takes pride in building a home environment for youth. It's a place to go that is fun-filled and that puts a smile on children's face after school. While some of the children are less fortunate than others, it's the job of the organization to make them feel at home.

Full Disclosure: Elias Totah works for The Boys & Girls Club of East County.

MAY TRENDS

BY DORION BILLINGSLEA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MISSGUIDED DAVINA T-SHIRT DRESS, REVOLVE CLOTHING WHITE RYDER ROMPER, VIPPARO ELLIE MESH LEATHER CROP TOP, MISSGUIDED OVER-SIZED T-SHIRT DRESS, NLY BLUSH T-SHIRT DRESS, STYLISH EVE CROP TOP

It's now the time to break out those summer clothes and enjoy the warm weather to come. There are a lot of options in summer clothing, but it's good to know what should be left back in 2014.

There are so many things women can wear that it's ridiculous, but there might be some new fashion trends that you might wanna keep an eye for when putting on that new summer outfit.

There are so many different styles of dresses that are coming out now, but you should keep an eye out for t-shirt dresses, which come in many different shapes but still fit like a huge tee. They are extremely comfortable and perfect for a warm day when you don't feel like having anything else on. Similarly,

rompers are very stylish when it comes to the shorts with dress look, but a romper is everything connected into one piece, which is way more comfortable than shorts hugging you on a hot day.

You can always try something different other than your ordinary regular tee to make you look really fashion forward like wearing crop tops. There are so many different designs for crop tops that you can't say you don't at least like one. They make anybody look chic, and it's less wearing on your stomach so your body can breath more. More styles are slowly still trying to come out, like male crop tops that used to be really popular back in the 80s but are slowly making their way back thanks to the hot weather.

Mesh is huge right now, not only for woman but also for men. The whole see-through thing is really good on a hot summer day because the cool breeze is just able to hit your skin easily, plus it shows off that great body.

Men have many options when it comes to shorts, from basketball shorts to cargo shorts, but fewer when it comes to shirts like the ordinary v-necks, collared shirts or tanks for summer.

A huge accessory for summer are sunglasses, and when it comes to getting some it's always good to have at least two opinions because you want to make sure those glasses fit your face perfectly. It's always the perfect last touch for a fun summer look.

THE MET GALA

Formally called the Costume Institute Gala, the Met Ball is an annual fundraising gala for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City. Held on May 5, this year's theme was **China: Through the Looking Glass**. All of the celebrities came to show off their best outfits for the event's theme.



Left to Right: Kim Kardashian is wearing a mesh Roberto Cavalli gown with small beautiful designs on it. | Usher makes his way through wearing all Calvin Klein and carrying a walking stick. | Rihanna is wearing a very long Guo Pei dress that took two years to make. | Justin Bieber cleans up really nicely as he is covered in Balmain. | The last person to arrive, but always worth the wait, Beyoncé is wearing a mesh Givenchy dress. *Photos courtesy of E! News.*



Q. I just bought a \$1,100 Valentino handbag and \$775 Chanel sandals! Do you like designer things?

A. Anybody would like designer things, but I think that's going way overboard, especially for a college student. I would wait to buy those things later in life and focus more on the cheap side—unless you're rich and just have money to blow.

Q. Should I be mad my boyfriend for telling me that I don't look good in some of the things I wear?

A. Definitely not! He is only trying to make sure that you look your best and you don't walk out the house looking like a hot mess. So you should actually be grateful, because most boyfriends don't care.

Q. Why should people wear clothes?

A. For various of reasons, like first, it's illegal not to. You can also express yourself and show off your style, and stay warm on cold days. And just imagine all of the people that wouldn't look good without clothes. If you like being nude in public, then you should try a Black's Beach in La Jolla.

Email your questions to Dorion Billingslea at summit@gcccd.edu.

STORE SPOTLIGHT

This store never fails to disappoint every time you walk in. Even though the merchandise may be a little pricey, it always has the latest fashion trends. **Urban Outfitters** pretty much carries anything you are looking for, from women's to men's clothing and accessories. It even carries decorative items to spice up your living space.



TOP LIVE PERFORMERS

Becoming a music icon is more than having a great single here and there. It's also all about performing and connecting with fans. Here's the top 12 performers who have left a mark in music history. If you're not convinced, then YouTube them. You will be amazed by their skills.

| BY DORION BILLINGSLEA |

The late "King of Pop" was one of the most influential musicians of all time. His stage performances were legendary, with his breathtaking dance moves electrifying fans around the world, especially with his trademark moonwalk.



#1

Michael Jackson



Whitney Houston

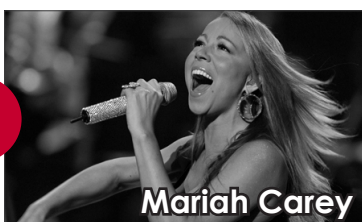
By far, Whitney had the most voice control ever. She set the standards for singing that has yet to be matched in music history, changing the game for other women who couldn't even reach the late Houston's high vocal strength.

Prince never fails to put on a show with his unique stage outfits and outstanding vocals. Through his performances, he has captured that sensibility where your mind goes to a different place.



Prince

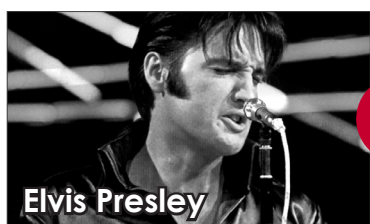
#2



Mariah Carey

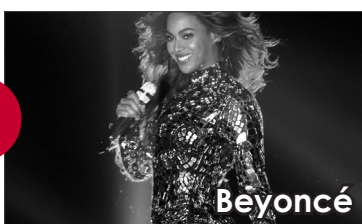
Her range, tonal sound, accuracy of pitch and upper power when hitting high notes is what made her one of the greats. Sure, she's not as good now, but her voice will always be incomparable, with no one ever matching her high whistle notes.

Presley had a voice that would never again be matched in music history. With all of the beautiful music he has left us, he currently still has fans all over the world more than a half a century later.



Elvis Presley

#3



Beyoncé

Queen Bey's voice is just out of this world and you can hear that by just watching any of her performances. She is a dream of what an artist should be, as she can sing any tune while simultaneously dancing and not losing her breath, making for a very rare talent.

Stevie is in a class all his own. His music invigorates the soul and continues to have relevance from albums and performances he has done more than 20 years ago.



Stevie Wonder

#4



Madonna

The "Queen of Pop" has a strong voice character and a great breath technique that allows her to successfully dance and sing at the same time. She has remained pop royalty in the decades over which her career has spanned.

For more than 15 years, Usher has been a dominant player in the music industry, dancing and singing on the way to the top thanks to the influence of pop icon Michael Jackson.



Usher

#5



Celine Dion

With her range being beyond incredible and her ability to sing in five different languages, Dion sings in a crystal clear voice that can crack glasses. She never fails to put that extra emotion to any of her songs, blowing away her audiences.

Arguably the "Prince of Pop," this total class act has created his own sound and style with an incomparable falsetto. Timberlake is the perfect example of the older, all-around artist and entertainer.



Justin Timberlake

#6



Aretha Franklin

Nothing needs to be said about "The Queen of Soul"; her talent says it all. She inspired so many other icons that came after her, and nails notes so high even some of the greatest singers can't hit. She deserves all the respect she sings about.