

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | APRIL 2016



FREE SPEECH?

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The SUMMIT

A publication of Grossmont College's
Media Communications Department.

Vol. 42 | Issue 7 | April 2016

SUMMIT STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Ashley Stout

Deputy Editor: Rodney Ousley

Staff Reporters

Alyssa Blackhurst, Sebastian Caparelli,
Keith King, Octavius Hunter

Senior Editor: Sheridan Martinez

Designer: Molly Moranz

Adviser: Jeanette Calo

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

8800 Grossmont College Drive

El Cajon, CA 92020

619-644-7454 | grossmont.edu

Governing Board Members

Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Edwin Hiel,
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Student Members

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Chancellor : Dr. Cindy Miles, Ph.D.

President: Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D.

Contact us at
summit@gcccd.edu



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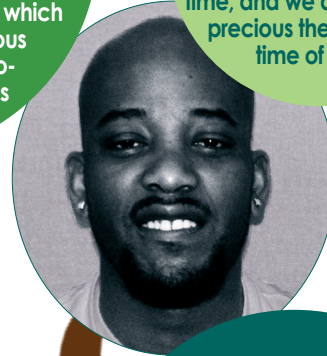
**ALYSSA
BLACKHURST**



Let's catch up with the Pacific Northwest by going green in our cafeteria. Biodegradable plates, cups and utensils would make a big statement and help promote Grossmont as a leader in the green revolution. Many famous corporations like Google have cafeteria products made of biological materials, which break down quickly. Various companies also offer eco-friendly products such as letsogreen.biz.

Going to self-car wash instead of washing your car at home is always a great way to promote going green. You save water and time, and we all know how precious these are this time of year.

**OCTAVIUS
HUNTER**



**SEBASTIAN
CAPARELLI**



I honestly can't believe how many people don't recycle; it's literally minimal effort! You just separate your cans from your plastics. While recycling to help fight global warming should be reward enough, if you need extra incentive—you can get paid for doing this. Most recycling plants will pay around 5 to 10 cents per item. It might not seem like much at first, but if you put aside some bags full of recyclables every week, you might just have \$20 in your pocket.

**KEITH
KING**



At least once a month, I like to have my own beach clean up. Going to the beach is one of my favorite parts about living in San Diego, and my way of giving back is to help keep it clean. I also like to bring my reusable bags to stores to reduce the use of plastic, and I take in all my cans and bottles to recycle as well. Our planet has enough pollution as it is, so why not help keep the earth clean?

**SHERIDAN
MARTINEZ**



The first thing that comes to mind for me is electronics. With so many upgrades of our phones, computers, etc., it's easy to forget how harmful just throwing our old electronic items in the trash can be. Electronic waste contains a lot of mercury, and other toxics that are causing more and more problems in our environment. Recycling our old electronics can be so easy, yet so important.

There are so many ways to go green, but I think everyone should use eco-friendly bottles. Plastic bottles end up tarnishing our beaches, parks and trails. You can find refillable bottles from brands like CamelBak, Hydro Flask and Autospout. Some purchases even help out the world; for example, each GiveMeTap bottle bought gives clean drinking water to people in Africa for five years. Help out and get hydrated; the world will thank you later.

**ASHLEY
STOUT**



Education is key. There are almost too many ways to count how we can make small changes as individuals to improve the environment, but most people don't know about the resources and knowledge that is available. Gogreen.org is a good place start for tips on living a cleaner and environmentally conscious lifestyle.

**RODNEY
OUSLEY**



SUMMIT STAFF

**EARTH DAY IS
APRIL 22.**

**HOW CAN YOU
GO GREEN?**

TOP OG TRACKS

With finals approaching next month and summer around the corner, this is the perfect time for college students to bust out their mobile devices and set their music playlists. Listening to your favorite tunes on-the-go will always put you in a good mood. Here is my playlist, in no particular order. **BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER**



R&B

Temptations "Ain't Too Proud To Beg"

If you haven't heard this song, than you my friend, are sadly missing out. Berry Gordy's Motown music production has produced some of the best music in history and "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" is at the top. From David Ruffin's vocals to the lead guitar chords, this song is a instant masterpiece.

Marvin Gaye "Let's Get It On"

No singer is better at setting-up a mood than Marvin Gaye. Candlelight dinner, a movie and some "Let's get it On" is always a perfect

recipe for an romantic evening. With an classic 50s melody, crazy rhythm patterns and Gaye's voice, this track will be remembered forever.

R. Kelly "Bump N Grind"

As an 80s baby, I've always have the utmost respect for talented artists of my era. Well, who else than the pied piper? Released in 1994, "Bump N' Grind" became a number-one single on the U.S. Billboard's Top 100, and is still playing in nightclubs and bars today.

Keith Sweat "Nobody"

I guarantee in the first 10 seconds you'll be singing, "I wanna tease you, I wanna please you." Just like R. Kelly, Keith Sweat was a man of the 90s era. His unorthodox voice and simple lyrics will have you singing along the whole time. It's the perfect song for those last-dance moments as well.

Laurn Hill "Doo Wop (That Thing)"

Unfortunately, this was the only single that reached number one on the U.S. billboards charts for ultra-talented music artist Lauryn Hill. "Doo Wop (That Thing)" is one of the 10 songs in history that debuted at number one and also won two Grammy awards for "Best R&B song" and "Best R&B female singer" in 1999.

Nas "One Mic"

The album *Stillmatic's* production roster included Nas' first album *Illmatic* originals DJ Premier, Large Professor and L.E.S. along with Ron Browz and Swizz Beatz. In "One Mic," Nas illustrates a picture with his complex lyrics while starting out as a whisper, and by the end of the verse he is shouting, which builds up only to be quiet again. As each bar gets more intense, the song gets louder and more intense, which is a great combination for a smash hit.

Tupac "So Many Tears"

We all know Tupac Shakur is the most influential rapper of all time. But did you know the hardcore, West-Coast rapper was vulnerable at times? This third single from his *Me Against The World* album, has Tupac seeing demons, having nightmares and being pretty much scared for his life.

Notorious B.I.G. "Who Shot Ya?"

Released about 20 years ago and appearing on Notorious B.I.G.'s third single "Big Poppa," this track has become one of the most contested and controversial songs in history. This track alone added fuel to the fire to the West-East coast beef. Today, rappers still using this beat for rap battling and mixtapes.



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York in the 80s. He made one of the best rap battle songs of all-time ("Ether" by Nas is the best). With a pounding beat, witty punchlines, fierce cockiness and machismo attitude, no one dared to grab the mic after LL.

Kendrick Lamar "Maad City"

(featuring MC Eiht)

Lamar takes us for another ride on the storytelling train. This time, we journey through the streets of Compton, where there is gang violence, drugs and sex. With a soft-spoken tone and tons of wordplay, "Maad City" is just simply MAD.

LL Cool J "Bad"

Before LL Cool J went Hollywood, he was the baddest rapper in New

POP

Michael Jackson "Thriller"

He's called the King of Pop for a reason. This song is strongly considered to be the best song ever, and sets the bar for the music industry. Michael broke down a lot barriers with "Thriller," not to mention the best music-dance video of all time. Clearly, the song was years ahead of its time.

Prince "Let's Go Crazy"

The opening track to both the album and motion picture film *Purple Rain* is arguably Prince's most popular song. With thousands of his fans screaming "Encore!" at every concert, "Let's Go Crazy" has a tendency to be extended for hours and hours—which is a good thing, especially if tickets can range between \$250 to \$25,000 per seat.

Michael Jackson "Billie Jean"

Have you ever done the moonwalk? Of course you have. Well, Jackson done it again. Created dance history with another number-one U.S. Billboard's Top 100 single. "Billie Jean," along with other singles, received recognition by winning two Grammy awards for "Record of the Year" and "Best Male Performer" in 1984. YouTube the Motown 25th Anniversary/Michael Jackson and prepare to be amazed.

Usher "U Remind Me"

Fellas, we all been there before. Meet a girl that has the perfect qualities, but there's something about her that resembles your ex. Usher's hot single "U Remind Me" from his *8701* album tells us about his relationships and also reached at the number-one spot on U.S. Billboard's Top 100.

Michael Jackson "Bad"

With so many number-one hits. It's inevitable to see another single from Jackson on my list.



ELEVENWARRIORS.COM

MUSIC INDUSTRY SHOWDOWNS

ARTISTS HAVE HAD SEVERAL FAMOUS DAYS IN COURT.

BY RODNEY OUSLEY

Since the early days in the history of recorded music, business executives have sought to capitalize on the talent of artists to market them like products. This process often leads to the dehumanization of popular young stars who suffer the financial as well as emotional consequences. In recent headlines, the music world was rocked by the rape allegations of Sony Music recording artist, Kesha, against her former producer, collaborator and mentor Dr. Luke. After the Feb. 19 court injunction that denied Kesha the right to record music outside of the veil of Sony Music, and subsequently the tutelage of her alleged abuser, fans and fellow artists alike rallied to the pop star's defense with the #WeStandWithKesha hashtag. But this is hardly the first incident to expose the behind-the-scenes improprieties of the music industry to the public. Here's a timeline of the music industry's most famous legal battles.



2014: POP PRINCESS DEFERRED

Joanna "Jojo" Levesque quickly rose to fame at the tender age of 13 after showcasing her larger-than-life vocals on her debut single, "Leave (Get Out)," from her self-titled debut album in 2004. Levesque signed an unprecedented seven-album deal with the now-defunct Blackground Records, the creative force behind the early career of late R&B superstar, Aaliyah, who sold more than 30 million records worldwide.

Citing creative differences after the release of her commercially unsuccessful follow album, "The High Road," Levesque embarked on a nearly 10-year legal battle after the label indefinitely shelved her third studio album. During the stall of her professional music career, Levesque took a turn at acting, as well as releasing several mixtapes to the public for free online. Finally in 2014, Levesque was released from the label due to a breach of contract from Blackground Records' refusal to release new material. In 2015, Levesque signed with Atlantic Records and is slated to release her much anticipated third album later this year.

1995: INDUSTRY GIANT STIFFS CLIENTS INTO BANKRUPTCY

When iconic 80s R&B artists, Antonio "LA" Reid and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds joined forces to form LaFace Records, dozens of young and talented acts clamored for a chance to be represented by the label. Among those acts were sexy and stylish girl group, TLC, and Toni Braxton, the then up-and-coming soul diva.

TLC— which consisted of members T-Boz, Left Eye and Chilli—experienced financial hardship. While riding high on the multi-platinum success of their sophomore album, "Crazy, Sexy, Cool" in 1995, behind closed doors the group's personal finances were being grossly mishandled by LaFace's management team. Despite selling 11 million albums in the United States alone, the group members had only been paid an estimated \$30,000 each after two studio albums and over a year on tour. As teenagers, the young women signed their original distribution deal and never amended the payout requirements after the unexpected success of their debut album, believing the label had their best interests at heart.

A year later, Braxton experienced similar hardships after being forced to file for bankruptcy due to a hidden clause in her contract that billed the singer directly for band, crew, and wardrobe expenses on tour that she was lead to believe would be paid out by the label itself.



1993: LOVE AND WAR

Rock, R&B and New Wave music icon Prince is notoriously known as a man of few words, but he spoke volumes during his legal battle with Warner Brother Records over the release of his 17th studio album, "The Love Symbol Album."

Prince had long expressed his frustrations with his record label interfering in the artistic process of his music. In response, he began to perform with the word "slave" written on his cheek. He also incorporated a series of name changes including "The Artist Formerly Known As Prince," to eventually adopting a wordless unisex moniker known as "The Love Symbol." In an official statement released through his publicist, he said: "Prince is the name that my mother gave me at birth. Warner Bros. took the name, trademarked it, and used it as the main marketing tool to promote all of the music that I wrote."

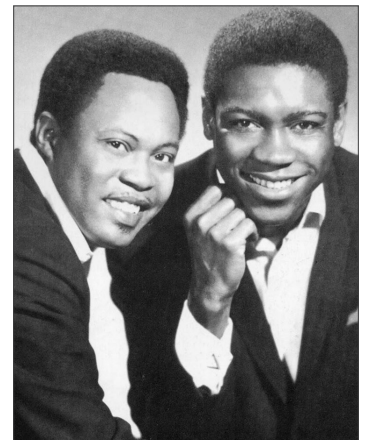
The musician fulfilled his contract with Warner Brothers in 1996, and subsequently released "Emancipation," one of his most critically acclaimed albums to date, on his own independent label, NPG Records. In an interesting twist, Prince resigned with Warner Brothers in 2014, but music insiders took note that this was a tactic in order for him to reclaim full rights to the music he created during his original stint with the label without having to go to court.

1980s: DIVISION

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo, Samuel Moore and David Prater, known collectively as Sam & Dave, were R&B pioneers largely credited with incorporating the black gospel sound into contemporary popular music, inspiring iconic acts like Aretha Franklin and Al Green. Their early hits "Soul Man" and "Hold On, I'm Coming" are still sampled in various media outlets and pop culture today.

The duo got its start at Atlantic Records in the mid-1960s, but were then "loaned out" to Atlantic's less successful subsidiary label, Stax Records. But unbeknownst to the artists, they were never actually signed to Stax. As time went on, the duo cranked out hit after hit, and Atlantic Records took notice and seized ownership of all the music they recorded.

The fallout from this betrayal is widely believed to have primarily contributed to the detriment of the group. Tension rose between the longtime partners, and it is alleged that the two did not speak to one another offstage for nearly 13 years while continuing to tour in the U.S. and Europe, and the group disbanded more times than most around them can remember. During the 1980s, the group saw a resurgence of success due to the incorporation of their music in the popular "Blues Brothers" sketch on *Saturday Night Live*. The duo officially broke up in the early 80s and never spoke to one another again.





[Rod's Reel Referrals]

BY RODNEY OUSLEY

IN-BETWEENERS

Coming-of-age stories have been around since the popular “summer beach party” comedies of the 1960s, where disgustingly wholesome teens embarked on their first big adventures away from the watchful eye of their parents. Fortunately, today’s version of the sub-genre has a bit more edge and far less random musical numbers and blue-screen surfing montages. The heroes of these modern films have been dubbed “in-betweeners,” because they find themselves in some very adult situations despite their young ages. This trapped-between-two-worlds story structure has created a whole new generation of film geeks, and is the theme of this month’s picks.

IN THEATERS/ ON DEMAND: THE PREPPIE CONNECTION

Directed by Joseph Castelo. Starring Thomas Mann, Henry Madera and Lucy Fry. 2016.

Inspired by a true story, this 1980s crime drama takes place in the most unlikely setting. Lower-middle class prep school student Tobias Hammel (Mann) wants nothing more than to fit in with his affluent classmates, while simultaneously looking for a way to help ease the financial burden on his parents who are struggling back home. While most students in the same predicament take on the typical part-time fast-food gig, this solution won’t provide the cool points he so desperately needs. So he decides to set up commerce in the latest fad sweeping the wealthy Connecticut private school campus: Cocaine.

With the help of his Colombian roommate, Tobias travels to the war-torn country to establish drug connections with one of the fiercest drug cartels, fronted by their hard partying leader, Raul (Madera.) Soon, word on campus travels about the guy with the pure, uncut cocaine connections, and the teen becomes one of the most sought-after drug pushers in the city. As his clientele expands to high-society clients and even one of his own teachers, Tobias must balance the pressures of his newfound success without losing himself to the uncertainty, violence and addictions that come with it.

STREAMING ON NETFLIX: YELLING TO THE SKY

Directed by Victoria Mahoney. Starring Zoe Kravitz and Gabourey Sidibe. 2011.

A shy wallflower comes into her own in the most unexpected ways. Sweetness O’Hara (Kravitz), seems like the typical teenage outcast who would rather study than party, and who is constantly terrorized by bully Latonya (Sidibe) for not being able to afford designer clothes. But her classmates have no idea about the war that wages at home for Sweetness, as she is often caught in the middle of the battles between her abusive father and her emotionally detached mother.

After Sweetness’ older sister Ola announces her pregnancy, their mother and father soon abandon the girls and Sweetness takes it upon herself to fend for what is left of her family. To put food on

the table, she turns to the drug game as a small-time pusher. After being accosted and nearly robbed by Latonya, Sweetness finally fights back and defeats her nemesis, claiming control of Latonya’s crew in the process. Overnight, Sweetness and her gang of tough, no-nonsense girls become the most infamous drug-selling and street-hustling team in their neighborhood, rivaling even the most nefarious street thugs in the area. But when her sister learns of her deeds and her father unexpectedly returns to right the wrongs he made against his family, Sweetness wrestled with the doubts and wonders if she can ever return to her former self.

ON DVD/ BLU-RAY: THE KINGS OF SUMMER

Directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts. Starring Nick Robinson, Gabriel Basso and Moises Arias. 2013.

Lord of the Flies meets *Superbad* in this raunchy modern-day summer classic. Most teens can relate to the stress of having overbearing parents, but socially-awkward high school student, Joe Toy (Robinson) has had it with living under his widower father’s roof and decides to use his advanced carpentry skills to build a new one of his own. He enlists the help of his vastly more popular best friend Patrick (Basso), who reluctantly agrees to escape his own problems at home by running away together and building a house in the woods. Their plans are further complicated when their hilariously disturbing classmate Biaggio (Arias), suddenly shows up unannounced to join the duo.

After crafting their newfound shelter, the boys must figure out a way to survive, and with the help of survivalist books that have stolen from their school’s library, embark in a self-taught trial of adventure to learn to live off of the land. Somewhere in between constant arguments and tribal drum jam sessions, the boys decided to throw a party at their new digs with some of their old classmates in attendance. Things take a turn for the worst, when Patrick begins a relationship with Joe’s longtime crush, and hostilities between the two threaten to destroy the foundation of their friendship and the home-away-from-home they have built together.

REVIEW: GET A JOB

With the spring graduation date just around the corner, transitioning into the working world can seem more like a horror/suspense film than a comedy in the minds of most students. *Get a Job*, an upbeat raunch-fest directed by Dylan Kidd, most famous for his work on Adult Swim’s hit show, *Children’s Hospital*, **unsuccessfully attempts to make light of the grim uncertainties of adult life and responsibilities in the world just beyond the college gates.**

Originally filmed back in 2012 with before-they-were-famous actors Miles Teller (*Whiplash*, *Fantastic Four*) and Oscar nominee Anna Kendrick (*Pitch Perfect*, *Into the Woods*), the film was unceremoniously shelved due to “distribution issues,” code for a lackluster finished project that the film studio does not believe is worth the expenses and effort of releasing. Fast forward to 2016, the aforementioned actors along with fellow cast member Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) have now become household names, so **CBS Films decided to release the movie after four years in limbo with the hopes that their star power alone will push this project to success.**

The overall plot of “Get a Job” is right there in the bluntness of the title. Will Davis (Teller), scrambles to find steady employment after his supervisor, played by John Cho (*Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*), informs him that he simply “forgot” to add him on as a regular employee at the company Will has been interning for over the past two years. Later in the film we learn that Will has a laundry list of qualities that make him a horrible employee; we’ll get to that a little later. But, for now, we’re lead to believe that the biggest dilemma this young man has faced is his life thus far, is due to the fact his boss of several years cannot be bothered to fix a slight oversight. This is just the first, of many examples of lazy storytelling this film has to offer.

From beginning to end, this film simply refuses to take its intended message seriously long enough to actually get around to telling a compelling story. In the film’s opening narration, we’re told that this is a tale about how millennials were told, far too many times, how special they were as children. Essentially they all grew up to be a generation of entitled brats who are totally unprepared for a world where you aren’t handed gold stars and trophies just for participating. Although he doesn’t flat out say it, the natural assumption of this film is that Will would be the shining beacon of hope that changes all that. That statement could not be any more wrong. **Will goes on to emphasize the film’s true theme, that all young people are terrible,** by showing up to a job interview dressed as a teenage stoner, promoting his YouTube channel instead of bringing an actual resume, and unable to stop texting long enough during the meeting to see that he’s totally blowing it.

Except he doesn’t blow it. He miraculously gets the job, and thus begins a pattern of being rewarded for his bad behavior. The only redeemable character under the age of 30 is his unbelievably loyal girlfriend Jillian (Kendrick), who spends half of the movie being portrayed as an obnoxious, fun-snatching nag because she has the audacity to push Will to actually try. And then there are Will’s roommates, Luke (Brandon T. Jackson, *Tropic Thunder*), Charlie (Nicholas Braun, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*) and Ethan (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, *Role Models*). They don’t do much to change the ugly perceptions painted here, but we do get to see them in the perspective workplaces, and their side stories are infinitely more interesting. And Will’s father Roger (Cranston) is not even worth mentioning, because his whole purpose in the film is to be an enabler.

Get a Job isn’t the worst film ever made, although it’s a strong contender for the worst film of 2016. All would be forgiven if the filmmakers had given a “wink” ahead of time to let us know that this film is a complete joke, rather than make awkward transitions between legitimacy and levity. Thousands of recent college grads across the country are hopelessly trapped in uncertainty and debt due to the recent financial crisis. This film missed a golden opportunity to tell their stories in a relatable way. Years from now, when future generations look back at the films that defined this moment in time, this one will certainly not be part of that conversation.





Theater students bring this zany musical to Grossmont's stage.

A REVIEW BY RODNEY OUSLEY

Mismatched lovers, jewel thieves and a thrill-seeking corpse round out the hilarious cast of characters in "Lucky Stiff." This musical comedy was the first of many collaborations from Tony Award-winning writer/composer duo Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. The show first premiered in 1988 and has been a fan favorite ever since, with countless stage reproductions worldwide and a feature film version released in 2015. Performing this musical is no small endeavor, as copyright laws require theaters to purchase the rights to each song, costing several thousand dollars in fees. Lead by director Geno Carr, a critically acclaimed actor and performer who lent his talents to this student production, Grossmont Stagehouse Theatre's March 10 opening night performance was a smashing success, despite a few technical snafus.

The play opens on Harry Witherspoon (Raymond Kazules), a lowly English shoe salesman spending yet another Friday night alone at work, when he receives a telegram informing him that he has inherited \$6 million from his mysterious deceased uncle Anthony, whom he has never met. To Harry's surprise, a clause in the will requires him to take his uncle's embalmed body on one last holiday to Monte Carlo with a specific set of instructions that must be followed to the letter, otherwise the money will go to a charity for dogs supervised by the painstakingly ambitious Annabel Glick

(Jillian Jones). Meanwhile in Atlantic City, bumbling optometrist Vinny Di Ruzzio (Brendan Cahalan) and his money-hungry sister Rita La Porta (Amy Oliverio), make their own play for a stash of diamonds they believe is in Harry's possession. The wild goose chase all unfolds to the delight of Luigi Gaudi (Ryan Schafer), Harry's unofficial tour guide, and the wheelchair-bound corpse of Anthony Hendon (Ralph Johnson) along in tow.

Enthusiasm and commitment are vital to putting on an incredible stage performance, and the cast and crew of *Lucky Stiff* have it in spades.

The cast overall put on an incredible performance and made every moment count. The actors committed to continuously staying in character, seamlessly transitioning from the focal point to background players with sharp precision. Watching them break down the set and stage props in between scenes in itself was a fun and entertaining experience, and even then the actors never broke character.

While the cast shined the brightest as an ensemble, Cahalan's solo performance in the "The Phone Call" greatly showcased his vocal range and expert grasp of comedic timing. Jones and Kazules' portrayal of reluctant lovers, Annabel and Harry, offered some much-needed depth to the often silly atmosphere. And Oliverio's hysterically over-the-top New Jersey accent and quick-fire mood swings within a single scene left the audience eagerly anticipating her every move. The supporting cast – consisting of actors Eric Durbin, Laura Jimenez and Cassandra Wallies – transitioned between nearly 20 minor characters combined, with Wallies nailing the "Speaking French" musical number as the seductive lounge singer, Dominique du Monaco. Honorable mention goes to Andres Legang, for his scene-stealing portrayal of the bellhop and emcee, whose Elvis Presley-inspired dance moves garnered the biggest laughs of the evening.

Any students who attend regular classes in the theater (21-247) have had a chance to see the transformation of a basic bare stage to the numerous locations featured in "Lucky Stiff." From trains, planes, hotel rooms and casinos, all locations had to be represented on the same stage. The backdrop consisted of a city skyline, with doors and compartments cleverly designed to distract the eye, and from which cast members spun compartments to reveal set props or pulled down a Murphy bed with the ease of Vanna White's letter reveals on the "Wheel Of Fortune" puzzle board.

Lighting and lighting cues were also crucial in telling this story. When Dominique du Monaco stopped midway through her big number to ask for her signature blue spot light, she got it! The only hiccups on the production end was with the sound. Microphones cut in and out, and often the music was too loud and drowned out the actors. With sound being the most important aspect of a musical, these technical difficulties were hard to ignore, but didn't take too much away from an overall pleasurable experience.

Enthusiasm and commitment are vital to putting on an incredible stage performance, and the cast and crew of "Lucky Stiff" have it in spades. A great comedic performance should make you feel happier than you were before you entered the theater, and, judging by the reactions from the audience, they hit the target.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Episodic gaming is an ongoing saga. **BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST**

After the commercial success of Telltale Game's *The Walking Dead*, many video game developers began to associate its popularity with its format—a business model that revolves primarily on “episodic gaming.” The idea behind episodic video games is to release smaller portions of game content rather than a complete product in hopes of accumulating interest at around a fourth of the cost.

Though less cost for both gamers and developers alike seems to garnish the most appreciation, there are other obvious advantages to this method of development. While a typical video game may spend, at a minimum, years in production, developers following the episodic formula have multiple yearly releases. This means that developers of these specific styled games must remain focused and productive, advocating the idea that there is extra quality, and that their games are more innovative.

However, as these types of games have become more prominent, gamers have begun to criticize their similarity to DLC, or extra downloadable gaming content. The stigma that comes from this association is simple—DLC is argued to be lucrative

marketing ploy at the expense of the gamer, who is receiving minimal content at a supposed unfair price.

This is only made worse when DLC is considered continuity-wise, which episodic gaming lacks. Since DLC is a type of content that most typically appears following a game's release, it derives from a greater, more

I mean, why can't they test it out now to see if it's enjoyable and in working order before sending it out?

—Richard Cox

complete video game— meaning it can more easily convey credibility, as it may adhere to an established expectation.

Since there is no initial sense of an episodic game's reputation, gamers are thrust into the role of “beta-testers,” where they must

invest their time and money to try out an incomplete and ill-established product. Every beneficial idea proposed by an episodic game is suddenly questioned on authenticity. A gamer is no longer sure if the game will be consistent in story and characters, in quality, or if it will ever be completed.

Michael Burke, a gaming enthusiast at Grossmont, expressed his opinions on the matter: “I understand the need to make games episodic. It helps developers out budget-wise, and there are also benefits from a narrative point of view if you pace your content.”

Burke shared the underlying problem. “What I dislike about it is that the episodes are released over extended periods,” he said. “It's just not ideal as a consumer, especially when the alternative is a complete developer cycle culminating in a finished product—a whole video game.”

Though Burke has had poor experiences purchasing episodic games based on their broken content and wait times, he found their content “way more palatable compared to say, games with shorter developer cycles and day-one DLC.”

These shorter cycles are annually released video game titles, such as *Call of Duty* and *Assassin's Creed*. These titles are criticized for both their similarity with previous installments, and their game-breaking glitches. DLC may sometimes be released alongside a video game, on day one of its release. Some in the community believe that shorter development cycles and readily available DLC mean less care and thought for the title.

Student Jennifer Flores said she didn't find episodic games to be all that different from their more complete counterparts. "The only real difference is waiting for the next part, but I don't think of waiting as something that's bad," Flores said. "Having to wait for the next episode usually hypes everything up for me, so it can actually be beneficial."

She cited two specific episodic titles: "For instance *The Wolf Among Us* had this really enticing and creative story, so the journey it took me on begged to be completed. I also liked *Life is Strange*, but I was always anxious or terrified of what would happen based on what I chose."

Although developed by different companies, both titles revolve around a gaming mechanic that focuses on player choice. This means that the player can determine what they want the main character to say and do, which may affect the course of the game. As a disclaimer, Flores said she played both of these titles when most of the episodes were out.

Richard Cox, who is interested in becoming a video game developer in the future, said he dislikes episodic games.

"I think my biggest beef is definitely their content length," he explained. "It's extremely minimal, and a lot of the times an episode will be another three months away. I like to play things from start to finish."

Cox said he also believes that sometimes the developers are "making things up as they go."

"I mean you'll go from episode one to episode two and the plot changes, they've rewritten things and suddenly what you remember doesn't make sense," he said. "They just think, 'Well if that doesn't work then we'll try something else.' And it's mind-boggling. I mean, why can't they test it out now to see if it's enjoyable and in working order before sending it out?"

Cox said he lost faith in episodic gaming when he played *D4: Dark Dreams Don't Die*, because he loved playing it but there was no sequel.

"They couldn't really sell the game's greatness with that little content," he said.

Cox's best friend Amy Diaz shared her similar disinterest in episodic gaming: "I always figured it helps developers gauge the interest in their game, but it usually hinders interest based on the slow progression. It's like, 'Let's play it really safe, even though people will probably forget about us over the course of a few months,' compared to releasing a finished product and getting an immediate huge reception."

Diaz commended Telltale's *The Walking Dead* and *The Wolf Among Us* for their "incredible character development." However, the praise came with a final note: "I don't think they're good because they're episodic, per se. They just happen to be episodic."



THE FANS WANT MORE

But do comic books have enough draw?

The success of superhero movies has sparked a newfound love of comic book-related content. This year alone, movie-goers will be graced with *Deadpool*, *Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Captain America: Civil War*, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, *Suicide Squad* and *Doctor Strange*. With the inevitable success of these blockbusters, the industry has gone out of its way to provide fans with additional content, such as new comic titles and various types of merchandise.

However, while it's clear the industry's goal is to make money through ample amounts of goods coinciding with a movie, it's unclear if they've really covered their entire market. Comic book video games are certainly on the rise, but is there enough content available to sate the now increasingly apparent need comic book fans appear to have?

"Honestly, a lot of the comic book related video games in recent years have been so rushed," said Grossmont gamer Christopher Morrison. "They try to release stuff in conjunction with the corresponding movie release, and the quality suffers greatly."

Morrison admitted there are undeniably good comic-oriented games, such as developer Rocksteady's *Batman: Arkham* series: "It was something new and refreshing. The characters were all well-developed, and the story flowed in a familiar yet innovative way. It also had a fun combat system to boot."

Fellow student Sarah Lopez said she's been a comic book reader since elementary school.

Though she's accepting of more comic book-related content, she said she's "kind of fine" with the amount of content already available, including *Batman: Arkham*, *The Walking Dead* and *The Wolf Among Us*.

"They're atypical to the usual DC Comics and Marvel stuff," Lopez explained. "It's not as family-friendly."

When both students were asked if there was a specific kind of superhero game they would love to see in the future, they both agreed on an *X-Men*-related title.

"I used to play *X-Men Legends* on Playstation when I was younger," Lopez said, recalling the co-op, action role-playing game released by Activision in 2005. "I still go back and revisit it for the nostalgia factor, but I'd love to see that game reinvented."

Morrison agreed: "I'd especially love to see an *X-Men* game in kind of the same vein as *Destiny* or *The Division*. I could customize my mutant's facial features, and then pick my own cool, superhero mutant power. I don't see this as ever happening, but it would be incredible."

Developer Bungie's *Destiny*, and Ubisoft's *Tom Clancy's The Division* are first person shooters that allow the player to free roam in a shared, open world. With the use of collaborative multiplayer, a player can work in a team-based versus environment, or fight against other players. Both games borrow role-playing elements, most notably through their level progression, ability upgrades, and character customization.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST

BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST

CONFLAGRATION

A recent protest involving the American flag brings the boundaries of free speech front and center.

BY SEBASTIAN CAPARELLI

Violence has become a reoccurring theme at political events in the United States this election year. With all the physical conflict erupting at Trump rallies, it seems like Americans have forgotten how to disagree, leaving communication behind for a clenched fist and fire.

This behavior is carrying over to our campus with increasingly tumultuous demonstrations.

Kevin Crowley, a veteran and psychology major at Grossmont, has been shaking things up with a mutilated American flag that witnesses say he draped on the steps outside the ASGC offices, near building 55, blocking the egress of students trying to avoid trampling it as they passed by.

Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Board Policy 3900 Speech “guarantees freedom of expression provided that such expression does not result in a disruption of the orderly operations of the college and district programs and activities.” The policy goes on to say its priority is to “maximize the opportunity for free discussion and expression while minimizing the potential for disruption of classroom and college activities and interference with the ability of students to obtain an education.”

“We are on the same side, if you will stop and see this.”

—Alecia Leos,
Student Veteran

Witnesses who requested anonymity because due to a warning from staff in Student Affairs reported that on another occasion he confronted students near the Veteran’s Center and engaged in a heated argument with a young woman named Alicia Leos, a communications major utilizing a post 9/11 GI Bill. Students might recognize Leos by her service dog Macy who Leos said helps ease symptoms brought on by Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and MST (military sexual trauma) she suffered

during her six years in the U.S. Army.

Witnesses say Crowley then entered the Veteran’s Center and another verbal battle ensued.

Though the student who shared this story did not enter the Veteran’s Center, he said he could hear someone inside yelling, “Get out of my way; let me pass.”

These incriminatory statements seem to be pointing out that Crowley’s demonstrations are pushing borders and violating college policies. By entering areas that are not free speech zones and blocking the paths of students attempting to go to classes, it would seem that administration would be forced to get involved. Representatives from Student Affairs said they could not comment on the situation because it involves specific students.

Kaitlin D’Eimon, an English major and ASGC board member who agreed to go on the record, said another veteran student had stolen Crowley’s flag and retreated into the Veteran’s Center.

She also photographed the police taking the flag from a veteran and returning it to Crowley. “When George Washington and other revolutionaries took issue with the English throne, they took British flags—which represented their country at the time—and altered them with words like ‘liberty’ or wrote other Latin phrases representing freedom [on them],” D’Eimon

said. “This was not considered a criminal act, but a heroic one in the face of tyranny.”

D’Eimon said she defined patriotism as involvement in government.

“The freedom for which the flag stands for is more important than the symbol of that freedom,” she said. “Patriotism is not about how we treat the flag; patriotism is about voting—and not just every four years. Patriotism is voting at the school board level, and the park district level, and mayor or alderman level, and being educated on the issues, thinking about them, voting and letting your representatives know where you stand on the issues.”

In a phone interview, Leos stated that she argued with Crowley because seeing the flag dragged on the ground caused her great distress. While she admitted to grabbing the flag to lift it off the ground and explain its importance to Crowley, Leos said she never stole the flag from Crowley, but instead engaged in what she hoped would be a civilized conversation.

“I admit I feel passionate about the issue and got very upset with him, but his tone and body language turned it into something ugly very fast,” Leos said.

Another veteran reminded her that taking the flag from Crowley would only make things worse, and she heeded the advice and let it go. Crowley walked away from her and she followed.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH DESCOTEAUX



PHOTO BY KAITLIN D'EIMON

ADMINISTRATION'S TAKE ON **SPEECH**

Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Grossmont's president, said the school's administration goes out of its way to support free speech on campus, citing District Board Policy 3900, which guarantees free speech.

In cases in which "students push the boundaries, the boundaries would push back," Abu-Ghazaleh said. For example, entering any classroom or protected place students are required to frequent for school, with the intent to demonstrate, is a violation of these free speech policies. He went on to share that following students who are trying to avoid offensive speech or demonstrating in an area where students cannot escape would also be in violation of college policies and subject to disciplinary action.

In an email sent about free speech and protecting the emotional wellbeing of the student body, Abu-Ghazaleh encouraged all staff members to "make this a teachable moment by promoting dialogue and discussing ways to handle and respond to such situations peaceably."

He also reminded staff and students alike that they are not required to provide an audience and have a right to turn their back on speech they find offensive. If any students feel they are being subjected to offensive speech in situations from which they cannot retreat, they should contact Campus and Parking Services (CAPS), who will contact the sheriffs if necessary.

"Don't handle it yourself," Abu-Ghazaleh advised. "Get help."

Both the president and Crowley clearly agreed on one issue: In situations like these, there is often a high likelihood of bias toward speech with which the majority does not agree. Crowley said

that while Americans, and more specifically Grossmont students, advocate free speech, "all of that goes away when it is practiced by someone who is saying something they do not want to hear."

"Social justice is a big issue," Crowley continued. "The idea that people should have a right to say the things they want to say, and the right that people have to not be harassed or bullied all of those things are completely gone and ignored when it's against something they don't like."

Crowley added that his main goal in demonstrating is to awaken a complacent student body, so they will hold their government accountable. His hope is for them to open their

Leos said Crowley told her he was with Iraq Vets Against the War, an organization she too is a part of, although she had never heard of him before this day.

"I know he is hurt," Leos said "I was hurt too."

She described how she came home disillusioned and distraught about the U.S. military and what it is doing around the world. But now she has chosen a positive route to unify fellow soldiers for change, and said she thinks Crowley "is going about it the wrong way."

For Leos, the flag is a symbol of more than the government. It is a shroud for all the loved brothers and sisters who bled for its ideals. To her, the flag is a personal symbol that means far more.

In response to the accusations about the Veteran's Center, Crowley stated that he only went inside in pursuit of his stolen flag. He went on to say that he was not there to cause trouble and that it was him who was yelling for veterans in the center to move out of his way, not the other way around. He also stated that his girlfriend videotaped the event as proof of what transpired, and they will be sharing a compilation in the future.

When asked how the veterans would react if Crowley came and presented his flag to them for proper disposal, Leos said she felt he would be embraced again as a brother in arms and together they could make real plans for a protest with honor: "Together we are stronger, and can do more. There are better ways to speak out against a corrupt government, without trampling the faithful who fought and died for the freedom you protest under."

Leos said that through peaceful dialogue, both Crowley and other veterans will find a better way.

**"Once you start
abridging freedoms,
it's a slippery slope."**

—Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh,
Grossmont president

“

The freedom for which the flag stands for is more important than the symbol of that freedom.

—Kaitlin D'Eimon, ASGC Board Member

eyes and think for themselves, rather than just move along without noticing what's happening on U.S. soil and abroad.

Crowley said the momentum from the incident has grown far beyond what he had imagined, and the awareness and discussion made his campaign successful. At the same time, he said he felt his greatest failure was allowing "intimidation and threatening behavior" to anger him enough to respond emotionally and undermine the attempt at peaceful protest.

Since being threatened with violence and having his property stolen from him, Crowley has had friends videotape him whenever on campus. Whether or not his message is considered offensive, violence is clearly not the answer, and is condemned by the school administration.

Reacting in a violent or intimidating way is counterproductive to healthy debate, and a college campus should be a safe place for intelligent discourse.

Freedom, specifically freedom of speech, is one thing that sets America apart. The U.S. Constitution was constructed by leaders who often did not agree and even engaged in heated exchanges over what the red, white and blue colors of our flag should really mean.

"Once you start abridging freedoms, it's a slippery slope," Abu-Ghazaleh said. "This is affecting people in ways that are painful. Had it been just demonstration in the free speech area, there would have been no interaction no interference, because I have to guarantee that freedom."

This is especially important to Abu-Ghazaleh, a native of Jordan who learned about America's freedom of speech in the 1980s. He said he was able to see the principles behind this freedom through a perspective of one who began school surrounded by high fences topped with barbed wire.

"I grew up in a part of the world and in a time when no speech was allowed," he said. "Those freedoms are important."

And it's "those freedoms" for which armed forces choose to fight.

"I understand that it is a hurt when seeing their national symbols offended, but we have to remember this is exactly why people put themselves in harm's way," Abu-Ghazaleh said. "They are not just protecting popular speech; they are protecting all speech, the Constitution and all its amendments."



SUFFRAGETTE BEING ARRESTED AT DEMONSTRATION.

EXTREME DEMONSTRATIONS

Extreme demonstrations are nothing new. For example, in 1913, Emily Davison threw herself in front of the king's horse to demonstrate for women's rights, and died from her injuries. Today, suffragettes might be considered terrorists with demonstrations that included smashing shop windows, bombing buildings and butchering sculptures with meat cleavers.

Today, many animal rights organizations use extreme methods of protest. Daniel Andreas San Diego, a Berkeley, California, native, is one of two Americans listed as dangerous on the same list that once held Osama Bin Laden. San Diego is a 34 year old vegan under indictment for allegedly setting bombs outside two different companies in California in the name of animal rights. The FBI claims that animal rights organizations are increasingly moving towards violence, committing thousands of crimes and causing tens of millions in damages.

Other organizations who have desecrated the flag in protest include: Occupy, Alien Rights, Black Lives Matter, Native Americans for Wounded Knee and many others. Our flag has suffered bomb shrapnel, bullet holes and burning. It has been stained with the blood of its patriots by enemies and brothers alike. It represents a Constitution some believe our own government tramples daily.

On the other hand, America in all its defects and flawed practices is still a shining star of hope for many who close their eyes at night and dream of a chance to be called one of us. Where do we draw the line between the freedom our country represents and causing harm? Should there be a healthy debate and, if so, can we accomplish this peaceably?

In reference to Crowley's right to defile the flag, Abu-Ghazaleh said: "It is, in a way, reassuring that you can still do that. There is legislation that prohibits the defiling of the U.S. flag, but there is case law that supersedes that, which says it is more important to protect the freedom of speech."



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SPRING SPORTS RECAP

With playoff contention coming up, our sports teams are finishing their regular season and focusing on postseason. Women's sand volleyball, men's baseball and women's softball are all likely to win conference championships and compete for state.

WOMENS SAND VOLLEYBALL

We are thrilled to announce that four Griffins were named Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Female Athletes of the Week this past March. The four student-athletes honored were Brooke Callahan, Robyn Arthur, Tiffany Cobian and Hannah Doonan.

Callahan and Arthur form Grossmont's number-one women's sand volleyball pairing, going 3-0 on March 18 by defeating Mt. San Jacinto, 5-0; Santa Barbara, 4-1; and Pt. Loma Nazarene, 5-0. Cobian and Doonan delivered a knockout win 4-1 over San Diego Mesa before receiving Grossmont's only loss to Grand Canyon University 5-0 on March 22.

The Griffins open conference play on April 1 with dominance by sweeping both Palomar College and San Diego Mesa 5-0 resulting in an impressive 13-1 overall record.

SCHEDULE

April 15 vs. Mira Costa, San Diego Mesa (10 a.m. at Mesa)

April 16 vs. Grand Canyon University (10 a.m. at GCU)

April 16 vs. Arizona State University (1 p.m. at ASU)

April 22 vs. Ventura, Rio-Hondo, Irvine (10 a.m. at Grossmont)

April 29 PCAC Individual Tourney (9 a.m. at Grossmont)

STORY BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER
DESIGN BY MAURICE GHOSN

BASEBALL

Our baseball team followed up an 9-0 home loss to San Diego Mesa on Thursday with a 9-2 victory on the road over San Diego Mesa on Friday to improve to 19-8 overall and 12-3 in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference in first place.

Rightfielder Robert Bostedt went 4-for-5 on Friday afternoon with two runs. Outfielder Tanner Perry went 2-for-4 with one RBI and one run. Perry, who is hitting .440 and leading the conference in runs (24), started the game on a high note with a single in the first inning. After moving to third, Perry was able to score the first run of the game on Travon Beard's hit. Designated Hitter Noah Strohl also scored to put Grossmont ahead 3-0 and never look back.

San Diego Mesa's Nate Mann scored the Olympians' first run off of Alex Eliopolus's single in the bottom of the fourth inning. Then, Jake Rico manage to score Mesa's other run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

This is the final meeting this year for these two teams having Grossmont winning three out of four-game series.

SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES ARE AT 2 P.M.

April 8 San Diego City College

April 12 Imperial Valley

April 14 Imperial Valley*

April 15 Imperial Valley*

April 26 Mt. San Jacinto*

April 28 Mt. San Jacinto

April 29 Mt. San Jacinto*

* HOME GAME



SOFTBALL

Grossmont came away with 12-5 win over non-conference opponent San Bernardino, improving to a 21-9-1 overall record and 6-4 in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference last Friday.

Overcoming a scary start, Grossmont scored eight runs in the final two innings. Second baseman Rachel Everett went 5-for-5 with three runs and one RBI. Alexis Flores went 2-for-4 with two runs and four RBIs. Ashley Madara is now 8-4, pitching 5.1 innings with four strikeouts and only allowing two runs.

SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES ARE AT 3 P.M.
(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

April 8 Palomar

April 12 San Diego Mesa*

April 13 Imperial Valley* (at 1 p.m.)

April 15 Mt. San Jacinto

April 19 San Diego Mesa

April 22 Southwestern*

April 26 San Diego City*

* HOME GAME



GROSSMONT.EDU

ROAD MAP TO EXCELLENCE

Visit a counselor or Transfer Center specialist.

BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ AND ASHLEY STOUT

Looking to transfer? Need some guidance? Look no further! Grossmont offers services right in the heart of Building 10 in the Transfer and Counseling Center.

If you are new to school, unsure of your major or unsure of the classes you need, you can head to the counseling center to meet with a professional counselor and they will assist you. They also offer mini counseling appointments every day and the times as follows:

- Monday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, 1 to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon
- Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you are planning to transfer to a four-year college, you may want to go there so they can match you to what classes the school of your choice requires before you can transfer. The staff will also tell you important deadlines you need to follow and inform you of helpful workshops they offer throughout the semester. They will also tell you if you're

eligible for an associate's degree from Grossmont.

"The Transfer Center offers counseling services for students seeking to transfer to a four-year public or private university," Sarah Moore, the director of the Transfer Center, said. "Students are encouraged to visit the Transfer Center early and often throughout their educational journey at Grossmont College."

Moore also said that the center invites "students to participate in our many informative workshops and events," including workshops on topics such as Transfer Options, ADT, GPA Calculation, CSU/UC Applications, SDSU/UCSD Admit workshops and the SDSU WP.

The center also hosts bus tours to local universities such as SDSU and UCSD, and is offering two upcoming transfer fairs: the Spring Fair on April 27 and the Fall Fair on Oct. 5.

Students can visit the Transfer Center in 10-173 or call 619-644-7215.

MUSICAL CALENDAR

BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER



Every month, Grossmont's Music Department features live music concerts here on campus and at local venues in San Diego. From African-Cuban ensemble to symphony orchestra and master chorale, there's a large variety of music available to students and the community.

MOZART

Grossmont Symphony String Quartet

When: April 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Where: Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, San Diego

Admission: \$10 general; \$5 students

AFRO-CUBAN & JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dir. Derek Cannon and John Reynolds

When: April 12, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Cuyamaca College, Performing Arts Theater

Admission: \$10 general; \$8 seniors and faculty; \$5 students

GROSSMONT GUITAR GUILD

Directed by Fred Benedetti

When: April 20, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Where: Grossmont College, (26-221)

Admission: \$10 general; \$8 seniors and faculty; \$5 students

COLLEGE BAND NIGHT

The Grossmont College Concert Band

When: April 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Cuyamaca College,

Performing Arts Theater

Admission: Free for students

MOZART AND MENDELSSOHN

Grossmont Symphony String Quintet

When: April 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Paradise Village Retirement Community, National City

Admission: Free for students

MOZART AND MENDELSSOHN

Grossmont Symphony String Quintet

When: April 24, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church, 625 Pennsylvania Ave., San Diego

Admission: \$10 general; \$5 students

PASSPORT TO THE CARIBBEAN

Fundraiser featuring Latin classics

When: April 28, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Grossmont College (26-220)

Admission: \$10 general; \$8 seniors and faculty; \$5 students

Thursday April 28th 2016

Grossmont College Griffin Center, Building 60

11:00AM TO 12:30PM

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GROSSMONT
COLLEGE





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GROOVIN' GRIFFINS

BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ

Adam Parson will teach two dance workshops at Grossmont.

If you are a fan of dance and want to learn a new skill, Grossmont Dance Department's spring master dance classes may be the solution for you. The **master dance classes are an extra class you sign up with through the dance department for a fee of \$10, or \$18 for two classes.** The classes take place on campus and are taught by a guest instructor. All genres are offered throughout the semester.

This month, the master dance classes being offered are Jazz Dance and Musical Theater. Both are **taught by Adam Parson, a famous choreographer** with a startling background in many genres of dance. Parson has been a dancer in stage, film and television. He has also performed for Former President Bill Clinton when he was in the White House and has choreographed for the hit show "So You Think You Can Dance Australia." One of his dance students is currently in the top 20 of this year's "So You Think You Can Dance U.S."

The two master dance classes will be offered **Sunday, April 10, in dance studio 24-271.** The Jazz-Open level will be from noon to 1:30 p.m., and the Musical Theater class will follow from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. Be sure to get registered before the class is full and get a chance to learn from a trained professional. For more information, call 619-644-7766.



HEALTH UPDATE

BY KEITH KING

The **Grossmont Health & Wellness fair will be taking place on Wednesday, April 20** at the main quad from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair will be offering services such as HIV testing, yoga classes, blood pressure checks, and information on eating disorders and mental health. Also there will be a chiropractor available for those sore backs, as well as representatives from Planned Parenthood and the LGBT community. Come out, enjoy the fair and get your health game up. Remember, health is wealth.

Health services will also be having **two blood drives this month:** April 13, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and April 14 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The mobile blood bank will be parked in the main quad. Let's support a good cause and donate.

CAMPUS UPGRADES



ARTIST'S RENDERING OF NEW PERFORMING ARTS THEATER.

UPDATE BY KEITH KING

Improvements are underway on the Grossmont campus. A new 34,870-square-foot, 350-seat Performing Arts Complex for plays and teaching purposes will be the most noticeable and largest renovation. The project will include the new Hyde Art Gallery, featuring a display billboard that will advertise and showcase the creative process for this state-of-the-art facility.

Another campus upgrade will be the Science, Math, and Career Tech Complex. This project involves rebuilding Building 36 and renovating of Building 31. The two buildings will consist of earth science, administration of justice, a child development center and science division shared rooms.

LET'S GET LITERAL

The Literary Arts Festival returns for its 20th year.

BY SEBASTIAN CAPARELLI

This Year's Literary Arts Festival runs from **April 25 to 28 in Griffin Gate (Building 60),** and – to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the event – the schedule is packed.

The festival kicks off on April 25 at 7 p.m. with **"New Voices,"** a show that highlights some of the great writers on campus, showing off work such as original short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, novel excerpts, drama and mixed media literary works. The next day, a panel discussion on **Why Literature Matters** will also be led by students at 2 p.m.

Following that, **memoirist Raymond Wong** – the author of *I'm Not Chinese: The Journey from Resentment to Reverence*, winner of a 2015 San Diego Book Award for "Best Published Memoir" – will speak on April 26 at 7 p.m. in an event that is funded by *Poets & Writers* magazine.

On April 27, **Tod Goldberg, author of the Burn Notice novels,** will be here at 2 p.m. to share some of his magic. Then, at 7 p.m., visitors can enjoy readings from a popular literary book *Sunshine Noir II: Writing from San Diego to Tijuana*, including music and poetry by Frontera Drum Fusion. The finalists from **The Writing Project**, a writing contest open to Grossmont College students hosted by the Creative Writing Department, will also be announced that evening.

The final evening involves a **double reading and book signing with poets Natalie Diaz and David Martinez.** Martinez will reading from her award-winning collection, *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, and Martinez will read from *Hustle*, his debut collection.

The festival is funded by a grant from the World Arts and Cultures Committee of Grossmont College.



[illegible]

April is the month of service.

The Water Fair is back and better than ever. This two-day event will be held April 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Griffin Gate (Building 60), which is ready to be flooded with students and questions. The “One Theme, One Campus” water project lets students showcase their water-related issues in a campus-wide competition. Participating classes will have students break into groups handling certain topics relating to water.

–Ashley Stout

The Hyde Art Gallery has a new art exhibit "Under Pressure, Printmaking Today" that runs from April 5 to 28. The exhibit will spotlight 18 Grossmont students and features more than 40 works of art. A catalog of the exhibit will be for sale in the gallery. Stop by to support your fellow students' hard work.

–Alyssa Blackhurst

–Alyssa Blackhurst

–Octavius Hunter

The Griffin Speech/ Debate Team won the fifth-place team award at the California Community College State Tournament held in Concord, California, last month. Xavier Daniels and James Jovanovich won the silver award in Duo Interpretation. Esau Cortez won the silver and bronze in International Parliamentary Debate and Impromptu Speaking respectively. Jovanovich also took the bronze in Prose Interpretation.

An inspirational two-part event will be held April 12 and 14. On Tuesday, April 12, there will be a free screening of *"Underwater Dreams,"* a documentary about how the sons of undocumented Mexican immigrants built an underwater robot from materials purchased at Home Depot, defeating engineering powerhouse MIT in an international competition. Directed by Mary Mazzio and narrated by Michael Peña, this film officially premiered at the White House as part of National Robotics Week. The film will be shown in 26-220 at 6:30 p.m.

Two days later, a panel consisting of three of the men featured in the documentary – Lorenzo Santillan, Luis Aranda and Allan Cameron – will be speaking to Grossmont students, staff, and faculty in Griffin Gate at 6:30 p.m.

Susan Davis, a media communications major at Grossmont, won a "Best Writing" award for her work in the film "Three Strikes" at the San Diego Film. The film, which was made during a 48-hour film project, also garnered a "Best Editing" award. The competition is a part of the Film Consortium San Diego. The award ceremony will be rebroadcast April 23 at 6 p.m. on Cox Cable Channel 4.

Did you know that San Diego is home to the fourth highest homeless population in the country and the third highest number of homeless veterans? St. Vincent de Paul, or Father Joe's Village, is the city's largest rehabilitation center for the homeless. This is your opportunity to help assist this valuable and essential program alongside your friends, classmates and instructors. Volunteers will help prepare and serve either lunch or dinner at the downtown facility.



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BY SEBASTIAN CAPARELLI

A great bowl of “Phở King” soup can be found west of San Diego State University. Driving down El Cajon Boulevard, you will find several blocks filled with Vietnamese businesses dotting the neighborhood. Among them are approximately 10 different phở restaurants.

Served as breakfast in Vietnam, *phở* really refers to the rice noodles, though over there the broth sets the standard. If a soup stall in a Hanoi market has “poo poo” broth, it will not remain open long. This being said, when you find an establishment with great broth, all the extras are discouraged until you have at least sampled it on its own. If sauces are still your thing, the two favorites are hoisin sauce (the sweet brown stuff) and a little sriracha, which enhance the average bowl found in San Diego. This brings the hungry scholar to the question of where to find some Vietnamese soup around Grossmont College.

PHO KING

For this month’s soups scoop we take a seat in Pho King Restaurant, near Menlo Avenue, in the heart of El Cajon Boulevard’s little Vietnam. First off, when choosing a place to eat phở, you want one that serves it extremely hot and with fresh ingredients. Preferably you should see the meat turning from a bright pink to brown as it cooks in the rich broth. This will tell you a lot about the place you have chosen to eat. If your steak looks more like carne asada, grab your chopsticks and go.

You may be wondering why you are getting a lesson on location, but if you hold on “phở” a minute, you will understand that unless these elements are in place, you are not experiencing true Vietnamese dining. Fresh ingredients, and family-run establishments are key to this experience.

BROTH

Ordering the *Phở Tái* is one of the simpler choices. It comes with the famous broth, which is usually painstaking prepared over a period of hours, before you have even began to crave

a bowl, and is rich in flavor and fragrance. The broth is the most important step in the process of preparing phở, and because of this, the best bowls are served by Vietnamese families who have passed their recipes down from generation to generation. There should be fragrances of onion, ginger, beef, star anise and clove.

NOODLES

The guest’s next decision will be the choice of noodles. Because rice noodles don’t hold up for more than an hour or two in the soup, many regular visitors opt for the egg noodles, which are sturdier and will remain intact so you may enjoy the soup later as a leftover. However, if you plan to enjoy the meal in one sitting, the rice noodles are a must, complementing the symphony of ingredients into which they are lowered.

PROTEIN

Tái means “rare steak”; however, there are many diverse choices the adventurous student may add, like chicken (*Ga*), sliced flank (*Nạm*), crunchy flank (*Về Dòn*), sliced beef brisket (*Chín Nạc*), tendon (*Gân*), tripe (*Sách*), beef meatballs (*Bò Viên*) and everything from chicken beaks to beef knuckles.

LITTLE SAIGON

Also in the college area, Little Saigon is one of the best family-run establishments, well known for its authentic bowls of phở larger than the average linebacker’s stomach. Another great place if you find yourself craving a bowl after a vigorous day of shopping in Mission Valley is Pho Cali Restaurant, which is situated in a tiny shopping center behind Hooters next to Best Buy.

Wherever you find yourself ordering your first bowl of phở, make the experience a great one by buying a bowl for a friend in need, who might require a pat on the back and a smile to lift them up. This is guaranteed to make the meal a blessed one.



ECO-friendly RIDES

BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER

Over the past two decades, the transportation industry has been switching from diesel-power to economy efficient fuel or even solar power. Hybrid and all-electric cars are becoming a huge hit these days.

Electric cars have engines that run only on electricity and are recommended for short-distance driving. Hybrid cars also use electricity, but have the option for gasoline for longer trips and traveling at high speeds.

Even V8 engine fuel-burning customers can come to the terms that these eco-friendly vehicles can be asset to our world. Here are five advantages for consumers purchasing eco-friendly cars over vehicles that required only gasoline.

- **Save Money.** These days it seems like gas prices just keep getting out of control. Gas prices around Grossmont area can average \$3.15 per gallon. And that’s just for unleaded gasoline. For student who drives V8 engines vehicles, our perspective manufacturers suggest using 91 octane gasoline, which can cost more than unleaded. Switching to a hybrid or electric car can save you hundreds of dollars and headaches on the road.
 - **Get Money.** According to the Internal Revenue Service, taxpayers can receive a rebate up to \$3,000 by choosing a hybrid car over a conventional one. Be sure to check with your dealership or a tax preparer to see which vehicles are qualified.
 - **Help Planet Earth.** Owning a hybrid or an electric car gets us one step closer to preserving our planet from global warming. Electric cars run on batteries, not fuel-burning engines, so there is no smog test every two years. Hybrids have fuel engines but can also use batteries. “Having both sources for power, hybrid consumers reduced polluted chemicals being released in the atmosphere and greenhouses for gases,” said Frankie Gomez of East County Toyota.
 - **Drive in the HOV Lane.** Have you ever driven in the HOV lane when you are running late for class? Always checking your rear-view mirrors highway patrol? Need to drive around slow drivers in the fast lane? These traffic violations are \$300 and up in fines. But fear not, HOV violators, there is an easier way. Buying a hybrid or an electric car can give you access to the HOV even if you are the only person in the vehicle.
 - **Gain Long-Term Value.** If you are in the car-buying game for the first time, the best bet is to buy an eco-friendly car. “Getting my Toyota Prius is probably the smartest decision I’ve ever made,” said Evelyn Stanley, a nursing major at Grossmont. These cars require less maintenance and are valued higher than standard models in Kelley Blue Book.
- According to Consumer Report, Toyota’s Prius, Camry and Highlander are considered the best hybrids on the market today.

Coachillin'

BY ASHLEY STOUT

Coachella is here, and we've got you covered. Let the festie season commence!

Coachella is the ultimate festival dream, and its expense could definitely keep it that way. So here are tips and tricks to get you a little closer in a few easy steps.

Drop the Aux: Don't plug in your phone; listen to the radio. Most radio stations are giving away Coachella wristbands, and you just have to be a certain caller to win. Some stations are having you sign up online and wait for your name to be called on air, so be all ears, because you just might win by tuning in.

Get Workin': Coachella offers those an opportunity to attend in a unique way. Volunteers are graciously appreciated and much needed at the polo fields. Also working with one of vendors or at the festival will get you so close to it all. Even though you won't be at some of the sets, you will be able to be immersed in the festival itself, which is more than a lot of people do.

Day Clubbin': Substitute the whole festival, for a mini one. Catch some of your fave Coachella artists at day clubs! At the Hilton Palm Springs, the LED Day Club is hosting Coachella artists both weekends, from Skrillex from Jack U to TokiMonsta. Get as close to the festival as you can.

WHAT TO WEAR?

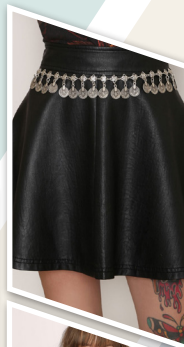
It's time to play in the festival fields, dance into the night, and be carefree. This festival season is all about the looks that make you look like a total bad ass, yet super-cute at the same time. Festie fashion is taking a couple tips from Western movies, some motorcycle buffs and Pocahontas. The range for trends goes from one random thing to another, creating the cutest looks of festival fashion ever.

Kick Some Dust

These shoes will have you dancing in the middle of the dust.

THE WESTERN SIDE: Boots are in, and you will be making sure everyone knows as you prow through the festival fields. Boots with leather straps, a small heel and cool tones are good to match every outfit and show that Western style.

COMBAT ROCKIN': Combat boots make a soft look a little bit hard. They are comfy for all the dancing you will be doing, and shows your edgy style with your festie outfit. It will play up a more girly dress or romper. Show your tough side!



Accessorize

These are the main components of everything you want and need for accessories

FRINGE: Walking all over the festival to your really overpriced locker is just a hassle and can make you miss your favorite artist. You don't want that, so carry a backpack, but not a chunky, ugly hiking one. Grab a cute, fringy small one to go with your festie outfit. Save yourself the trip across the festival to the middle of nowhere for that locker, and save you some bucks for some yummy festival food and a drink.

FEATHERS: Nobody is plucking a bird for this fashion look—it's just mock feathers to make cute accessories. Suede necklaces are accompanied by feathers to make sure you look like you are straight out of nature. The accessory is simple and subs in for the overdone chokers that everyone will be wearing at the festival.

COINS: No need to spend this money. These gypsy coin belts are the hit of the festival season, and a statement piece that will have all the heads turning with its glimmer and glam. And while you dance away into the night, the coins will be your personal hype man, jingling you on.

Lace It Up

Laces are in, and not on your shoes. These slightly revealing, lace-up outfits are seen all over the runway, stores and festies. Lace up and start strutting!

DRESSES: If you are going to wear a lace-up dress, make sure it's a maxi. The maxi dress, with the slim, long style will equal out how revealing look of the lace-up plunge.

SHIRTS: If you are going to wear a lace-up shirt, go for a cropped flowy top, the lace-up part won't be as dramatic, since it is a cropped shirt, and the flowiness gives it a sexy, girly look.

ROMPERS: If you are going for a romper, wear it with a print. The print of a romper will play down the sexy lace-up part, showing some skin, but drawing eyes to the print, not the cleavage.

INTERNETWORKING: THE SOCIAL WAVE

BY ASHLEY STOUT

Tweet, like, comment, subscribe, follow and favorite. Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn—it's time to get networking, so hold on for the ride.

Today is not like yesterday and won't be like tomorrow; that is how social media changes. It's so quick, so fast, so updated, and that's why we love it. We get all the news we need at a blink of an eye, and that's how fast people can get to you.

Lorena Ruggero, the director of College & Community Relations at Grossmont, recently hosted a "Social Media Connecting Power" workshop in the Career Center. Ruggero led her audience members through how social media will affect their futures, and how they can let it help them, not hurt them.

Professional jobs do many social media checks, so you have to make sure what you are showing online is what you want to be seen. Is that picture with your mom and sister at brunch acceptable? Yes it is. How about that picture at the frat party with you upside-down sucking on a keg? Absolutely not. You want a professional job, so you have to act professional.

Let's break it down for you what you need and how to properly use it.

FACEBOOK

This will be your social media outlet for friends, family and coworkers. It will help you engage with others, but it is the first thing to be checked. Old statuses that might be offensive and your tagged photos will be your worst enemy. If there is anything you don't want someone to see untag, delete and make sure it disappears. It's always good to be social media-friendly, but your past can come back to haunt you. Don't lose your dream job over immature mistakes.

TWITTER

This will be what connects you to breaking news instantly, as well as everything that is hot and new. "Twitter is like a river," Ruggero said. "There's that constant information flow, I dip my toe in then step back."

The industry and all your major influences will be at the palm of your hand. You will find any, and every main source based on your job interest on Twitter to keep you updated with what they are doing and when they are doing it. Do you have a big business personality that inspires you, or maybe an author, or cook, or stylist? Follow them on Twitter to see what they do and maybe you can learn a thing or two. Following the people who inspire you, replying to them frequently, and showing interest in their work might get you connected to them immediately and land you a job. Twitter can influence your future more than you know.

LINKEDIN

This is the last of the social media you should have, and it is the most important. This will lead you to all your professional networking.

"If you do nothing else with social media, I highly recommend LinkedIn," Ruggero said.

LinkedIn is the place to follow people you already know and have connected with in the past, whether briefly or for a long time. Those people can connect you to other people to land you the job you didn't even know existed. The other people you may want to follow are recruiters, people who work to fill jobs in businesses and organizations. More than likely you will find your future job connecting through LinkedIn.

So let's review: Facebook is for friends, Twitter is for all the news, and LinkedIn is for the job. Job listings are available all over Google, indeed.com and LinkedIn. Before the job, get some experience and look into paid internships that will help you in the long run. If you expand your skill set, you'll get a better job.

Finally, always remember to produce content and communicate—your future employers will be looking for those two things most.

"If nothing else, you know you're passionate about something, so write about it," said Ruggero, who recommended starting a blog about anything in which you are interested.

It's a long to-do list, so get on that social media wave and ride it to your future job.

