

Big Changes Adopted for Student Insurance Plan

by Simon J. Craddock Lee

At their meetings last week, the ASUC and GSA executive committees approved, with one amendment, the health insurance proposal from the Student Health Services Advisory Committee (SHSAC). The proposal had been designed in response to preferences expressed by students to Student Health Services and to SHSAC committee members, as well as rising medical inflation. The SHSAC recommendation to the student government added:

--An increased prescription benefit (\$1200 from \$1000) keeping pace with

inflation, but respecting 2001-02 utilization rates

--Blood Borne Pathogen Prophylaxis (e.g. needle stick, \$1600) which individual UCSF programs had not been able to cover internally

--Acupuncture as a covered physiotherapy benefit

--Basic Vision, very reasonable with extensive provider network

--Dental, again with very extensive dentist panel in the Bay Area

--Medical Evacuation/Repatriation for students working abroad

In order to better manage utilization, SHSAC introduced co-pay incentives for pre-

scriptions and office visits. Next year, prescriptions will carry a \$10 co-pay for generic drugs, and a \$25 co-pay for brand drugs. When a generic equivalent is not available, requests for brand drugs will carry only generic level co-pay (\$10). All office visits will also require a \$10 co-pay, with the exception of care sought at Student Health Services. Co-pays are standard practice across the country. Rather than restricting benefits or consultation options, SHSAC recommended co-pays in order to retain the greatest range of choice for students and their providers. The current prescription service that will continue still offers discounts on

drugs even after the benefit limit has been reached.

The SHSAC made presentations first to the ASUC and then to the GSA last week. The ASUC raised specific concerns about the increase in the prescription drug maximum. Discussion noted that the proposed increase brought an added annual cost of \$80 to raise the prescription limit, with a net result of only \$120 in prescription benefits per student. The ASUC did not feel this was a worthwhile increase, given utilization statistics at UCSF. The ASUC voted to approve the proposal without the prescription ben-

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The School of Pharmacy held an auction on May 13th to raise money for community service projects and school organizations. Thousands of dollars were raised with items that ranged from a dinner with the dean to shirtless bathroom cleaning. Photo by Brad Morikawa.

Star Wars Episode II – Neither Force nor Farce

by Alex Lee

film

Arguably the most anticipated film of the new Millennium, *Star Wars Episode II—Attack of the Clones* will both delight and nauseate die-hard fans. By any account, the film is far better than Episode I, but cannot nearly equal the intrigue or adrenaline of any of the original *Star Wars* movies.

Set ten years after *The Phantom Menace*, Episode II features Ewan McGregor, sporting the 1978esque hairstyle that Alec Guinness originally wore as Obi Wan. Alongside him, Hayden Christensen stars as Obi Wan's testosterone-enhanced, angst-filled pupil, Anakin Skywalker. The two are assigned to protect Senator Padme Amidala,

played by lovely Natalie Portman, the target of political separatists filled with various bad guys with battle droids and funny accents.

Death to Jar-Jar!

Most of the annoying aspects of Episode I have been corrected. Jar-Jar is limited to five minutes of screen time, in which he babbles to the Senate as he gives the future Emperor more power. The plot is a little more manageable, unlike the obscure trade dispute around which Episode I centered. The offensive aliens based on various racial stereotypes are kept to a min-

imum as well, including Jar-Jar, Watto the shopkeeper, and those pseudo-Asian Trade Federation aliens. The stiff portrayal of young Anakin, by Jake Lloyd, is replaced by the uninspired Christensen, who whines and rants about love like a *Party of Five* reject. Even with the major flaws from Episode I fixed, the movie is still lacking, mostly in the plot, dialogue and acting subcategories.

Plot, Anyone?

As in the last film, the plot in *Clones* is inconsequential. Rather, it serves as backdrop for the real star of the film: the colorful, com-

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Medical Students Honor Faculty

by Mukesh Sahu

"A life so short, a craft so long to learn." Although Hippocrates uttered these words many centuries ago to describe the practice of medicine, Dr. Warren Levinson borrowed them last week to illustrate his vision of a somewhat different vocation—teaching. Dr. Levinson was one of five recipients of the School of Medicine's Outstanding Pre-Clinical Faculty Award, and he humbly accepted it from his students on May 14.

"We are a community of scholars, dedicated to helping each other learn in this ever-changing world of medicine," he remarked. "It's our job to stimulate a life-long love of learning...and I hope I've done just that."

Other faculty made equally heartfelt speeches. Ann Bolger, a recipient of the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award, commented that it truly is an honor to go to work every day. "The only regret I have this afternoon," she continued, "is that I didn't get to work with more of you."

The School of Medicine awards these distinctions annually to deserving faculty members as a means of recognizing those that make an effort above and beyond what is asked of them. In a process that takes months, students make nominations for various categories stating why they believe a certain professor deserves an award. A committee of students then compiles these nominations and the final winners are chosen by a vote of the committee. For many professors, this is one of the best aspects of being chosen as a recipient.

"It's a thrill to be acknowledged by students, and very humbling," remarked Dr. Ken McQuaid, who

received what most consider the evening's highest honor—A Major Contribution to Teaching—by the Class of 2004. As a humorous side note, McQuaid added, "to receive an award for something you love doing is as close to illicit as I get."

Jokes were certainly not in short supply during acceptance speeches. Dr. Andre Campbell, chosen as another Outstanding Clinical Faculty member by the Class of 2002, spoke about how teaching "gets him going" in the morning, "just like coffee...and eating, which is something else I like to do." Dr. Nripendra Dhillon, upon receiving his award for Outstanding Pre-Clinical Faculty as a professor of anatomy, was actually the first to break the ice and make a speech. "I'm never one to shut up," he said. "I have to say something." He expressed his gratitude for being acknowledged by his students, and then finished with the humble, yet humorous statement: "you could have thrown a box of candy at me and saved this award for someone more deserving, one who teaches you about more than boogers and tears."

Many of the night's honorees also acknowledged the work, support, and generosity of loved ones, including family members and other teachers, as part of the reason for their own success. "I am thrilled to be thought of among the ranks of teachers who I honored when I was a medical student," said Dr. Steve Pontilat, recipient of the Outstanding Lecture Award by the Class of 2004. He later thanked his late father, his "first and best teacher" who always inspired him to teach and to continue to learn. Dr. Dana Rohde complimented her students when presented the Major Contribution to Teaching Award by the Class of 2005, citing the

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UCSF announcements

FINANCIAL AID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduating students: who received financial aid loans at any time while at UCSF are required to attend an "exit interview." Students who received UCSF-based loans (Perkins, Nursing, University, HSPL, PCL) must contact the Student Accounts Office (502-8205 or 502-8206) to schedule an appointment. Students who received only Stafford loans must attend a group exit interview through SFSO. The last two group exits will be held:

Tuesday, June 4 5 p.m. HSW 300
Wednesday, June 5 Noon N225

No reservations are needed to attend a group session. Students who have an exit interview through Student Accounts are welcome, though not required, to attend a group Stafford session as detailed information about Stafford loan repayments are discussed.

2002-03 financial aid offer letters will be mailed soon. Please make sure the OAR website has your current address. (Go to <http://saawww.ucsf.edu/signon> to make changes.) For students who are enrolling in the summer, read the offer letter material carefully, complete all needed forms and promissory notes, and return as soon as possible. Summer aid cannot be released until all needed forms are received.

Financial aid advisers are usually available for drop-in questions Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students are encouraged, however, to speak with their assigned advisers whenever possible. If your adviser's drop-in hours are not convenient, please feel free to schedule an appointment. Assignments are based on a student's last name: SFSO is located in Millberry Union, Room 201W. Students may call (476-4181) or see an adviser whenever they have financial aid concerns.

Drop-in hours:

Adviser	First letter of Student's Last Name	Hours
Melissa Choy	A-Dq	9-11 a.m.
Ron James	Dr-F	11 a.m. - Noon
Carrie Steere-Salazar	G-Hd	8-9 a.m.
Jerry Lopez	He-O	1:30-4 p.m.
Lily Ling	P-Z	Noon-1:30 4-5 p.m.

outdoors and recreation

Outdoors Unlimited
General Info, 476-2078

Full Moon Paddle - No experience necessary!

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Learn to Roll a Kayak

The UCSF pool is one of the few places in San Francisco where you can learn to safely roll a kayak under the trained eye of our instructors. Class May 29 starts at 8:45 p.m. Cost: \$25/31/36 (we provide the kayaks). For more info call 502-2507 or e-mail bbarnes@casmil.ucsf.edu.

Sea Kayaking for Beginners

This is the most comprehensive of our beginner clinics. It includes training in bracing, rudder strokes, paddling techniques, tides, currents & rescues. Classrooms (7-9 p.m.), May 28 & June 4. On the water June 1-2 and June 8-9. Cost: \$167/202/238. For more info call 502-2507 or e-mail bbarnes@casmil.ucsf.edu.

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All phone numbers on Page Two are in the 415 area code unless otherwise noted.

arts and entertainment

Empact! Presents©
General Info, 476-2675

The Chancellor's Concert Series

Spring 2002 Season
Thursdays, March 28 through June 6
Seating: noon to 12:15
Concert: 12:15 to 12:45
Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus Avenue
Admission is FREE.

May 23
NO CONCERT

May 30
Roberto Cani, violin
Mack McCray, piano
Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 1
Wienawski: Variations on an original theme

June 6 - Season Finale
Stephen Paulson, bassoon
TBA

Empact! Presents
Cole Hall Cinema
Spring 2002 Season
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(One discounted ticket per I.D. only)
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Cinema Hotline: 415-476-2675

Critic's Choice Night
A BEAUTIFUL MIND • PG13
Thurs. May 16
5:45 pm & 8:15 pm
Fri. May 17
6:30 pm & 9 pm

Asian Pacific Islander Night
THE PICTURE BRIDE • PG13

Thurs. May 23 5:45 pm
& 7:45pm
Fri. May 24 6:30 pm
& 8:30pm

*pending producer approval. Note all films are subject to change.
\$1 Validated Parking at UCSF Parking Garage.
Check our website at www.empact.ucsf.edu for more information.

Symphony Parnassus Spring 2002 Concert
Sunday, May 26, 2002
2 p.m.
Hellman Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music
19th Avenue & Ortega, SF
Admission by donation: General-\$15, Students/Seniors-\$8
Music Director Stephen Paulson leads UCSF's Symphony Parnassus through a program that includes "Tchaikovsky- Symphony No. 5."
Violinist Catherine Van Hoesen will be a featured performer at this wonderful musical event. For more information, visit the Symphony Parnassus website at www.symphonyparnassus.org or call Empact! at 476-2675.

First Friday Free Art Videos
Roy Lichtenstein
Friday, June 7, noon
Location: S163, Parnassus campus
Admission is FREE.
Take a break from your busy work day and enjoy an informative and entertaining video screening presented by UCSF's Visual Arts Club. For more information, call Empact! Presents at 476-2675.

grand rounds

Thursday, May 23

Dept. of Medicine
N225, noon-1
"Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: an Update"
John Esdaile, MD, MPH
University of British Columbia

Tuesday, May 28

Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
HSW300, 9-10 a.m.
Expression Profiling of Human Eggs and Embryos Using Microarrays: A High-Tech Approach to Understanding Early Human Development"
Anthony Dobson, MD, PhD

Wednesday, May 29

Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery
N225, 7 a.m.
"Charcot Arthropathy"
Andrew Haskell, MD, and Duncan Hodge, MD

Dept. of Endocrinology
Langley Porter Auditorium, (LPPI 190), 8:30 a.m.
"Epidemiology of Childhood Obesity"
Patricia Crawford, PhD
UC Berkeley

Thursday, May 30

Dept. of Pediatrics
N217, 8-9 a.m.
"Advances in Hemophilia Treatment"
Marion Koerper, MD

Dept. of Medicine
N225, noon-1
"Integrin Receptors in Blood and Vascular Diseases"
Barry Collier, MD
The Rockefeller University

classifieds

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The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor present their Annual Carriage House Sale

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Selling new and slightly used furniture, Christmas items, clothing, books, jewelry, housewares and much, much more!

opinion

What Happens When Reality Bites Back?

by Corey Long

It never fails that each time that I see Dubya speaking, he is both looking confused and babbling unintelligibly about how America's resolve will not be broken, preaching about the strength and endurance of the American spirit. The man is incapable of not using the word "resolve" every five minutes; you'd think his speechwriters would have better access to a thesaurus. Indeed, this spirit may best be illustrated through the "Word Hard, Play Hard" attitude which is said to pervade our society, no doubt handed down to us by our fun-loving Puritan forefathers.

While I'm only partially convinced that working hard is engrained in this country's fabric, I'm certain that there is no shortage of playing among the people, excluding, of course, the I-Bankers and those of us studying for the USMLE. Often this playing is manifest through various pastimes, reflecting fashionable attitudes. Baseball used to be all the rage, but fell out of favor once splinters put players on the 15-day disabled list. Drive-ins used to rule the weekend, but have been abandoned for reasons I find unfathomable. And underage drinking...well, just ask Jenna and Barbara. A recent, but disturbing, trend seems to be the booing of *O Canada* at hockey and basketball games; this personally hurts me since years of hockey have lodged that song deep

inside my head, the permanence of which makes the coagulation cascade jealous. However, if Ozzy has taught me anything, it's that nothing rules like reality...television.

I Survived Survivor and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

Survivor can claim it started this sadistic genre until the pudgy guy who won the first season turns blue in the face, but that won't change the fact that reality television was really pioneered by the good folks at that misnomer of a megalith, MTV. *The Real World* was the first show featuring everyday life to reach an appreciable audience. Business executives, not known to be the most creative bunch, follow a very simple protocol: copy things that are popular. So, following close on the heels of the pioneer, the big networks gave us a series of reality television bastard-children, including *Road Rules*, *Big Brother*, *Combat Missions*, *The Osbournes*, and, my personal favorites, the dating shows.

There are a number of shows, and to be honest I can't actually keep them straight, but some are called *Rendez-View*, *5th Wheel*, *Dismissed*, *Love Cruise*, *Eliminate*, and *Chains of Love*; you get the idea. Each show more or less consists of watching either couples on a date or multiple young, beautiful people pining to win the heart of the featured single. Watching these shows is like looking into an eclipse: I know I shouldn't do it — 99% of the time I don't

— and if I take one glance I could be scarred for life, but we all know who wins those battles. Despite the potential for permanent damage and much annoyance, these shows can be pretty entertaining at times. I mean, who doesn't love watching a bunch of girls fight over a guy they just met, or the surge of pleasure and pain that comes from watching a young guy's not-so-suave moves get rejected. The potential for unintentional comedy in these shows is off the charts.

Fox, in keeping with its long-standing tradition of remaining one step below Jerry Springer on the integrity totem pole, has scraped together a variety of shows about marrying millionaires, becoming models, or being tempted by beautiful people on a tropical island. The only Fox "reality" show to get the CML seal of approval is *Celebrity Boxing*; I actually thought the whole show was a joke until it popped into my little picture box. Vanilla Ice fighting Todd Bridges on prime-time television? I was overcome with glee, interspersed with fits of embarrassment for what has become of our society's lowest-common-entertainment-denominator. I nearly passed out when Tonya Harding and Paula Jones started sparring.

Reclaim Reality

The reality movement has, as I see it, two fatal flaws. For one, it assumes that every single person watching is an utter moron. Hey, just because I am incapable of

saying the word "laser" without using hand-quotation marks does not mean that I will be duped into believing that some loser low enough to be associated with a Fox show is the most eligible bachelor in the world next to Prince William. The more severe limitation, I hope, is that people will one day realize that reality should not be confined to a television set. Living vicariously has its time and place, but pandering to these shows cannot continue ad infinitum. Our people will rise up, Marley-style, and decide that going on a date is better than watching one; that road trips are not limited to movies and MTV; that punching Vanilla Ice in person is far more satisfying than watching someone else do it.

Play hard.

Second-year medical student Corey Long (clong@itsa.ucsf.edu), who will not have time for sunlight, let alone TV, until June 6, is not responsible for criminal charges accrued by punching Vanilla Ice.

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Star Wars

from page 1

puter-generated eye candy. We neither know nor care why the characters end up in various locales. Instead, George Lucas would rather we focus on the spectacle of a thousand computer-animated storm troopers fighting a thousand computer-animated battle droids. Not once are we surprised or shocked by a plot twist. We know that Anakin is going to turn bad, that Amidala is going to fall for him, and that the Jedi will whup some butt when the time comes. Lucas has turned away from story-based, character-based storytelling, and has instead decided to invest his time pushing the envelope on the next generation of moviemaking technology.

Star Wars was clearly not made to be a love story, yet *Clones* attempts to be. Nevertheless, the sappy romance takes up far too much screen time, and contains some of the dumbest dialogue ever spoken on the silver screen.

"I don't like the sand. It's coarse and rough and irritating—not like you. You're soft and smooth," Anakin blurts while putting the moves on Amidala.

As the young lovers are facing their imminent death, Amidala lets loose a classic of her own: "I've been dying a little bit each day since you came back into my life. I love you."

Both sub-Shakespearean efforts were met by theater-wide groans and laughter.

Unlike the current trilogy, much of the dialogue of the original trilogy was intense, humorous, and memorable: Picture Han

Solo's tense, humorous frustration at the malfunctioning Millennium Falcon in *Empire*, or Darth Vader's revelation that Leia is Luke's sister during the final light saber scene in *Jedi*. The new trilogy has been completely void of such cinematic moments. Neither McGregor nor Christensen have the script support, or dry wit of Harrison Ford.

Both Portman (*Heat*, *The Professional*) and Christensen (*Life as a House*) have been relatively accomplished in their young careers. In their case, both are stiff and encumbered by poor dialogue. George Lucas is known to give little leeway to his actors, so this is a possibility. Christensen is expected to portray a wide range of primal emotions, but instead comes off as whiny and shallow. In this performance, he makes Mark Hamill look like Sir Lawrence Olivia.

Technology Saves the Day (Almost)

The various technologies used in the making of Episode II nearly make the movie good. The computer-animated technology that debuted in 1996's *Toy Story*, has matured somewhat, but is still a bit cartoonish. Scenery and characters are a bit too bright and smooth to be realistic.

The most notable feat is the animation of Yoda, who looks almost as lifelike as the Muppet he once was, other than the fact that he can now flip, throw bolts of lightning, and kick rear with his light saber. It is unfortunate that Yoda's two minutes of screen time is eclipsed tenfold by the sappy love story between Anakin and Amidala. Yoda's presence almost single-handedly saves the move...almost.

In addition to Yoda, we are treated to more imaginative, completely digital sceneries ranging from the vast cityscape of Coruscant to the rain-soaked ocean world from which the clones are created. There is also a torrent of new aliens and beasts who scurry around the screen.

The trouble with the computer-generated effects, is that frankly, I've gotten a little bored with them. Every movie, including stinkers like *Thirteen Ghosts* and *The One* have ample visual effects. In fact, we've come to expect this from Lucas. Perhaps I'm a purist, but there's something more appealing and realistic about seeing a bunch of midgets in furry Ewok suits fighting stop-motion AT-ST (those two legged walking machines in *Jedi*).

I was fortunate enough to watch the film at AMC 1000, which has one of 19 Digital Light Projection (DLP) screens showing *Star Wars* in North America. This new digitized technology is leaps and bounds above old-fashioned film, which is scratchy and blurry in comparison. Look for more and more theaters to be equipped with this Lucas/Texas Instruments innovation. Supposedly, the DLP version of Episode II has a special scene not shown in regular theaters. It might be worth your time to check out this new technology.

For the True Believer

There's enough in the way of little details and fantastic scenery to satisfy the true *Star Wars* fan. As a partial list, we are given the origins of the AT-AT (four-legged walker from *Jedi*), Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru, Stormtroopers, Boba Fett, and the Death

Star. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, you probably hated Episode II. You probably also think that people who dress up like Jedi have psychiatric issues.

Please Tell George...

Being the George Lucas lives nearby, at Skywalker Ranch in Marin, it is likely that someone who is reading this knows George well. If you wouldn't mind, could you ask/tell him the following?

Has he considered another scriptwriter besides Jonathan Hales?

Why didn't he make another few movies with the original cast?

Why did he create the Jar-Jar character in the first place?

Has he considered building in some genuine surprises into Episode III?

What's with the political correctness of Episode II?

Will there be any more *Star Wars* related movies after Episode III?

Thanks for all the memories.

The Bottom Line

Star Wars is by no means a great film, but it has enough digital effects and nostalgic appearances to make it worth the ten dollars and two hours in line.

Three stars out of five.

Alex Lee is a 1st year medical student, who's first movie was Star Wars in 1979, when he was 2. He's always wanted an AT-AT, but never got one.

Sends other UNIX boxes to /dev/null.

"My PowerBook G4 is now running every major UNIX app that we had on our Suns, AlphaStations and SGIs—and running them faster."

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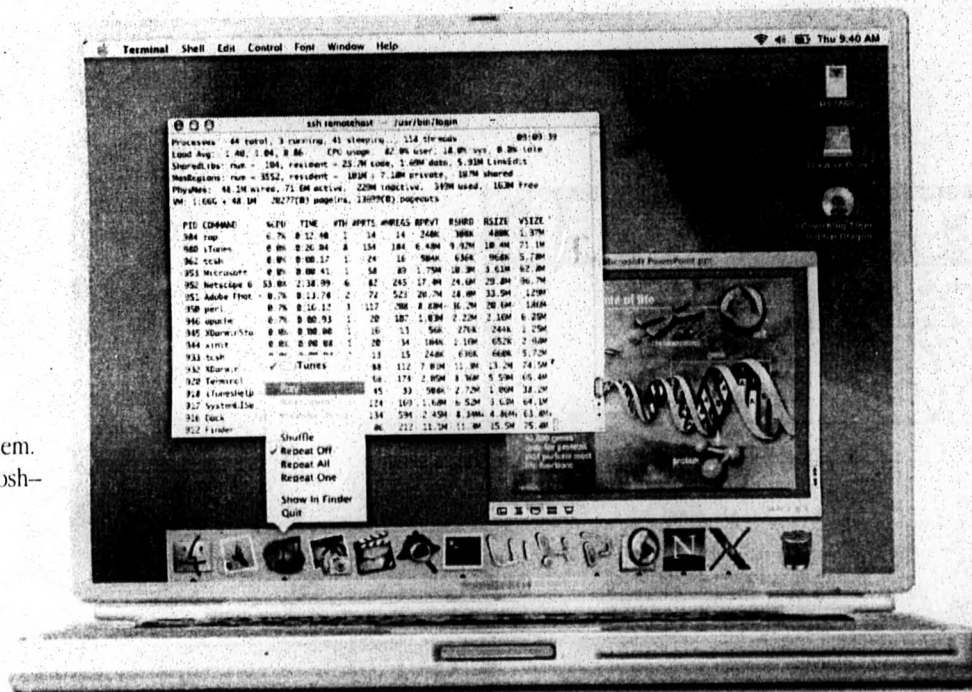
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"After two-and-a-half years of Linux, I've finally found joy in a UNIX operating system. And I found it when I purchased a Macintosh—the first one I've ever owned."

John Hummel, Jr., The Gamers' Press

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Dr. Michael Cherry, Associate Professor,
Department of Genetics, Stanford University



"OS X has all the power you expect from a UNIX box, but none of the hassle associated with basic UNIX system administration. You can expect things to work and they do."

Jim Hourihan, Tweak Films

"The keys to OS X are that it's UNIX inside and Mac outside. This combination of stability, support for industry standards, and wide developer support coupled with Apple's Aqua graphical user interface and emphasis on graphic performance makes this a truly great operating system."

David Coursey, ZDNet AnchorDesk

"We're old hardcore UNIX hackers, so a BSD-based system is mother's milk. everything you expect to be there is there, and it works right."

Dave Weininger, President, Daylight Chemical Information Systems, Inc.

Apple Special Event! Wednesday, June 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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LGBT Scientists Share Their Experiences at UCSF Panel Discussion

by Yee-Ming Chan and Bill Lindstaedt

A panel discussion held at UCSF on May 1 attempted to address the unique career issues faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered/transsexual (LGBT) scientists – an often invisible minority within the science community. The panel of six lesbian, gay, and transsexual representing both faculty and researchers from and local industry were Robert Beatty (UC Berkeley), Frauke Bentzien (Exelixis), Carolyn Bertozzi (UC Berkeley), Joanne Engel (UCSF), Joan Roughgarden (Stanford), and Michael Yakes (Exelixis). They addressed an audience of about fifty graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The discussion focused on the status of LGBT people in the biomedical sciences. This first-ever event was convened by the UCSF LGBT Student Association with the support of supported by UCSF's Postdoctoral Scholars Association, Graduate Students Association, Women in Leadership of ScienceLife Sciences, LGBT Resource Center, and Career Center.

The panelists' outlooks ranged from cautious to optimistic. Dr. Bertozzi firmly believed that the quality of a scientist's work overshadows all other factors in determining of the success of his or her career; others felt politics still plays a significant role. All panelists agreed that LGBT scientists must consider carefully when, how, and to whom to "come out," that is, to reveal that one is LGBT, but differed in their specific advice. Some panelists felt the best approach for LGBT scientists, especially for temporary or short-term career assignments, is to try to "pass" as straight or conventionally gendered. For Dr. Yakes, the beginning of his career was "all about the science and only about the science." Only after he had reached a few important milestones in his career did he feel comfortable bringing his partner to work or to social functions.

Other panelists could not advocate hiding the fact that one is LGBT. "It's never right to mislead your coworkers," said Dr. Bertozzi, who has always been open about her sexuality and had never experienced any negative consequences, to her knowledge. Indeed, some of the greatest resentment directed at panelists by their colleagues occurred when they came out after years of "passing."

None of the panelists knew of any formal resources for determining whether a particular department at a university or company is LGBT-friendly. The panel agreed on some generalities, however. They felt that the East and West Coasts were more open than the South and Midwest, and that the San Francisco Bay Area in particular provides a uniquely protective place for LGBT scientists. Also, medical departments seem to be more open to having LGBT faculty than basic science departments.

Many on the panel and in the audience felt that the situation has improved for LGBT scientists.

One young faculty member in the audience applauded the courage of the panelists and remarked, "At least we now have

heroes – successful scientists who happen to be LGBT and out at work, yet who are comfortable and secure in their professional lives. Ten years ago, there were no role models – no one!"

The panelists shared stories of receiving support from thesis advisors and departmental supervisors, and even from institutional policies. By being informed of domestic partner benefits during new employee orientation, Dr. Yakes received the message that LGBT employees are as valued as their non-LGBT colleagues.

Dr. Roughgarden was uncertain whether these positive developments represent a trend or merely a swing of the pendulum, with a backwards swing inevitable in the future. A "good ol' boys" network still prevails in many departments, and even at major universities there are often no out scientists and rarely more than one or two.

The panelists all shared stories of difficulties they encountered at various points in their careers. As graduate students, the panelists put up with insults in hallways and awkward avoidance from colleagues. As junior faculty at recruitment dinners, they endured homophobic jokes told to job applicants by colleagues who knew full well that an LGBT colleague was sitting at the table. Dr. Roughgarden alluded to problems encountered by senior faculty members who came out, from being phased off of academic committees and receiving pressure to retire early to outright dismissal.

Transgender scientists continue to experience more difficulty than their lesbian and gay colleagues. It is difficult if not impossible for transgender people to pass as conventionally gendered. Furthermore, people are often more uncomfortable with transgender colleagues than with LGB colleagues.

One question the panel struggled to answer was whether LGBT people of color face a double challenge. Being all white, the panelists were unable to provide a direct answer. Dr. Beatty stated that a friend of his, a Latina lesbian scientist in industry, felt that being a woman posed a much greater barrier to their advancement than being Latina or a lesbian. Drs. Engel and Bertozzi strongly agreed with this sentiment. (Also see the May 16, 2002, Synapse article, "Women Faculty Unhappy, Survey Finds.")

After an hour of discussion, it was clear that LGBT scientists face a variety of challenges. It was equally clear that the panel, as eye-opening and thought-provoking as it was, only scratched the surface of these issues. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the panel, more than anything that was said, was simply the existence of out scientists willing to speak publicly about their experiences. The audience left hopeful that this event will mark the start of an ongoing discourse about the barriers faced by LGBT scientists and, eventually, about strategies to overcome these barriers.

Yee-Ming Chan, MD, is a PhD student at UCSF; Bill Lindstaedt is the Director of the UCSF Career Center.

Medical Awards

from page 1

many changes that have occurred to medical education at UCSF as of this year. "The first year (students) need to be congratulated themselves for having gone through such a difficult and challenging curriculum. You're great sports."

Complete list of winners

Class of 2002 Presentations:

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-Henry Sanchez
-Warren Levinson
-Susan Masters

Outstanding Clinical Faculty:

-Ann Bolger
-G. David Elkin
-Andre Campbell
-Lawrence M. Tierney, Jr.

Teaching Excellence Award for Cherished Housestaff (T.E.A.C.H.):

-Joachim Ix
-Doruk Ozgediz
-Sanjiv J. Shah
-Stephanie Jun
-Kiki Rutkowski

Class of 2004 & 2005 Presentations:

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-Ken McQuaid (2004)
-Dana Rohde (2005)

An Outstanding Lecture:
-Steve Pantilat (2004)
-Andrew Leavitt (2005)

An Outstanding Lecture Series:
-Anthony Trevor (2004)
-Alan Gelb (2005)

Excellence in Small Group Instruction:
-Jonathan Terdiman (2004)
-Seric Cusick (2005)

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GSA Campus Update

by Joyce Tung

1. Paying for your drugs!
2. Free trip to Washington D.C.!
3. Dance, drink, dance, drink...what's a grad student to do?
4. Take our job!

1. Changes to our student health insurance

Well, you do need insurance to help pay for your drugs, right? No matter how true that statement is for you, you ought to know about the changes to our student health insurance. Medical costs are rising all over the country and California is no exception. As a result, in order to maintain our current level of coverage, our quarterly insurance premiums are going up from \$234 to \$390. While most of your programs are probably already paying that premium for you, YOU will need to start paying a \$10 co-pay at referral visits (but NOT at Student Health Services). It's not all bad, though; your student health insurance will now have both (limited) dental and vision coverage, with an option to upgrade your vision coverage. This will be a boon to those of you whose programs do not currently give you dental coverage. Those students who are already covered will have to discuss with their programs how dental coverage will be handled in the future as their current coverage is quite likely superior to the insurance that will be included in the student health package. If you have any questions, let us know and we'll do our best to help you: gsa@itsa.ucsf.edu

2. Lobby for tax-free stipends in D.C.!

We'll pay for you!

On June 19-21, students from the UC system and from all over the country will be converging on that Mecca of Dirty Politicians Who Tax Poor Grad Students, Washington D.C.. They'll be talking to members of Congress to convince them to make our stipends free from federal taxes

(the way it used to be!). The GSA will pay airfare, lodging, and a per diem for two students to go to D.C. and represent UCSF in this noble cause. <insert John Williams music here> Will you be the one to fight for a better life for us all? Could you be the one to convince a Republican administration that it's better to tax the richest of the rich and not the poorest of the poor (no easy job)? OK, I could get even a bit more melodramatic, but you get the idea, this is important, a good opportunity to really make a difference and meet some influential people, plus get a free trip! Contact us: gsa@itsa.ucsf.edu

3. GSA Spring/Summer Social Event — where will it be?

As a grad student, your social life may revolve around Friday beer hours, but it's time to branch out! The GSA is planning a graduate student social event at a local bar or club, but we need your input! What's your favorite bar? Favorite club? Favorite kind of dance music? Would you rather have a bar or club reserved for just us or free drinks? I know it's a bit of a hassle to type a whole new e-mail to us with fingers frostbitten from taking things out of the -80 without gloves, but if you let us know what your favorite place is, we may end up going there! Heck, if you're the only who replies, we probably will end up going there. Send us your suggestions: gsa@itsa.ucsf.edu

4. Take our job!

Next month we'll be holding GSA officer elections. Among other open offices (president, financial director, etc.) our position (basic sciences chair) will be open. If you're tired of reading these super-sized e-mail updates, what better way to solve your problem than taking our job? Shake off that grad student lethargy, untangle yourself from the gel box cords, and come to our next meeting: June 11th, 5:00 p.m. in S30. Even if you don't feel like being an officer, at least get the free dinner and help decide who will be next year's officers!

Insurance

from page 1

efit increase. At their meeting last week, the GSA addressed the same concern. The GSA voted to approve the proposal as amended by ASUC. Both groups noted that future medical inflation would likely require changes to prescription benefits in coming years.

The plan that was approved for implementation by ASUC and GSA executive committees will be a new quarterly premium of \$370 up from the current \$234. The rise in insurance premium due to inflation is 42 percent. The increase in premium due to improved benefits is approximately 10 percent.

In related news, due to mental health parity provisions in insurance legislation, there have been significant expenditures nationwide just to provide parity with major medical benefits. To address these concerns without adversely affecting premiums, SHS is about to hire a 0.5 FTE psychiatrist to provide both treatment and preventive mental health outreach. They are also negotiating to reduce wait-time with LPPI mental health providers.

All students enrolled in the University of California are required to have adequate health insurance. For students with existing insurance, no opt-out waiver is possible due to the adverse effect on remaining student premiums. However, as a secondary insurance, coverage is very impressive as a supplement to any existing plan. For example, the student plan will now have acupuncture coverage in addition to chiropractic that you can access if your current plan does not cover or has limited benefits. So if you reach visit limit for chiropractic care under your primary plan, you can use the additional 15 visits under your student plan. Or if your provider covers chiropractic at 80 percent, the remaining 20 percent balance can be covered by your student plan. The student plan takes over whenever your primary plan doesn't have a particular benefit, or provides less than 100 percent coverage. Further information on plan details and procedures will be available in the coming weeks at Student Health Services and on the web at <http://saawww.ucsf.edu/health/welcome.htm>

Simon J. Craddock Lee, MPH is a doctoral candidate in Medical Anthropology. He is the LGBT liaison and a Graduate Division representative on the SHSAC.

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Latest Student Ethnic Club at UCSF Explores Interest in European Culture

by Mina Xu

Americans of European Descent Cultural Organization (AEDCO), the new student ethnic club on campus, holds its first open-to-the-public event on May 31, at noon in Saunders Court. The cultural show will feature live music, Scottish country dancing, Celtic and Greek jewelry, and crafts from an assortment of European countries. On the menu for lunch is Hungarian, Russian, German, English, Italian, and Greek food.

Matt Kennedy, third-year dental school student, has been putting his idea for the organization into action in the past year and was soliciting participation in the show from students and staff last month.

"I wanted something that would represent everyone here...unify everyone," said Kennedy, who is of Scottish, Irish and Greek descent. He added that all Americans "are sort of a mix. By bringing groups together, it allows us to learn about our different backgrounds."

The announcement of the new club stirred fears among some students that the new organization was for whites only. Nothing could be further from the truth, Kennedy said: "AEDCO is a new student organization that wants to celebrate or represent everyone at UCSF, not just Americans that are of European descent. ... I feel that everyone deserves equal representation here at UCSF and anywhere else. There are numerous groups on campus that do this, and this is just one more. Anyone of any ethnicity is

more than welcome to help aid in the events/meetings. All we ask is that you at least have an interest in European culture."

Despite the concerns of some students, others have given positive recognition of the organization. Ying Pan, first-year medical school student, said, "I think it's a great idea. There are clubs for Asians, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, but there isn't any particular place for people of European descent."

The first meeting took place without fanfare or protest. Although the initial turnout was small, the club's organizers are hoping to galvanize interest and membership in the coming month, especially following the cultural show. So far, most of the booths and entertainment scheduled for the show will be arranged by UCSF dental school students.

Plans for AEDCO in the near future include discounted trips to Europe, and lectures on European art and history. Questions regarding the organization or the cultural show can be directed to Kennedy at Matt088@hotmail.com.



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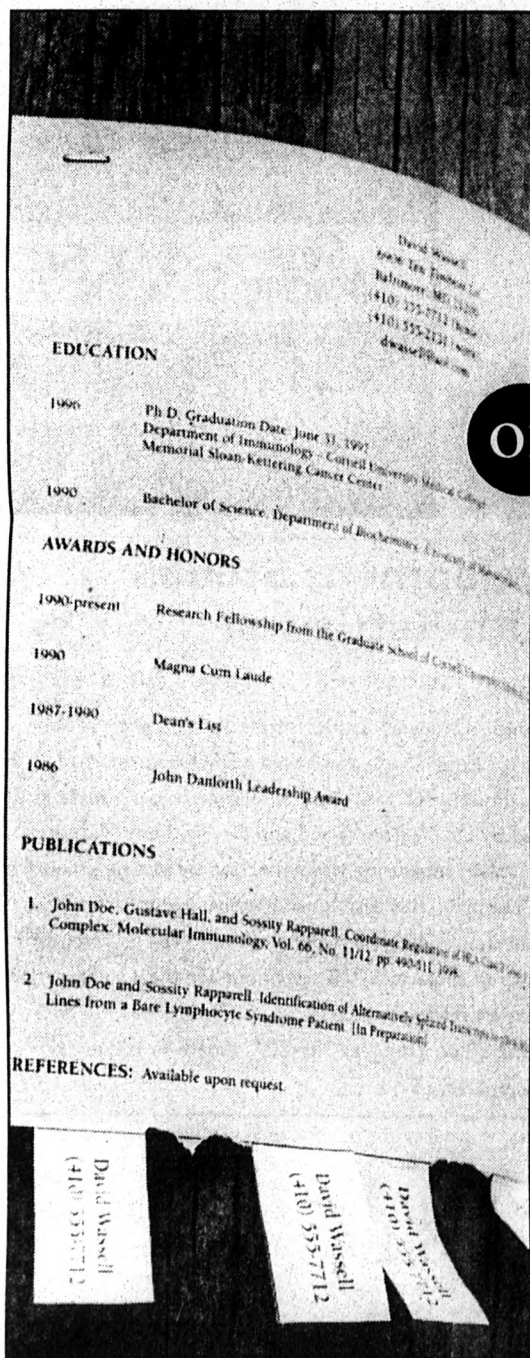
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