Politics Roundup: The Ups and Downs of the Nov. 2010 California Election

Emily Lucitt
PAO Student Assistant

If you are far enough away from the United States right now so as to not be bombarded with increasingly ridiculous advertisements for the 2010 midterm election on November 4th, consider yourself lucky. You probably remember seeing a few before you left to go abroad (whenever it is that you departed) and I’ll tell you, they’ve only gotten worse. More outlandish, incendiary and just plain mean. The governor’s race here in California was no exception. Jerry Brown won, but not by nearly a large enough margin. However, that may be because Meg Whitman spent a record amount of money on her own campaign, and voters totally saw through that. As they say, “no money, less voters” or something like that. Also, Barbara Boxer is keeping her 26 year old senate seat, which is good because she doesn’t have to drastically change her life and move out of Washington just yet.

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What’s New Around Campus!

Kelly Temes
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As you make your transition back to the UCSD campus, you may notice a few new establishments have popped up. First of all, Chase bank opened a branch in PC East next to the Sunshine Store on Sept 20th. Additionally, a Kaplan Test prep center opened next to the Outback Adventures Store on Library Walk and Perks Coffee Shop has taken on a new look as Imprints opened a new branch inside the coffee shop at the back of the UCSD bookstore. The ‘Zone’ Wellness Center unveiled its grand opening at the beginning of the year as well, locating itself between Jamba Juice and the campus box office (the location where the SunGod store was.) The ‘Zone’ offers classes free of charge ranging from ‘laughter’ yoga, meditation, and 10-minute abs and cooking, to seminars on how to deal with credit cards and credit scores.

Weekly Programs offered at ‘The Zone:’

Happy Hour – Don’t miss our fabulous cocktail-free party. From snacks and music to crafts and games, this hour is for you. Stop in, relax and recharge your battery! Every day from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Therapy Fluffies – Come pet your favorite pup! Research shows that petting a dog can put an instant smile on your face, so we bring you the world’s sweetest and most loving canine companions. Thursdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Laughter Yoga – Join renowned Laughter Yoga instructor Michael Coleman for 30 minutes of side-splitting giggles. It’s a highly efficient way to have fun, burn calories, make friends, relieve stress, and massage the internal organs. Laughter is the fruit of the soul, and ripe for the picking! Fridays from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

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UCSD to Offer 3-Year Housing Guarantee


Asia Camagong

Starting next academic year, students can postpone worrying about finding off-campus housing for one more year. According to Housing, Dining and Hospitality Services Director Mark Cunningham, the HDH department plans to extend the on-campus housing guarantee for qualified students to 3 years, starting Fall 2011.

This new contract is possible because of several on-campus housing projects currently being built, including Phase Two of the transfer housing complex The Village.

"With the completion of these projects, the campus will extend a 3-year housing guarantee to all incoming freshmen starting in 2011-12 – a first for UC San Diego," Cunningham said.

In addition, Cunningham said his department is working to provide a guarantee of 2 years of on-campus housing to all incoming transfer students.

Currently, there are four student housing projects in the works. Muir College and Revelle College are expanding the number of rooms in their apartments to house 275 undergraduate students and 510 sophomore and upperclassmen, respectively. The Rita Atkinson Residences at the School of Medicine campus currently bring built will house additional graduate and professional students.

Celebrating 50 Years of UCSD with Volunteer50

Christine Le
PAO Academic Integration Intern

Volunteer50 Monthly Themes *taken from the website
September—Education
October—Arts
November—Homelessness & Hunger
December—Children & Youth
January—Social Justice
February—Health & Safety
March—Women's Issues
April—Environment
May—World Affairs & Civic Engagement
June—Animal Welfare

Volunteer50 is a community-wide call to service, led by Chancellor Mary Anne Fox in honor of UC San Diego's 50th anniversary. The Volunteer50 initiative challenges all students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends to perform at least 50 hours of community service during the school’s yearlong celebration.

This volunteer challenge lasts 10 months. To share the breadth in volunteer opportunities, each month is designated a unique service theme and the university showcases five local organizations that focus on that month’s theme. For example, in the month of November, the all-star organizations showcased were The Angel's Depot, Feeding America, Habitat for Humanity, San Diego Food Bank, and San Diego Rescue Mission, which all placed an emphasis on the month’s theme, homelessness and hunger.

Whether they choose to work with the All-star organizations or to give time and energy elsewhere, volunteers can register for the challenge, and track the number of service hours all online at the Volunteer50 website. Starting September in 2010 to the end of the school year, the university’s goal is to reach 50,000 hours of cumulative service. Visit the Volunteer50 website at volunteer50.ucsd.edu to read Chancellor Fox’s letter, learn more details, and on how to join the movement.
Politics Roundup

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Seeing a trend here? Democrats ran their more seasoned political veterans. This is because (I say) the whole “Change” mantra no longer suits them...though Bill Maher makes it pretty clear that we are just an impatient nation that can’t see the good that the Democrats in power have been doing for the last two years. You decide.

Also, they do this because Republicans hopped on the “change” bandwagon and ran people who were completely incompetent and unqualified to run for government...or in some cases, unqualified to speak English or form coherent sentences. Christine O’Donnell? Really? The powerhouse behind the much maligned “tea party” movement of hypocrical uneducated white people (see an NAACP report for proof!) was spearheaded by my mortal enemy, Sarah Palin. It even pains me to type out her name. Unfortunately the Republicans took the House of Representatives, but they failed to win the Senate by just a few votes! We’ll have to wait and see what that means for America.

Other California Ballot measures:

Prop 19: legalizing marijuana did not pass. But seriously, this is so going to come up again in two years for the next election because it just makes sense.

Prop 20: redrawing congressional districts. PASS.

Prop 21: vehicle tax for national parks. NO. We like driving gas guzzlers more.

Prop 22: prevents state from borrowing local funds for social services. PASS.

Prop 23: repeal global warming solutions act. FAIL. This means our air will not get...too much worse.

Prop 24: small businesses tax. FAIL.

Prop 25: lowers voting requirement to simple majority for passing a budget and makes it so government officials don’t get paid till they write the budget. PASS. We want our budget, and we want it now!

Prop 26: redefine hidden fees as taxes, as they should be. PASS.

Prop 27: pretty much the same as prop 20. FAIL. So since this one failed and the other one passed...I’m not really sure what that means.

One last word to leave you with concerning the election:

On Real Time with Bill Maher, when it became known that Christine O’Donnell lost the election and the only thing she seemed to care about was the estate tax:

“Leave it to a witch to defend ghosts.”

- Dana Gould

Election sources from the Guardian (Nov 1st, 2010) and the official California Statewide General Election website (http://vote.sos.ca.gov/returns/ballot-measures/).
New Shows Starting Fall 2010

Emily Pyle
PAO Student Assistant

Let’s be honest, we all crave a television fix while we’re abroad. After a stressful day at school, there’s nothing quite like plopping in front of the boob tube to engage in some funny, serious, moving, or even trashy T.V. Whether you’re a Law and Order junkie, or a fan of the dysfunctional family sitcom, this season’s line-up has got something for you.

This fall, new action-packed, crime-scene, law shows premiered. NBC welcomed yet another Law and Order, this time in the city of Los Angeles. Also on NBC is The Event, which follows various conspiracies surrounding the fictional U.S. president. Chase proves to be a suspenseful, action-filled drama, as a team of U.S. marshals track down America’s top criminals. On Wednesdays on ABC, one can find The Whole Truth, which is a courtroom drama, told from the perspectives of both the defense attorneys and the prosecution. Starring in it is former ER star, Maura Tierney.

Love the quirkiness of Modern Family? Showing Tuesday nights after Glee is Fox’s Raising Hope. Filled with off-the-wall humor and complete originality, this comedy follows a dysfunctional family’s journey as they take on the difficult task of raising their adopted daughter Hope. Other family comedies include Better With You, Running Wilde, and No Ordinary Family.

Source: http://www.tvguide.com

“Fear the Beard:”
2010 World Series Recap

Kelly Temes
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The San Francisco Giants, and underdogs for most of the season, beat the Texas Rangers in Game 5 of the World Series, marking the first win for the Giants since 1954 and their first win as the San Francisco Giants (not the New York Giants).

How could such a diverse and wacky ‘team of misfits’ take home baseball’s most coveted prize? Well, pitcher Tim Lincecum’s long, shaggy hair and closer Brian Wilson’s dyed beard definitely helped in instilling some fear in their opponents. Around the stadium, fans dressed up in ‘Brian Wilson garb,’ imitating the unique colored beard of the Giants’ rock-solid closer.

Strong consistent pitching and powerful defense put the Giants on top. In fact, Edgar Renteria was nominated as the MVP for the Series, capping off Game 5 with a 3-run home-run off the Rangers’ ace Cliff Lee to put the Giants ahead. Not to mention that the Giants decisively defeated the Rangers with an 11-7 and 9-0 victory in the first two games of the season. Rookie catcher Buster Posey, Cody Ross (the MVP of the National League Championship Series), Juan Uribe chimed in with some impressive hits in the Giants’ victory.

Even as the Rangers’ general manager Ron Washington stated, “‘They beat us soundly. They deserve it.” [Sports.yahoo.com]

The Giants’ celebration continued with rookie catcher Buster Posey taking home the Rookie of the Year award, and a parade throughout San Francisco drawing people by the thousands.
Study Abroad Brought Home Seminar

Winter Quarter 2011 marks the second quarter that this 1 credit seminar (ERC 192) will be offered. Taught by Ann Craig, Provost Emeritus of Eleanor Roosevelt College, this seminar meets Thursday afternoons for 5 weeks and provides students with the opportunity to discuss the impact of crossing borders, how going abroad has shaped your identity and notion of global citizenship and how your experiences abroad can be applied here at UCSD and in your future (taken from the website).

Feedback from Students:

"I enjoyed this seminar very much. I feel that I achieved the goals which I had hoped to attain at the outset of the seminar. I learned about my fellow peers’ experiences abroad and that, to me was helpful because I had essentially a new group of students who understood what I had gone through and were keen on listening to my experiences, like I was interested in hearing about theirs.

"One unique and enjoyable quality of this course was the way assignments were aimed at addressing personal issues dealt with and obstacles overcome for our individual experiences”

[The assignments] worked to reduce and synthesize experiences abroad to specific purposes here. I particularly liked the second (research proposal) and third (grad school/jobs) assignments"

New Student Organization, People-to-People International (PTPI)

People-to-People International is a new student organization that started in Fall 2010. PTPI is a non-profit international organization dedicated to enhancing international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences of peoples of different countries and diverse cultures