The California Faculty Association Board of Directors has decided to implement a five-day strike starting April 13 if no agreement is reached with California State University management regarding the CFA’s request for a general salary increase, according to a Feb. 8 press release.

The CFA asks for a 5-percent salary increase for its 26,000-plus tenured and tenure-track faculty, lecturers, librarians, counselors and coaches. CSU management is currently offering a 2-percent increase.

“We've said all along that we don't want to strike, but we will if we have to,” said Jennifer Eagan, CFA President and professor at CSU East Bay, in the press release.

The five-day strike is set to span April 13-15 and April 18-19, unless an agreement is reached before that date. Negotiations between the CFA and CSU management are currently in the fact-finding stage, the final stage of the negotiation process spelled out in state law. Fact-finding consists of a neutral third party hearing both sides of the argument then writing a fact-finding report that recommends how the situation could be resolved. Both sides study the report for 10 days and attempt to reach an agreement.

After those 10 days the report becomes public and the faculty have the right to strike. The CFA’s “Fight for Five” campaign has spanned the last two years and negotiations have been going on since May 2014. “We must take a stand so that we can support our families, protect our profession, and provide high quality education for our students,” Eagan said.

“A strike is our last resort and we still hope that the Chancellor will invest in the faculty who are the major determinant of our students’ success.”

CFA members voted in October to strike if their requests for a 5-percent wage increase weren’t met. Kevin Wehr, chair of the CFA’s bargaining team, has led negotiations with CSU management. "Sadly, too many CSU faculty members are falling out of the middle class or unable to rise into it,” Wehr said in the press release. "The Chancellor and his team of negotiators have failed to respect CSU faculty throughout this entire process.”

On Feb. 8, the CSU released a statement that reads, “The California Faculty Association has announced dates for a potential strike in April. The collective bargaining process continues, and a strike cannot be conducted until the end of the process.”

The release continued, “The California State University remains committed to reaching a resolution. Campuses are preparing for the possibility of a strike. If a strike occurs, campuses intend to remain open. Many classes will be offered, and students should check with their instructors regarding the status of their classes. The strike should not interfere with students being able to complete their semester and quarter courses and graduate on time.”
$1.3 million to be spent on signage

EMELY NAVARRO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

San Diego State President Elliot Hirshman recently announced the approval of “Destination SDSU,” a $1.3 million project to improve signage on campus.

Hirshman proposed “Destination SDSU” to the board of SDSU’s nonprofit organization Campanile Foundation last year. This new construction project will create gates or entrances in multiple areas around campus so visitors will know when they are on campus. The board recently approved the plans, and construction will begin during summer 2016.

“Their’s a significant challenge in terms of knowing when people are on campus as there is no destination point,” Hirshman said at the Campanile Foundation board meeting last year.

“Part of the project is to create gates or entrances in multiple areas so people can know, 1. that they are at San Diego State and, 2. that this is what we stand for,” Hirshman said the meeting’s minutes quote Hirshman saying. “We have a certain tradition, history, and values and approaches.”

These entry gates and signs will be located on 55th Street, Campanile Drive and East Campus Drive. This project also intends to replace the monuments sign that was at the end of Campanile Walkway facing Hardy Avenue before the trolley station was built.

This new project is a part of a larger improvement plan that administration has for the university.

Robert Schulz, the associate vice president for real estate, planning and development said “Destination SDSU” is an informational signage program.

“We will be replacing particular signs on campus to remember the parking structures and parking lots in order to make them much more comprehensible to a new visitor,” Schulz said. “You know, athletics display, university housing display, Parking Structure 3 displays.”

Schulz said every year a modest amount of money from the university’s budget is set aside for university improvements.

The President’s Cabinet and several other committees weigh in on how the funds are allocated.

Maria Gonzalez, a psychology sophomore, said spending this much money on signs instead of building more classrooms, parking structures or hiring teachers is unnecessary.

“Every day I spend almost an hour looking for parking on campus, there are classes I didn’t get because they were full,” Gonzalez said. “Instead of hiring more professors to teach these classes or building more parking structures they’re building signs.”

“I am concerned with Gonzalez.

“The signs will make campus looks nicer, but there are other things they should be using that money to improve campus, like fixing classrooms,” Falcke said.

Thomas Styles, an undeclared freshman, said the signs will be useful for first-time visitors.

“When I came to visit SDSU for the first time, I drove past it on Montezuma with my parents because we didn’t see any signs,” Styles said. “Adding signs and entry points would make it more distinct when you are coming from different areas.”

Construction is estimated to last for two months during the summer. Other current campus construction projects include the South Campus Plaza renovation, set to be completed in fall 2016, and the Engineering Interdisciplinary Sciences building, set to be substantially completed in January 2018.

#DESTINATIONSDSU

Drunk driver, vandalism, suspicious person

ALEX PISCATELLI
STAFF WRITER

DISTURBING THE PEACE

On Sunday, Feb. 7, around 5 a.m., SDSUPD received a report of a subject saying. “We have a certain tradition, history, and values and approaches.”

He was arrested for disorderly conduct.

DUI/DRUNK DRIVER

On Sunday, Feb. 7, around 1 a.m., a non-SDSU student was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The subject was stopped by traffic enforcement by Waring Road and Adobe Falls Road and subsequently arrested.

VANDALISM

On Sunday, Feb. 7, around 5 a.m., SDSUPD received a report of a subject trying to break into a woman’s apartment at Piedra Del Sol. According to the report, the subject was trying to open the door and banged on her windows and doors.

When officers arrived on the scene, they discovered the subject damaged the front door of the apartment, Peterson said.

The subject was arrested for vandalism.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

On Sunday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m., there was a report of a subject following a woman for 2 miles to campus.

During investigation, SDSUPD determined the subject was in possession of unlawful drug paraphernalia.

He was arrested for this violation, Peterson said.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

On Monday, Feb. 8, shortly before 10 p.m., SDSUPD received a report of a white male chasing and harassing people near the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union.

The suspect was described as wearing white tube socks and holding a long board.

Police were unable to locate the man.
CSU considers tuition increases

WILL FRITZ
CONTRIBUTOR

Tuition increases, the possibility of a faculty strike and academic goals were among the issues discussed in a California State University student press conference on Friday, Feb. 5.

The student press conference was held shortly after the CSU Board of Trustees meeting at Long Beach State Jan. 27-29. A CSU budget task force has recommended the board that slight inflation-based tuition increases be implemented in the next few years. The task force, which was created in 2014 and consists of students, faculty, trustees, provosts and others including San Diego State President Elliot Hirshman, reported that the CSU system’s current financial model is unsustainable.

Some of the factors cited for this are recession-era budget cuts that have yet to be reversed, increasingly impacted campuses and majors, workforce demands and deferred maintenance.

Tuition increases, which CSU Assistant Vice President for Budget Ryan Storm said would be tied to inflation, are just one of several recommendations the task force made.

The task force proposal reads, “... the CSU should consider predictable and incremental adjustments to tuition and fees that maintain purchasing power in the face of inflationary increases over time.”

The proposal also makes the claim that, thanks to limitations in state funding, the impact of inflation will lead to the university’s costs exceeding the revenues if tuition is not increased.

The task force also recommended converting current tuition discounts for students to grants, and transferring a set amount of funds to individual campuses for each additional full-time student enrolled.

POTENTIAL FACULTY STRIKE
CSU Public Affairs Director Toni Molle said the CSU system values its faculty, but acknowledged the possibility that both parties may not be able to come to an agreement on salary increases, opening up the possibility of a strike later in the spring semester.

Molle said classes will still be held in the event of a strike. Should the strike happen, students are advised to check with instructors on the status of their classes.

The CSU has also set a number of key academic goals for the next 15 years, said Nathan Evans, CSU chief of staff for academic student affairs. The system’s 2025 targets are to increase the six-year graduation rate to 60 percent, the four-year graduation rate to 24 percent, and to decrease achievement gaps by ethnicity and Pell Grant eligibility.

#CSUBUDGET

CAITLYNNE LEARY
STAFF WRITER

Spring Into Diversity, a two-week series at San Diego State which addresses some of the issues faced by marginalized groups, kicked off Monday, Feb. 1, and continues through Thursday, Feb. 11.

In previous years, Spring Into Diversity was a one-day event. “We thought (a two-week event) would be the best way to have the people in these communities share their opinions on the topics,” said Armette Samblé, Associated Students student diversity commissioner.

The first week began with the Diversity Fair, followed by events on voting representation, cultural appropriation, gender identity, homophobia and rape culture. The series was organized by the Associated Students Student Diversity Commission (SDC).

The series continues with the Our Black Experience and Intersectionality & Privilege on Wednesday, Feb. 10, and Thursday, Feb. 11, respectively.

While the specific organizations were in charge of their workshops, all the events were overseen by Samblé and Christy Quiogue, director of intercultural relations and adviser to the SDC.

DIVERSITY FAIR

The Diversity Fair on Monday, Feb. 1, showcased 16 organizations on campus. Booths informing students of upcoming events for the semester were set up in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union courtyard.

Many of the booths handed out pamphlets, business cards and giveaways. The booths also handed out sign-up sheets for students who were interested in receiving the organization’s newsletters.

VOTER REGISTRATION

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, the voting representation workshop was organized by the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán and the Professional Studies and Fine Arts College Council.

At the workshop students examined the role that each individual plays in the voting process, both on a college campus and in their larger community.

They had a discussion afterward about low voter turnout in minority and marginalized groups, about some changes she would make for next year’s Spring Into Diversity.

“Next year, I think we need a lot more diversity in these spaces,” she said. “I think we need a good mix of people representing different communities. I think the conversation can be a lot more progressive and beneficial.”

Samblé said she wanted to get the faculty and administration more involved in the events. While the students appreciated the workshops were student-led, Samblé believes faculty contributing to the discussions could help improve them.

The Spring Into Diversity event continues through the week of Feb. 8, with events on immigration, violence against African Americans and privilege, among other topics.

#CAMPUSCULTURE

MODEL MINORITY MYTH

The Asian Pacific Student Alliance, Jewish Student Union, Students Supporting Israel and Native American Student Alliance organizations hosted the minority myth and cultural appropriation workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Participants examined the model minority myth, which enforces the belief that other minorities should aspire to be like Asian-Americans and Jewish-Americans because they are often higher achievers. The myth was broken down and analyzed through multiple videos and discussions. The group also examined the way cultural appropriation affects each of their communities.

Katie Chanthakhoun, a member of the ASPCA, emphasized the importance of discussing cultural topics.

“I think it’s very important that, on top of workshops, we have these discussion opportunities because that’s really how we get to hear what we have experienced and genuine opinions, which I really liked,” Chanthakhoun said. “I think it was great that there were faculty members that were involved to help with the discussion as well. That’s always great to know that we have the support here.”

GENDER IDENTITY, HOMOPHOBIA AND RAPE CULTURE

The gender identity, homophobia and rape culture workshop was presented by the Queer Student Union and The Women’s Resource Center on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The student-led panel explored the issues facing the LGBTQ community and allies. Some of the topics discussed were misunderstandings on correct terms for homophobia and transphobia. The discussion then turned to rape culture, specifically victim blaming, the gray area of consent and slut-shaming.

Veronica Avila, who is an LGBT studies major, found the event informative.

“I’m really glad that in our society today that topics like this are being brought up because even 10 years ago, stuff like this would have never been brought up,” Avila said.

FUTURE PLANS

At the end of each event, the groups discussed solutions to the topics presented.

While the events were successful in initiating discussions, Samblé spoke at the end of each event, the groups discussed solutions to the topics presented.

While the events were successful in initiating discussions, Samblé spoke...
Sam Peraza returns to San Diego State as the pitching coach after coaching 12 years at various schools across the nation.

COURTESY OF SDSU ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

ZACHARY ENGBERG STAFF WRITER

When he finished his college playing career with San Diego State baseball in 2002, chances are new pitching coach Sam Peraza had no idea he would call Tony Gwynn Stadium home once again, 14 years later.

But he’s definitely relishing the opportunity.

“I’m excited to be back home,” he said.

Peraza, who is preparing for his inaugural season as a coach for the Aztecs, will replace John Pavlovski, who served as the pitching coach at SDSU for two seasons but left to become the head coach of Western Kentucky.

As a player, Peraza came out of the bullpen during his lone season with the Aztecs, but has since found success as a pitching coach for various programs across the country.

Most recently at Florida International, before that at San Francisco State, Oklahoma State University, where in 2013, Peraza coached four conference regionals three straight years, for me, the expectation is to make another one,”

Peraza’s expectations reflect his coaching style and what he preaches to his pitchers.

Aggression.

In many circumstances aggressiveness can have a negative connotation, but for Peraza, it has led him and his pitching staffs to a myriad of successes.

“You start with the ball in hand, it starts with you,” Peraza said of his message to pitchers.

“Go out there and be aggressive, throw the first punch. Go after the hitters and attack the hitters. Put them on the defensive.”

The strategy of “three to get two” is one he especially stresses.

The idea is to use only three pitches to get two strikes and get ahead in the count, an advantage that puts the power in the hand of the pitcher.

This philosophy has worked in Peraza’s previous stops before SDSU.

Particularly at CSU Northridge, where in 2013, the Matador pitching staff had their lowest strikeout-to-walk ratio since the 2002 campaign.

In addition, the staff recorded 117 strikeouts looking, which led the Big West.

The assertive style will work well with an Aztec team that is coming off a 2015 season where they tallied a 2.4-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

SDSU did, however, lose its top pitcher in the 2015 MLB draft when Bubba Derby was drafted to the Oakland Athletics with the 188th overall pick.

Derby struck out 131 batters in 2015.

The only returning pitcher who had more than 50 strikeouts in 2015 is redshirt-junior Cody Thompson, who recorded 69 strikeouts. Regardless, Peraza is not worried about the lack of experience in his forthcoming pitching staff.

“We have some young guys in there that are going to have to grow up quick,” Peraza said.

“Once we get to the middle of the year, we’re going to be rolling and those guys are going to be ready to go.”

That’s the level of confidence and expectation that sustained success earns.

“You’re going to get the most out of them every time out,” Peraza said of his pitchers.

The lofty expectations aren’t contained to this year, as Peraza is looking toward the future of Aztec baseball with bright-eyed optimism.

“I want to establish ourselves as one of the best pitching staffs in the country year in and year out,” Peraza said.

He will have the opportunity to see his vision play out at SDSU.

At 36, Peraza already has 12 years of coaching experience under his belt, and still has a lot of time to grow at SDSU.

But with that room to grow, Peraza comes back to Montezuma Mesa having coached four conference pitchers of the year and nine All-Americans.

“The plan was making this a long-term spot,” Peraza said.

“I want to get locked in here.”

Expect to see Peraza preaching aggressive pitching for years to come on the Mesa.

SDSU pitching coach Sam Peraza

SDSU ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS
Redshirt-freshman forward Zylan Cheatham celebrates after the Aztecs clinch their 11th-straight win.

KRISTIAN CARREON, SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ANTHONY RECLUSADO
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

There’s no record that hasn’t been rewritten or nearly shattered since Steve Fisher has taken over the San Diego State basketball program, and that continued with the Aztecs’ win over University of New Mexico on Feb. 6.

The victory marked SDSU’s 11th straight win to open Mountain West play, surpassed the 10-game winning streak set by the 2013-14 Aztec squad and tied the MW record set by the University of Utah in 2004-05 for the most wins to open conference play.

Unlike the 2013-14 Aztec and the 2004-05 Utah teams, this year’s SDSU squad has walked a tightrope in MW play but has perfected the photo finish.

“I’m sure guys across the conference are saying, ‘Man, those guys are lucky,” senior forward Winston Shepard said after the UNM victory. “But I don’t care if you go to Vegas, you’re not going to get lucky 11 times in a row.

“Credit our whole coaching staff and credit our team. We have no quit, no let-up, we don’t put our heads down and we don’t point fingers.”

Calling it “luck” may not be completely unfounded as this current SDSU group has almost been caught with its hands in the cookie jar on more than one occasion during its 11-game winning streak. In 10 of its 11 games it has either traded the lead or had the opposition come within one possession during the second half.

Seven of the 11 games have been within one possession in the final minute of regulation, including two overtime games. Four of the other five games came down to the last possession as the opposing team had a chance to either tie or win the game.

But when you still have the exact same coaching staff and the two current senior leaders — Shepard and senior center Skylar Spencer — who were also crucial parts to the 2013-14 team, there are bound to be similarities.

Over the two respective streaks both teams averaged 33.6 points in the paint and the 2015-16 team is only slightly better on the offensive boards, with a one-rebound edge (13.8 to 12.8).

Unfortunately, for the Aztecs, this trend holds fast even on their perimeter shooting as neither team was efficient from 3-point range. The 2013-14 team averaged 29 percent from beyond the arc, while SDSU currently shoots 26.8 percent.

“I try not to rank (my wins here),” Shepard said. “I just thank God every day that I step on the court and be out there with my brothers.”

It is probably even harder for Shepard to rank wins when they all blend into a similar formula for success.

The 11-game win streak also ties the fourth-longest such stretch in program history, regardless of conference play, with both the 2011-12 and 2012-13 SDSU teams. The all-time record in SDSU history stands at 20 games and is held by the 2013-14 and 2010-2011 squads.

This win streak also extends the Aztec dominance in this decade, as five of the six teams have gone on a double-digit winning streaks.
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Long recruits for the ‘big picture’

Looking at who San Diego State football added to its team Feb. 3 on National Signing Day, it’s no secret in what direction the team is going.

The Aztecs have made their living running the ball, and it looks like that’s what the future has in store as well.

With junior running back Donnel Pumphrey returning next year and backs like sophomores Rashaad Penny and Marcus Stamps and freshman Juwan Washington for the future, recruiting coordinator Tony White, head coach Rocky Long and the rest of the staff put an emphasis on getting big talented lineman to block for these running backs.

Two names to keep an eye on are offensive linemen Yasir Durant (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) and Douglas Tucker II (Dallas, Texas).

Durant, who comes in at a whopping 6-foot-7, 345 pounds, was ranked as a three-star recruit by ESPN, and Tucker was ranked as the 13th-best offensive tackle in Texas.

“These guys are a physical group,” White said. “You look at these offensive lineman and defensive lineman and they’re pretty physical in the trenches and that’s exactly what coach Long wants. That’s our identity, that’s our mantra.”

To make sure that identity stays that way, the team locked up three-star running back Chase Jasmin (Westlake High) to give the running back group some depth when Pumphrey departs after next season.

“(Jasmin is) in the same class they are,” Long said, referring to the four running backs already on the roster.

But they all run with different styles, which is something Long favors.

“You throw a different style in there and it kind of messes with the defense,” he said.

Jasmin was ranked as the eighth-best running back in California by Scout and chose SDSU over Power Five schools like University of Arizona, Oregon State, University of Washington and Washington State.

The Aztecs’ success under Long, not just last season, was a factor in netting recruits that the school has lost out on in the past.

“I think it’s mostly consistency,” Long said. “Those kids want to go someplace where you’re going to win. They want to go someplace where you’re going to win bowl games. They want to go someplace where you have a true chance to win a championship.”

Two players not on the Aztecs’ signing list are defensive end Danny Bender (Valhalla High) and quarterback Lucas Johnson (Mt. Carmel High), who both decommitted from the team within the last month after verbally committing.

Long was not pleased with that and what seems to be a common theme currently with recruiting.

“It makes you feel bad sometimes because basically they’ve lied to you. If we did the same thing to them, offering a kid a scholarship for six months and then four or five days before signing I called him up and said, ‘Guess what, I don’t have a scholarship anymore.’ I mean we’d be raked over the coals,” he said.

“For some reason it’s OK for a kid to be committed to you for six months and then five days before he can call me up and say, ‘I’m decommitting.’ And everybody thinks that’s all right. That’s not all right. That’s not the way the world should work. If you give your word, you give your word.”

Long and the rest of the 2015 MW champion Aztecs begin spring practice Tuesday, Feb. 22.
KEMI GIWA
STAFF COLUMNIST

Vote for candidate’s ideals, not their gender

However, that is simply not enough. While not taking away from all that Clinton has accomplished through the years of her government, it is important to recognize that sexism plays such a huge role in day-to-day interaction. It has essentially been indoctrinated and institutionalized into society. Bigger than any one individual.

In 2008, with the election of President Obama, many people — particularly those of color — were ecstatic. Many believed he would be the savior that African-Americans in the country greatly needed.

Political pundits and those who believed the election of America’s first black president equaled a post-racial society soon began to reject African-Americans’ plight and began to assert that lack of success in the black community was a result of a “lack of hard work” or “motivation” rather than a system at fault. After all if Barack Obama could become President, then African-Americans have no excuse, right?

It is now nearing the end of President Obama’s presidency and African-Americans still make up nearly 58 percent of the prison population, according to the NAACP.

Recent labor statistics show African-Americans are unemployed at a rate about double that of white Americans. And 2015 was one of the deadliest years for African-Americans, who were nine times more likely to be killed by cops than other Americans last year, according to a recent study conducted by The Guardian.

This of course does not mean that President Obama did not make a conscious effort to improve the condition for African-Americans in America.

However, it is irrational and unrealistic to suggest that one man can destroy a system of oppression that has been at work for centuries. Likewise for Hillary. Clinton vows to close the pay gap between men and women, expand job opportunities, defend women’s health and reproductive rights, fight for paid family leave and affordable child care, and much more.

While this all sounds appealing, we cannot expect Clinton to single-handedly solve these issues just because she is a woman. How come voters did not push for previous presidents to solve racial inequality or gender inequality as much?

We must ask ourselves why in this patriarchal, Caucasian male-dominated society do we not make it just as much their burden to destroy inequality as we do to those that it actually impacts. It is just as much their responsibility.

Ultimately, the issues involving such marginalized groups of people is much bigger than any one individual. Simply electing a woman because she is a woman does not equate to a post-sexist society, just as electing a black man has clearly not led to a post-racial society.

If you are voting for Clinton solely because she is a woman, think again. It is not a woman’s job to fix the status of women in America and one woman cannot do that.

Sexism, much like racism, is an issue that plagues America. As a result, it is an American problem — male and female, white and black.

It is time that we become more realistic. Voting for a candidate on the basis of one characteristic will not lead to a more progressive America. Focus on voting for a candidate because you support their ideals and what they bring to the table.
MACKENZIE BOSS
STAFF COLUMNIST

I remember sitting in a high school math class thinking, “I can’t wait until I never have to take another math class again in my life.” I knew that a few years later I would be disappointed to find out I needed to take a math class in order to satisfy a General Education (GE) requirement at San Diego State. Now that I am finally in my upper-division major and minor classes, I feel like I have been reminded how school actually can be. Students pick their major for a unique reason and it most importantly because it interests them. It is unfortunate that even in college, students still have to take classes that are completely unrelated to their majors. It would be nice if we could take the little more understandable if this stopped after the lower-division required GE classes. However, at SDSU it continues on even past that. As an upper-division student you are required to take “exploration courses” which are basically upper-division GE courses. These exploration classes are a requirement for all students to graduate. In some cases the GE or exploration classes are more difficult and take up far more time than any students’ major classes do.

From kindergarteners on, and especially as an adult, it seems like students have been taught general education in the wrong way. In place of these “exploration courses,” SDSU should create more focused courses that specifically relate to a major. Students would then be able to take these special studies classes in place of explorations and, in turn, they would ultimately benefit more from what they learn. These special studies courses could be similar to a fun and exciting elective offered for a major. Taking major or minor classes not only makes the school aspect of college more enjoyable and interesting, but it also better prepares students for the workforce. Finding a job is more competitive now than it ever was before and SDSU would be a nice option for college students to be able to take “special skills” courses to better prepare them for what they need to provide the necessary skills pertaining to each major. In the long run, these classes would increase their chances of getting a job.

I completely understand why lower-division GE courses are still being implemented, but not all lower-division students are happy with the major they initially came in with and SDSU allows them to experience other classes and see if there is another major that interests them. However, as an upper-division student you are fully engulfed in your major classes and there is no longer a need for me to interact with other subjects.

A better use of students’ time would be to allow them to take classes in place of explorations that dive into more detailed subsections of your major. If SDSU is going to make us take classes that are unrelated to our major, at least make them classes that teach students valuable life skills that they will be able to use in the workforce. Finding a job is more important than going to school and company seem to have covered all the bases.

The pressures or the inexpensive quality meats and produce will draw you in, but it’s the welcoming atmosphere, outstanding customer service and genuine hospitality that will keep you walking through the doors.

Coming from someone who has six stamps on his sandwich card and J&K marinated beef kebabs in his fridge, I invite you to not just visit, but experience what Windmill Farms really has to offer.
New leader plans inclusive campus

#PROSKY

App helps upgrade job skills for hire

#PRIDECENTER
#VOICEYOURLANGUAGE

Forum empowers with language

San Diego State and the Department of Dual Language and English Learner Education host its second annual Voice Your Language forum from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Feb. 12 in Montezuma Hall.

The forum is a free event for all community members interested in education and language.

The event will feature keynote speaker Juan Felipe Herrera, the first Mexican-American U.S. poet laureate, who will give a motivational talk about his life and his work as a poet. A handful of his books will be on sale at the event, and he will be holding a book signing at the end of the event.

In addition, a panel of educators, administrators and students will share about themselves and their work in San Diego County and then they will have a community forum where audience members can interact with those educators.

It will be facilitated by Herrera and retired SDSU professor Alberto Ochoa.

Students from the dual language and English-learner education department wrote a proposal to receive funding from the student success fee to make this event possible.

The event is designed to educate attendees on the importance of dual language programs in schools, which is an especially timely issue because of the upcoming California Multilingual Education Act — a Senate bill with a goal to allow schools to provide more bilingual and multilingual services — which will be on the ballot this November.

“The Voice Your Language forum is really an opportunity for community members, students and local educators to get together and talk,” said Nicole Sazegar, staff writer. “What can we do that will make students have an opportunity to express themselves in the languages that they speak, whether they’re in bilingual/multilingual programs or not?”

The event plans for surprise guests, Herrera’s speech and the community dialogue will be the highlights of the forum.

“I hope that, overall, students here at SDSU have an opportunity to relate to Juan Felipe Herrera and his experiences and will hopefully feel empowered to voice their language — to express themselves in whatever language in their writing and speaking,” Hernandez said.

While the event plans for surprise guests, Herrera’s speech and the community dialogue will be the highlights of the forum.

“I hope that, overall, students here at SDSU have an opportunity to relate to Juan Felipe Herrera and his experiences and will hopefully feel inspired to write in languages that they feel inspired and that they leave having answers and even more questions — you know, really feeling inspired to think more deeply about some of the issues around multilingual education and some of the issues that our language learners face,” Hernandez said.

The overall goal of this event is to create a sense of acceptance for multilingualism in San Diego and, eventually, the nation.

“I would like to see a wider acceptance of multilingualism, especially since the United States is one of the few (developed) countries that doesn’t encourage multilingualism in its schools as much as other countries,” said Priscilla Gomez, co-chair of the Voice Your Language forum and SDSU social science graduate. “I think it’s going to increase inclusion for everyone and also make Americans more globally diverse.”

The forum will be an open space for anyone in the San Diego community who wants to further educate themselves on the problems and issues of dual-language education in the nation.

“We’re really hoping for this to be an inclusive event and an event where people can ask questions, because I think there’s a lot of misinformation out there about what a quality education for our dual-language English learners looks like,” Hernandez said. “We want to have a space where those people feel like they can ask those questions and get answers from the experts who are doing the work.”
Rihanna gets personal in ‘Anti’

RYO MIYAUCHI
ARTS & LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Rihanna’s public persona has crested into an icy cool since her last release, “Unapologetic.” Though her arresting ballad “Stay” won the most hearts out of any single on the record, she has been more known for her hot-headed attitude than its chart-topping jams for four consecutive summers. She and her production team have set out to write a more traditional pop album: the hits.

For her new album, “Anti,” however, the pop star banks on none of her edginess. She instead turns away from her star power by providing none of what’s demanded from a traditional blockbuster pop album: the hits. Rihanna previously dropped chart-topping jams for four consecutive summers. She and her team then shaped her albums to accompany the style and mood of their respective successful singles. She eschews her typical process entirely in “Anti.” The record features none of her recent singles, such as “FourFiveSeconds,” her collaboration with Paul McCartney and Kanye West. Save for the Drake-featuring “Work,” the new songs don’t scan as obvious hits either. While larger-than-life choruses drove many of her hits to the top of her charts, they are mainly absent in the new album.

That said, “Anti” is full of hooks. It’s just harder to recognize them as such compared to her past material. Rihanna isn’t too concerned about that portion of songwriting, at least in the way she was before. She holds raw instinct as first priority, and a memorable part of a song comes more from its emotionally blunt lyrics than its catchiness. “I never really loved you,” she sings in the chorus of “Woo.” “I never really cared about you.”

Rihanna has sung about her feelings before, of course. However, it’s refreshing for a song to reveal so much heart from the singer, especially after hearing such a stoic version of her on record in recent years. A lot of “Anti” deals with a severance of a relationship and life post-separation. The pop star tries to find steady footing through a newfound independence. Yet, she lets her damaged heart get the best of her, spewing venom any chance that she could.

The crack in her image points to something more gritty. The anthems “B**** Better Have My Money” into the trends. Her producers warp its catchiness. The anthems offer an insular sound outside its emotionally blunt lyrics. The anthems are full of hooks. They could.

As much as it has helped write the most thrilling drama, her self-indulgence has cost the quality of her past two albums. “Unapologetic” especially imploded with its decadent bass drops destroying any life left in the music. Rihanna gets a handle on excess for the better in “Anti.” She sings unfazed in “Kiss It Better” while producer Jeff Bhasker plays one flamboyant guitar riff. If anything, her unrequited love only intensifies when backed up by Bhasker’s signature electric-guitar sound.

“Woo” also finds the singer’s voice swathed in production. This time her voice gets processed heavily through Auto-Tune, and the result tops the bloat of the song’s producer Travis Scott in appeal tenfold.

That said, she somehow abandons the effects for the latter third of the album in favor of a more traditional pop sound. An acoustic guitar riff soothes in “Never Ending,” and she returns to the piano for the closing ballad “Close to You.” “I love in your direction, hoping that the message goes somewhere close to you,” she sings in the latter track.

The last third is equally powerful as the other songs in “Anti,” but the shift in direction still comes as a bit jarring. It sounds unfinished, like she stopped committing to what she set out to do during the final stretch. On the other hand, the unclear ending may be appropriate considering the narrative that she has written for the album. “Anti” is about the struggle to cut ties with a lover and falling back into the vicious cycle of a rebound. It’s only fair, then, for Rihanna to start the album strong to find steady footing through a newfound independence. Yet, she lets her damaged heart get the best of her, spewing venom any chance that she could.

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“The Back Page” is published weekly in the Daily Aztec. Email Ryo Miyauchi at ryo.backpage@gmail.com 

#RYOREVIEWS

For her hometown of Temecula, California, known for its wine country.

Editor in Chief Kelly Hillock took this photo of dormant vineyards in Temecula's wine country.