Rwanda’s Importance Apparent

By Josh Mitchell
OASIS officer

What is Rwanda? Where is Rwanda? Why is Rwanda important? Rwanda is a tiny country in central Sub-Saharan Africa and is slightly smaller than the US state of Maryland. Nearly eight million people live in Rwanda, making it the most densely populated country in Africa. Why, again is Rwanda important? As many may know, Rwanda was the site of a horrific humanitarian tragedy eleven years ago. The recent movie Hotel Rwanda has brought attention to the genocide that lasted for one hundred days and resulted in nearly one million deaths in 1994. What Hotel Rwanda does not do is show the progress Rwanda has made in the years following the genocide. The sitting president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, is coming to the University of the Pacific to tell the hopeful and fascinating story of Rwanda’s progress over the years. He will speak to the Pacific community on Thursday April 14, 2005 at the Alex G. Spanos Center at 6:00pm. His address, Rwanda: Hope from Despair, is free to all, however tickets are required. Tickets to the event are available at the Pacific box office or may be obtained online at www.tix.com – keyword Kagame.

Immediately following President Kagame’s speech his wife and First Lady of Rwanda will be hosting Bringing Light to Widows and Orphans, a fundraiser for families affected by the AIDS/HIV pandemic in Rwanda and Africa. The reception will be held in Grace Covell Dining Hall and tickets are $25 for students and $75 for adults. Tickets are available online at www.tix.com – keyword Kagame. The fundraiser is organized by the School of International Studies student government OASIS and the international outreach club of St. Mary’s High School.

Prior to the April 14th lecture and reception, Dean Ensign from the School of International Studies will be hosting two lectures about the Rwandan Genocide followed by a free viewing of Hotel Rwanda. The lectures will take place at the Pacific Theatre on Tuesday April 5th and Monday April 11th at 6:00pm. On Tuesday, April 12th Hotel Rwanda could be viewed but it will not be accompanied by the lecture, the showing of the movie will start at 7:00pm in the Pacific Theatre. Learn the history of the genocide and get more out of President Kagame’s lecture.

Chocolatey Read-A-Thon

Pacific English Club

Members of the English Club at University of the Pacific are getting ready to exercise their vocal chords to help homeless children during the 5th Annual Read-A-Thon, beginning at noon April 19. During the one-day event, students and members of the Pacific community commit to reading out loud in 10-minute intervals in hope of garnering donations for the Transitional Learning Center (TLC), a school for homeless children in downtown Stockton.

In addition to English Club members, celebrity readers will take to the McCaffrey Center’s outdoor stage every hour. All involved are dedicating the afternoon - and evening possibly - to reading Laura Esquivel’s novel, Like Water for Chocolate. All proceeds benefit TLC. We are also looking for gently used clothes for children and new toiletries to donate to the center.

TLC is a branch of St. Mary’s Interfaith Dining Room, located at 545 W. Sonora Street in downtown Stockton. The center provides schooling, food, and clothing for approximately 40-70 homeless children on a daily basis. In addition, the center refers children in need of emotional support to other
Study Abroad Scholarship

By Kohloud Rashed
Guest Writer

Did you know that fifty-eight Pacific students are abroad in over seventeen countries this semester? This academic year alone, one-hundred and twenty students' left their Pacific campus community and dared to have an experience of a lifetime. The good news is, you can too! The decision to study abroad can enhance your academic and personal experiences that help mold you as a college student. The study abroad experience goes beyond classroom style learning and puts you in destinations around the world where you can enhance your language and international skills, meet various peoples from diverse destinations and backgrounds, and most of all, experience a culture other than your own.

One common fear that most students' have before making the decision to study abroad is the fear of leaving the comfort zone of their own culture. This comfort zone ranges from but is not limited to, eating food you are used to, seeing the people you normally see, watching TV in your own language, and staying in your familiar surroundings. Although all of these may change once you leave the U.S., the change is not necessarily negative. You can welcome living in another culture to learn a new language, eat new foods, and take classes that may not be offered at Pacific.

On our Pacific campus, Bechtel International Center manages over one-hundred study abroad programs in over fifty countries around the world. Pacific students can choose an international destination with help from the International Programs Staff and ensure academic standards can be met while abroad. In addition, an eight-week two-unit Cross-Cultural Training course must be completed before going abroad to help assist you in embarking on your cross-cultural college experience.

Envision yourself across international borders and know that on campus help is here for you. You can also find financial help too with study abroad scholarships like the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship that offers US citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. The Gilman program objective is here to better prepare US students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world. Awards of up $5,000 are made for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. The Gilman program objective is here to better prepare US students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world. Awards of up $5,000 are made for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. The Gilman program objective is here to better prepare US students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world. Awards of up $5,000 are made for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad.

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Permission to speak freely.
The philosophy of bathroom blackboards

By Israel Swanner
Guest Writer

Apparently somebody was afraid of graffiti in the bathrooms at the Pacific library, so they installed blackboards, complete with fresh chalk provided regularly. I don’t really think anyone had the thought that these blackboards were going to be used for anything other than vulgarity and meaningless scribbling, but sometimes, in the bathroom, you find true gems. And I don’t mean in the toilet.

Just the other day I was in the main floor men’s room and I happened to glance at the chalkboard as I was conducting my business. To my amusement, somebody had written a thought-provoking comment. To paraphrase: “If Democracy is the best form of government, why do we have to force everyone else to have it?” I thought on that for a moment, and found myself agreeing with the logic assumed: people want it, and so if Democracy is the best, wouldn’t everyone want it? And everyone doesn’t, so therefore it must not be the best. Makes sense enough to me.

The reply amused me on a different level, however. “Nothing that’s good happens naturally.” I blinked once at the reply and quickly dismissed it. Surely, some good things have to be worked for or created. But to presume that nothing good happens naturally is a load of gems. And I do mean in the toilet. The most healthy food occurs naturally, fruits and vegetables. All kinds of life happens naturally. The Earth revolves around the Sun naturally. Nature happens naturally...Needless to say, that comment didn’t keep my attention for very long.

I revisited the first comment and thought about the ramifications. The only country we’ve forced to Democracy lately is Iraq, to my knowledge. Now, as much as I’d like to think that our President went in with the purest of motives and inten-
tions, I’m not that naive. I know that there is a slew of real and potentially real secondary motives attributed to the war on Iraq. But the writer of that first comment leaves himself open to heavy criticism: does the writer, then, support Hussein’s iron-fisted, Kurd-hating dictatorship? I surely hope not.

Despite that substantial logical flaw, and despite the fact that we haven’t forced anyone else to be a Democracy lately (to my knowledge, please do correct me if I’m wrong), the sentiment expressed is indeed potent. We are the United States, supposedly a bastion of freedom and liberty. Why do we feel that we have to control world events? Why do we stick our noses where it doesn’t belong? Nobody asked us to be the World Police Force. Yes, the Kurds were being mistreated in Iraq. Perhaps Hussein was hiding nuclear weaponry that was illegal for him to possess and he simply got it out before it was discovered. There’s even a bit of justification in the desire to take action simply based on the fact that Hussein’s regime was a dictatorship. But there are proper channels to go through to get these things dealt with. The United States has no business taking upon itself the right to change the sovereignty of a nation to suit its whim, especially in direct defiance to world-wide criticism and resistance.

COPS from page 3

BROWS FROM PAGE 3

By John Carvana
Director, Career Resource Center

For Amanda Chaves, tutoring at the Center for Community Involvement (CCI) has been an integral part of her life at Pacific. Hailing from Massachusetts, Amanda takes pride in her east coast roots and has a die-hard dedication to her favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox. However, Amanda’s interests lie not only in baseball, her love of teaching and reaching out to the youth of Stockton has drawn her to the CCI.

Currently, Amanda is working towards earning her teaching degree at Pacific. Amanda’s interest in teaching stems from the interactions she receives with her tutees, “I love to meet the parents and kids from Stockton that I wouldn’t normally be in contact with. The CCI gives me the opportunity to do that.”

Amanda has worked at the center since her freshman year, holding a variety of jobs. Her favorite is tutoring, but she also is dedicated to her other two positions helping to lead and manage the center. As a passionate tutor and a knowledgeable center leader, Amanda has shown a great deal of pride and enthusiasm towards her job and the CCI is thrilled to have her as a part of their team.

“College students need to realize that they have something to offer this community. The knowledge that we gain here at Pacific can be used in productive ways before graduation. Become a tutor, you’ll realize how precious and useful your education is and how great it is to share it.” Amanda exemplifies the spirit of the CCI and takes seriously her responsibility to our Stockton community.

About this whole ridiculous incident, except for the fact that it makes for an amusing story—the story of the time when I got harassed by the cops because I was outside late at night looking for the cat. It’s also a sort of comedy of errors, to think that the real suspect got away (at least for the time being) because the cops were wasting their time harassing a mild-mannered English major.

For the record, the cat came home a little while later, oblivious to the trouble she had indirectly caused me.

The Pacifican
Fear and Loathing on a College Campus

By Mikey Vu
Lifestyles Editor

Sin City is an amazing movie, put down this paper and go. I'm not kidding, stop reading this right now and go.

Now, for you readers that have made it this far into my column, whether it be due to a weak stomach (it's pretty violent) or most likely a lack of cash, it's been pretty good. But the idea of death has always bewildered me, while I've never so popular, "Your mom goes to college!" Hurrrrr, my personal favorite, the one where I hypothe-

ically ask about the place we call Hell. Surely, it is a good idea on paper, take all the bad people, throw them into one place, let them burn a fire and brimstone for eternity, right? But think about it, think about all of the people that have been sent there in the past hundred years. Imagine a prison where Hitler, Jack the Ripper, Stalin, Mussolini, and Ted Bundy were cellmates and the Prince of Darkness himself was the prison guard. Wouldn't feel too safe would you?

The concept of putting the world's deadliest minds together in one place can only lead to something not too pretty. Maybe there should be layers in Hell, like a caste system of sorts, it just seems unfair to put someone who accidentally ran over poor Sparky when he was backing up in a place with people who have body counts well over 10 million. Here's a better punishment, round up all the evil doers, and force them to watch Napoleon Dynamite over and over again. Actually no, don't make them watch the movie, make them listen to people quote it over and over again. I swear I've heard that movie quoted more than the Stock Market Napoleon Dynamite, a film about a special ed kid (read: he's retarded) in a high school, a fact that most of his biggest fans overlook, is not really that great of a movie yet people feel the need to quote it every waking moment of the day. "Hey Tina, come get some ham," ok, first my name isn't Tina, you can see at the top of this ar-
ticle that my name is clearly Mikey. Second, it's one thing to quote movies in a clever way, it's completely another to use them in the middle of your English class and think you're being cheeky, 'cmon people context. Then there's my personal favorite, the ever so popular, "Your mom goes to college!" Hurrrrr, good job, my mom did go to college, thanks for pointing out that fact asshat. You know that this is actually a disease? I did some research online and I found out it's called Dynamitis, a disease spawned by one's utter inability to come up with original humor, quoting someone else's words ad nauseam as a substitute. It is apparently a mutant strain of Chapelle-
tis.

Upon further research on these diseases, I came across something extremely compelling. The diseases do not stop there, there has apparently been some freak outbreak that has hit the dining hall utensils as well. I believe the scientific term is called "plastic-itis," a disease, first noticed in the chests of the female Hollywood population and Michael Jackson's face, was believed to be a series of isolated events in the Southern California region.

However, as of last week, the disease has spread up into the Stockton area, turning all of Pacific's dining hall spoons into plastic. Researchers have been boggled, although there have been strong reports that this "plastic-itis" is heavily due to another recent outbreak known only to scientists as "laziness." Some one hand me some aspirin.

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Stockton Waterfront Criterium: Cycling

Stockton, CA—The Delta Velo Cycling Team is proud to be hosting the 1st Stockton Waterfront Criterium taking place on April 9th, 2005. This race is a sanctioned USA Cycling (USAC), Northern California Nevada Cycling Association (NCNCA) Event. It is also a part of the Lance Armstrong Junior Olympic Radng Series as well as the NCNCA Jr. Points Series. Single Day licenses will be available for newcomers.

The Delta Velo Cycling Team is the largest multi-sport racing team in the San Joaquin region. Our team consists of road cyclists, mountain bike racers, triathletes, and adventure racers. We are helping to bring awareness to racing and to cycling in the region. Delta Velo also organizes an annual charity event, the Giro D’Vino, which tours local wineries and donates proceeds to the Lodi Cancer Kids as Baum’s last Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Come out to watch bicycle racing at its finest. Criterium racing is the most spectator-friendly event in cycling. Speeds are usually fast, sometimes in excess of 35mph, with sprints hitting 40+ mph; for a vehicle powered by one’s legs—that’s fast! Cyclists usually cover a course of approximately 1 to 1 mile over a set period of time or number of laps. Primes (mid-race prizes) are given out to help spur on some action.

In an effort to showcase the City of Stockton’s redevelopment efforts, the race is organized around some of the City’s landmarks: City Center Plaza, the Hotel Stockton, and the Fox Theater. The course is .8 mile with 8 turns. Fields will range from the beginners to Olympic hopefuls. A kids race is also scheduled.

Supporting organizations include the City of Stockton, The Sports Commission, Stockton Police Department, Pacific State Bank, Anderson Homes, Atlas Properties, City Bicycles, Alpine Orthopedic Medical Group, Lodi Urological Medical Group, Stanley Electric Motors, Righetti Enterprises, Meyers Optical, Hed Cycling Equipment, Maxim Nutrition, Orbea Bicycles, the Stockton Bicycle Club, and the Sprocket Rockets Junior Cycling develop program.

More information can be found at www.deltavelo.com and registration is available at www.active.com.

Delta Velo seeking new athletes

If you are interested or have any questions regarding membership, please feel free to e-mail or join us on one of our scheduled training rides.

Pacific flexes power early as Tigers defeat Hawaii-Hilo, 11-5

Pacific Athletic Department

STOCKTON, Calif. The Pacific Tigers baseball team moved one step closer to 500 as the Tigers defeated Hawaii-Hilo 11-5 on Tuesday, April 5. With the win, Pacific improved to 15-16 on the season, while the Vulcans dropped to 2-31.

The Tigers took an early 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning as junior Jerin Harper (Spokane, Wash.) and freshman Adam Ching (Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.) led off the first with back-to-back singles. Junior Matt Berezay (Manteca, Calif.) followed with his sixth home run of the season over the left field wall. It was the first home run from the right side of the plate for the switch-hitting Berezay.

The Tigers added to their lead in the second as junior Dale Hall (Wenatchee, Wash.) hit his second home run of the season, a solo shot, out to left-center.

Pacific continued to play long ball in the third as freshman Justin Baum (La Mesa, Calif.) hit his team leading, 10th home run of the season. Baum’s blast was a two-run shot as Ching had singled to lead off the third.

Trailing 6-0, Hawaii-Hilo made a game of it as the Vulcans scored two in the top of the fourth and three in the top of the fifth to pull within a run at 6-5.

Pacific, however, responded with four runs on three hits and two Vulcan errors.

The Tigers went on to claim the 11-5 win as junior Eric Stolp (Oakhurst, Calif.) picked up the win (1-3) by allowing five runs (one earned) on four hits in five innings.

Pacific will be back in action on Friday, April 8 as the Tigers begin a three-game series with the Cal Poly Mustangs at 6 p.m. in Billy Hebert Field.
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