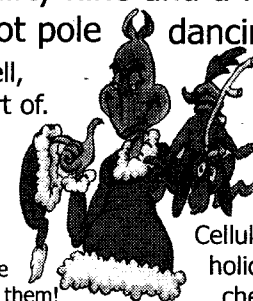


# CURRENT

AMERICAN RIVER  
THE STUDENT VOICE OF AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE SINCE 1955

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Thirty-nine-and-a-half  
foot pole dancing!  
Well,  
sort of.



And  
nary a  
Scrooge  
among them!

Celluloid  
holiday  
cheer.

Arts & Entertainment • Page 3

## SA wraps up fall with new outlook

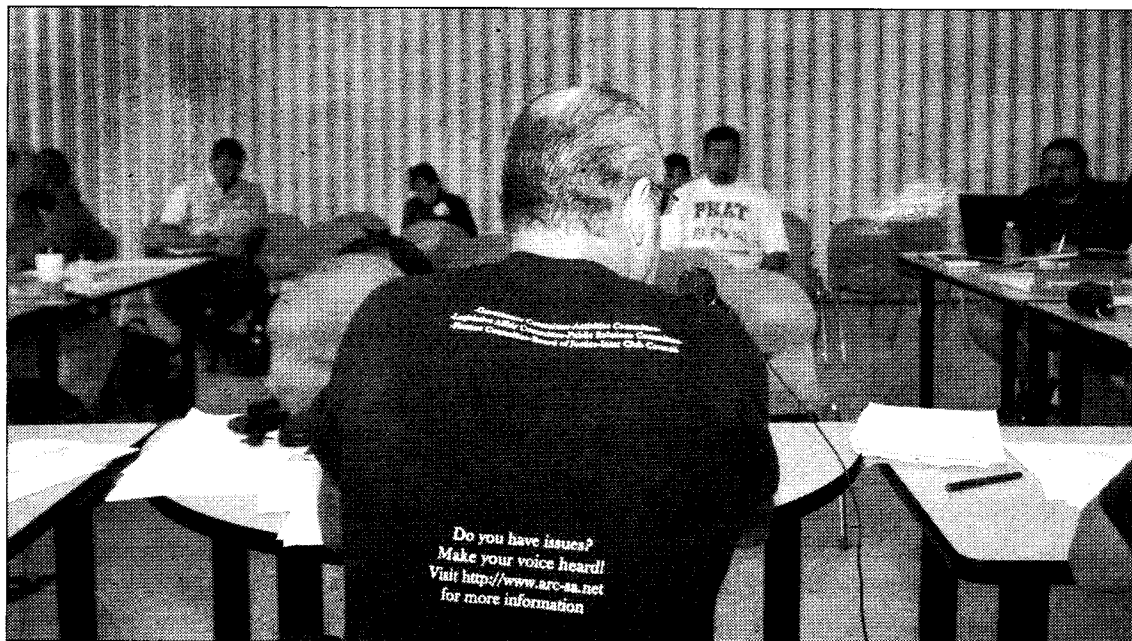
By Rosemell Opee  
Staff Writer

Student Association has had its share of ups and downs. From inexpert Board of Justice candidates to a resignation, SA has had its hands full this semester, but they ended with some real accomplishments.

With about 16 meetings held this fall, SA had a mindset of change spearheaded by President Lou Martinson. Starting with the situation carried on from last semester, the Board of Justice candidates, Barbara Hamlett and Juan Lopez were appointed by outgoing President Scott Cunha, subject to SA's approval.

According to former BOJ Chief Jacob Wagner, "[Hamlett and Lopez] have been on council for quite some time and know the rules very well ... instead, they ignored and violated both SA rules and state law," referring to the illegal BOJ meeting they held. The board then unanimously denied their candidacies.

In November, then-Vice



File Photo / Jaysen Treadaway

SA President Lou Martinson, above, chairs one of many board meetings discussing community college issues.

He also allegedly failed to help with an SA-sponsored event. These alleged accusations were among the statements Inter-Club Council President Nancy Dziuba pointed out in a formal complaint letter she filed on Oct. 18.

SA set up shop in the old

Student Services Pam Walker, Vice President of Finance Bob Allegre, Dean over SA and Student Development Bruce Patt and SA Advisor Phil Sanders." The new center is home to SA as well as the Inter-Club Council and Advisor Phil Sanders.

brought together schools from Los Rios College District and over 50 community colleges around California.

"Speaking loud, speaking strong, speaking together, can you hear us now?" was the theme of the second conference held by the

whose goal was "to improve the success rate especially for [minority] students, [eliminating] the achievement gap."

These student leaders came together to have intellectual debates focusing on student issues that include rising textbook costs, change to Title 5 regulations (laws governing students), student representation fee (usage, implementation and funding for advocacy efforts), and proposition 92, the February ballot measures to lower student fees. Workshops on writing resolutions were held by students that were later voted on by student delegates. ARC students Richard GreyEagle, board of justice member, and David Fisher, SA director of public relations, both wrote resolutions that passed at the forum.

The semester wrapped up with "American River Idol" that brought out student singers competing for the title. The success of this event, according to Director of Activities Jacob Johnson, was so great that he "definitely

## Editorial

### Less jawin', more readin' will lead to ARC success

**S**o the end of the fall semester has arrived. While most students are focusing on finals while trying to fit in the end of the year festivities, this also tends to be the time of the year when people reflect on the past year and make plans for the future.

When reflecting on the past two semesters, it seems like there was one common focus: conflict. In the spring it was the Student Association and their quest to boot out anyone who appeared to slacking on the job. This semester, it revolved around opposing religious ideas.

## Campus Question: *What should ARC's New Year's resolution be?*



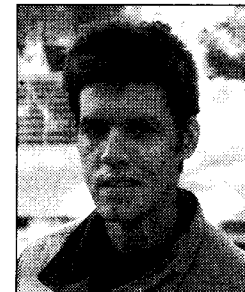
"To increase student participation in clubs and organizations."

—Allison McGrath  
*International Relations*



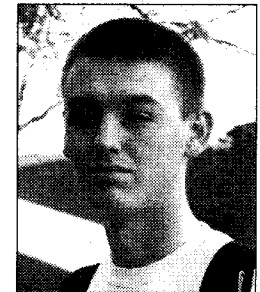
"To make its own night club."

—Nik Harkins  
*Theatre*



"To fix the bathrooms."

—Stephen Cothran  
*Architecture*



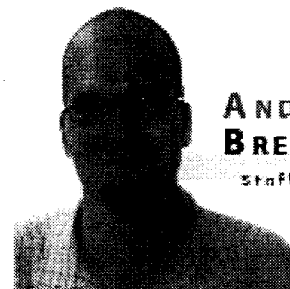
"To finish all the construction."

—Todd Bailey  
*Business*

## Faith & extremism don't mix well

I've had enough sitting on the sidelines watching these religious "heavyweights" slug it out. It's time for another perspective: i.e., a point of view from the Judeo-Christo-Islamo-Atheistic-Transcendental-Humanist-Hindi-Chaotic-Buddhist-Scientific-Hippie-Anarchists who just wants to see us all get along.

History is littered with stories of atrocities, wars, love and compassion, both religious and secular. People have died for their beliefs, misguided or



ANDREW  
BREESE  
Staff Writer

ble. Just think about how many of us benefit from modern medicine and technology, while conveniently forgetting that many of the inventors of these cutting edge ideas were prosecuted and

future think about the current crop of extremists proclaiming the truth?

This semester, with the finger pointing and "truth" telling between the Christian and Islamic factions on campus, a few questions arise from this sideline reporter. First, the Qur'an has specific rules regarding wars, revenge and fighting, who you can attack, and to what degree. Does this make them a religion of war?

And what about Christians? They have no doctrine or rules regarding these things, except that it is strictly

As students, however involved we are, we need to remember that we are all here for one thing: to get an education.

Don't get it twisted. We, as journalists, thrive on free speech and First Amendment rights. We support it. Without it, we would be unable to do our jobs.

But when students spend more time making their point heard instead of hitting the books, then we have to question why they are even here.

Let's keep it real; unless you plan on becoming a professional student, most students are going to move on from here — hopefully upward — in their quest to strive for something better in their lives.

So as we move forward into the spring semester, we need to embrace our differences and focus on the common goal we all have: to get a degree and to move on.

## Clarification

In the Dec. 5, 2007, edition of *The Current*, the article "Christians sweep SA elections" states nine of 10 representatives are members of the former Christian Civilization club; however, the club claims only two representatives are members. This issue will be clarified in a future edition.

not; others have been killed by believers, justified or not. It seems that our primal nature wins out over faith and logic at every turn.

There is no doubt that the enduring religions of the world have contributed greatly to our culture, language and societal norms. Yet within this world of religious values exist some of the most intense hypocrisy and bigotry imaginable.

# Christians should not be banned from holding office

## Letter to the Editor

In the last edition of *The Current*, there were at least two articles published attacking the inactive Christian Civilization Club.

Apparently, they intended to show some kind of conspiracy on our behalf, because we happened to have helped campaign for some Christian students due to a lack of representation on the council; nine candidates got elected (only two of whom were former members of the CCC, contrary to what was reported).

And this was enough for them to cry "so much for separation of church and state." I didn't know Christians

sometimes killed for their blasphemous ways.

During the Inquisition, Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake for endorsing and supporting Galileo's notions of the Earth revolving around the Sun. It is easy to look back at events like this and see how misguided and self-serving those atrocities were. The question now is, what will the

were banned from holding a public office; so even though America was founded on Christianity, it is no longer tolerated? Can anyone say religious discrimination?

I guess they don't realize the current concept of 'separation' is nowhere in the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, or Constitution. Rather, it's an out-of-context phrase used to make public profession of religion illegal. Although, as even an immigrant like me from the former Soviet Union can attest, that was what made this country great.

Direct and indirect quotes combined reveal that the majority of quotes of the Founding Fathers are derived from

these things, except that it is strictly forbidden to take revenge — "If anyone should strike you on the right cheek, turn to him the other one also," *Matthew 5:39*. So if Christians are not to fight, what is up with the Crusades, the Inquisition, KKK, or the Holocaust? Are the Christian followers so bloodthirsty they will ignore their

See "RELIGION" on Page 4

the Holy Bible. Alexis de Tocqueville, a famous French statesman, historian, and philosopher, wrote in *Democracy in America* (1835), "In the United States the sovereign authority is religious, ... there is no country in the world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence."

Sound like a theocracy? No, that's just Americans being public about their faith; much like the candidates we supported for Student Rep.

It seems like *The Current* is trying to make Christians scapegoats, like the Romans did for the ills burdening the Empire.

—Yuriy Popko

## AMERICAN RIVER CURRENT STAFF • FALL 2007

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# The Back Page

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## GIVING: Gifts go to needy kids

From Page 1

Oct. 31 to help fund the Giving Tree this year. The bake sale sold out, and the money raised was used to buy four gifts for the Giving Tree.

This was the first year DSP&S collectively participated in funding for the event.

Anita Kuharski, visually impaired/blind auxiliary support services, says the Giving Tree is "such a good program" and DSP&S will "probably going to continue to do it."

For the last month, a giving tree has been in the River Café with names of children ranging from the age of 0-14. At least one parent of the child must be a student at ARC who participates in CalWORKS, DSP&S, or EOP&S.

Approximately 150 children, the maximum allowed, are participating in this event. Only 40 names have been chosen so the school asks for more help.

The process is very simple. Just take a tag from the tree and on it will state the child's name, age, sex, and interest. You then purchase a gift and drop it off unwrapped at the Campus Life Center. Gift cards are allowed.

Nancy, an ARC student of four years who asked that her last name not be printed, is one of the recipients of the Giving Tree this year. This is the first year she has put her three son's names in the box to receive gifts.

Nancy says she had the money saved for Christmas. But when her landlord created a "false" case against her to evict her and her family from their home in only two days and had her vehicle towed for being on the property after those days, the money she had saved for Christmas was spent moving and getting her car out of the pound.

"I can't tell you how grateful that there is a resource like this," said Nancy, "because we would have nothing on Christmas morning."

She continued, after wiping the tears from her eyes, "I can't believe the support from people I don't even know."

## RELIGION: Can't we get along?

From Page 2

own scripture?

Extremists in these religions dehumanize their counterparts in an attempt to justify the brutality they wish to commit. It is immensely easier to violate another when you don't see them as an equal.

All enduring religions, and most enduring philosophies, teach love and compassion for all. It is up to the followers to decide how to use this knowledge, or not. Just like a superhero from a child's book, we must choose to use our powers and knowledge for good or for evil. We can manipulate, exploit, demean and dominate. Or we can accept, tolerate, empower, and respect. The danger lies in being convinced you can do no harm and are purely good, because then those who oppose you must be purely evil. And this leads to extremism with the intent of converting, often with dire consequences. When extremists and zealots blow them-

selves up, invade other lands or make inflammatory remarks, it is simply a betrayal of all that is good in this world.

China strictly prohibits and regulates the worship of various religions. France is in the process of passing laws that would prohibit the wearing of specific religious garments. Northern Ireland has calmed down recently, but it still bears the scars and distress from decades of religious conflict and extremism.

Islam and Christianity do not have a monopoly on extremism, violence, love or compassion. Scientists, Atheists, Jews and more have all had their moments of shame and glory. Without doubt the most heinous and despicable moments of shame any religion or organization can have is when it zealously attacks opposing points-of-view without respect for their humanity.

Some may claim they are compelled by their faith to reach out to others for the

purpose of enlightening or converting them. This claim supposes that your beliefs are superior and that others "need" to be helped into your way of thinking. This is just another attempt at rationalizing extremism. Of course engaging in proper debate and conversation should always be the preferred method of communication. And if someone or something doesn't want to engage with you or doesn't want to hear what you have to say, then listen to their request, respect it and keep your mouth shut.

Spirituality and religion can be a lovely and wondrous thing. Extremism regarding any subject can be dangerous to the point of being deadly. Instead of damning the differences, try celebrating the similarities. Share some bread, have a laugh, give a hug, a smile and before you know it we'll all be seen as one race, as one species, as one organism, on one world, with one goal: living.