

campus news | BY MICHAEL LEE



World Press Photo of the Year 2006 by Spencer Platt

UCLA APPOINTS NEW FOOTBALL COACH

UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero has chosen Rick Neuheisel, a former UCLA quarterback who led the Bruins to victory in the 1984 Rose Bowl, as the new head coach of the UCLA football team.

Neuheisel has previously coached at the University of Colorado and the University of Washington, earning a record of 66-30 in his eight years at the schools.

Says Neuheisel, "I am thrilled to be returning to my alma mater as its head coach - UCLA is a special place."

ALAN GANSBERG NAMED DEAN OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE HOLLYWOOD

Award-winning writer-producer Alan Gansberg has been named Dean of the College, Academics & Faculty of Columbia College Hollywood.

Gansberg began teaching at the distinguished film school in 1995. In 2000, he was elected the inaugural president of the College's Faculty Association and eventually became Senior Department Chair.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO EXHIBIT AT USC

The World Press Photo exhibition will return to USC from Jan. 14 through Feb. 2. The award-winning images are taken from the 50th annual World Press Photo competition.

The 200 images in the exhibit are drawn from nearly 80,000

entries submitted by more than 4,000 photographers. The images document the year's most important events and are meant to "elevate the public discourse on some of the most pressing issues of our time."

The opening reception will be held on Jan. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DAVID SEDARIS AT UCLA

David Sedaris, author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Naked* and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, will "workshop" never-before-read material from his upcoming book on six consecutive dates beginning Jan. 15 at the UCLA Macgowan Hall Little Theater. The event will allow fans to get a rare glimpse at the author in an intimate setting. Tickets are \$20 for UCLA students and \$50 for the general public.

USC GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE LECTURE

Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, will talk about the ways in which California will implement the climate change law AB32. Nichols will discuss plans to implement the legislation as well as regulations that would provide cleaner air for Southern California.

The lecture will be on Jan. 18 and is free and open to the public. It begins at 1 p.m. at the Davidson Conference Center's Club Room on the University Park Campus. ■

editor's letter

Dear readers,

We're back in action! In 2007 it was one of my goals to improve the editorial content of *Campus Circle*. In 2008 I'd like to hear more from you about what you'd like to see on

these pages.

Our aim is to try to stay on the pulse of what's going down on L.A. college campuses - so if you've got the 411, pass it on. Give us the scoop on amazing up 'n' coming athletes, new courses that rock or student events you'd like to promote.

Find a cool new snack spot around school? Let us know. Working on a project and discover

some interesting facts about Los Angeles or college students? E-mail editor.chief@campuscircle.net. We'd like to get to know you a lil' better.

'Til next week,

Jessica Koslow

Jessica Koslow

wooden nickels | BY JOE HORTON

LET THEM EAT CAKE
Caucus Victories in Iowa

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA currently consists of two states: Iowa and New Hampshire. There are a few protectorates, like Nevada and South Carolina and Michigan, lying in wait amidst the useless chaff that abounds, but when it comes to democracy, we've simplified the process considerably to have the few speak for the many.

Democracy is unwieldy, ugly even, if you try to give everyone a voice. It's a lot easier to rely on several non-representative, pliant samples to ensure that freedom reigns supreme, at least probably and at least somewhere.

In a report conducted by CNN Polling Director Keating Holland and carried by several other news organizations around the nation, Iowa and New Hampshire rank 26th and 36th, respectively, in a comparison of how all 50 states differed from the overall socio-economic/political make-up of the country.

Through 12 key statistics - four measuring income and education, four illustrating race and ethnicity and four describing the "typical neighborhood" in each state - Wisconsin was crowned the most representative of the nation, while Mississippi pulled up the rear. California led the charge of the last 10 states at No. 40, a full 22 spots behind rough-and-tumble Alaska at No. 18. Of the states with early, essential primaries, Michigan is

the highest on the list at No. 11.

We should have seen this coming, I suppose, in a country of 300 million, this massive populace split between intense apathy and obsessive, fundamentalist devotion to a single cause or candidate. Three hundred million is a lot of hands to shake and a lot of different opinions and questions to dodge and skirt.

What would be better than to pile up all of those pesky individuals, fold them onto each other and pound out discordant voices like beating a dusty rug and shoving it onto a campaign bus bound for states that rent out all of their hotels rooms only once every four years?

But at least Iowans, our children of the corn, of caucus tradition, come out in droves for this singular honor to start our nation on the path to electing a new Leader of the Free World (trademark pending). In a state of 2.9 million people, a whole 8 percent will likely participate in caucuses, and out of 1.9 million registered voters, a resounding 12 percent engage in the arcane process, according to Jose Antonio Vargas of the *Washington Post*.

And at least the Democratic Party caucus doesn't devolve into a clique-ridden popularity contest fueled by "persuasion time" and cookie and cake bribery as frontrunners steal away those abandoned caucusers whose candidates come up "unviable"



Joe Horton

(under that magical 15 percent threshold for human validation). In doing so, Iowa vindicates Marie Antoinette's infamous maxim - when people are starving, whether in their bellies or in the ballot box, give them cake.

So congratulations to Governor Huckabee and Senator Obama. Your people clearly excel at both organization and baking.

At this early point on the trail, your victory is a victory because it is not a defeat. To the also-rans, fear not: New Hampshire looms next, complete with its own narrow electorate who demand a similarly narrow pandering.

There are 300 million people and 50 states in this country with plenty of garages and church basements to caucus, and you can surely find agreement somewhere. By November 2012, I'm fully confident that we can give all 300 million a handshake, a pie and a promise, at approximately 4.75 handshakes-per-second for 12 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Let's not rush to any kind of positive, progressive consensus when there's so much arguing and eating to do.

—Joe Horton

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