

# Grace Notes

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Alumni Day: The Pep Band of Millenia Past

by Jeffery Johnson

Folks, it's 2001. A year of reckoning. A year in which we could have been sending astronauts to Jupiter in a spaceship controlled by a pathological computer. A year in which people may realize that, two years ago, we were partying like it was 1999. A year in which you write "01" in the place where you write the year when you're writing the date.

In early February of this very special year, the UCSD Pep Band will be holding its annual Pep Band Alumni Day. Alumni Day is a recently-formed tradition in which the elder branch of the UCSD Pep Band gathers from all corners of the galaxy to descend upon the campus, joining the fresh new pep Band larvae and pupae. The event promises a good time for all involved, except perhaps the Division 2 UCSD Athletics program, which will have a hell of a time shutting up the larger-than-usual pep Band during game play.

The weekend of February 2-4 will be a frothing pit of undulating excitement, as Friday Night kicks off with Spirit Night, for which, I assure you, the Alumni will be more than prepared. The theme is eighties," you say? I don't think I have to remind you of our in-house eighties authority, Mr. Michael "Sparky" Sklar. You might have heard of him. He's the guy who wrote all the other stuff for Grace Notes. I know he's an eighties guru, because I drove down to San Diego with him, and it was like one of those "Remember the Eighties" commemorative CD commer-

cial. Only it was like seven and a half hours long.

The following are my predictions for the alumni costumes from the things I've heard:

- \* Sparky: the little Japanese kid from The Goonies.
- \* Paul: Tina Turner as she appears in Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome.
- \* Brian: M-M-M-Max Headroom from that... interesting... TV show.
- \* Charlie: Alec, from The Last Starfighter
- \* Ben Preston: Ahnold when he fights de Predator
- \* Ben Smith: Chuck Norris
- \* Jeff: Soundwave, from the Transformers.
- \* Barry: Number "Johnny" 5.
- \* Aaron: Cameron, from Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- \* Steve Bush: Ronald Reagan
- \* Mary: that chick in Ghostbusters who's in love with Egon

If I have my way, we'll be recreating the entire set of "Thriller" at the game. Hey, maybe we could find a use for those cheerleaders after all!

The seething fury of lighthearted enjoyment continues the next day as Davis lands their huge, cow-spotted starship (the Inslaughterable) next to UCSD's big rocketship library (the Insufferable) and students from both UCs converge on RIMAC to gnash their teeth, rend each other's

flesh, and compare the numbers of Simpsons episodes stored in their respective cerebral collectives. Says one excited UCSD student: "I can't wait for Final Fantasy XXII! It will be so real, I can use it to do my laundry and spend my meal points!"

Incidentally, I am told we are responsible for restoring Davis' faith in The Beach Party Principle. The last time they were invited to a beach party, the Allies attacked and stormed the beach, taking heavy losses but also driving back the Axis Powers (and the band) and stealing most of the food and the alcohol. Except for the 7 surviving band members and two bags of pork rinds, the event was a total loss. I am sure that our fearless Pep Band Officers are already planning a better beach party, though. Don't worry, guys! We are behind you 100%! Make no mistake, though... as soon as any troops show up, I personally am Audi 5000.

That explains away Friday and Saturday evening, but what about the rest of the weekend? Are YOU a UCSD Pep Band Alumnus? Are you aching to see some action during this weekend of weekends? If your response is "Oh, YEAH!!!" then head on over to <http://www.egroups.com>, log in, and register your vote for the ultimate weekend activity at the latest poll! If you're not an alumnus, you can still participate, of course, provided that you preprend everything you say with "I know I'm not a Pep Band alumnus, but..."

## Schedule

Feb. 2	Spirit Night	RIMAC	5:15 PM
Feb. 3	Alumni Lunch	TBA	12:00 PM
Feb. 3	Battle of the Bands	RIMAC	5:15 PM

## Editorial

You've seen the messages on chat, you've read the entry's on the web, you've even heard about the new listserv for them. The Alumni are starting to mobilize.

The idea isn't a new one. Since I was a freshman, the upper classmen were always talking about getting info from the graduates and setting up some kind of alumni/community member program. But it never happened and for a while, the idea was forgotten. Years later, somebody came up with the idea of an alumni night. It was hastily thrown together, but we still had several people show up. It was an enjoyable event, but more importantly, it sent a message. Even though they couldn't be there all the time, alumni still wanted to be involved in some of the band activity. When the band goes to Picnic Day, more and more of the alumni turn out to meet them. People would ask me how they could contribute to the band even though they couldn't make the games. The time had come to organize and mobilize the alumni.

So what will this alumni group do? Aside from playing music, one of the main goals we had when we were in the band was to have fun. Any Pep Band Alumni/Community group that is formed should have the same goal. Mentoring programs have been discussed as well as the

networking opportunities associated with such a group. As this group grows, these are things we can take a closer look at.

2001 will be the year we make contact...with the alumni. The new alumni listserv is one such attempt and hopefully as word spreads, we can get more people to sign up. We currently have about 20 people signed up for the listserv, which is a good start. I understand that some people may have concerns about joining another listserv. For those people who don't want to join the list but still want to be notified about events, please let me know. I do have a private contact list going for people who share your concern.

As more people get involved and provide feedback, the direction this group takes will probably change somewhat. But the important thing to remember is that this is a group effort and everything that has been done so far has been a group effort. My current role has been as a coordinator of events, an organizer, and editor of the new newsletter, "Grace Notes". This is the first issue and I'll be adjusting the format of the newsletter, just like I did with "Notations".

Last but not least, I'd like to thank the alumni who have signed on and given me their feedback and support on organizing this. Special thanks to John Studarus for setting up the new listserv for us and to the current Pep Band officers for their cooperation and support.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at: [mksklar@email.com](mailto:mksklar@email.com)

Mike "Sparky" Sklar

## How to Sign up for the Alumni List

There are 2 ways you can go about signing up for the list:

a) Open your web browser and go to the site:  
<http://www.egroups.com/invite/ucsdpepbandalumni> and click on the join button.

You will then be sent an e-mail that you have to respond to in order to be added to the list.

b) Send me an e-mail saying you want to join. I'll send you the invitation e-mail, which you need to reply to in order to join.

See how simple it is?

## Hot Links

Some neat web sites to go visit:

Home of the UCSD Pep Band:  
[www.ucsdpepband.com](http://www.ucsdpepband.com)

Hero to the Employed:  
[www.dilbert.com](http://www.dilbert.com)

Looking for a job?:  
[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

Looking for something to do?:  
[www.digitalcity.com](http://www.digitalcity.com)

Cheap Airfare?  
[www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com)

Do you have a favorite link? Send an e-mail to [mksklar@email.com](mailto:mksklar@email.com) and let me know.