

# International Connection

January/February 2011, Volume XXVII, No. 3

## Trojan Wings

### Birds from here and abroad make USC their home

by Ron Cyger, Education Chair, Pasadena Audubon Society



*A Northern Flicker (L) and Red-tailed Hawk (R), two of the birds seen on campus*

Los Angeles is a mass of urbanity, and at its heart is USC, home to students from around the world. A few hundred years ago, the Los Angeles basin was awash with habitat that supported many species of wildlife, including both migratory and sedentary birds. Now, homes, skyscrapers, and concrete stretch out as far as the eye can see from the top of VKC Tower.

It isn't only members of the human species who come from distant lands to temporarily call USC home. There are many migratory birds who will settle into campus, if only for the winter, while others will seek better habitat to rest and feed while traveling to and from their native breeding grounds. Many sedentary birds have carved out a permanent nook here on campus.

While strolling along McCarthy Quad, the first bird I found was a House Sparrow, or should I say many House Sparrows. These birds are a common sparrow in Europe, and were introduced into New York in 1852. They spread like wildfire and now are everywhere in North America inhabited by people, especially in crowded places, like a university. The first House Sparrow I saw was around the picnic tables on the quad.

During my search, I was attracted to the tall Sycamore trees in Alumni Park, which attract many species as they fly through campus. There were a flock of Bushtits streaming from tree to tree, very small brown and gray fluff-balls with long tails. They are a flocking bird, so you rarely find one by itself. If you listen, you will hear a high-pitched

and repeated "pis-pis" as they flow through the trees, gleaning small insects off leaves and branches. These birds are sedentary, so you can find them around campus all year.

Following the Bushtits are usually a few Warblers, generally a little larger than Bushtits, but still smaller than sparrows. The most common warbler during late fall to early spring is the Yellow-rumped Warbler. This is a beautiful bird when it's in breeding plumage, but in winter it usually is a much duller gray with a touch of yellow on it's throat, flanks and, of course, on the rump. If you pay attention around trees, you will hear it's harsher "tsip" as it forages through the trees. It may even come close enough for you to see its yellow throat. This bird is migratory, so during the summer it heads north or into the high mountains to breed.

Also on the lawns and adorning buildings around campus, you can easily

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# International Connection

## Get involved in OIS programs this Spring!

by Marcia Rubin and Jenna Markowick, International Program Assistants

### Diners' Club

Pakistan may be a newer country but its culture and culinary traditions are timeless. Pakistani dishes are well-known for their aromatic and sometimes spicy flavors. Within the country cuisine varies greatly between regions, a sign of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the population. The cuisine is best described as a blend of the different cooking styles of the subcontinent. For our first Diners' Club event of the spring semester we'll travel to Artesia to taste some of the best **Pakistani food** available in the States.

Despite being an American state, Hawaii has a unique culture and cuisine of its own. Today, what we know as **Hawaiian cuisine** is a fusion of culinary traditions brought by multiethnic immigrants to Hawaii from countries such as China, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Polynesia and Portugal. The Diners' Club will be attending a luau (Hawaiian feast) in April to experience Hawaiian music, hula and some traditional Hawaiian foods.

### LA Today

One of the most amazing things about living in California is the variety of activities we have to choose from. January is the height of **whale-watching** season so we're planning an outing to beautiful Santa Barbara. In the morning we'll go out on a boat and observe these majestic creatures as they migrate south for the winter and in the afternoon take in the lovely scenery and shopping downtown. This is a unique opportunity, so sign up early to reserve your space.

The ever popular **Big Bear Ski trip** is back for the 3rd year in a row! Students love this outing so much we decided to keep the tradition, so look for the date in the International Update and sign up! We expect this event to fill up quickly, since the package includes transportation, equipment rental, a lesson and light breakfast. We'll probably hit the slopes sometime in late February or early March, so we hope to see you there!

### International Connection

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## One of a Kind: Uruguay is My Home Country

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director



Fabian Friedman

**F**abian Friedman is one of a kind: he is the only student from Uruguay currently studying at USC\*. Fabian is a sophomore undergraduate in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in business. I talked with him about what it is like to be the only person on campus from Uruguay.

“Well, although I am the only student from Uruguay, there are at least a few more students from Latin America (approximately 164 students and scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean\*) here at USC, so I do not feel so very singular.

I would say that those I feel most similar to here at USC would be the Argentinean students. Our manner of speech and dress, and general attitude towards life is quite close.”

“I love the campus experience at USC, which I would not be able to experience in my own country. I like being around so many young people. Things are pretty social – but I still really miss the kind of “hanging out” I did with

my friends in Uruguay.

It is not quite the same here. In my experience as a Uruguayan, I also sense that relationships in Uruguay seem more lifelong; caring about others is a natural part of everyday life and things are not so competitive.”

I asked Fabian what is the most common question he gets from his US classmates.

“Well, surprisingly, many students – when I tell them I’m from Uruguay, somehow confuse this with the Ukraine and they assume I speak Russian. After the fourth or fifth student made this mistake, I decided just to go along with it and pretend I speak Russian. It was kind of funny, and I got tired of explaining that Uruguay is in South America, and that I speak Spanish.

When this happens, I miss the Latin American experience even more. I find myself making friends with a lot of the USC staff who work in food services and speak Spanish. I feel kind of adopted by many of these friends.

There is one woman in particular who is always worrying about me and making sure that I am eating right and eating enough. These staff friends have definitely helped me to feel at home here at USC.”

I asked Fabian to tell me a little bit about his family history.

“My great-grandparents emigrated to Uruguay from either Germany or Poland prior to 1939. My father attended Boston University. Our family is part of a small community of about 10,000

Jewish people in Uruguay. Everyone pretty much knows everyone else.

I went to a bilingual (Spanish and English) primary school and a Jewish high school. I lived in Israel for about four and a half months.”

I asked Fabian where he would recommend people to visit should they travel to Uruguay.

“Well, I come from Montevideo, the capital, which is a city of 1.5 million in a country of 3.3 million. So, I would of course recommend a visit to Montevideo. I would also recommend a visit to the historical city of Colonia on the bay and Punta Del Este on the coast.”

\* According to the Fall 2009 International Student Enrollment Report.



Uruguay is located in South America, between Argentina and Brazil

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## Trojan Wings (Continued from page 1)



*A Bushtit, one of the birds viewable on the USC campus*

find Rock Pigeons. This is another species introduced from Europe and also sedentary. While we have many domestic pigeons and doves, like Mourning Doves and Band-tailed Pigeons, the Rock Pigeon is certainly the most numerous around campus.

Later in the morning, as it was warming up, an American Crow caught my attention. He was harassing a Red-tailed Hawk as they both flew across campus, staying on the hawk's tail or swooping down upon it. The Red-tailed Hawk is a majestic bird, often perching around campus. As the morning warms, you will often see Red-tails soaring above campus. This species always reminds me of a muscle-builder with big-strong looking wings and the red tail is sometimes very faded-looking or striped on the immature hawks.

An exciting bird seen that morning was a Northern Flicker. This woodpecker was hanging around the rose garden before it flew in its distinctive undulating flight to a nearby tree. Flickers are sedentary, and the ones in our area have a distinctive red coloration (called "red-shafted") in their under-wings that you can see as they fly. As I watched it fly into a nearby tree, I found an American Robin already there.

Other birds seen that morning included Black Phoebes, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Townsend's Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Mockingbirds, White-crowned Sparrows and House Finches.

If you would like more identification help, check out some field guides from the campus library. They are generally entitled "Birds of North America" written by David Sibley, Roger Tory Peterson, staff at National Geographic, and others. A binocular also helps when looking at birds!

If you would like to go on some bird field trips, check the schedules for Pasadena Audubon Society at [www.PasadenaAudubon.org](http://www.PasadenaAudubon.org) or Los Angeles Audubon Society at [www.LosAngelesAudubon.org](http://www.LosAngelesAudubon.org).

*Ron Cyger has been birding in the Pasadena/Los Angeles area and around the world for 20 years. He is a past president of the Pasadena Audubon Society and is currently their Education Chair.*

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## The Tax Season: An Early Reminder

*by Becky Peterson, International Student Advisor*

Most non-nationals are liable for taxation on any income earned in the United States from the beginning of their arrival in the US. These taxes are at the federal, state and sometimes local levels. Income normally includes salary, taxable scholarships/fellowships, and income from US mutual funds or US bank accounts.

Some countries are eligible for federal tax exemption due to tax treaties between the United States and their home country. Taxes for each calendar year are reported in the Spring of the following year and tax

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*Just some of the many forms involved in US tax returns!*

# State of the Nation: The Aftermath of the 2010 U.S. Elections

by Benjamin Logan, Candidate for M.Ed. in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs, Rossier School of Education



The people have spoken: John Boehner (L) and Jerry Brown (far R), were two winners of the November 2010 US elections (center)

November 4th, 2010 brought an end to the tumultuous midterm election season, removing the ad nauseum display of political ads intruding into every aspect of life and handing America a very different looking government. This is an overview of the election results and their impact.

## California Governor Race

Democratic candidate Jerry Brown defeated Republican candidate Meg Whitman in a historic election. Brown, who was the governor of California from 1975-1983 managed to take 53% of the vote despite Meg Whitman, the former CEO of EBay, spending \$160 million of her personal income to finance her campaign, more than any self-financed campaign for elected office in the history of the United States.

The result has been viewed by many as a rebuke for using business policies to solve California's problems. While Brown does not have an easy task ahead of him, Californians have validated Brown's plan to solve California's problems through investing in clean energy and education. While higher education was expected to not fare well under either candidate, Brown hopes to maintain the status quo.

## California Senator Race

In another Democratic victory, incumbent senator Barbara Boxer won reelection over businesswoman Carly Fiorina. Boxer soundly defeated the former Hewlett-Packard CEO Fiorina by nearly 10 percentage points. Fiorina, who was endorsed by Sarah Palin, failed to overcome her negative image as the CEO responsible for laying off 30,000 California workers while lavishly spending money on yachts and private jets.

The reelection of Boxer helped the Democrats maintain control of the U.S. Senate, which will likely impede Republican attempts to repeal the recently passed healthcare legislation. Boxer has consistently been an ally of President Obama, particularly during the passage of the health care bill.

## Republican Control of Congress

While Democrats maintained control of the Senate, Republicans made significant gains in the House of Representatives, taking control of the lower house. This will create significant difficulties for the Obama administration as it attempts to push forward its agenda to pull the nation out of its deepest recession since before World War II.

President Obama reached out to Republican leaders imploring them to find common ground that both parties can compromise on to deal with the nation's high unemployment rate, two unpopular wars, and a soaring deficit.

John Boehner is the now the House Majority leader, taking over from Nancy Pelosi, who broke from conventional wisdom by maintaining her position as speaker of the Democrats, now Minority House Leader. Pelosi has faced criticism from all sides for being an exceedingly partisan political figure, but she has been instrumental in many of the Democrats legislative successes.

## Propositions in California

Californians were asked to vote on nine different propositions impacting a wide array of issues, but voters only passed five. Of the failed propositions, none gained more attention than **Proposition 19**, an initiative to legalize the personal use of marijuana. The failure of this controversial proposition has largely been linked to the poor wording of the measure which resulted in fears among business leaders that they would not be able to regulate the recreational use of marijuana by employees.

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# International Connection

## Crazy for Karneval in Cologne

by Anne Kaufman, Business Manager



Revellers at the Cologne Karneval last year (L) included our very own Anne Kaufman (R), who was part of the 'Florida Rolf' float.

The week leading up to Ash Wednesday marks a time of festivities, merriment, and fete around the world.

Some destinations have a reputation for hosting unforgettable, truly visceral celebrations. Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is perhaps the world's most famous. Mardi Gras in New Orleans certainly deserves honorable mention, as does Carnivale in Venice, Italy.

However, Karneval in Cologne, Germany, with its unique and quirky traditions, is a spectacular, well kept secret.

While Brazilians are best known for their jovial spirit, and the "Big Easy" is one American city that promises a good time, what Germany has to offer is the unexpected. Once a year, Germans of all ages buck inhibitions as they revel in a 5-day marathon of frolicking fun!

Across the world, the Karneval season is a time for living it up one last time prior to the Catholic period of Lent that traditionally calls for fasting and sacrifice. Without a hint of religion in its current form, Germans call the pre-Lent Karneval season *die naerrische Saison*, meaning the foolish season, and for good reason.

The pinnacle of the Karneval season descends into a state of absolute foolishness at exactly 11:11 A.M. on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, known in Germany as *Weiberfastnacht* (Ladies' Day or Old Crones'

Day, depending on how polite a gentleman you ask).

*Weiberfastnacht*, first celebrated in the early 19th century, is an offshoot of an early feminist movement. As a playful display of female empowerment, costumed women take to the streets on this day with scissors in hand and snip away half of the necktie – patriarchal or phallic symbol? – of any man in sight, stealing a kiss or two along the way for the trouble. A wise man will have several ties stashed on his person to ensure he receives his share of pecks throughout the day.

The *Rosenmontagumzug* (Rose Monday Parade) is the climax of the 5-day celebration in Cologne. Floats displaying large caricature figures mocking politicians, personalities and pop culture phenomena parade through the inner city, accompanied by marchers tossing *Kamelle* (candy) to costumed Karneval revelers of all ages.

Another part of the celebration includes the Karneval "royalty," a sort of "counter-government" that presides over a city of full of *Jecken* (jesters and fools).

I became familiar with Karneval in February 2004, when I participated in the festivities as described above. I was invited to walk alongside a giant political statement on wheels with one of the local Karneval associations. Our float and coordinating costumes paid homage to the infamous "Florida Rolf," a notorious German welfare scrounger who successfully exploited Germany's generous welfare system to fund

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# Oscar Buzz: The Academy Award Predictions

by Oliver Riley-Smith, Publications Editor

With the Academy Awards, the annual showpiece of the movie industry, taking place on February 27th, everyone has been feverishly making their predictions, so it is only fair that the International Connection weighs in with ours.

With ten nominations again this year, the door is open for both indie films and box office hits to do well in the Best Picture category this year.

Near the top of the pack is **The King's Speech**, the new comeback film from the Weinstein's after a rocky few years. The story of how King George VI (Colin Firth), with the help of an Australian therapist (Geoffrey Rush), overcame a stammer to lead Britain through the second world war, is gaining plaudits everywhere for its powerful performances. Firth, nominated last year for Best Actor, is the favorite to carry away the award this time around, with many drawing comparisons with Helen Mirren's win for playing the Queen.

Another previous nominee who is hotly tipped for a win this year is director Darren Aronofsky, whose film **Black Swan** has been creating a lot of buzz. Aronofsky was nominated for *The Wrestler* in X, and now his tale of an obsessive

ballet artist (Natalie Portman) slowly losing her mind in the competitive company has critics raving, especially for Portman's uninhibited performance.

**The Social Network** has all the makings of an Oscar hit – a hot, edgy subject that could make voters look cool (the birth of internet phenomenon Facebook), a previously-nominated director (David Fincher, for *Benjamin Button*), and a celebrated adapted script from legendary *West Wing* scribe Aaron Sorkin. Add to that a lauded young cast (Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, even Justin Timberlake), and *Network* could be everyone's friend.

There are bound to be a couple of box office hits in the ten nominees, including **Inception** and **Toy Story 3**. With just under \$300 million to its name on domestic box office gross alone, and a dazzling array of effects and production design, **Inception** deserves its place on the best film list of the year. **Toy Story** is the lead candidate in the animation category, and surely deserves its place as the one film that was guaranteed to make men cry this year.

Some recent winners who are back with new smaller productions are Danny



*The golden Oscar statuette is one of the most coveted prizes in the film industry.*

Boyle (director of *Slumdog Millionaire*) and the Coen brothers (winners for *No Country for Old Men*). Boyle turned down big money offers to direct his film **127 Hours**, the small-scale tale of personal endurance about real-life hiker Aron Ralston trapped in a ravine, forced to sever his arm, giving James Franco the most intense role of his career. The Coens opted for a remake of a John Wayne western, **True Grit**, with last year's best actor winner Jeff Bridges.

Other indies on the awards radar include the comic lesbian family drama **The Kids Are All Right**, low-budget, sexually-charged romantic marriage drama **Blue Valentine**, the 2010 Sundance winner **Winter's Bone**, about a young girl searching for her drug-dealing father in a secretive Ozark Mountain community, and David O. Russell's new film, **The Fighter**, about a boxer (Wahlberg) trained by his brother (Bale) before turning pro.

*The 84th Academy Awards will be broadcast on ABC on February 27th. 7*



**The King's Speech** (L) with Colin Firth and Helena Bonham-Carter and **Black Swan** (R) with Natalie Portman are two films hoping to win the coveted Best Picture Oscar.

# International Connection

## A Reason To Cheer: A Guide to LA's Sports Scene

by Oliver Riley-Smith, Publications Editor

While LA's movie and music culture often takes precedence, it is a lesser-acknowledged fact that the city has one of the largest arrays of sporting entertainment in the country. Despite the conspicuous absence of an NFL team (the Rams and the Raiders both left the area in 1994), LA has a wide variety of successful sports teams, ranging from the two-time NBA reigning champions, the Lakers, to the currently tumultuous (but recently impressive) Dodgers (the historical Dodger Stadium is just north of downtown), as well as a host of smaller-scale sporting events. Here, we break down the big and small of LA's sporting city, so grab the ball by the horns and go see some action!

### Basketball (NBA)

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Kobe Bryant (above) and  
Blake Griffin (below)



#### Teams: Lakers and Clippers

#### Venue: Staples Center (holds 19,000)

The infamous purple and gold-clad Lakers, twice-in-a-row champions gunning for a 'three-peat,' are an LA institution, demonstrated by the wild celebrations that were sparked off downtown last year – they mean a lot to Angelenos.

Led by superstar Kobe Bryant (looking for his sixth championship ring) and uber-coach Phil Jackson (looking for his twelfth), a trip to a Lakers' game is one of the essential LA experiences. Yes, the tickets may be pricey (ranging from \$50 to \$20,000 for courtside seats), but hey, where else do you get to see Jack Nicholson going crazy as a 7ft Spaniard (that'd be Pau Gasol) dunks on his lap?

For those on a budget, the slightly lesser of LA's NBA lights, the Clippers, also play here, a disastrous team but led by brutally powerful potential rookie of the year Blake Griffin, they are always worth a watch in case of an upset.

### Baseball (MLB)

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Dodger Stadium (above)  
and Andre Ethier (below)



#### Team: Dodgers

#### Venue: Dodger Stadium (holds 56,000)

Nothing is quite as iconic as sitting in Dodger Stadium sipping an ice-cold beer, munching a Dodger Dog, watching some ball as the sun sets over the idyllic stadium (home of the Dodgers since 1958). If only the recent action on the pitch could match the view.

Last season was full of troubles – manager Joe Torre retired after their first losing season since 2005, owner Frank McCourt is still wrangling with his ex-wife over ownership of the club through his divorce, and star player Manny Ramirez left under a cloud of infamy for the Chicago White Sox before becoming a free agent. The Dodgers are still looking for a superstar to fill his boots after hastily taking down the 'Mannywood' posters around town.

Despite all that, with seats as low as \$10, and the Dodgers hoping to go one better than the glory of two seasons ago (where they lost to the Yankees in the National League final), this season (starting in March) is the time to see if the team can bring the World Series to Dodgertown for the first time since 1988.

## Football (NCAA)

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*The Trojans (above) and the Rose Bowl (below)*



**Teams: USC Trojans and UCLA Bruins**

**Venues: Memorial Coliseum (holds 93,000) and Rose Bowl (holds 91,000)**

Little needs to be said about the Trojans, but there are still a surprising number of students who have never ventured out to a game. When the monumental stadium (site of the Olympics in 1932 and 1984), packed to the rafters with what seems like mostly LA residents rather than undergraduates, is occasionally set ablaze by the football, under the permanent flame of the once-Olympic torch, it can be the greatest sports show in LA.

New coach Lane Kiffin is looking to move forward next season after a decent 8-5 record last campaign. Despite a postseason ban, with the improving quarterback Matt Barkley still looking to make his imprint on college football and carrying the expectations of a city in the absence of an NFL team, the \$150 student season tickets are more than worth the investment. If you feel like betraying your colors, take a trip to Pasadena to watch the Bruins at the Rose Bowl, an admittedly historic and beautiful setting too. But you may not be allowed back on campus.

## Hockey (NHL)

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*The LA Kings celebrate*

**Team: Kings**

**Venue: Staples Center (holds 18,000)**

One of the lesser-appreciated LA teams, the Kings are growing in confidence every season, and have faint hopes of picking up the Stanley Cup in April – only once in their 44 year history have they been to the finals, in 1993, but anything can happen on the slippery run in to the postseason.

## Soccer (MLS)

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*Beckham and Donovan*

**Team: Galaxy**

**Venue: Home Depot Center, Carson (holds 27,000)**

Soccer is up and coming in LA, and with two gilded stars, David Beckham and Landon Donovan, playing together for what might be their last shot at glory before Beckham retires, this season (starting in March) is a must-see. LA lost in the final two seasons ago, and in the Western regional final last season, despite being ranked number one for the postseason. Now is the time to catch a season for the ages.

## Tennis (ATP World Tour)

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*Andy Murray at last year's Farmers Classic.*

**Event: Farmers Classic**

**Venue: LA Tennis Center, UCLA**

Although LA is full of tennis courts, not many realise that we have a world class tennis tournament taking place every year right under our noses. From July 25-31, the Farmers Classic invades UCLA, with a host of superstars trading volleys under the noses of the students. Last year, local lad (and defending champion) Sam Querrey beat out British fave Andy Murray in the final, while the enigmatic Bryan brothers won the doubles for the US. Past winners include Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, and the field is always packed full of world class talent.

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## LA Sports Guide (Continued from page 9)

### Beach Volleyball

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Casey Jennings at last year's Manhattan Beach Open

**Event: Manhattan Beach Open or Charlie Saikley 6-Man, both August**  
**Venue: LA Tennis Center, UCLA**

Is there anything more Californian than beach volleyball? Take a trip down to Hermosa, Manhattan, or any of the beaches with a net and you'll find them packed with locals almost any day of the week. For the real spectacle, played by the pros, you can take your pick between the laid-back Manhattan Beach Open, with 4000 beach-lounging fans and 100 teams, or the behemoth party machine that is the Saikley 6-Man, turning the beach into a 60,000 person extravaganza. Both have been running since 1960-61, and show no signs of slowing.

### Roller Derby

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Two players line up for another Derby Dolls contest

**League: LA Derby Dolls (4 regular teams within this league)**  
**Venue: The Doll Factory**

It really is like nothing you've ever seen before. Stepping into the 'Doll Factory,' a hipster warehouse pumped full of pheromones and beer-drinking, bespectacled fans, you are soon greeted by teams of burly all-girl rollerskaters bruising each other up on a banked track, racing to score the most points in an initially confusing ruckus. But as the crowd warms up and the game wears on, you find yourself screaming your head off for a team you'd never heard of minutes before. An absolute must – the new season begins in March/April.

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## 2010 Election Aftermath (Continued from page 5)

**Proposition 20**, an initiative to have senate voting districts drawn by a group of citizens, was the first ballot measure to pass. Senate voting districts will now be determined by a group of fourteen citizens evenly representing Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

This group will be charged with assigning voting districts for congressional elections in addition to its current duties to establish voting districts for state senate and state assembly elections.

Ideally this will prevent politicians from being able to determine voting districts, thus increasing the pool of voters who are likely to elect them in one district.

**Proposition 22** passed, preventing the state government from being able to reallocate funds from local government projects. This ballot initiative

was aimed particularly at preventing the state government from taking funding away from stalled public works initiatives such as public transit projects.

Many regional transit projects require passing a temporary increase in local taxes, thus causing great anger among voters who felt that they had been taxed at a higher rate without receiving the promised benefit.

The state budget will no longer require a super majority of two thirds to be passed. Passage of **Proposition 25** allows for the state budget to be approved with only a 51% majority, which will ideally allow for a more expedient passage of the state budget. Prop 25 gives politicians further incentive to pass a state budget on time by forcing politicians to forfeit all pay and benefits for each day that the state budget is late.

# Cologne Karneval

(Continued from page 6)

a luxurious lifestyle on Florida's white sandy beaches.

A hero to some, a villain to most others, our float depicted the hottest debated topic in German media circles at that time. The crowds screamed: *Koelle Alaaf* – the official Karneval cheer – while children begged for *Kamelle* as we strolled down the promenade alongside our giant swindler.

Dressed in Hawaiian shirts and leis (ah, Hawaii, Florida, it was all the same to my German friends), we flung *Kamelle* to parade watchers huddled together to keep warm in freezing temperatures.

Historically, Karneval provided an opportunity for the lower classes to wear costumes and masks in order to poke fun at the aristocracy, in addition to heads of church and state, while being shielded during the festivities to avoid punishment.

During 19th century occupation, Karneval was especially important for Germans to express rebellious anti-Prussian and anti-French sentiments under the guise of a celebration. Today, costumes range from simple jester masks to contemporary pop culture references.

1.5 Million *Jecken* are expected to celebrate Karneval in Cologne this year, so if you are looking for a once in a lifetime experience in March, consider heading to Cologne for the best kept secret Karneval celebration in the world. Just remember, it all begins at precisely eleven minutes past eleven o'clock. On the dot.



*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Some more faces from the 2010 Cologne Karneval - bring your wig this year!*



## Tax Reminder (Continued from page 4)

forms are typically filed with both the U.S. Government (federal) through the International Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. state/s in which income was earned. For example, if you earned income in California (CA) and New York (NY) you would file separate state forms for both CA and NY.

OIS provides resources for our students in the form of online software for federal forms (CINTAX) and on-site workshops for the State of California forms. These resources will begin to be available in the

middle of January.

The deadline for filing your federal and state tax forms for calendar year 2010 is Friday, April 15, 2011. Please go to the OIS tax website for further information on taxes in the United States and possible forms you might need to file. OIS will be releasing information through the International Update as tax season unfolds.

Website: [www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS/tax/tax.html](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS/tax/tax.html)

# International Connection



**Happy Holidays from the OIS Front Desk Staff:**

*Ariel Suarez (L) and Trevin Barnes (R)*

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