



John Muir Charter School
Pomona CCC **GRIT**

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California Conservation Corps—Pomona Satellite



RENAE PEREZ—BACKCOUNTRY—LIVING IN THE OUTDOORS

CORPSMEMBER SPOTLIGHT Monda Steward

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Hard at Work...

* John Muir Charter School students work an 8-hour day “on the grade”. After working, students return to the Center and participate in School

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* Who Coined the Phrase... “Hard Work, Low Pay, Miserable Conditions, and More...”

* Governor Schwarzenegger

* Xavier Galindo

* B.T. Collins

Renae “R-Dawg” Perez is our Corpsmember focus for the month. She returned from Backcountry about 2 months ago. We recently talked with her regarding her experience. She said her experience in Backcountry was the hardest thing ever, but with the most beautiful scenery. The most exhilarating thing she did on her trip was climbing an 11,755 mountain, called Tower Peak. The climb took about 4 hours. When asked about her family, she said, “It was sad. It’s not that I really missed them (she did though, don’t worry), it was that I saw so much beauty I wanted to share it with them.” Renae said she changed a lot more than she thought during Backcountry. For one thing, she doesn’t like the heat anymore and she used to love it. She’s been in the CCC for 1 year and 4 months. (cont. pg 3

Our Corpsmember for the month of December is the one and only, Monda Steward. Monda has been at the CCC for 14 months. She originally joined because she needed a job at the time and one of her friends lulled her in with talk of easy outside work. About 2 months in Monda decided she wanted to promote, she has completed all the requirements to be a red hat, with the exception of crew rotations and obtaining a Class B license. Monda is also a certified Blue Card driver, can run a chainsaw, as well as a chipper. She has also graduated from the Green Collar Program and was the spokesperson for her Green Collar class. She has qualified for and obtained the AmeriCorps Scholarship. The Scholarship allowed her to pay back a school loan and she will use the rest, she said, to attend the West Coast Ultra Sound School. She plans to be an Ultra Sound Technician one day. Her interests include poetry and basketball, her team of course—the Los Angeles Lakers. Monda was recently chosen as one of the few to receive a CalTrans internship in landscaping. She says she will now focus on the internship and get a position with CalTrans. Monda, we thank you for your time and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Andrew Coll



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Anthony Hernandez; Gamer Review

Malinda Allen; Commentary

Acknowledgements

The Student Staff of the JMCS/CCC GRIT would like to extend our gratitude and acknowledgement for the encouragement we have received from the staff at the Pomona CCC Satellite, and District staff.

When we first thought that the student newspaper might be a good way for staff and corpsmembers to connect, We

felt it would be a good way for students to polish writing skills. We also thought it would be a good way for all corpsmembers and staff to connect on a more personal level.

Thank you to all of the folks who responded so warmly to the first JMCS Pomona CCC Newsletter.

This has been a great learning

experience for all of the students involved.

As we are finding our way and polishing our efforts., please don't hesitate to offer

suggestions on staff spotlights, Corpsmember Spotlights, editorial content, or guest commentary material relative to the CCC/JMCS experience

“When Someone Believes in you... well, that is just the greatest thing in life”

PROS AND CONS OF PROP 8——AS SEEN BY MALINDA

Pros:

Everyone should be treated equal
 Love deserves equal rights
 Discrimination is so “Old School”
 Every couple is unique, but has the same heart
 No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizen of the United States
 No government should tell anybody who to love or marry.
 If equality is not for everyone, it isn't equality
 Marriage is for everybody.

Cons:

Allows government to interfere with peoples lives
 Legislates Discrimination.
 Can't produce an offspring with out a contribution from a third person.
 May affect the adoption children .
 Proponents of the successful passage of Proposition 8 promoted arguments which have no basis in fact
 The Gay lifestyle will be promoted in public schools with curriculum and mandatory teaching
 Gay marriage will encourage little kids to be gay
 Gay marriage will change the foundation of society.

Malinda Allen

Do You Like Good Music...

Hey, what's up everyone? Ready to spend December's paycheck? I have three great shows lined up for everyone. First up, A Static Lullaby is touring for the release of their new self-titled album "Rattle Snake". A weird name I know, but it's good music and A Static Lullaby has always been a self progressing band. So you're in for a good show. On Sunday Dec 14th, it's A Static Lullaby, Destroy the Runner, Jamies Elsewhere, Burning Tree Project, and Run Doris Run for only for 13 bucks. Where else could you get that kind of deal? If you're still not satisfied VISIT>>www.myspace.com/astaticlullaby for more info. Ok, next up we have "DECEMBER DECIMATION". What better to do during the holidays then to get together and destroy everything in sight? So, if you're ready for a holiday massacre, be at the GlassHouse in Pomona on Saturday Dec 20th, where Winds

of Plague, Sleeping Giant, Underneath the Gun, and many more will be playing. It's 20 bucks, but remember people, it's an all day event so don't miss out. There's plenty more bands to be seen and still tickets to be sold, so go out and grab yours now! For more info VISIT>> <http://www.myspace.com/windsofplague> Now I have the event of the season. "Electric Christmas"! An event you CAN NOT MISS! With such DJs as Pappazzi, Acid Girls, The Spys, DJ Score, Ultra Tiger, and many more! If you're ready to dance all night long, be at the GlassHouse on Saturday Dec 27th, it's only 15 bucks at the door! And only \$10 if you buy your tickets in advance, so go out and get them now! Well everyone that's it for this month's music article. Have fun, enjoy the shows, and happy holidays. ---Rudy Gaspar



MUSIC REVIEW

BackCountry Cont.

Renaë said the opportunity of participating in Backcountry program was her primary reason for joining the CCC. She said she joined Backcountry because "it seemed like an amazing adventure." And it was, or so we've been told. Renaë saw a wide variety of animals on her trip including; Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Deer, Bats, Ground Squirrels, Sea Lions, Marmots, Tarantulas, Ducks, & Banana Slugs (we're still not sure what one is either). She also celebrated her birthday during backcountry (June 1st), and part of it she

spent in a tree. Yes, she climbed a tree on her birthday. The people in Backcountry did not use power tools, but hand tools instead. When asked about the food, Renaë responded, "The best thing about backcountry was the food. Hands down. Whatever we wanted we usually

"Whatever we wanted we usually got, like ice cream."

got, like ice cream." During Backcountry, she bathed in creeks, did not shave, and didn't use deodorant. The only time she used shampoo and soap was when she did Kitchen Patrol. The various chores that everyone had to do included; dishes, bucket runs (water from the creek), search for firewood, and burning the leftover food. The last bit that Renaë left us with was a small tidbit of advice, or rather a thought. She said, "Backcountry isn't for everyone, but never say can't" —*Andrea Hernandez*

Staff Spotlight; Javier Gallardo

Meet Special Corpsmember Javier Gallardo. He is 25 years old and the oldest of 4 children. Javier is a gamer to an extent, opting to play WoW (World of Warcraft). Other than that, Javier hangs out with his buddies, and isn't really into sports. He graduated from Northview High School in Covina. Javier started at the CCC a little over 4 years ago, he became a Yellow Hat in 3 years and 2 months. Javier went from a Blue hat, to Green, to Red, and then to Yellow, skipping over Orange completely. His current title within the CCC is "Special Corpsmember, Public Servant Conservation Worker". His

job duties include repairing power tools, small time maintenance, and being Jennifer's Assistant. Javier started out here, in Pomona, and liked it so much he stayed. He said that his hardest experience on the grade was dealing with Ice Plant. He described it as heavy, hard to work with, and troublesome. Of all the methods tried to dispose of the Ice Plant, he found pitch forks work the best. Javier never had to respond to a flood call as a regular corpsmember. He also said that he has never transferred because he didn't want to deal with drama at other centers, and that Pomona has become a second home. Javier

took the C1 exam, along with Josh Behrens, on December 1st, 2008. He said if he becomes a C1, and has to transfer, he will do so, but will miss home. Originally his plan was to put in his year at the C's and then move on, that doesn't seem to be the case anymore, as he stated that he will stick with the C's as long as possible.



Javier Gallardo

Poetry Corner

What You've Done

Listen, here's what I gotta say

U have teased me and hurt me

Physically and emotionally

I'm letting you know it hurts

It hurts a lot

Yes, I am different from you

Yes I do things different

So what?

What do you accomplish by being
so mean?

Please tell me.

Not. I am alone and you are not

You have friends and I do not

So what?

If you are not my friend then
leave me be.

Leave me alone, let me be

I prefer being alone.

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Gamer Review

Hey! With Christmas coming up, chances are a lot of you will be buying videogames for either you or a loved one. This month, I am going to talk about two videogames in this issue. Those two games are Guitar Hero 3 and Rock Band 2. Everyone has played Guitar Hero, or at least heard of it and many people know about the conflicts between Rock Band and Guitar Hero. Things such as which one is better than the other. Well, I am going to tell you some things about the two games, that



Banana Slug Photo Courtesy of: Cal State University Fullerton; Biology Dept.

way you can decide for yourself which one is the better of the two. Now I am going to start off with Guitar Hero 3 Legends of Rock because I like Guitar Hero better than Rock Band. Anyway, Guitar Hero 3 has over seventy songs some songs that are playable are "Paint it Black" by the Rolling Stones, "Knights of Cydonia" by Muse, "The Metal" by Tenacious D and many more songs. Guitar Hero 3 Legends of Rock was the largest product launch ever, selling over 100 million copies in the first week alone. Activision reported concerns of being unable to meet the demand for the game for the 2007 holiday season. Even in 2008, it is still up on the most popular game chart and is available for the Wii, PS3, and Xbox 360. It scored 9.0 out of 10.0 in gaming review magazines. I suppose that's enough talk about Guitar Hero 3 for the moment, now moving on to Rock Band 2! *Rock Band* players use peripherals modeled after musical instruments to simulate the performance of rock music. Players must play these instruments in time with musical "notes" as they scroll towards them on the screen. *Rock Band* offers single-player and multiplayer game play for

lead guitar, bass guitar, drums, and vocals, allowing for any combination of parts to play as a band. *Rock Band 2* contains 84 playable tracks. Some songs and artist that are featured on *Rock Band*'s soundtrack are "Ace of Spades" by Motorhead, "Pinball Wizard" by The Who, "Let there be rock" By AC/DC, and many more. Unlike *Guitar Hero 3*, *Rock Band 2* gives you more instruments to choose from, allowing you to mix up the type of band you play with. *Rock Band 2* received a 8.5 out of 10.0 So with that being said, That is my game review and on another note, Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday...Or whatever. - ___-; (The games mentioned in this article are rated "T" for Teen due to Mild Lyrics and alcohol use.) ———Anthony Hernandez~

