



# DAILY TROJAN

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1912 | VOL. 163, NO. 59 | WWW.DAILYTROJAN.COM

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

## 'THE OFFICE' 2.0 »

NBC's plan for an "Office" spin-off aims to capitalize on the success of the original.

5



## TROJAN HUDDLE »

All three quarterback hopefuls shine in the White teams double overtime win over the Cardinal team.

12



# House passes student loan bill

A bill that would allow students to borrow more money heads to the Senate.

By KATELYN JOHNSON  
Daily Trojan

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Ensuring Continued Access to Students Loans Act by a vote of 383-27 Thursday; the bill will increase the amount students can borrow from the government in the federal loan program, as well as offer more protections to student borrowers.

The legislation will "ensure America's families can continue to access the federal college loans they are eligible for regardless of what is happening in the credit markets," said Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chair of the House education committee and the bill's sponsor.

The bill would increase the limits on federally supported student loans by \$2,000 per student. An unsubsidized Stafford loan for freshmen would increase from \$3,500 to \$5,500. Stafford loans are offered to eligible students who have completed

| see **LOANS**, page 3 |



## Mural Unveiling

Storied USC mascot Traveler appeared at the side of a new mural, which was unveiled

inside the tunnel leading onto the field at the Coliseum on Sunday. The mural was created

by Mark Sullivan, a sports artist from Orange County. It is called "Tradition" and measures 14

feet by 14 feet. The mural is visible from the stands.

Joel Zink | Daily Trojan

# SoCal VoCals take top a cappella title

The group won an international a cappella championship in New York.

By NICOLE DAILO  
Daily Trojan

While USC's SoCal VoCals might have brought their harmonious melodies on the road before, their trip to Manhattan's Lincoln Center on Saturday took them to new territory: an International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella first-place finish and a performance on "The Today Show."

"It was absolutely beyond any of our wildest dreams," said Adam Hutchison, the group's publicity manager and a sophomore majoring in business administration. "There were so many people giving us a standing ovation and applauding after we performed, and that really makes it worthwhile."

After taking first place Saturday night, the group performed a one-minute portion of Queen's "Somebody to Love" on Sunday morning's "The Today Show."

"It was quick and it was over



Photo courtesy of Jane Healy

**High energy** | The SoCal VoCals in action. The USC a cappella group won the International Championship of College A Cappella.

before you knew it," said Joe Sofranko, a junior majoring in theatre and the VoCals' president. "It doesn't really feel like we were on TV. 'The Today Show' was really just icing on the cake; the real

cake was [Saturday] night and being here and being with everyone."

After coming within two points of a perfect score and taking first place at the semifinals for the

western United States, the VoCals arrived in New York for the finals and competed against a cappella groups from Northwestern University, Ithaca College, New York University, Florida State University and Oxford University.

"We were trying to go out of the box in this competition. We were trying to break the boundaries of what was expected of collegiate a cappella," Hutchison said. "We want people's jaws to drop."

The diversity of musical styles in the set reflected the VoCals' penchant for venturing outside the realm of traditional a cappella, Hutchison said.

The 12-minute musical set that earned them first place featured Michael Buble's "Feeling Good," Singers Unlimited's "All the Things You Are" and Queen's "Somebody to Love."

Besides frequent rehearsals that combined work and leisure, the road to delivering an award-winning performance often involved the experimental process of selecting the perfect songs, said Ben Bram, music director for the

| see **VOCALS**, page 7 |

# Pope's visit sparks discussion on youth

Participation at the USC Catholic Center follows nationwide trends.

By KATE MATHER  
Daily Trojan

Pope Benedict XVI spent part of his six-day trip to the United States addressing concerns of a disconnected Catholic youth, an issue USC's Catholic community says it struggles with.

While one-third of the university is estimated to be Catholic, those who consider themselves Catholic do not always agree on the strength of Catholicism at USC.

"If one-third of the university is Catholic, I'm pretty surprised, actually," said Dahlie Kwan, a freshman majoring in kinesiology, who attends weekly mass at Our Savior Catholic Center. "Masses are not packed by any means at all."

| see **CATHOLIC**, page 3 |