

# THE SAGE

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIRAMAR COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 15, 2002

## Miramar student wins first place in the Best Fest Film Festival

by Alfred Chu  
Sage staff writer



Photo by Alfred Chu

The winners of the San Diego Best Fest Film Festival visited English Professor Carmen Jay's Literary Approach to Film class. From left: Michael Rossetti, Charlie Tran, Matt Grill, and Carmen Jay.

Miramar student Charlie Tran has just won first place at the San Diego Best Fest Student Film Festival. His short film, titled *Switch*, won in the drama category. Tran, along with high school friends David Silverman, Michael Rossetti and Matt Grill, worked together to create *Switch*. It is a short film about high school students who sneak into their teacher's office and takes photos of an upcoming test. After developing the film, these students cheat their way to an A.

Tran, Silverman and Rossetti all took part in directing the film. Tran and Rossetti edited the film. Rossetti wrote the script for *Switch* and Silverman and Grill contributed the cinematography. Tran, Silverman and Rossetti produced it.

The production of this film was a team effort. All the scenes were filmed either at Mount Carmel

High School, where the directors attended or the Rancho Peñasquitos library. Most of the script was adlibbed.

How did the trio know to submit their film to the contest? That information came from their high school Digital Media teacher who suggested they submit their film to the contest. The filming and editing took close to six weeks. The biggest problem making the film the trio faced was finding a time they could get all the actors together.

The directors made this film in homage to Guy Ritchie, the director of *Snatch* (2000), which this film is based on. Most of the songs in *Switch* and the style of the opening credits were taken from *Snatch*. "He's [Ritchie] a clever director who's almost defined by his unconventional technique. *Snatch* is one of the most unique movies out there. It's a well

done crime/comedy that has a complete style of its own," explained Tran.

The response to the short film has been positive. The first screening of the film was to the trio's high school digital media class. Their fellow students were impressed with the editing, direction and all aspects of the film. It was the first short film from that class that won an award of some kind.

Tran, Silverman and Rossetti submitted their film in the Showcase of San Diego Student Films, sponsored by San Diego Film Critics Society (SDFCS), the Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) and Media Arts Center San Diego (MACSD), all non-profit organizations. Dave Larson, the person in charge of the Student Film Festival,

See Film on page 2

## Honors Program expands student education

by Kumaravel Jagasivamani  
Sage staff writer

Miramar College's Honors Program provides outstanding students with educational options. Students can take advantage of the Honors Program by either enrolling in honors-designated courses or by signing an honors contract for a regular course.

According to Honors Program Coordinator and English Professor Carmen Jay, an honors course would involve, "1/4 to 1/3 more work than a regular course." The honors designation might mean "more reading or more writing assignments, class presentations, community work and leadership in the classroom," explains Jay. However, this extra work pays off when transfer applications of Honors Program students are considered on a priority basis by universities. In order to be eligible for the priority consideration, Jay says that students need to "complete anywhere from 15-18 credits of honors" and maintain a 3.25 grade point average (GPA).

Jay feels the honors contract provides a flexible solution for students interested in the Honors Program. The honors contract allows students to choose honors designation for courses on an individual basis. Going over the procedure, Jay explains that a student would first need to obtain consent from the course instructor to receive an honors designation by doing extra work. After getting the approval, the student then signs and submits an honors contract application to Honors Program Coordinator.

Starting Spring 2003, the deadline for honors contract submission will be the end of second week of classes. She added that the Honors Program is available only during the fall and spring semesters and not during summer.

At present, Miramar College offers only three honors only designated courses. They are English 101, Spanish 101 and Psychology 101. For students who cannot fit these classes into their schedules or have taken them already, they request honors contracts in their other classes. Most students do the honors contract instead of the honors only designated classes. According to Jay, of about 250 honors students at Miramar College, 170 of them take advantage of the honors contract.

Students can meet eligibility for honors courses in a variety of ways. For students coming directly out of

high school, either a 3.5 GPA or a 3.0 GPA with two letters of recommendation would be satisfactory. Even if a student is not able to meet this prerequisite, Jay listed other options such as a satisfactory SAT or college placement test score. Students who have already earned college credits would need a 3.25 GPA in, explains Jay.

Students have an added incentive in choosing honors courses. They are eligible to receive Book Award Scholarships sponsored by the San Diego Scholarship Foundation. According to Jay, the scholarship provides \$125 in assistance to part-time students and \$250 to full-time students. The scholarship comes with some restrictions. "The money has to be spent at the Miramar College bookstore," says Jay. Students can apply for the scholarship either at the start of a semester or at the end of the previous semester. In order to apply for the scholarship, students need to submit an essay, a copy of their transcript and their planned coursework to the Honors Program Coordinator. To be eligible, students need to be registered in an honors course and must maintain a 3.25 GPA.

Jay was eager to point out that the Honors Program would soon be starting a certificate program that would prepare students for our diverse global society. Known as the Certificate of Completion in Global Competencies, it is targeted at students interested in learning about the "cultures and nations around the world, world economies and political situations," says Jay. Students would need to take English 205, a foreign language and three courses from diverse fields such as communications, world events and technical competency. All courses except foreign language need to be an honors-designated course to be eligible for the certificate.

## Teacher Education Program helps create future teachers

by Masoumeh Parvizi  
Sage staff writer

Are you thinking about becoming a teacher? Do you want some early exposure to teaching, to see if this career is right for you? If so, you're at the right place because Miramar now offers the Teacher Education Program (TEP). TEP helps prepare students for a career in teaching.

In the year 2000, the California Community College Chancellor's Office awarded San Diego Miramar, Mesa and City Colleges the Teacher and Reading Development Partnership (TRDP) grant of \$350,000. It is this grant that pays for the TEP program. The grant was developed to help train and prepare future teachers. Some studies estimate that between 260,000 and 300,000 teachers will be needed in the next decade. Miramar, Mesa and City Colleges

developed the TEP in fall semester, 2000.

The TEP provides students with hands on teaching experience. TEP students can take Education 200, Teaching as a Profession, Education 203, Service Learning for Introduction to Literacy and Education 199, Introduction to Educational Technology. These classes focus on teaching and education. The TEP is more than just classes. It also provides funds to pay for counselors who provide transfer assistance, education plans and support services for future teachers. Also included are informational workshops and lower-division transferable general education courses with a teaching emphasis.

Miramar's TEP program works in conjunction with San Diego State University (SDSU) and Cal

State University, San Marcos (CSUSM). SDSU's program is called the blended program, while CSUSM's program is called the intergraded program. Students can transfer to these universities if teaching is what they want to major in.

"Teaching is a rewarding career," exclaims TEP recruiter, Patricia Martinez Parker. Parker both recruits students in the TEP and is a counselor. It is her job to supply future teachers with scholarships and financial aid programs.

If you have any questions about the TEP, stop by the Counseling Office in C-100 and pick up a pamphlet about the TEP. Or you can make an appointment to speak to Parker about the program.

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## The chucking of checks & balances

by Jaime Levine



### OPINION

The results of the November 5 election are in and they are unsettling. Let's forget the partisan aspect of it for a moment and think about what it means to have the White House, Senate, House of Representatives and arguably, the Supreme Court, in the hands of one party.

One of the fundamental tenets of the United States Constitution is that this particular incarnation of democracy has safeguards built-in to ensure that decisions are reviewed by different parts of government before they become law. That the system has evolved to highlight only two major parties is an inherent weakness. Thankfully, the *other* party usually has a majority somewhere so that at least one of the checks exists prior to decisions being finalized.

Take away that check and we enter into a situation where there is practically no oversight of decisions being made. Not to sound alarmist, but a United States government where one party controls all four branches of government is an American brand of totalitarianism.

It was downright scary during our last presidential election when the *neutral* Supreme Court voted along party lines. At that time, the Supreme Court was asked to decide whether a recount of votes would be allowed in Florida. The obvious conflict of interest of Republican and Democrat appointees voting on an election issue would have required recusing (excusing) in any fathomable legal situation. The Supreme Court apparently decided that they were above such a conflict of interest and then, disappointingly, failed to rise above that conflict. They voted right down their political divide.

That moment in time was one of the absolute low points in terms of the United States Constitution's promise to ensure that a basis of neutrality is available when partisanship overtakes government process. Combine the Constitution's exposed weakness at that time with the single party governance we will now experience and we enter a precarious and unnerving era.

Even if you are a staunch Republican, this is worthy of reflection. Let's not underestimate just how much power special interests will now have. If they grease the right wheel, there will be little in the way of oversight to provide the requisite analysis that opposition ensures.

When I discuss this with other students I sometimes am confronted by "Well, it doesn't really affect me because I have so little money." That is simply wrong. Decisions are going to be made over the next few years concerning, for example, access to healthcare, foreign affairs and education. This could affect how we are treated when we travel abroad, if we are treated when we get sick at home and what kind of education we can expect to receive. Do we really want defense companies and the pharmaceutical industry to have unbridled influence in policy decisions?

For the foreseeable future we must sit back, pay attention and hope for the best. The Chief is now in complete control. Let's all hope that our leader has the discipline to resist special interests and the benevolence to use the power he now wields to its greatest potential for all Americans.

## EOPS is taking donations to help students in need

by Jenny Guingab  
Sage staff writer

With the holiday season around the corner, the Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) is collecting donations from the campus and community on behalf of students enrolled in EOPS. They are accepting wrapping paper, ribbons, toys, lotions and other gift paraphernalia that will benefit the students' families this holiday season. Most importantly, EOPS is asking for cash donations that will benefit the program.

This year, 45 solicitation letters have been sent out to the campus and community and thus far, only four have responded. Those companies include For Women Only, Hometown Buffet, Mira Mesa Bowl and Miramar Car Wash. "We need money because we can't generate it ourselves. The money comes from the community and the people who want to be involved in EOPS," said Cecelia Blanks, adjunct counselor for EOPS.

EOPS benefits single or married parents who are on welfare and attend college. Cash donations are

used to fund major projects and activities such as leadership programs and various activities like the annual Christmas party. "We need to get the message out about these programs. If you want to donate money, EOPS is the place to go," says Blanks.

EOPS has been grateful to Toys for Tots for their frequent donations every year. Toys for Tots will be donating gifts to EOPS this Christmas once again. Blanks said, "The annual Christmas party is very special. It makes parents feel special as well as their children."

"EOPS is always soliciting donations such as the gifts from Toys for Tots," remarked Blanks. "We want to get people from the community to donate. Whether it be something small for the Christmas party or cash donations, EOPS needs it."

If you are interested in donating to EOPS, donations are accepted at the EOPS office in room C-301 or you can contact Joan Thompson, the EOPS director, at (619) 388-7869.

# CALENDAR

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**International Education Week** • For more information, contact Judy Patacsil (619) 388-7564.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

**"Opportunities Abroad" Fair** • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., I-Building. Representatives will be on campus to provide information about travel, study & work abroad. For more information, contact Judy Patacsil (619) 388-7564.

**"Education Abroad" Panel with Professors April Koch & Dan Trubovitz** • 5 - 6:30 p.m., I-101B. Come hear about educational experiences abroad with a special focus on Mexico and the upcoming program in Costa Rica. For more information, contact Judy Patacsil (619) 388-7564.

**CSU Application Workshop for Fall 2003** • 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Room B-304. For more information, contact Transfer Center (619) 388-7561.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**Tagalog On-Site Program with Jeanette Soriano** • 7 p.m., Room B-303. Come learn about learning tagalog in the Philippines. For more information, contact Judy Patacsil (619) 388-7564.

**Job Search on Internet** • 12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room B-204. For more information, contact Job Placement (619) 388-7335.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**International Student Gathering & Potluck** • 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Room B-304. Bring a dish to share that reflects your culture or ethnicity. For more information, contact Judy Patacsil (619) 388-7564.

**TAG-UCSD Transfer Workshop** • 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Room B-203. For more information, contact Transfer Center (619) 388-7561.

Got an event or meeting you want listed? Submit it three weeks in advance to [klipper@sdccd.net](mailto:klipper@sdccd.net)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**Great American Smokeout** • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., S-100 Patio. For more information, contact Health Services (858) 536-7881.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**William D. Ford Direct Loan Workshop** • 9 - 10 a.m., Room B-205. For more information, contact Financial Aid (619) 388-7864.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**Final Exam Preparation Workshop** • 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Room B-204. For more information, contact TRIO (619) 388-7488.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**"Cello Negro" Flamenco Trio** • 12 noon and 5 - 6 p.m., Room I-101. Presented by the Music Department. "Flamenco y rhumba nueva" is the gypsy influenced, acoustic sound of *Cerro Negro*. Spanish guitars paint with vibrant colors from an emotional musical palette infused with exotic Latin percussion. For more information, contact Channing Booth (619) 388-7511.

**UC Application Workshop** • 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Room F-301. For more information, contact Transfer Center (619) 388-7561.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

**World AIDS Day** • Oral HIV Testing. For more information, contact Health Services (858) 536-7881.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

**William D. Ford Direct Loan Workshop** • 9 - 10 a.m., Room B-205. For more information, contact Financial Aid (619) 388-7864.

## The Fast of Ramadan signifies the Muslim Holy season

by Masoumeh Parvizi  
Sage staff writer

The most important month of the Islamic calendar is here. It is the ninth month called Ramadan. Starting on November 6 and ending on December 5, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. This is a holy month in the Muslim religion.

During the month of Ramadan, it is believed the Koran was sent down from Allah (God). Angel Gabriel sent the words of Allah to Prophet Mohammad. Prophet Mohammad, not having attended school his entire life, didn't have the ability to write and read. That is why it's a miracle - he put the Holy Koran together.

Ramadan is a time when Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of everyday life. It is part of the five pillars of Islam. The first pillar is Iman (faith), followed by Namaz (prayer), next is Zakat (giving to the needy), fourth is the fast, and last is Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). It is a time of worship and contemplation. Fasting provides a feeling of hunger and thirst so those fasting can remember what it

feels like to be hungry and be more inclined to help feed the needy.

During the Fast of Ramadan, strict restraints are placed on the daily lives of Muslims. They are not allowed to eat or drink during daylight hours. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden during fasting. However, if one is ill or pregnant, fasting is not recommended. At the end of the day, the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called the Iftar. In the evening following the Iftar, it is customary for Muslims to visit family and friends. The fast is resumed the next morning.

The telling of lies, slander, denouncing someone behind his or her back, a false oath, greed or covetousness, can destroy the fast. These are always considered sins but are most offensive during the Fast of Ramadan.

During Ramadan, it is common for Muslims to go to the Masjid (Mosque) and spend several hours praying and studying the Koran. In addition to the five daily prayers, during Ramadan, Muslims recite a

special prayer called the Taraweeh prayer (Night Prayer). The length of this prayer is usually 2-3 times as long as the daily prayers. Some Muslims spend the entire night in prayer.

On the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the month, Muslims celebrate the Laylat-al-Qadr (the Night of Power). It is believed that on this night, Prophet Mohammad first received the revelation of the Holy Koran.

When the fast ends on the first day of the month of Shawwal, it is celebrated for three days in a holiday called Id-al-Fitr (the Feast of Fast Breaking). Gifts are exchanged. Friends and family gather to pray in congregation and for large meals. Id al-Fitr has a special prayer called Namaz Id al-Fitr. It is special because Muslims ask god to except there fast and dedication to this holy month. Those who fasted during Ramadan are encouraged to give the money they would have spent on food during the fast to the needy. This is called Fitria.

### Film continued from page 1

recommended they submit their film to the showcase. Promoted by the San Diego Film Commission, first prize for the Student Film Festival was \$500, which they split three ways.

Tran, Silverman and Rossetti all currently major in film and hope to transfer to New York University (NYU). "I find that many west coast film schools, such as University of Southern California (USC), are more Hollywood oriented. But in New

York, its more independent film making," said Tran.

Want to see the film? You can download *Switch* from the Internet at [www.switchmovie.tk](http://www.switchmovie.tk). Want to see more of the trio's work? Go to [www.woonteam.com](http://www.woonteam.com).

## THE SAGE



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District, its officers or employees.

The staff of *The Sage* welcomes reader comments. You can e-mail your letters, suggestions and opinions to [klipper@sdccd.net](mailto:klipper@sdccd.net) or you bring them to I-102/d. Letters to the editor should be signed and include a day and evening phone number for questions and verification. *The Sage* reserves the right to edit all submissions. Questions may be directed to the editor.

# Faces of America performed to a packed house

by Vanesa Donato  
Sage staff writer



Photo by Vanessa Donato

Actress Fran deLeon portrayed "Faces of America."

In welcoming the standing room only crowd, Miramar College President Pat Keir remarked, "If you look around the room, you'll see the diversity of America."

Nationally acclaimed television, movie and theater actress, Fran de Leon, performed *Faces of America*. According to Writer/Director Colin Cox, "We're not shattering the stereotypes, but (going) beyond them."

Since 1995, the Los Angeles-based production has performed over 100 shows each year with de Leon as the only actor. Cox and de Leon have changed the show many times because of what Cox calls its "constant evolution." *Faces of America* combines the life histories of nine Americans from different ethnic, social, gender and sexual orientation.

De Leon searches for real people

as the inspiration for aspects of the characters she develops. Her mission, is to "give depth of character" to these real individuals' stories. By doing so, she educates Americans about the stereotypes that surround minorities. She also encourages discussion of these topics.

The production has been to over 500 colleges in 45 states. The show is also continually commissioned by companies to be performed at conferences. Of these, Cox says the most memorable show was in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, when the local Ku Klux Klan (KKK) called in a bomb threat. The show was delayed while the theater was checked and cleared by the authorities there but the production did resume later.

Counselor and Diversity Committee Chair Judy Patacsil arranged for the production to come to Mira-

mar. The night was co-hosted and co-sponsored by the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), Filipino American Student Association (FASA), the Committee on Diversity, the Miramar College President's office, the Miramar College Marketing Committee and the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD). The night was planned as part of the Filipino American National History month events on campus.

During the discussion after the performance, audience members expressed their opinions about the show. Many said they related to some of de Leon's character portrayals.

Patacsil hopes to raise enough money to bring the production back next year.

It was standing room only in the I-101 lecture hall on October 25. Students and faculty joined others from the community when Miramar College hosted the one-woman show *Faces of America*.

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## Happy Thanksgiving

### Miramar students have a chance to study in Costa Rica!

by Matthieu Rossignol  
Sage staff writer

Between February 17 and May 16, students from Southwestern College and the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) will attend Veritas University in San José, Costa Rica. These students will be participating in the Study Abroad opportunity. In addition to the opportunity to study in another country, students attending the program will have the ability to visit a rain forest (La Selva), beaches, Arenal Volcano and historical sites such as Manuel Antonio National Park and Cartago. In order for the program to actually occur, 35 students must enroll.

All students in the program will take Humanities 295—Costa Rican Life and Culture. Students will then take a selection of classes with many options to choose from. The options include Health 101—Principles of Healthful Living, Biology 140—Environmental Biology, Biology 145—EcoMundo: Ecology and Environmental Science, which needs to be concurrently taken with Biology 146—EcoMundo: Field Studies and Laboratory Investigations in Ecology and Environmental Science, Communication 176—Intercultural Communication, Speech 103—Oral Communication, Communication 142—Oral History, Spanish 120—Elementary Spanish 1 and Spanish 130—Elementary Spanish 2.

The cost of this study abroad opportunity is \$5,175 per student. This price includes round-trip airfare, room and board with a host family, medical insurance, excursions and much more. Students must pay for their own registration fees, books and personal expenses. However, financial aid may be available.

Most of these classes are California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) transferable. Also, all credits earned will be included in the student's GPA. To be eligible for the Study Abroad opportunity, students must have completed 12 units before departure, maintained a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and have a clean academic record.

Miramar Biology Professor Dr. Dan Trubovitz will teach the Biology classes. Southwestern College's Rebecca Wolniewicz will teach the Communication classes. Veritas University professors will teach the Humanities and Spanish classes.

According to Study Abroad Coordinator and Counselor Judy Patacsil, the best benefit from the Costa Rican study opportunity is obtaining college experience in a country outside of the US. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," explained Patacsil. Moreover, "Costa Rica is a beautiful country and renowned to be a country of peace," continued Patacsil.

After next semester's trip to Costa Rica, new study abroad opportunities will be organized. The next opportunity will be Florence, Italy in the fall of 2003. Cannes in the French Riviera will be the place for spring semester, 2004.

If you wish to participate in the Costa Rica Study Abroad opportunity, there are still some places available. Questions? Contact Patacsil at (619) 388-7564 or via e-mail at [jpatacsi@sdccd.net](mailto:jpatacsi@sdccd.net).

## The Jets place fourth in the Pacific Coast Conference

by Matthieu Rossignol  
Sage staff writer



Photo by unknown

**The Miramar Women's Jets pose for an end of season photo. From left to right, first row: Erica Cordova, Loren Pride, Myia Lyon, Megan Rafferty and Natalia Kadie. Second row: Cairie Segars, Nicole Faucher and A.J. Leatham.**

On November 1st and 2nd, the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) water polo tournament was held at Miramar College. When the tournament was over, both Miramar men's and women's teams finished in fourth place.

The first game the Women's Jets played was against the eventual winner—Grossmont College. The Women's Jets lost that game 13-6. Myia Lyon scored three times and was the best player for the Jets. After the game, Head Coach Carla Gilmore explained the difficulty the team faced because it was playing without their best player. "Gubba Sheehy became ineligible to play because she played last week with her club team." Gilmore cited another contributing factor to the loss, "[We] also had only one sub," explained Gilmore.

Their second game turned out better. The Jets scored five unanswered goals in the first half and easily got past Southwestern College 13-3. An outstanding performance by Natalia Kadie (8 goals) and Cairie Segars (18 blocks) contributed to that win. "This game was a tribute to our defence," said Gilmore. Assistant coach Jamie Stuart continued, "We lost by one the first time we played them, so this game is an eleven goal turnaround." "That was a fantastic per-

formance," exclaimed Stuart.

After that game, the Jets benefited from a couple of hours of break and came back to play against Palomar College for third place. Unfortunately, Palomar College scored five times in the second quarter and won the meet 8-5. Even though it is disappointing to end the season in fourth place, Gilmore dubbed this "a very impressive season. I'm happy to see that we have played together as a team throughout the season and look forward to next season," says Gilmore. Goalie Cairie Segars said, "I had no expectations going into this season but everybody did an awesome job."

This season is the first winning season for the Miramar Jets Women's water polo team. In fact, the team posted a 9 wins 8 losses record. This is a complete turnaround from last year.

The men's team also placed in the fourth spot with one win and two losses in the tournament. First, they lost to Palomar College 13-4. Assistant coach Stuart was disappointed after the game, "the performance was expected to be better." "We have a young team and sometimes it is a bit unstable," explained Stuart.

However, the Jets bounced back in style, thrashing Southwestern 24-7. Captain David Lozano scored six goals in the first half, helping the Jets score eight times in the second quar-

ter. The power play was efficient as well, responsible for six Jets goals. Following the encounter, Stuart said that everybody got a lot of playing time and this game was only a preparation for the next game against Mesa College.

The Jets met Mesa College for third place and the last game of the tournament. They started well, scoring four power play goals in the first half. Unfortunately, they were not able to find the back of the net in the fourth quarter and the 12-12 game went into overtime. Two overtime periods did not settle anything so there had to be a sudden-death period (the first team to score wins the match). Finally, in the darkness and cold and windy weather, Mesa College scored the winning goal and finished third for the tournament. Clint Wear scored five goals and was the Jets' best player according to the coaches. Sheehy and Stuart said, "We were unlucky but our guys will learn a lot from this game. If everybody comes back, we'll have a terrific season next year," concluded Sheehy.

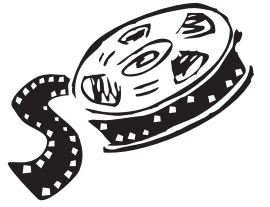
Overall, the Miramar Jets water polo teams had stronger seasons than last year. Every player promises that next season will be better. The Jets are already looking forward to a new season and a new challenge.

## Movie Review

### 8 Mile is surprisingly well done

by Alfred Chu  
Sage staff writer

*8 Mile* is the latest dramatic film/musical about a young man's struggle to the top of mega stardom. Jimmy Smith Jr. (played by Eminem), also known as Bunny Rabbit, B-Rabbit but mostly Rabbit, encounters the hardships of family, economic and social life. This film is loosely based on the real life of Eminem and where he grew up in Detroit, Michigan near 8 Mile Road.



Rabbit's family problems stem from his mother Stephanie (played by Kim Basinger). She is three months behind on the rent and seeing a younger man. She hopes her younger boyfriend, named Luke (played by Michael Shannon), will help her out. The only joy she has in her life is her baby girl Lily (played by Chloe Greenfield) and attending the frequent bingo games she prays she wins.

Rabbit's economic life is at a low point. He moves back in with his mother because he leaves his "pregnant" girlfriend and leaves her his car, as compensation. As an early birthday present, his mother gives him her car but it is mechanically unreliable. He needs money to fix the car but his boss at the plant refuses to give him more shifts so he can earn what he needs.

Rabbit's social life starts when he enters the rap version of a poetry competition held at The Shelter, which is a local club where prominent rappers wait to be discovered. The competition is a showdown between two rappers who gain the respect of the audience by rapping the other down in forty-five seconds. Probably affected by nervousness, Rabbit freezes on stage and runs out of the club. Rabbit's love interest in the film is a girl named Alex (played by Brittany Murphy). At first she sees the potential in him but in the end, she just sees him as a means to leave Detroit.

The most amazing aspect of the film is the loyalty Rabbit's friends show him, especially David Porter who is also known as Future (played by Mekhi Phifer). His friends know Rabbit will be famous one day and they continue to follow him. They all stick together. This is portrayed in the movie during a few street fights. Their crew resembles a present-day *The Breakfast Club* (1985). They are five friends, five different characteristics but still support each other.

Eminem did a fantastic job in this role but it is strikingly familiar to his actual life. In other words, he doesn't play himself in this film but a version of himself. Also, hats off to the rest of the cast. I did find that the sub-plot of the relationship between Rabbit and Alex was completely pointless. For those who have seen the film, if you really think about it, it was meaningless to have her in it.

The director of *8 Mile* is Curtis Hanson, who also directed the Oscar nominated film *L.A. Confidential* (1997). The movie is produced by Brian Grazer who also produced *A Beautiful Mind* (2001).

I walked into the theater expecting to see another disaster such as *Spice World* (1997) and *Crossroads* (2002) but didn't. What makes this film successful are two factors, Eminem's ability to sell his albums and the role of Rabbit being virtually identical to Eminem's actual life. Is this the case for any music star who's trying acting for the first time? I give this film three stars (\*\*\*)

## Restaurant Review

### Joe's Crab Shack is a must for seafood lovers

by Nasser DeVries  
Sage staff writer



Joe's Crab Shack is a must if your stomach calls for seafood and your mind calls for a great atmosphere.

Joe's has been serving seafood to San Diegans for about five years. The restaurant is set up like an old beachfront fishing shack. There are picnic tables out front on the deck and inside. The décor is that of being on an island.

To start off the evening, I ordered an appetizer called Crispy Calamari. It was squid, lightly fried and served with marinara sauce that made an excellent starter. The appetizer was \$5.99.

For the main course, I ordered the

Coconut Shrimp dinner, which came with a choice of French Fries or baked potato. I recommend taking the baked potato. Instead of a regular baked potato with the trimmings, Joe's Crab Shack has a twice-baked potato. A twice-baked potato is a baked potato where the potato is removed from its skin. After that, it is blended together with cheddar cheese; sour cream, chives and bacon then place it back inside the skin. The texture of the baked potato was so creamy, I felt like ordering another. The Coconut Shrimp featured 31-35 shrimp in a coconut flake batter, then deep-fried. A special sauce of crushed pineapple and plums accompanied the shrimp. The sauce complimented the Coconut Shrimp very well. The dinner was \$9.99.

There is a lot of variety at Joe's Crab Shack. They offer several types of crab such as Alaskan king crab, snow crab, and Dungeness crab—all cooked to order. The menu at Joe's also features fresh shrimp, sizzling steak, grilled chicken, pasta, sandwiches and salads—something for everyone. The cost of these items ranges from \$3.99 to \$24.99. There are many drinks to choose from, anything from a glass of water to your favorite beer. Prices on beverages vary from \$1.89 up to \$12.99.

If you have children with you don't worry. During the evenings, kids are entertained by music and dancing that occurs every half hour to 45 minutes with servers providing the entertainment. A balloon lady entertains on the weekends from 7 to

10 pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 6 pm to 9 pm on Thursdays and Sundays.

So if you feel like having a good time and a great dinner, check out

Joe's Crab Shack in Mission Valley at Hazard Center and Ocean Boulevard in Pacific Beach. For more information call Joe's Crab Shack at (619) 260-1111.

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