

THE SAGE

Board of Trustees visits campus and hears future plans

by Matt McClanahan
Sage staff writer

The Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) held a public meeting on Miramar's campus in I-101 on Thursday, March 13th. Students and faculty were invited to attend.

The meeting gave Miramar an opportunity to show the Board of Trustees and public some of the exciting things that the college is doing as well as the direction the college is headed. This includes the newly formatted Miramar College website that will be up and running by April 2nd.

Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh opened the meeting and introduced some of the new faces on campus, including the Vice President of Instruction Dr. Bill Vincent.

After the introductions, some of the programs on campus had the chance to talk about what they were doing. The Automotive Technology Program announced that they are now offering college-level classes at several different high schools in the San Diego area.

The Learning Community Program representative, Stacey Steinberg, displayed



Photo by Matt McClanahan

Members of the Board of Trustees meet on campus. From left: Margaret Lamb (board secretary) Peter Zschesche, Bill Schwandt, Marty Block, Chancellor Constance Carroll, Rich Grosch, Maria Nieto Senour and City College student trustee Clemente Valdez.

statistics showing that 80% of students involved in the learning communities would recommend the program to a friend.

Francois Bereaud, coordinator of the Teaching Institute, described how this program involves faculty by providing

an opportunity for instructors to get together to talk, debate and strategize about different teaching styles that increase effectiveness.

Athletic Director Nick Gehler and women's soccer Head Coach Sean Bowers showed off the success the

sports programs are having. Women's soccer and water polo and men's basketball are all in the first two years of having a program and all have experienced varied levels of success.

After representatives of these programs were given a chance

to speak, it was Student Services turn. This included presentations from the Miramar Lightspeed Program, Freshman Year Experience and the TRIO program.

Following the presentations, Associated Students (AS) President Brittany Forester provided an overview of the AS activities. According to Forester, the AS is in the beginning stages of addressing a possible smoking ban on campus.

Following Forester, Construction Bond Leadership Team member and Classified Senate member Dan Gutowski announced that the vacant field adjacent to Miramar's campus will be used to construct several new buildings. These will be built thanks to the approved Proposition S Construction Bond Program. This includes a new LLRC building, an Arts and Humanities building and a Business Technology and Mathematics building. All of these new buildings are scheduled to be completed in a few years.

Hsieh closed the meeting by saying it is her goal that Miramar will have and be able to enroll over 20,000 students by the year 2025.

New field house is on its way

by Aaron Thom
Sage staff writer

Miramar College broke ground on the soon to be completed field house/gym last February. Currently, the massive iron structure is being erected next to the Ned Baumer Pool. The field house is a collaborative effort by the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), the City of San Diego (Mira Mesa) and the Athletic Department of Miramar College.

Designed by architects Carrier Johnson and being constructed by CW Driver Contractors, the proposed opening of the field house will be Spring, 2009. But the opening has been set back a couple of months. This is due to the fact that the structure didn't meet the building inspector's inspections, said Hourglass Park Coordinator Dan Gutowski.

According to Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh's February statistics, the field house should cost just under \$20 million dollars. The state budget crisis will also impact the new facility. "Depending on the recent budget cuts, the amount of new athletic programs will



Photo by Aaron Thom

Construction crews are making quick work on the new field house.

be limited. Also employment options for the new buildings currently do not look likely," says Gutowski. The number of new programs to be offered in the field house is unknown and most likely these will also be affected by the state budget crisis.

The completed field house will be 56,000 square feet. It will include everything from a gym, dance studios, instruc-

tional classrooms and community rooms to a basketball court. The community will use the facility 40% of the time while Miramar College will use it 60% of the time.

Gutowski says, "We hope to host the fall, 2008 basketball season here."

Construction continues on the facility and the campus awaits the opening of this first-ever athletic facility.

\$1 million grant to target local freshman

by Andrea Malloyd
Sage staff writer

Miramar College has been selected as the only community college in the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) to receive a federal grant of \$1 million. The purpose of the grant is to create an Upward Bound Program. Miramar will receive the grant in installments of \$250,000 a year for four years, according to Interim TRIO Director Joseph Hankinson.

The Upward Bound Program targets local freshman who will be first generation college students, meaning their parents did not attend college. Freshman who are "at risk" for not being able to attend college, whether it be for academic or financial hurdles, will also be considered for this program. Fifty freshmen will be given the opportunity to participate in it each year.

The program is designed to increase students' chances of attending college. This is being done via a combination of efforts including study skills assessments, attending success seminars, counseling

and attending after-school tutoring. Students also will receive high school instruction in math, English, science and foreign languages. The program will also be offering cultural activities and a six-week summer residential program at a four-year university in the San Diego area.

Miramar acquired the grant because Congress expanded the number of grants given out. Miramar was very close to receiving the grant last year but there just weren't

[See Grant on page 3](#)

In The News
Opinions & Information.. 2
Features 3
Sports & Entertainment .. 4

Opinion: We can use less pollution of useless headlines

by Stefanie Bressan
Sage staff writer

There are about six billion people in the world and every day the greater part of these six billion read or see stories about violence, disasters, child molesters and terrorism. Yet do any of these really shock us anymore? Are we surprised and sickened by a heartless man who murdered his brother's wife and daughter? Do accounts of violent crimes or school shootings spur us to action?

At this point, tabloid news seems the norm and as news providers up the ante for readers' and viewers' attention, the bizarre and disturbing becomes the norm. It seems as if murders, corruption and rapes are so frequent that they don't shock anymore. When was the last time you really felt shocked from a headline? For me, it's been a long time.

These events make me wonder why anyone would do this. But am I the only one asking this question? Where is the discussion or public forum about our ethics? Do people wonder how something so cruel could ever happen? Do people get involved to help stop such senseless acts of violence? Many wonder if there's any solution for the problems in the world. Catastrophic events happen every day and as terrible as this sounds, it's becoming harder for one to be shocked.

The more the press and media cover such acts, the more commonplace they seem to become. Are we shocked anymore when Britney acts bizarre? Or when Paris is arrested? NO! Headlines are becoming cliché and unfortunately it's not only



OPINION

about Britney and Paris being shameful in front of paparazzi. Violence and disasters have become commonplace and it's harder to attract the viewers' attention—thus the escalation of the bizarre.

So in the end, who's to blame? Most international newspapers don't have the freedoms our media does, yet they seem to offer more

balanced news coverage that is not so focused on entertainment as news. Today, it seems as though journalists prefer going to parties with celebrities instead of researching and reporting stories that are important to readers and viewers. Journalists should focus more on important local and national stories that impact the planet, environment, government, education and society. Concentrate on what we need to know and not just celebrity news. Headlines should be about something of importance. Headlines should help make a difference.

As consumers of media, we also have a responsibility. We must seek out other sources of information, read a variety of newspapers, both national and international, as well as the alternative press. We should be part of the so-

lution for this problem. A good choice would be reading regional or small-town newspapers in addition to national and international newspapers and newsweekly magazines. Also read the alternative press for a different perspective. It's the marketplace of ideas that really educates us.

The solution begins with you. You should demand that your news sources provide you balanced national and international news that is more than a "news bite." What do we do about the tabloid headlines that have become the norm? Demand that the media do its job to inform and educate us. After all, movies and TV comedies are for entertainment. Newspapers and TV news should not be.

Opinion: Trash talk is a strategy in the psychological warfare of sports

by Matt McClanahan
Sage staff writer



OPINION

of knocking me out you better wake up and apologize." I listed a few other Ali quotes so feel free to jot down some notes if you are looking to freshen up on your verbal game.

"Now you see me, now you don't. George (Foreman) thinks he will, but I know he won't!"

"Float like a butterfly. Sting like a bee. Your hands can't hit what your eyes can't see."

"(Joe) Frazier is so ugly he should donate his face to the U.S. Bureau of Wild Life."

Many argue that verbal sparring is bad for sports. They say that lip service has taken the place of integrity in the game. I disagree. My old baseball coach would tell us and you've probably heard the same coach-jargon, that sports are 90% mental and 10% physical. I think that Ali understood this and used trash-talk as just another form of competition as well as just another way of getting a psychological edge on his opponents.

Talking trash is not bad for sports. In fact, it's a lot of what sports are about – being competitive and putting everything on the line. What more can a man put on the line than his word (besides his mortgage)? I know for myself, if I vocally guarantee a victory against my opponent, I will become more motivated than ever so as not to have to eat every bitter bite of my words if I lost. Isn't lack of motivation one of the biggest complaints fans have about professional sports? I am in favor of anything that brings more competition and intensity to the game.

We've all done it before. Told your old man or a friend to pick up his jock strap after crossing him over in a game of basketball. Or told your fantasy baseball foes to "grab some bench" after annihilating their teams all season long. In today's culture, trash-talk has almost become more of a sport than the sport itself. So who started all this?

I have a poster hanging in my room of Muhammad Ali. You've probably seen it somewhere. The infamous image of Ali standing and flexing over a freshly-knocked-out Sonny Liston to win the heavy weight title. Ali's right arm is half-cocked and he looks down at Liston with his mouth open, suggesting that he was doing the thing he almost did better than box – talk trash.

Ali is widely considered the inventor and master in the art of talking smack because of how clever he was and how he went public with it. Shannon Sharpe, the former standout running back for the Denver Broncos who is also known for his quick wit, recognized Ali as the true originator of the phraseology when, during an interview by Patrick Saunders, he said, "I think Muhammad has an edge on all of us because he was the first. He's the gold standard to which everyone who comes after him will be compared."

Ali was even nicknamed the "Louisville Lip" because of how boastful he was. Ali once said, "If you even dream

Politics Matters: Blackwater--The cost of a private army in Iraq

by Agnes Pennington
Sage guest writer

Do you know how much debt you are in? I don't mean your car payment or your cell phone bill; I'm talking about the debt you owe for the current war. Our national debt stands at over \$9 trillion U.S. dollars (see www.brillig.com/debt/clock). This is the most debt in the history of money. I cannot even imagine how much money that is, can you? We have added over \$3 trillion to our national debt since the war in Iraq began. How can we afford to keep up this kind of borrowing? How are we spending this money? I would like to look at one company that we have already spent more than a \$1 billion on, Blackwater International.

Blackwater International is a private army of mercenaries hired by the Bush Administration to escort to safety "dignitaries" that visit Iraq. Dignitaries are congresspersons, heads of state, etc. Why can't our troops do this? Why do we need a private army? There are around 150,000 military personnel in Iraq and anywhere from 20,000 to 100,000 Blackwater mercenaries there and maybe more. Our troops are being paid \$40,000.00 a year. Blackwater employees are being paid \$400,000.00 a year. Our troops are held accountable

under the Geneva Convention for their behavior in Iraq and Blackwater is accountable to the State Department only. They are above Iraqi law. Can you imagine going to a foreign country and being above that country's law? Late last year, Blackwater faced expulsion from Iraq after being accused of killing 8 civilians in a fire-fight. Did I mention they are accountable to no one? The State Department does nothing.

Erik Prince testified before Congress last month. (Excerpts from this testimony are available at www.democracynow.org). Prince was called before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amid a public firestorm over the role of private military firms operating in Iraq. Blackwater, in particular, has come under heavy scrutiny since an attack last month in Baghdad in which between 11 and 28 Iraqis were killed. Although the incident triggered Tuesday's hearing, the committee agreed not to discuss specifics of the incident following a Justice Department request that it wait until an FBI investigation is concluded. This sort of activity is detrimental to our troops in Iraq. The Iraqi's hate Blackwater. This is well documented. They have been accused of killing 198 Iraqi

civilians. Our troops call them "cowboys."

In October 2007, U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chair Henry Waxman said Blackwater "may have engaged in significant tax evasion." Waxman noted that the IRS had ruled that Blackwater had "violated federal tax laws by treating an armed guard as an 'independent contractor.'" Waxman added, "The implication of this ruling is that Blackwater may have avoided paying millions of dollars in Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and related taxes for which it is legally responsible."

Blackwater does not seem to represent the interests of the United States. From the research I have done, it is pretty apparent they run roughshod all over the Iraqis. This behavior does not win hearts and minds. Do we really want to pay for a private army responsible to no one except the current administration? When Bush leaves office will the next president keep this private army? What does this mean for us?

Blackwater owes no allegiance to anyone except their employer. Is this the new Praetorian Guard? How much

See Blackwater on page 4

THE SAGE

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preted to be those of the College District, its officers or employees.

The staff of *The Sage* welcomes reader comments. You can bring your letters 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.

New class teaches students how to become leaders

by Maricel Guinto
Sage staff writer

In the Administration of Justice Department, Adjunct Instructor Tyler Burtis has created a new elective course for the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD). The name of the course is Leadership: Theory and Practice. Burtis teaches students about leadership from a broader perspective and definition. "A lot of people don't understand what leadership is, everyone will have a different impression," Burtis says.

According to Burtis, Leadership Theory and Practice is an academic exploration through common leadership theories with an emphasis in collaborative leadership and systems theory. The course is inter-disciplinary, meaning students are exposed to information that relates to communication, psychology, sociology and interpersonal relationships.

Burtis prefers to have a diverse population of students because he wants to replicate the real world. He says this class is not just for law en-

forcement but for a diverse group of people that include students from members of law enforcement, dolphin trainers from Sea World, intelligence bureaus, museum employees and a wide range of ages. "When having an environment where people are talking about leadership, we get the different perspectives and ideas that carry to the real work place, family, friends and other social groups they may be apart of," Burtis said.

Several guest speakers are lined up to speak to the class. The list includes the President of Sea World, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, a high level executive from Disney, a senior agent in charge from the Department of Justice and the president of a large agriculture company in California. In addition, the class will take a voluntary field trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Here they will learn from state of the art tolerance, diversity, interpersonal relationships examples and exhibits that expose stereotypes.

The first guest speaker was former student Shannon Thomas, senior dolphin trainer at Sea World. "I was in this class last semester and from my leadership role, I take a lot of concepts here and apply them to relationships outside of work." She explained how leadership is a process and not an outcome but a constant work in progress. "This class has changed my life because now I am able to apply my own image of leadership. This is more than a job thing and applying it at work, it is bigger than that," Thomas said.

Last semester was the first time the course was offered. Everything taught in this course is practical and can be applied in the work place and in interpersonal relationships. Burtis wants people to know leadership is important, it can also be used anywhere in any company. "I had more success and sense of accomplishment teaching this class last semester than anything I ever taught. People said that this course has changed their lives," he says.



Photo by Maricel Guinto
Burtis teaches new leadership class.

Burtis hopes the class will be offered online next semester. He also plans a traditional classroom section so students can have the opportunity to listen to the guest speakers. Burtis says this class has a lot of exercises that focus on experiential learning techniques, as well as constructivism theory.

Burtis also teaches at a graduate level course in leadership theory at a private university. The majority of students are high level executives in the

private and government sectors, entrepreneurs and educational administrators.

Since the leadership class is now offered at Miramar, it is only \$20 per unit and does not require having a college degree. In addition, it is transferable to California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) colleges as an elective for the Administrative Justice Program. The class meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 9:40 pm.

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Spring Job Fair • 10:00 am-1:00 pm; I Building Patio. Free food, job opportunities, 30 local employers. For more information, contact the Student Employment Center, 619-388-7335

TUESDAY, APRIL 2-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Associated Student Elections • Vote online at <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/miramarasvote>

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

American Red Cross Blood Drive • 9:00 am - 2:30 pm; S-100 Patio

THURSDAY, MAY 1

14th Annual Scholarship Celebration: Scholar Fest • 3:30-4:30 pm, Scholarship Awards - I-101 A/B; 4:30-5:30 pm, Fiesta (silent auction, student art exhibit, refreshments, entertainment) - Leave A Legacy Plaza. Come join Miramar College in celebrating this year's scholarship recipients. \$10/student; \$20/general. For More Information, contact Sandi Trevisan, 619-388-7752

San Diego Blood Bank Blood Drive • 9:00 am-3:00 pm; S-100 Patio

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

2008 Miramar College Commencement • 4:00 pm, San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. For more information, contact the Evaluations Office, B-304, 619-388-7371

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Beginning of Summer Session • Enroll now for classes. Get started or continue on your educational path this summer. For more information, call 858-536-7844 or visit www.sdmiramar.edu

Grant from page 1

enough grants to go around. "It was easy for Miramar to get the grant because we were very close to getting funding for it in the first round, so during the second round it wasn't very difficult at all," Hankinson said.

Miramar has been sending counselors to their "feeder high schools" in order to recruit freshman who may be in-

terested in the Upward Bound Program. Feeder schools are schools that most of Miramar's student population comes from. They are Mira Mesa High School, Scripps Ranch High School, University City High School and Serra High School.

"We are thrilled with this opportunity to develop a new program for our area high school students that encourag-

es college planning at an early age and provides a foundation for success while still in high school and then at the college level," wrote Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh in an e-mail announcing the grant.

For more information, contact Joseph Hankinson at (619)-388-7488 or feel free to visit him in D-203.

Associated Student Council Election



Vote Online! April 2 -3, 2008

To cast your vote go to <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/miramarasvote> beginning April 2 at 7:00 a.m.- midnight April 3

Paper ballots are available in the Miramar College Associated Students' Office in Room S-101 on April 2 and 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Picture ID will be required.

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Jets basketball ends season second in their conference

By Matt McClanahan
Sage staff writer

The Miramar Jets men's basketball team finished second in their conference but lost their final game of the season causing them to miss out on the playoffs.

Miramar defeated Imperial Valley (IV), the number one team in the conference and snapped IV's undefeated home winning streak on February 20th after a 64-62 victory. This would have set the table for the Jets to make the playoffs if they had beaten City College in their last game on February 23rd. But after the cards had been dealt, Miramar came up short and lost to City, 80-74.

"That was just a tough game. They played well and we played well. They just made a few more plays down the stretch and to their credit they played very well," said Head Coach Nick Gehler.

Perhaps one of the reasons Miramar lost their final game resulted from the players not taking City College serious enough. Miramar's sophomore guard Anthony Bradley said, "We felt that after beating Imperial Valley we could beat anyone. In our last game we kind of felt like it was going to be a walk through because we felt that we had peaked. We were already thinking ahead to the playoffs."

When asked what Gehler told his players after the game, he said, "I just told them that we can't hang our heads. We had a good season and of course our guys

were disappointed but it was a good year and I think that they understood that. They had accomplished a lot after going from ninth place the first year to second place and having the opportunity to go to the playoffs."

Miramar (13-15 overall, 9-7 in conference) nearly tripled their total number of wins from last year and when asked what the biggest difference was between this season and last season, Bradley simply said, "Playing team basketball."

Bradley even described last year as a "tragedy." "I know that that's a weird word for it but that's just how it was. It was kind of like the show, *The Real World*, because we were meeting each other for the first time and we didn't get along like a team should. This year has been amazing though. Almost everyone quit from last season and I thought that we would have the same problems on and off the court but we didn't. We got along really well and it was great. It will definitely be something that I'll remember."

Bradley had to miss three games this year near the end of the season because he was sick. Where most players would get frustrated and only think of themselves in that situation, Bradley did the opposite. "I wasn't thinking about myself. I was just hoping that our team won. But it was definitely a worse feeling being sick and watching our team lose."

Bradley was one of only two sophomores on the team this

past season with the other sophomore being Jay Scheinok – both will be graduating from Miramar this year.

As for the rest of the team, most everyone will be returning. This includes First Team All-Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) player and leading conference scorer Pat Eveland and Second Team All-PCC player Le'Sean Galbreth who was second behind Eveland in scoring in the conference. Galbreth scored a combined 48 points in his last two games.

Now that the season is over, Gehler will now turn towards recruiting. "We want to bring in good solid players that will push those guys (Eveland and Galbreth) to become better. That's really what breeds competition; bringing in good players who push the guys who are already here," Gehler said. "Those guys coming back are going to be better than they were this year. With experience under their belt, knowing what this level is about and knowing what we expect of them, they are just going to be that much better. Of course we do need to fill a few voids but we have a very good group of guys coming back."

According to Gehler, one of those voids he will be looking to fill is the lack of size and strength on the team. Miramar's tallest player this season was Eveland, who stands at 6'6".



Restaurant Review: Sipz Fusion Café offers the vegetarian world on a platter

by Aaron Thom
Sage staff writer

Have you ever felt left out when you go to a restaurant and they don't offer anything vegetarian? Well look no more. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and it's called Sipz Fusion Café. "Fusion," according to Wikipedia.org, means that the restaurant offers a wide array of dishes from many parts of the world. It's almost like traveling the world and tasting it while still in San Diego.

The décor at Sipz is not extravagant. However, the food more than compensates for the plain decorating. There is a large dining area with many tables but not too many to feel overcrowded. There is a mural spray painted on the wall depicting ocean life. Other than the mural, there is a sushi bar for happy hour and a few large screen TVs. The staff is friendly but slower than most restaurants.

Sipz offers a variety of appetizers, entrees and drinks. There are the usual sodas, lemonades, other juices. There are also bobas. For the uninitiated, bobas are Asian drinks made with tapioca balls at the bottom. Sipz also offers coffee and espresso. All drinks cost less than \$5.00.

Now for the best part--the food! There are so many items to choose from you'll be glad the wait staff is slow. Let's start with the appetizers. The two most popular are their lettuce wrapz. These consist of stir fried mushrooms, bean sprouts, bamboo shoots, snow peas and lettuce served with a delicious peanut sauce. My personal favorite appetizer is the pot stickers. They are pan fried vegetable dumplings served with their own house dipping sauce. You have the choice of deep frying or steaming them. Sipz also offers vegetarian BBQ chicken (made from tofu) fried wontons. The appetizers are around \$4.50 each.

Now it's time to really dig in. There is a selection of soups, salads, rice bowls and noodle bowls. Since I am a noodle kind of guy, I ordered the Japanese fire noodles. This is a delicious collaboration of pan fried Udon noodles, carrots broccoli, celery, bean sprouts and mushrooms in a very spicy sauce. There are also rice bowls. My favorite is the spicy basil. It has stir fried snow peas, baby carrots, bok choy, mushrooms, celery, carrots. These vegetables are covered in a delicious basil sauce served with white rice. For those who don't like it hot, Sipz also offers non-spicy bowls. The cashew chicken is one of the more popular. The beef with broccoli rivals the versions of this dish found in other restaurants. Patrons also have the choice of adding "chicken" to all meals, which I highly recommend. Their "chicken" isn't the kind you normally think of. It is a type of soy that has the texture and feel of real chicken but the only difference is nobody gets hurt making it and it's completely vegetarian! The portions are large enough to share. You really get bang for your buck at Sipz. Then there is dessert. My favorite is the sweet rice with fresh mango served with a warm coconut cream sauce and peanuts priced at \$5.25. If you are a vegan you might enjoy the banana cake, chocolate cake and carrot cake--all of which is vegan and priced at \$4.25. As a college student, I know that eating out is usually a big no-no but this place offers large portions without breaking a \$10 dollar bill. Most dishes cost about \$7.00 for lunch and \$8.55 after 5 pm. The best feeling is walking out of the café knowing you got your money's worth. Sipz can be found in two locations. One is in Clairemont at 5501 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. The phone number is 858-279-3747. The other location is closer to campus at 9450 Scranton Road in Mira Mesa. The phone number is 858-457-1103.



Movie Review: 10,000 BC is B movie fun

by Stephanie Sargent
Sage staff writer

It would be easy to say that *10,000 BC* is a bad film. In spite of a mediocre script and lack luster actors, *10,000 BC* seems to fight for attention with every scene. With well crafted sets, excellent costume design and engaging computer graphics, this movie is a feast for the eyes. Visual effects aside, *10,000 BC* also falls into an endearing category of film known as the B movie. This is a movie to relax and enjoy, preferably in the comfort of your living room.

The best and worst thing about *10,000 BC* is the story. The script is written with a cookie cutter instead of a pen, creating a story so transparent that it might as well not exist. *10,000 BC* is about a hunter named D'Leh (Steven Strait) who goes on a journey to save his cave girl girlfriend Evolet (Camilla Belle) after she is taken to a far away empire. The other details of the story, such as D'Leh's troubled relationship with his father, have so little impact on the characters and action that they aren't worth mentioning or even paying attention to. Yet a disappearing script is exactly

what this movie needs. While some films try to hide their anorexic stories with pretentious melodrama, *10,000 BC* flings itself headfirst into the realm of camp, willingly inviting us to laugh at its unintentional humor. Instead of listening to the so-called dialogue, I passed the time marveling at the costumes and set designs. I would like to thank whoever was in charge of the decision to do on-location shooting.

There are only three prehistoric cameos in *10,000 BC*, all of them equally entertaining. The mammoths are arguably the best at fulfilling their intended role of awing the audience and the only reason to see this movie in theaters. The opening hunt begins as a lone hunter crawls into the thick of a gigantic mammoth herd, causing them to stampede. *10,000 BC* succeeds in creating real suspense and terror as the hunters narrowly dodge the thundering feet of the rampaging mammoths.

The giant flesh-eating birds are up next in a scene that echoes Jurassic Park, with unintentionally goofy results. Try to imagine a flock of rabid man-eating ostriches that

attack like velociraptors on speed, because that is exactly what this movie delivers.

The movie's one and only saber tooth tiger makes a "guest star" appearance about half-way through the film. Despite being the center piece of the trailer, his presence in the movie is disappointingly brief and surprisingly inconsequential. In fact, the word "inconsequential" can be used to describe nearly every scene in this movie. During one scene D'Leh climbs over a city wall and lands in the prison yard where the tribes' people captured with Evolet are trapped. After receiving some obvious exposition from yet another inconsequential character, D'Leh easily climbs back over the wall and escapes exactly the same way he came in!

10,000 BC is a strange film. Although unashamed of incompetence, the effort put into the sets and monsters suggests that, for at least some of the people involved, this movie was a labor of love. As with other B movies, *10,000 BC* is best viewed as comedy. This movie is rated PG-13.

Blackwater from page 2

have we have given up for a little bit of security? Do we want to be a nation that cares only about national security and nothing else? Isn't there a better way we could spend our money? Wouldn't the money spent on Blackwater be better spent in making sure our troops have proper equipment in the field, medical care and education when they come home?

I don't believe that we should have a private army. The cost is staggering and the ramifications of a private army are astounding. Who knows what the final cost is going to be? We are in a presidential election year and we should be asking our candidates what they intend to do about get-

ting rid of these private armies. Senator Hillary Clinton is the only one to state that she would get rid of mercenary armies. Senator Obama and Senator McCain seem to be okay with mercenaries. Why Congress is not making more noise about this worries me.

It is up to us to demand change from our politicians if that is what we want. We need to stop this accumulation of debt. One way to do that is to vote. Politicians only pander to people who vote and we need to make them answer to us by voting. Your vote does count.

Note: The opinions written above are my own and in no way reflect the opinions of Professor Romero or *The Sage*. If you have questions please contact me at aggyp@live.com.