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California teachers march from Bakersfield to Sacramento

by Elizabeth Orr
Sage staff writer



Photo by Nick Moone

Student signs the petition to be brought to the Governor's office later that afternoon.

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) began a march to the capitol on March 5. The purpose of the march is to restore the promise of public education. Other public service workers joined the San Diego branch of the CFT in the "March for California's Future."

Miramar held a rally the Thursday before the march to support the cause. The next morning, three buses packed with 165 people left San Diego to head to Los Angeles for the commencement of the march, local CFT contact and City College Professor Jim Miller explained.

Miller is a professor of English and Labor Studies at City College. Due to the economic state of California, legislative decisions are "slamming the door of opportunity for millions of students," Miller said.

He explained that California's 2/3 budget vote requirement, rather than a majority vote, disables the passing of legislation that would allow for a tax increase on families who fall within the top 1% of annual income in the state. The extra taxes—if implemented—would help pay for state-funded jobs that the California budget cannot cover at this time.

According to Miller, the movement is not limited to public education instructors and is open to anyone who wants to say, "Don't cut me!" Probation officers, fire fighters, public sector workers, domestic workers and parents in coalition are supportive of the CFT and the changes that the organization would like to see.

While the CFT does not expect to make changes to the allocation of state funds with one march, "we want to try to put some pressure on politicians and change the story," Miller commented. The forty-day march will serve as a "way to address the state budget crisis" and "shine the light on the issues," he explained.

Miller and other CFT marchers are asking the public to sign petitions while they educate communities about the budget crisis and how it is affecting education in California. They plan to use these petitions and other educational tactics to lobby legislators to make the necessary changes to increase public school funding.

Ten CFT members from San Diego are marching for the full forty days, from the central valley to the capitol. Miller is one of these ten participants and he hopes to see students, faculty and staff from the San Diego Community College District join him over spring break.

San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Board of Trustees member Peter Zschiesche will be marching with Miller during his break. Miller is "very excited to have [Zschiesche] because he holds a lot of authority and his presence will make a big statement."

Miller and fellow marchers intend to speak for students whose voices cannot be heard and want to encourage California citizens who are affected by insufficient state funding to register to vote.

While away from his classes, Miller will be keeping a blog of his journey to the capital and is using his voyage as an interactive learning experience for his students back in San Diego. Individuals are encouraged to follow up on the march that will end with a state conference in northern California on April 21.

The PLACe risks being disbanded

by Sandy Coronilla
Sage staff writer

The future of tutoring at the Personal Learning Assistance Center (PLACe) is uncertain in the wake of Director Diana Fink's impending retirement.

The center, which offers individual, group and online tutoring as well as open laboratory hours and workshops, will lose its long time director in June to the district's early retirement option. Since its inception in 1992, Fink states that The PLACe has served over 62,500 students (unduplicated) with over a half million contact hours. It employs the largest number of people on campus, most of whom are tutors.

According to Fink, communication with Miramar College's administration has failed to yield clear cut answers regarding the continuation of The PLACe. With the administration's controversial decision not to renew the TRiO/Student Support Services grant, fear that the tutoring center will meet the same fate is being discussed at campus governance meetings such as the College Executive Committee (CEC), the Associated Student Council (ASC) and the Academic Senate.

At the end of the Fall, 2009 semester, Fink visited the CEC seeking answers as to why her proposal was not being considered.

The proposal, dated November 19, 2009, states, "In order to comply with Title V – Section 58050 (a) 6 and 7 I recommend two interim co-directors to assume the duties..." Fink has identified Amy Beeman and

Shayne Vargo as possible interim co-directors. "They are two wonderful adjuncts who can do this," said Fink. There has been no response to her proposal.

What Fink has been able to glean from the communication she has had with administration is that they do not plan to fill her position as director once she retires. "The reason this is easy to sweep away is because there are no contracts involved except mine and one other. If I retire, my contract goes," Fink said.

She is also concerned about not being included in discussions about the future of The PLACe. Fink asked, "If you are going to make a decision about academic support services, don't you suppose that experts and knowledgeable people should be at the table?" She adds, "They haven't asked to me to meet. Not once."

Major changes to the delivery of tutoring services have been proposed by the administration. "They want to have faculty volunteer to tutor. The hole in this logic is that the faculty are overloaded as it is. They used to have 40 students in their class, now they have 60. The issue with 'volunteer' tutoring is that they can come in whenever they want to but that doesn't serve the student who needs to know that they can get help when they need it," said Fink.

She adds, "Faculty teach. They don't tutor. Tutoring is a specialized skill. Just because you read doesn't mean you can teach reading."

On March 5, at a co-sponsored

event by the Academic Senate and ASC entitled "A Conversation with our Students," the administration was present to answer questions about The PLACe and other student support services. Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh stated, "We need to determine whether it's most effective and efficient and how we will deliver it in the future."

Fink was also present and spoke about her concerns, "We have a chance to decide how we're going to be when there's crisis because hard times are when you make those ethical decisions." The tough times Fink is referring to is the drastic state budget cuts to education. According to Fink, student support services such as tutoring should be the main priority of the college.

At one point during the meeting, Hsieh and Fink sparred when asked why Fink was not being included in discussions regarding The PLACe. Hsieh claimed that Academic Senate President Daphne Figueroa said that Fink was being included. Fink replied, "Excuse me. I have not been asked to participate."

A lack of trust in the administration was brought up in the meeting by students and faculty. Fink offers a prediction, "What's going to happen is that they're going to dither around until the last minute. It's going to be a Friday afternoon and they're going to decide something; exactly like they did with TRiO."

Students, faculty and administration meet to address issues

by Nick Moone
Sage staff writer

Tempers flared, wounds were opened and concerns were addressed during a March 5 meeting in which students, faculty and administration met to discuss issues affecting campus life.

In a session entitled, "A Conversation With Our Students," the Academic Senate (AS) and the Associated Student Council (ASC) put together the event. Breakfast and coffee was provided as a courtesy by the AS and the ASC. The contingent of representatives met in the S-5103 classroom to gather and disseminate information that may lead to more productive outcomes on campus. "We're here today to lay these issues bare and to allow free discussion for those that have questions and require answers," said AS President Daphne Figueroa during her opening remarks.

Many students voiced their concerns over the lack of communication on campus, transparency on behalf of the ad-

ministration regarding services, honesty and integrity of responses and the courtesy of keeping the students informed. "There has been a serious breakdown of communication between the student and staff representative bodies and the administration," said ASC President Francesca Gade. Other students made mention of the fact that they've "received emails regarding the parking lot closures" but nothing regarding the elimination or reduction in student services.

Included in the discussion was the recent decision by Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh not to renew the grant application for the soon-to-be closed TRiO program. Hsieh explained, "I was the person who made the decision not to continue the grant...I was given that authority." Students who were once a part of the program voiced their concern over the lack of shared governance regarding the decision as did current TRiO staff members. "This is an issue that affects stu-

dent services on campus," said staff member Johanna Bodnar. Hsieh maintains that the reason that shared governance was not observed was due to the core issue of the closure, which was staffing. "Will we be able to satisfy everybody? No! Will we be able to make everybody happy? No!" said Hsieh.

Methods by which district policy could or should be challenged was also talked about.

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Opinion: What's wrong with Student Support Services?

by Sandy Coronilla
Sage staff writer

On March 22, the TRiO/Student Support Services (SSS) office will bid farewell to its counselor Dr. Tacey Hosley. Despite how much I wish I was there, I was in Sacramento at an award luncheon meant to celebrate my academic achievements while in community college. This recognition however is a result of being a TRiO student: a first-generation college student and single mom. This isn't a singular story but is one which is echoed many times over within TRiO's walls.

Do you remember the old television show Cheers? The theme song goes "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name"... That was TRiO - minus the alcohol, plus the success rates to validate its continued existence on this campus. It struck me when Director of The PLACe Diana Fink used the same example of Cheers to describe the environment at our tutorial center.

Something horrible happened this past December that resulted in the sacrifice of Hosley, the displacement of TRiO's director and administrative support person and the death of the dream of academic success for stu-

dents like me.

If there is one bit of brightness in the "non-renewal" of the TRiO grant, it's this: the radar of students, staff and faculty are now on high-alert. The priorities of Miramar College's administration, especially of those managers in Student Support Services, are being questioned. Concerns regarding the shared governance process are piqued. The watchful eyes of everyone are on this administration as trust quickly wanes.

For example, the Associated Student Council (ASC) wants to know why there is no accountability for the Dean of Student Affairs Adela Jacobson and Vice President Peter Fong. Administrative evaluations that were supposed to make their way into the hands of the council and TRiO but never did. How are students supposed to give feedback and see their problems rectified if they are left out of the process altogether?

And, unfortunately, there are many problems.

Between the student leaders being called "terrorists" by Fong because they insisted on going to a leadership conference in Los Angeles last semester and being the recipients of multiple accusations by



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Jacobson of questioning their "integrity" when no such allegations exist against them, I'd most definitely say there's a communication problem.

Despite Fong's insistence that Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) isn't feeling the pinch of the budget cuts, I'm fairly certain that Director Joan Thompson would state otherwise.

On March 5, some of the administration were present at a co-sponsored ASC and Academic Senate event called "A Conversation with Our Students." Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh, Jacobson and Fong danced a pretty political piece while Fink spoke with gumption about the impending death of the tutorial center as we know it.

The PLACe, our tutoring center, which was founded by

the faculty of this college, is now at risk of being disbanded. A bit of history for those students who (hopefully) haven't been here since the center's inception in 1992. In a brilliant show of solidarity, each department pitched in a portion of their Full Time Equivalent Faculty funds. Why did they do this? Because faculty identified that they needed to do something for their students. Fink states, "This is the generosity, the collegiality that was on this campus and it's been on this campus until lately."

If Hsieh, Fong and Jacobson really wanted to save TRiO, it could have been done. The issue involves soft money (grant money) versus hard money. The salaries of Hosley and the other two TRiO employees could have been switched to hard money. The real issue is how much (or how little as the case may be) the administration values low income, first generation college student success.

If the administration took the time to see what was so special about TRiO, they might think twice about eliminating it. It's my understanding that some of members of the administration have acknowledged being "out of touch" with the students. It's

clearly time for the administration to get in touch and be held accountable for its failure to take steps toward student success.

I find it ironic that this is happening under the auspices of a college administration that is desperately trying to pass muster this year with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The ASC has been charged with reviewing the lengthy accreditation documents which include Standard Two B: Student Support Services. There is no mention of how Miramar plans to serve those students who will fall through the cracks when TRiO closes its doors.

I feel the college mission statement is inaccurate. When the administration places students below their holiday bonuses and in the same breath unnecessarily cut services, they are not preparing students to succeed in a changing world.

An unidentified faculty member described what you did to TRiO as "gutless." You've lost the trust of the students and faculty.

Opinion: Is red tape bad for the environment? It is for the environment of this campus!

by Nick Moone
Sage staff writer

I realize that many of you may not find yourselves part of a student organization or club and I realize that many of you may. Let me say this. I struggled through my first two years of college. Had I found the self-enterprising spirit to involve myself in a club or organization, I might have found the college experience to be far more rewarding and effective—or would I?

We join a club or organization with a wide variety of ideas for events, fund raising, informative meetings and drives to sustain ourselves and our communities. Unfortunately, many of us don't think to check with district or campus policy to ensure that these goals are compatible. As many clubs on campus have come to realize, the road to success may often be fraught with enough bureaucratic red tape to make even the most ambitious individual cry for mommy.

Not only is the mountain of paperwork horrendous but the lack of consistency within our own administration can be as well. With turnover on almost a yearly basis, the average student will find it incredibly difficult to find an answer that others will echo. More often than not, you will be resigned to following a complicated trail of breadcrumb E-mails that may or may not result in an answer to your request. I don't know about you but Hansel and Gretel was a story I'd much rather not live on a daily basis.

Wait a minute. Isn't the administration here to serve the

students? Aren't they charged with creating and maintaining a vibrant campus life for us to flourish in and further our education? If this is the case, why is it that we find ourselves struggling day to day to ensure that this happens?

Let's talk about my favorite part. As a student organization, you need funds to ensure success. You will need to plan events, bring speakers to campus, give to charities and participate as an active member of your campus community by involving the student body. Sounds simple enough, right? According to the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Office of Student Affairs and the Director of Financial Support Services Chuck Cooper, fund raising is not supported on campus and students are discouraged from such events. This is supposed to be a "district policy." Yet, I quote from the Mesa College 2009 Club Orientation Packet, "Affiliated groups may conduct fund raising activities upon approval of the dean responsible for Student Affairs." Interesting, huh? Maybe it's just Miramar that must adhere to a "district policy" which prohibits fund raising.

Nope, that's not the case either. The clubs and organizations on campus are subject to Manual 3200: Procedures and Operating Guidelines for Students Clubs/Organizations. Within this manual, section 6.3.1 states that "Registered student clubs/organizations may raise funds to support their activities subject to the following provisions." Section 6.3.1(a)



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states that, "All fund-raising activities must be in accordance with District Policy 3925.

Moving on to the third source of information that must be consulted regarding fund raising events on campus, District Policy 3925, states, "All fund raising activities by student clubs and organizations shall be in accordance with Manual 3200." Is your head spinning yet? Most would be. We're being fed information that is false! Nowhere in district policy does it state that fund raising is not allowed! In fact, there a number of policies which clearly outline the process by which it might

be done.

Now, in defense of the administration, the Associated Students do receive \$2,000 annually to distribute to the clubs in lieu of fund raising activities. Whoa, big spenders! When you divide it amongst the 20 plus groups on campus twice a year it doesn't quite go as far as you'd think. At most, clubs are awarded a stipend of \$100 in the fall and \$150 in the spring. But hey, a club could organize a single event with this money! Nope. That's not true either. This money isn't distributed unless a lengthy approval process by the Associated Student Council is met and it is done at the end of a semester.

Money is important but it's just one piece of the puzzle. An event must be submitted to the Student Affairs Office one month prior to holding it for approval. There is no stipulation as to when the event will be approved and no planning can be done without this approval. Let's say you receive your approval one week before holding an event. Will that be

enough time to see it completed the way you would have liked? Let's say you receive a negative response a week out. Will all the planning you've done throughout the first three weeks be for naught?

It's frustrating. It's complicated. It's ridiculous. We students are facing a gargantuan wall of red tape obstructing the educational process. Clubs and organizations on campus provide us with service learning, social interaction and local and global impact. The student organizations on this campus are looking to do real good in the world for others and themselves and constantly they are met with obstructions. President Obama said in his State of the Union address, "Just saying no to everything may be good short-term politics but it's not leadership." And this is what we're asking from our administration. Give us answers. Give us options. Give us an opportunity to enhance our education, this campus and our community. Give us leadership. We deserve it.

THE SAGE

Editor
Sandy Coronilla

Assistant Editor
Nick Moone

Writers
TJ Dunnivant
Khanh Nguyen
Elizabeth Orr
Stephanie Sargent

Faculty Adviser
Leslie Klipper

Technical Adviser
Joan Mize

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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.

Manasse wins local award

by Stephanie Sargent
Sage staff writer



Photo by Sheryl Gobble

English/ESOL Associate Professor Mark Manasse receives the Continuing Education Person of the Year award from ACCE President Elaine Chapman.

Associate Professor of English/ESOL Mark Manasse won an award for Community Education Person/Program of the Year. The award was presented by the Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE). He was nominated by English/ESOL Professor Sheryl Gobble, chair of the Department of English, Communication and World Languages. The award commemorated Manasse's creation and development of the Instructional Assistant (IA) Program and the English/ESOL Basic Skills Lab. These programs were created by Manasse in Fall, 2007 and Fall, 2009 respectively.

The IA program pairs graduate students (IAs) with Miramar's ESOL or Basic Skills English students in a program that benefits both. While the students receive extra tutoring, the IAs gain experience in education in addition to faculty mentoring. The lab is an extension of this program. IAs and professors work in the lab, hold office hours and conduct tutoring sessions for students who seek help with Basic Skills in English. In the lab, students work on skills and conduct online research using the lab's 22 computer stations. The lab also has a website for students: <http://sites.google.com/site/miramarbasicskillslab/>

Gobble chose to nominate Manasse "based on his contributions to the students of Miramar College, specifically in regards to his work with the Basic Skills Initiative." In her letter nominating Manasse, Gobble wrote, "Mark greatly deserves this award for establishing two programs which join together faculty, adjuncts and IAs in helping our Basic Skills students succeed."

About his goals as an educator, Manasse said, "I am trying to reach the most students in the best way possible. I'm trying to help them reach their goals. For those in a Basic Skills English class, it's sometimes a long road to their goal. They've got a couple years before they can even get into [English] 101 if they pass all their classes. I'm trying to help provide a support system to reach the most students in need."

"It's nice to be recognized but there's still more work to be done," said Manasse, commenting on the importance of this award. "I'm very appreciative. I'm very thankful."

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"If there is a policy that the students disagree with, it should be brought to the AS. From there, we can bring it to the Board of Trustees," said Figueroa. Hsieh responded in kind saying, "We need to act as a unified voice [on campus]. If an issue is to be brought before the board, it should be brought before the College Executive Committee as well."

Also talked about was the current situation regarding the PLACe--the tutoring center on campus where students may go to receive help with a number of different subjects. Tutoring Center Coordinator Diana Fink was in attendance, stating that she had, "...not been included in any of the decision making committees regarding future planning past her retirement." Vice President of Student Services Peter Fong made the statement that, "Training a replacement for [Fink] is not currently a part of the plan." Administrators also made the statement that, "Tutoring will not cease to exist here at Miramar." Student Kim Culty encouraged the discussion further in response to this by pointing out that tutoring is a broad definition. "Who will be tutored? Will it be simply those who require Basic Skills tutoring? Or will it be all encompassing?" The administration failed

to answer this question while pleading ignorance of the future. "Truthfully, we don't know what's going to happen," said Hsieh.

The debate often grew heated over the issues relating to honesty in communication between staff members and the administration. Hsieh repeatedly stated, "We are trying very hard. The services have been reduced and business will not be as usual." Dean of Student Services Adela Jacobson mirrored her statements, "These are difficult times. We are all trying very hard."

Also on the agenda were "intentional obstacles" placed in the path of students that may hinder their ability to participate on campus. These included printing policies, fliers and posting procedures. "Asking us to have our fliers and literature pre-approved prior to distribution violates our right to free speech," said Gade. Hsieh was reticent to speak on the subject and stated that they want to be proud of all materials that might be seen off campus as "representation of Miramar College."

Due to time constraints, no consensus was reached during the discussion as to what must be done to see these issues resolved. Another meeting was discussed in order to further address concerns and seek resolution within the next six weeks.

Black History Month celebrated with several events on campus

by TJ Dunnivant
Sage staff writer



Photo by TJ Dunnivant

Poet Jahsun performs his work at the Poetry Jam.

February is Black History Month and the campus celebrated with a variety of events. Among these were two different Evening with the Experts and a display in the Library.

The first event, an Evening with the Experts, featured an HBO documentary film called the Black List: Volume 2. This documentary was an interview of famous black leaders in the United States that expressed black topics of today. The lineup included Angela Davis, Bishop Barbara Harris, Bishop T.D. Jakes, Charley Pride, Dr. Valerie Montgomery-Rice, Governor Deval Patrick, Kara Walker, Majora Carter, Laurence Fishburne, Maya Rudolph, Melvin Van Peebles, Patrick Robinson, Rza, Suzanne De Passe and Tyler Perry. After the showing of the film, Counselor Judy Patacsil led a discussion asking audience members how they related to

the film.

The Miramar College Literary Event was the second event that took place on Monday, February 22. Called a Celebration of African-American Voices, the event was a discussion of the works of African-American authors of fiction and non-fiction, playwrights, screenwriter, and composers. Two works were discussed. The first was Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad by Betty DeRamus and the second was A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. Spanish Professor April Koch said she was delighted that the students participated in the discussion and also talked about other literary works. English Professor Carmen Jay led the discussion about A Raisin in the Sun. About 25 minutes of the film was shown.

The "finale" of the celebration was the Poetry Jam --A Spoken Word Event held the

evening of February 26. Associate Professor of English Adrian Arancibia was the host as well as one of the entertainers. He had a lineup of locally known artists that included Bennie Herron, a Skyline native, Kenton Hundley (AKA Ken 10) a Virginia native who has been a part of the San Diego poetry/spoken word scene for the last nine years and an artist that drove down from Los Angeles. Jahsun Edmonds is the author of a collection of poetry called SOUTHEAST Poet Laureate. Edmonds has also released Spoken Word, Jazz and Hip Hop albums over the past ten years. There was a \$3 ticket price to attend the Poetry Jam and snacks were sold at the door. The entry fee raised \$378 which will be applied toward a scholarship and \$50 in snack sales will go to a Haiti relief effort.

Miramar hosted its first Black History Month program in 1985 and gave the first scholarship in 1986. Since then, Black History Month has been celebrated every February said Diversity/International Education committee member Terrie Hubbard, administrative technician to the Vice President of Instruction. Hubbard also said that attendance was what made this year's event successful.

Food and Culture Club explores culture through cuisine

by Elizabeth Orr
Sage staff writer

This semester marks the Food and Culture Club's third consecutive year of finding unfamiliar foods and gaining awareness about the importance of sustainable food. The club allows members to explore new cultures by savoring their traditional cuisine in ethnic restaurants throughout San Diego County.

Each member shares a type of traditional cuisine that he or she would like to know more about. The club gathers information about various dishes and how each is integrated into a particular culture before venturing out to try each type of food.

Club adviser and Anthropology Associate Professor Laura Gonzalez referenced an outing last semester at Island Spice, a Jamaican restaurant where members tried stewed goat. On another endeavor they traveled to Escondido to sample chapulines or fried grasshoppers, a traditional snack in the Mexican city of Oaxaca.

"Sometimes the chef or wait staff will come out and talk about what we're eating and explain if there are any traditions behind it," Gonzalez said.

At their first meeting--held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm in S5-207--members discussed looking into traditional Norwegian and British food. They

also plan to go to Niederfranks, an ice cream parlor where customers can taste exotic flavors like avocado and ginger.

In reference to the Jamaican goat, a club member suggested that the group try even more exotic types of meat at Tioli's Crazee Burger. The restaurant uses ingredients that are more prevalent in other areas such as gator, kangaroo, antelope and ostrich.

Although it is known for finding strange cuisines and for hosting chocolate tastings on campus using cocoa from seven different origins, the club has a collective interest in the ingredients and produce that comprise an actual meal.

The club takes trips to the San Diego farmer's market to experience fresh, quality produce harvested from small farms with minimal use of harmful chemicals and other mass farming techniques. "It's a bit pricier but the quality is so much better," Gonzalez explained.

Past excursions include trips to Winchester Cheese Farm, a DeLuz Farm tour of beekeeping and honey processing and a special event at the farmer's market to learn how tortillas are made in a traditional Mexican tortilleria.

The group passed around photos of their most recent excursion to the farmer's market over winter break, where they purchased goods to cook their

own Ethiopian and Tajine dishes in Gonzalez's home.

"I'm obsessed with food," she said while further explaining her interest in food quality, agricultural issues and eating patterns.

She admires how family and friends gather to make an event out of a long, nutritious meal--commonly referred to as the Slow Food movement. The movement originated in 1991 in Italy when food lovers outside of Rome protested the building of a McDonald's, Gonzalez explains. "Slow food goes against fast-food consumption."

Gonzalez is an advocate for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and makes this alternative purchasing of food available to Miramar students. Currently, students can order fresh organic goods to be delivered from a small, local farm (Sage Mountain Farms) to Miramar College for pickup.

The club plans to hold a silent auction for a reusable grocery bag filled with fresh CSA produce. Students will be asked to come to A-104 to place bids within the next few months. The Food and Culture Club will be serving cake and other sweet treats at Miramar's Spring Fest next month for anyone who is interested in experiencing what the club has to offer.

Jets defeated at home by Southwestern College

by Khanh Nguyen
Sage staff writer



Photo by Khanh Nguyen

Number 20 Tyler Fricke jumps and scores.

On February 20, the Jets basketball team came face to face with undefeated Southwestern College. The first period ended 42 - 37 in favor of the Jets. Slowly the tide turned in the second half. With only 2 minutes remaining in the game, Southwestern took the lead 72 - 73. Then, with only 9 seconds remaining, the gym was silent as the Jets threw a last ditch 3 pointers. It hit the

rim and rebounded. The home team groaned in unison. The final score was a close 74-77.

Taking the loss in stride, Head Coach Nick Gehler commented on the game, "Our team played extremely hard and we played well. We made a few mistakes down the stretch and all in all we played a very solid, competitive game. We had players make great plays and the ball just did not bounce our way. I



Photo by Khanh Nguyen

The Jets fight it out with Southwestern under the hoop.

like what we did in that game and I like the energy we had."

Sophomore and spectator Michael Cruz said the game was a real "nail biter." He also commented that a few fouls

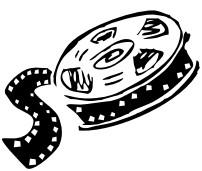
were unjustly called against the Jets. The second period ended with 10 fouls against the Jets and 8 against Southwestern. The Southwestern team actually took the lead

about halfway through the second period by shooting a free throw. Gehler says, "The fouls that were called did not cost us the game. It was a hard fought game and both teams played extremely well. We controlled tempo and we controlled the game. We just needed the ball to bounce to the right instead of the left."

However, even in the midst of this defeat, the Jets are playing as hard as ever. After a win against Imperial Valley College, the Jets have made it into their second consecutive season in the playoffs. Vice President of Student Services Peter Fong is one of the Jet's loudest fans. He attends a majority of home games and gets the crowd riled up during timeouts. He says, "You gotta root for your school!" As the Jets move onto the playoffs, this support is all the more valuable. Good luck Jets!

Movie Review: Alice in Wonderland: Typical computer generated fantasy

by Stephanie Sargent
Sage staff writer



Plot becomes a coat hanger for immersive and whimsical computer effects in *Alice in Wonderland*. There's little in Alice we haven't already seen in Harry Potter but in 3D, Alice is still worth the price of admission.

This isn't the Alice we grew up with. Thirteen years have passed since Alice's (Mia Wasikowska) first adventure in Wonderland, now called "Underland" and the White Rabbit needs her help again. The Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) is still in charge. She rules over Underland with the help of the ferocious Jabberwocky, which Alice must defeat by acquiring the Vorpall Sword. Old favorites return and new characters are introduced, such as the White Queen (Anne Hathaway) who uses chess pieces as opposed to playing cards. The Mad Hatter makes an appearance as the obligatory Johnny Depp character. Tim Burton can't make a movie without him, it seems.

Depp is unusually subdued in this role. He is in Willy Wonka mode, complete with creepy make-up but minus the enthusiasm. His performance is best described as nightmare fuel. Carter gave the film its best performance. The Red Queen's inflated head further amplifies her performance as an egomaniacal tyrant. Carter succeeds at playing a villain who is threatening, comical and most surprising of all sympathetic. Carter, married to director Tim Burton, also appeared as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* and her performance in *Alice* is just as memorable.

But the surrealist visual effects are the star of the show. With their extravagant costumes and make-up, the live actors blend flawlessly with their eccentric environment, never looking out of place. Burton deserves praise for turning a concept loaded with potentially jarring computer effects into a world where fantasy is almost organic. Even the Cheshire cat, voiced by Stephen Fry and animated by Sony Pictures Imageworks, blurs the line between semi-realism and realism with ease.

Despite the film's visual success, the banal story falls apart in the third act. Alice's battle with the Jabberwocky is visually interesting but climatically unsatisfying. The film comes to a lurching halt after the final battle, the loose ends are briskly tied up, a moral is tacked on and the credits roll. A satisfying climax could have added some uniqueness to this standard coming of age story but unfortunately Alice's final battle is nothing we haven't seen before.

Alice in Wonderland is rated PG but is probably too intense for younger children.

Restaurant Review: Who knew about Chez Nous?

by TJ Dunnivant
Sage staff writer



Chez Nous (pronounced "shaynew") means "our place" in French. How fitting that it is only a few blocks from campus?

The menu consists of a choice of sandwiches, salads and a full espresso bar. One would think that with such a fancy name, you would expect to come "out of the pocket" a little. However, there isn't anything on this menu that is over \$10 and you're getting a lot of bang for your buck.

As I walked into to the restaurant, I was pleasantly greeted by Ali, one of the restaurant's owners. I explained that I used to frequent this deli often when I worked in the vicinity. I would always order the three dollar fried egg sandwich. This sandwich consists of a fried egg, mayonnaise, light Dijon mustard and tomato on sliced bread. Ali was quick to recommend the Spicy Chicken Sandwich that everyone comes back for. So I decided to give it a try.

Talk about mouth watering! The cubed chicken sautéed in a spicy chili sauce, tomatoes and provolone cheese was so fresh and delicate it practically melted in my mouth. The grilled jalapeno-cheese bread it was served on was in a class all its own. The moment I allowed myself to come up for air, the bread was the first thing I asked about. Ali told me that the jalapeno-cheese bread is made only for their deli. It is one of their signature items. The introduction in the front of the menu states, "Some of our sandwiches are so special that we suggest only certain breads for them, in order to enhance the flavors." I'm certain that this inch thick jalapeno bread was the main

one they paired with the exotic flavors of the spicy chicken.

The other chicken selections on the menu include the Chipotle Chicken, Portobello Chicken and South of the Border Chicken, Roast Breast of Chicken and Chicken Salad Sandwich. If you prefer turkey, the choices are Roast Turkey or Turkey Salad Sandwich. The fish selections are the Tuna Melt, Salmon Burger and Tuna Salad Sandwich. For the more robust choices there is the Roasted Leg of Lamb, Pastrami, Corned Beef and Ham. In the vegetarian category there is the Basic Veggie, Grilled Cheese, Egg Salad, Roasted Eggplant, Portobello Veggie and Veggie Burger. All sandwiches come with a choice of bread. This is wheat, sourdough, squaw, rye, marble rye, pumpernickel, white roll (talera) or onion roll. These sandwiches range in price from \$4.64 to \$6.50 plus tax.

There are also four salads on the menu. These include the House Green Salad, Oriental Chicken Salad, Salmon Salad and Special Salad. The Special Salad is on a bed of European greens, cubed breast of chicken, seasonal fruit varying sometimes with nuts and cheese. The one they had in display had fresh strawberries in it. The salads range in price between \$1.85 and \$9.28 plus tax.

The beverage selection includes canned sodas (\$.75), Snapple (\$1.75), bottled water (\$1.50) and house brewed iced tea (small \$1.39 or large \$1.75). The espresso bar includes Espresso, Cappuccino, Café Latte and Café Mocha available hot or iced ranging in price from \$1.50 to \$3.25.

Also included on the front of the menu were numerous awards this restaurant has received over the years. In 1995 it was voted "Best Deli of the

Year" by the Unknown Eater from Channel 8 News and in 2000 it was selected as one of the top ten eateries on Restaurant Row by Jack White-the Channel 10 restaurant critic. White also said that it was one of San Diego's best keep secrets.

On my own scale of 1-10, I give this deli a top rating of 10. Mainly because the deli is within walking distance from campus, the food is excellent and they have a free and open to all water dispenser on the counter.

My sandwich was only a little over five bucks (\$6.25). This makes it affordable for even the most budget conscience person. Not to mention that every item on the menu is made from scratch daily with only the healthiest ingredients (canola oil, extra virgin olive oil, all natural and fresh chicken breast, lamb, turkey, tuna, etc.).

I have to give a shout out to Saira Mirreza, the restaurant's other owner, for her passion for the French Culture. The Picasso prints, original picture of Café De Flore (famous French restaurant) and awesome black and white pictures from Paris add to the ambiance of the place. It really makes you feel like you are in a little deli in the middle of France somewhere.

Chez Nous is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am until 5 pm and Saturdays from 10 am until 3 pm. They accept cash only and have gift certificates available for purchase. They also have take out service available. Chez Nous is the place to get a healthy meal that is not lacking taste or quality.

This gourmet-deli is located at 9821 Carroll Canyon Road, just on the other side of the freeway.