

Police called to calm hostility at campus event

BY JON THOMPSON
Pride Staff Writer

Last Thursday evening, CSUSM was introduced to "One Woman's Story," a presentation by Faiz Al-Araji an Iraqi woman, on her recent experiences as an Iraqi. The evening held much more than expected, as Campus police had to be called to the scene.

The event began with a brief introduction by Fredi Avalos.

"Faiz has literally risked her safety to be here tonight, because she felt her message was so urgent for the American people to hear."

Faiz Al-Araji began her presentation with a description of how she is "now able to see Iraq from the eyes of Americans, from watching your television." She explains that she understands what is presented to Americans through the media, and she understands this,

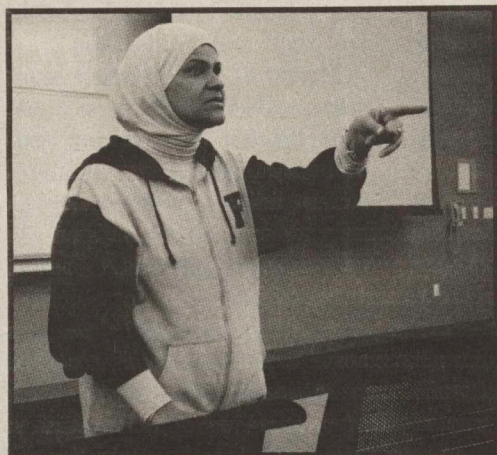


Photo courtesy of Mark Day

rather than blaming the American people. "This media is lying and working with the governing administration in its killing of the Iraqi people."

Al-Araji characterized American culture as creating "ignorant, selfish and lazy people living in a

world of their songs, clothes and furniture." Al-Araji asks, "What about the people who are dying? If you want to be ignorant and lazy, then take the American media as it is, but if you look for the truth you will find it." Al-Araji notes, "It will be hard."

Those looking for contradiction in her criticism of American culture might site an excerpt of Al-Araji's personal BLOG, where she reminisces of times before the war, during American Bombing raids over Iraq, dated 5/30/04: "I miss visiting my sisters, friends, and relatives. I miss having tea with them, laughing, and talking about our kids, husbands, dresses,

models, hair dyes, hair dressers, and all other trivia. I miss shopping and buying new clothes and shoes."

Going into a bit of the history about the American Iraqi conflict, Al-Araji references Desert Storm as having "started a culture of revenge."

She explains that "Americans tried to get the Shiite people to fight the Sunni because of their relations with Saddam." With a look of pride, Al-Araji then tells of how the Sunni people would not join the Americans. Her demeanor changed again to a serious, yet sympathetic tone as she described the situation as an attempt by the American administration to "send a message about the Ba'athist ... that they are monsters, and (that) the world needs to be rid of them." According to Al-Araji, Saddam's revenge killings, that occurred

after the American military left, are also a result of this.

"It's the administration that is pushing Iraq towards civil war by separating the country by ethnicity to ..." she explained with some English help from the audience, "control, divide and conquer."

Americans seek to "change the structure of Iraq by letting the people group by race, and it has ruined their society by dividing them." Al-Araji then accuses the Americans of "building a false foundation," for the Iraqi government so that "it will later fall apart."

"The US Administration is no longer interested in just oil; all of this is to build huge military bases in order to stay in Iraq forever." Al-Araji says the Administra-

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Drag Show disrobes gender issues

BY NATASHA HECKENDORN
Pride Staff Writer

More than two dozen students cheered on the second annual celebration of professional entertainers at the Drag Queen Show, sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Ally student organization, on Monday, March 20. Transfer student, Jay Franklin, has seen a number of drag competitions while growing up in Virginia, as well as a few here in San Diego, but never on a campus before. "I'm expecting

a big performance aspect with a lot of humor," said Franklin.

"One of our goals is to encourage reflection on the issue of gender," said LGBTA advisor, Anne René Elsbree. "For some, Drag is something funny, simply for entertainment. But most see it as validation and as a way to gain personal acceptance."

Liberal Studies freshman, Kathleen Bartolome was eager to see a great show. "I think it's interesting that people feel comfortable enough

with themselves to do something like this, and more power to them."

Drag performers, Regina Styles and Kairo Reed, entertained audiences with six solo-lip-sync performances, including provocative dance-moves and engaging interactions with attendees. "The only difference between me and a woman is I take my tits off and don't bleed once a month," said Styles. "Despite that, I am all boy! If you can't capture an audience, there's no point doing drag."



Photo by Natasha Heckendorn

Ninth Annual Crash Awards

BY JENNY NGUYEN
Pride Staff Writer

Acknowledging student efforts, ASI prepares for the Ninth Annual Crash Awards Night to be celebrated on April 26 at the Center for Arts in Escondido to honor dedicated student leaders and organizations on campus.

There's usually one in every class, maybe even two or three. There are some all over campus. They may be individuals, groups, organizations, and they are sometimes even invisible. They are the people and the organizations that make a difference and deserve a pat on the back and a thank you.

"This is a night where we have the opportunity to recognize and acknowledge student leaders and student groups, rewarding them for all of their efforts," says Sara Gallegos, coordinator of Student Activities for the ASI. This is Gallegos' second year organizing the awards night.

The Crash Awards, formally known as The Student Leadership Awards, was renamed to "jazz it up a bit, and incorporate our newly named mascot and to promote campus pride," said Gallegos. She hopes this event will give everyone something to be proud of about Cal State San Marcos.

All students, staff and faculty are eligible to pick up an application to nominate student groups, individuals, events or organizations from this academic year. Applications can be obtained in the ASI Business Office located in Commons 207, the Student Life & Leadership Office in Craven 4116, or on the ASI website at www.csusm.edu/asi. All applications for nomination are due to the ASI Business Office by Friday, April 14, no later than 5 p.m.

The ceremony will start at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 26 and is free for all members of

the University community and \$5 for guests not affiliated with CSUSM. Attendees can expect a pasta dinner with performances from student dance groups and a highlight video made by student Garvin Ha. The evening will be hosted by Masters of Ceremonies Farshad Farzad and Elizabeth Sheets, members of the ASI Programming Board.

Last year's attendance was estimated at about two hundred people. This year, Gallegos hopes to draw in a crowd of at least two hundred and fifty people. "Last year, we had a dessert buffet," said Gallegos, with hopes that the pasta dinner may bring in larger numbers.

In the past, recipients of the Crash Awards have received desk awards, trophies, and plaques. This year, Gallegos plans on awarding the recipients with plaques.

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Elections News Brief

BY CHRISTINE VAUGHAN
Pride Staff Writer

Seven student-candidates run uncontested in the ASI elections, campaigning to advocate for student issues. Polls opened Monday, March 20 at 8:00 a.m. utilizing a paperless online ballot format allowing students to vote from any available computer. The four-day polling period will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, with electoral announcements made available at noon on Friday, in the ASI office.

"There are quite a few new faces in the campaign," said Heidi Doyle, chair of ASI Elections. "I have seen a lot more freshmen and sophomores want to be involved in campus pride, and that makes me happy."

Of the ten ASI Board

of Director positions, seven are running uncontested, with no challenging opponents. Only the Student at Large, the Vice President of Communications, and the College of Arts and Sciences Representative positions have two or more candidates competing for the title. Students are welcome to write-in candidates on the ballot, added Doyle.

Last year, approximately 1,500 students cast votes, but Doyle hopes this year's election will yield a higher turn-out. "Go vote," encouraged Doyle. "These are the people representing you at the university level."



Photo by Christine Vaughan

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The Pride is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Distribution includes all of CSUSM campus, local eateries and other San Marcos community establishments.

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tion "perpetuates their stories of unrest to continue their presence in Iraq."

When the topic of Saddam was addressed more directly, Al-Araji, in a straightforward manner, stated, "Who cares about Saddam? He is the past, Iraqis want to talk about the future. Saddam is just a way for the media to confuse the issue of Iraq." Later, Al-Araji describes the fall of Saddam as "trading one thief for thousands."

Looking into the origins of the "gangs and mobs" Al-Araji talked about roaming the streets, her own description was given on her 6/26/04 blog: "All of us are in doubt that these are Iraqis ... The poor Iraqis stole furniture, refrigerators, and coolers ... but they wouldn't burn the Ministries, nor rob the National Museum ... these are the acts of organized gangs who came from abroad ... awaiting the chance to strike ... People are saying that many mercenaries entered the country with the Americans ... mercenaries from many nationalities."

Al-Araji's mood escalated as the evening progressed, often reaching emotional heights that some could have viewed as hysteria, or associated with mass-media representations of the an Anti-American rally. Al-Araji, however, describes herself as on a mission that is "in her heart, burning and dying, like her heart," and describes the poor situation in Iraq where "the people are dying from lack of food, where there is no water, or electricity, and the unsafe streets are filled with gangs who roam lawless and free, despite the presence of occupation forces."

Al-Araji continued to emphasize the "mess" made by the media's emphasis on ethnic unrest, stating repeatedly that the "Iraqis are all one people united under one enemy, the Americans," and observing how "no one has ever asked about my ethnicity before the war, now it is all you here from people."

As the time came for questions,

most in the audience expressed praise and gratitude to Al-Araji's for coming to CSUSM.

Asking how, with a withdrawal of all Western aid and troops, she saw the future of Iraq, Al-Araji cut the question off, yelling that she has "never seen any aid on the streets and that even the U.N. and UNICEF work against the Iraqi people."

Soon laughing, Al-Araji talked about a meeting with UNICEF at the UN in Jordan, and mocks the meeting, explaining what was said to her, "We don't have any programs for Iraqi women now, but maybe you can help us institute a training course." Al-Araji continued to laugh.

Rephrasing the question into how she saw Iraq getting rebuilt with a complete withdraw of western influences, Al-Araji erupted into a diatribe on how "Iraq was one of the richest nations in the Middle East. Now we have to pay millions in compensation for war to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iran, so they can live their fancy lives ... don't ask me about rebuilding, because we will."

Again, more calmly, she was asked, "Ok, my question was where you foresee the future of Iraq going, now that you are all united as one people, how do you plan to rebuild?"

Al-Araji, again yelling, said that "education in Iraq has always been free, women have always had the right to choose their husband, drive cars and work and travel freely. The Bush Administration claims to have liberated the Iraqi women. What have they done? You tell me?"

After an angry exchange on conditions for women in Iraq, Al-Araji explained, "Yes, there are educated patriots who can rebuild Iraq, but they need to let Iraq choose its own leaders and withdraw all the troops."

When asked about the elections that took place in Iraq, whether those were Iraq's chosen Iraqi leaders, she answered, "Yes, I was happy that it was a right first step, but the American ambassador

interfered with his finger in the new government and ruined the future of Iraq. Up till now we still have no government."

One might understand this resentment of the current Iraqi government, as she explained in the presentation how her son was detained by the new Interior Ministry, her blog describing him as a journalist for a magazine title translated as 'Conflict.' Al-Araji explained how she "paid a ministry official thousands to get her son released," and immediately fled to the country of Jordan.

The air of hostility arose when attendant Nadia Keilani, not a student, but was seen leaving with Al-Araji, began loudly insulting a student who identified herself as Jordanian and argued with Al-Araji over the nature of the military presence.

The Jordanian student promptly left the room in tears as the rest of the attendants began shouting over each other. Campus police were called to the scene and Keilani was soon asked to accompany Campus police out of the room.

Keilani's, only comment on the issue was that "we came here to hear Faiz, not for all this."

In the aftermath, student, Kym Mckinzie, reflected that "It's understandable, the animosity she has. They think we support the actions of the administration just because they were elected." Of the event, Mckinzie says she was "Thrilled she (Al-Araji) was willing to come tell her story to a potential unwelcoming crowd."

As to the shouting, Alaina Despars, student and friend of the Jordanian Student, stated that, "it's

not acceptable to call names and attack people, as we listened to the speaker but didn't attack her. We called the police because they need to respect us and the campus, it's not okay to put someone down or what they think."

An official statement from the Campus Police is still pending.

With the crowd dispersing, Al-Araji responded to a suggestion that she might have come across somewhat harsh to American audiences, and might not be received well because of it.

"I am this way because I want the troops to pull out, to save you from getting killed and to save Iraqis."

When asked what she meant by 'killing us,' she replied, "because Iraqis are targeting and killing Americans." As to media reports of Al-Queda and other foreign insurgents fighting allied troops, she responded with a look of strength and pride.

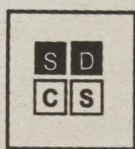
"Yes, in the beginning, maybe there were foreigners fighting the Americans, but now it is all Iraqi patriots, united as one, fighting and killing the Americans wherever they can. The Iraqi and Muslim people are angry, the Americans' violence pushes violence."

Avalos closed the evening with thanks to Ms. Al-Araji, and the statement: "This is a forum for peace and dialogue, because we are in a war. Faiz is just one voice to bring into the mix of what you learn. That's what the University is about, hearing different ideas from different cultures, not to hear one or two sides to a story, but to hear twelve. Peace has to start here."

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On Campus: A lesson in ethics and leadership

BY KAYONNI WILLIAMS
Pride Staff Writer

CLIMB (Center for Leadership Innovation & Mentorship Building), in conjunction with Alpha Kappa Psi, hosted the Ethics and Leadership breakfast seminar at the Clarke Field House on March 17. CLIMB's purpose is to "train and teach students how to be better leaders and mentors" said senior and Alpha Kappa Psi representative Mary Miller.

CLIMB offers these breakfast seminars on leadership every spring semester. Past topics have included Women's Leadership and Shared Leadership. Miller wishes to inform the campus that "these seminars are free and open to all students and faculty," and that she highly recommends them to both.

Patrick J. Kuhse, International Speaker, Trainer and Consultant

on Business Ethics, was the guest speaker for this seminar, bringing his presentation, "Prominence to Prison: Why Leaders Can Do Dumb Things".

He shared lessons learned in his journey from being a successful stockbroker in San Diego, to his involvement in a financial fraud scheme.

Students, faculty, and community members came to the seminar for many different reasons. Keisuke Manabe, Business major, came hoping "to learn the relations between boss and subordinate." Senior Mike Tompkins attended because, "Dr. Kholes mentioned that it would be an informative discussion on ethics." Community member Dr. Rick Brydges, of the Arc Leadership Group, was invited to the seminar by a few CSUSM faculty members that he met at the Kravitz Institute.

Dr. Brydges expressed a great

deal of gladness for deciding to attend the event.

Before her giving her enthusiastic introduction of Mr. Kuhse, Dr. Raj Pillai offered thanks to those who helped make the seminar possible. Alpha Kappa Psi President Karen Haynes, and Gretchen Sampson were among those proud contributors.

When Kuhse got up to speak, he said, "I am not here to teach you business ethics, but to teach you ethics in general." He then went on to explain how unethical behavior led him to become an international fugitive for four years to avoid criminal prosecution.

His story taught us the "Eight Critical Thinking Errors" that lead to unethical behavior. First mentioned was "Entitlement," or believing that you deserve something for nothing. Also listed were "Super Optimism," thinking that you're better than

everybody else, and "Seemingly Un-important Decisions," using Martha Stewart as an example. "Rationalizing," was mentioned alongside "Victim-it is," where those caught play the role of the victim. "Affection Disconnection," an important one to avoid, in which those we love start to drift as unethical behavior makes a person feel detached. "Lazy," speaks for itself, while "Situational Ethics," speak all too often when people pick and choose which set of ethics will serve them.

If these terms weren't enough, he even offered a bonus critical thinking error: PIG, which is an acronym for "Personal Instant Gratification".

Kuhse urges college students to "question things. It's a great vehicle to keep yourself out of trouble now and in the future." He also adds that, "loved ones are the victims of our unethical

behavior."

Following the seminar, a few attendees offered what they thought of Kuhse's presentation. Dr. Brydges confirmed, "The more we know about ethics in business and life, the better, because ethics are a fundamental key part of work, but difficult to address."

Freshman Christina Ahmadpour found the event "helpful ... I do have ethical values and now I am confident that I can stick to them," while sophomore Jan Peters said, "I learned from his mistakes. I realize that to be successful you have to make ethical choices." Others, like freshman Sarah Anderson, learned from Kuhse that, "money doesn't define wealth." Senior Paul Kennedy even took Kuhse's advice to 'question things' right on the spot, asking about the speaker, "How much did we pay him?"

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The process which determines the recipient of an award includes an award selection committee that is comprised of six staff members, predetermined by Gallegos. "Most [committee members] work hand-in-hand with the organizations," said Gallegos. After the committee reviews each application, it ranks them within each category and then makes a solid decision.

The Crash Award categories include: The Cougar Wall of Fame, which was the 1st individual award that was ever offered at The Crash Awards night. The Cougar Wall of Fame is for Seniors only. There is a running plaque housed in the Clarke Field House's trophy case. Other award categories include: Outstanding Freshman Student, Outstanding Sophomore Student, Outstanding Junior Student, Student Advisor of the Year, Best

Campus Organization of the Year, Student Organization Member of the Year, Campus Organization Member of the Year, Best New or Revived Student Organization, Best Student Organization of the Year, Outstanding Collaborative Event between two or more Campuses or Student Organizations, and the Most Outstanding Program Sponsored by a Campus or Student Organization.

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Toughest girls on campus at the 'The Clarke'

BY NATASHA HECKENDORN
Pride Staff Writer

Rain and snow deterred all but two brave young girls, turning Saturday morning boot camp into a semiprivate fitness class for Ana Muslin and Katrena Robinson, the toughest girls at Cal State San Marcos. While most people were warm in their homes, Ana, Katrena and their instructor Lisa Bengtson were working up a sweat, pushing their fitness limits and sharpen-

ing their coordination as the rain poured down outside.

Bengtson's original plan was to have the class outside, but the ground was still wet from last night's rain and dark clouds hung threateningly low in the sky. "I had to improvise because of the rain," said Bengtson as she moved the drill equipment into the gymnasium. The rain came pouring down halfway through the class, tapping on the roof and echoing through the gym, adding percussion to the dance

music playing over the speakers.

While waiting for class to start, I asked Muslin what motivated her to come out Saturday morning for boot camp.

"I want to look good for spring break," said Muslin, who is a senior at Cal State San Marcos. Like a lot of women, Muslin was motivated by a certain swimsuit. "Spring break is in two weeks and I'm going to Florida."

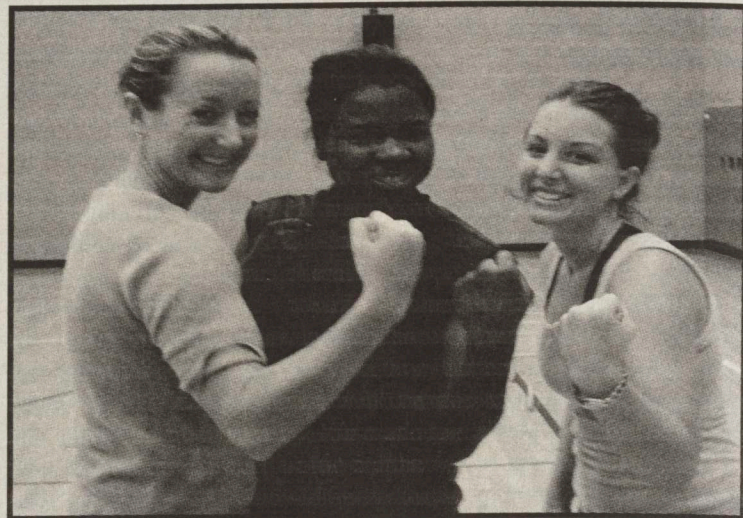
For Muslin, fitness is just a part of life and she works out regularly not only to look good, but also to stay healthy.

"I try to work out three times a week, but as a biology major, it's hard to find the time," says Muslin.

Boot Camp is a somewhat misleading title for what the class actually was. The style of the class resembled boot camp drills, but Bengtson's instruction was nothing like that of a sergeant. She was an encouraging and energetic coach, and the girls responded well to her teaching methods.

Even though Muslin and Robinson were clearly no strangers to strenuous exercise, Bengtson managed to put together a challenging workout that combined a variety of techniques including palates and yoga.

"I'm not sore now, but I'm sure I will be by tomorrow," said Muslin after class.



Tough Girls; Lisa Bengtson, Katrena Robinson and Anna Muslin

Photo by Natasha Heckendorn

Bengtson hopes to make organized fitness classes a monthly, or even weekly, event.

"Now is the time to generate interest. Classes create a motivating environment and teach exercises that people can incorporate into their own work out," said Bengtson, who is also the fitness and wellness coordinator at Cal State San Marcos.

"Now is the time to learn how to exercise safely and effectively. It's not about doing 500 sit ups; it's about having a quality work out that you enjoy. It's about progressing slowly so that you stay with it. My goal is to provide a variety of fitness activities for all levels."

The classes offered at the Field

House are free and open to all Cal State San Marcos students. Students don't need to sign up or bring any special equipment unless specified by the class. For more information about upcoming events, visit the website, stop by the Field House, or call Bengtson directly at x7407. She is available Monday thru Friday and sometimes on Saturdays for any fitness or wellness concerns. She can help students put together a fitness schedule, learn how to work out a certain muscle group or answer any other fitness related questions. "If I don't know the answer, I'd be more than happy to help you find it," added Bengtson.

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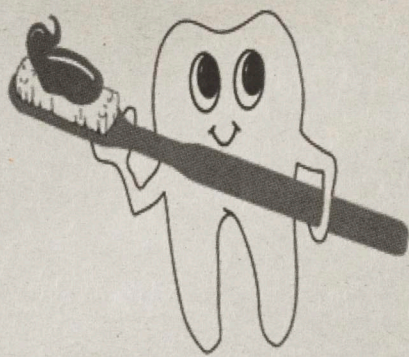
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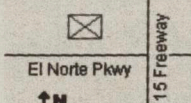
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Jock Talk With Josh: student run radio

BY JOSH SANDOVAL
Special to The Pride



Since this is a commuter campus, I can picture this scene in every vehicle converging on Twin

Oaks Valley Road; your favorite beverage in the cup holder, cell phone on your lap, running late to class and your radio bumpin' with tunes or talk.

Being a sports freak, I jump around from the Scott & BR show on 1090AM to Dan Patrick on ESPN Radio to Jim Rome, and for a little variety, I tune into Howard Stern on Sirius Radio.

Everybody has a favorite show that they listen to, but wouldn't it be awesome if your favorite show came from a CSUSM student-operated radio station?

Well, I am trying my best to

make that a reality. Right now I am leading a group that is researching the possibility of creating a radio station for the campus. This is an idea that has been talked about on this campus for some time now, but nothing has been done thus far.

Last semester I was sitting in class when my buddy Blake Brewer asked the question, "Why don't we have a campus radio station?" My answer was that this campus is still so new that there are still a lot of things that need to be established.

In recent years, CSUSM has expanded enormously. When I started here in Fall 2003, the library was a little hole in the wall located in Craven Hall because the Kellogg Library wasn't completed. Also, a big pile of dirt stood in place of where Markstein Hall is now located. The development that makes me the happiest, of course, is that before Dr. Stephen Nichols

became athletic director, I never thought I would be able to attend a CSUSM college baseball, softball, or soccer game, but next school year I will.

Those things clearly didn't just happen over night. It took a long process and I am sure this radio station project will also take some time. That is the problem that I am facing. The individuals involved in this project are all graduating within a year. My fear is that this project will die once the five of us graduate and all of the work that we have done will go by the wayside.

With that said, if there are any motivated first-year or second-year students that are interested in participating in this project, don't hesitate to e-mail me at sando026@csusm.edu, or stop me on campus because even if I can't finish this project, I want to see it get done.

Imagine what a campus radio station could do for CSUSM.

Take, for example, what "The Pride" has done for the students. This paper has given the students a voice regarding a wide array of topics. It has also provided opportunity for many of the writers. Former Ombudsman and editor-in-chief, Michael Dolan, now works for the local newspaper, "Today's Local News", in San Marcos. Myself, I have been writing for the "San Diego Union-Tribune" for over two years now.

Some of my buddies in the radio industry got their start at college radio stations. The new host of Jammin' Z90's morning show, Chino, got his start at Palomar College. Tre, another host at Z90, got his start at Cal State Northridge. Also, my buddy DJ Todd E. Todd from Z90 started at KCR, the SDSU radio station.

A radio station would also help out other departments on campus. Imagine our sports teams having an outlet by which

games could be broadcasted, or imagine campus events being recognized all around the world. The campus got notoriety during the Michael Moore situation a while back, but how often do you find yourself explaining that there is a CSU campus in North County, San Diego?

I must stress the fact that I am not looking for people who want to be on air. That time will come, but there is still a ton of research that needs to be done and then implementation of that research.

Two weeks ago I met with Jonathan Poullard, Dean of Students, and I think he hit the nail on the head regarding this project. He says that this university provides opportunity for those that want to build and create something.

Once again, e-mail me at sando026@csusm.edu if you are interested in making this dream a reality. Who knows, maybe the next Jim Rome or Howard Stern is a CSUSM student.

CSUSM Surf Team shredding their way to Nationals

BY DUSTIN FRANKS
Pride Staff Writer

The CSUSM Surf Team's A Team fought its way to a 7th place finish last Friday, March 10, at the NSSA State Championships at Churches State Beach in San Clemente, earning them a spot to compete in the coveted National Championships in June.

Cold rain and wind beat down hard on the contest site Friday, making the conditions nearly impossible to deal with. The NSSA College Season, already plagued with poor surf this year, was forced to run the contest.

The previous event scheduled last month for Santa Barbara's Campus Point had been called off due to poor surfing conditions. With zero swell in the water, the line-up looked fit for a waterskiing competition. While the State Championship at least had something to ride, the stormy conditions made it tough for surfers to find decent waves to ride.

Unlike most sports where the playing field is even, with surfing, better waves offer the opportunity for higher points. Few good waves were to be found on Friday, and those who were lucky enough

to find them usually advanced on.

College teams from up and down the California coast toughed it out and made do with what they had to work with, though. Competitors and spectators alike huddled under the scaffolding and few tents that hadn't been blown away with the wind, hiding from the rain and cold. They showed how tough the sport can be and braved heats throughout the day in the jumbled up, chest-high, freezing surf.

The Cougar's 7th place finish was fueled by standout performances from Sean Hastings and

Lucas Dalager who advanced through heats and racked up points all the way up to the Quarter Finals. The top CSUSM placing was earned by Kevin Onizuka, who made it all the way to the finals in the Bodyboard division, placing 4th in the Final.

The team will bring the heat, and compete in one more event rescheduled for Huntington Beach's Ninth Street on May 13 to determine their overall season standing. The A team's spot is now secured for Nationals, but will duke it out to try and up their overall ranking for the season.

The B team's spot for the National Championships is up in the air, and could have a shot, based upon their result at the next contest.

The surf team encourages Cougars to spend a day at the beach and show their school spirit by rooting the team on. Just look for the customized CSUSM tent with the surfing Cougar! The NSSA National Championship is scheduled for June 22-24 at Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point, so mark your calendars! To keep up with scheduling, ratings, and heat times, check out www.NSSA.org.

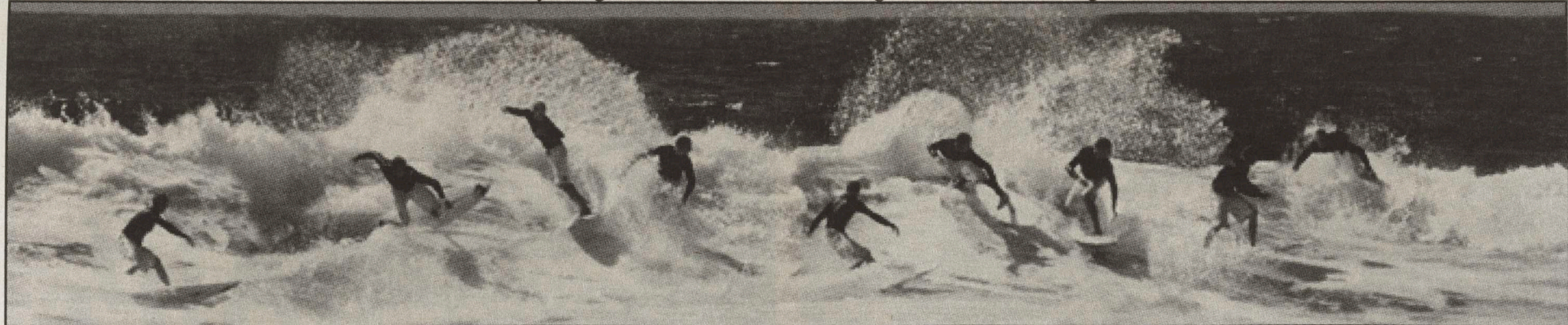


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Fireworks at the Forum spark safety concerns

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer

Freedom of expression and intellectual discourse was stifled Thursday night, March 16, in Markstein 125, as polite debate was exchanged for insults and intolerance. The fireworks at the forum on the situation in Iraq erupted shortly after questions started being taken by the speaker and Iraqi journalist Faiz Al-Araji.

Although many students simply agreed with Al-Araji's position and comments, or asked for further expansion on topics she had touched upon, a few students attempted to engage Al-Araji in polite

debate on the issues raised. One student who asked a non-softball question was told by a girl behind him to "shut up."

Another student, a Jordanian girl, who had spent the vast majority of her life in the Middle East, spoke out in disagreement with many of the points Al-Araji presented, noting that her experience in the region had been vastly different. Although the girl phrased her argument politely, a member of the audience behind her remarked that "she was ignorant," while another audience member similarly insulted her and forced the student to leave the auditorium. Following the exit of this student, about 10-15 fellow students got up and left, without comment.

The question is: What happened on Thursday night that audience members at a Cal State San Marcos forum felt it necessary to insult their fellow peers? Why were those students who had a differing view of the situation in Iraq not allowed to speak or ask questions? Wasn't that what the forum was all about? Instead of the exodus of the 10 or 15 students that left, why didn't one of the several teachers in the room get up and ask the few audience members who were being insulting toward those asking questions of a differing view point to leave?

The event ended with a round of applause, after which Al-Araji referenced back to the Jordanian student's remarks.

Comparing the Jordanian girl to Iraqis who support the current U.S. occupation, Al-Araji noted that "there are people like that in every war," or in other words, calling the girl, a student at CSUSM, a traitor.

The lecture on Thursday night was interesting and illuminating, yet it was also biased and one-sided. The forum was supposed to be a presentation of new ideas and differing cultural perspectives, yet because of the actions of some, the forum failed on both accounts. The question remains: what happened to respect and the free exchange of ideas March 16, in Markstein Hall?

Robbins Report: 'Dude looks like a lady'

BY JASON ROBBINS
Special to The Pride

Okay, you're going to think that you hate me, but read the whole thing.

Did you hear about the upcoming "Drag Show" event on campus? Yeah, they're describing it as a "celebration of professional and local drag stars."

First off, understand that I have no clue as to what this celebration will entail and that I'm a proponent of gay rights and same-sex marriage. I have papers to prove it.

"Jason, why do you complain about stuff that you're not interested in?" "Why don't you just

leave people alone?" They're legitimate questions.

In this case, you can blame someone else (at least partially). Earlier in the semester, one of my professors joked about how they shove diversity down our throats at CSUSM. This professor went on to explain that diversity is useful, noting that no single group's experience is the source of all knowledge.

As much sense as the professor made, I was still shocked. This marked the first time that I've ever heard a professor question the bearings of our ship.

I wish I could remain a grump

and agree, but I think I disagree with my professor. Actually, I disagree on a technicality. Nobody forces anyone to attend events for prostitutes, communists, or drugs stars.

No. Students hold these events for themselves. They invite some like-minded folks, and blow enough smoke until everyone feels jolly in their bright red diversity suits—and that's cool.

Returning to the "Drag Show", I'm fine with the plan (not to say they needed my permission). I'm confident that drag queens and such have something positive to contribute to one's world view.

But can I ask a question? What's the big deal? I mean, okay, some dudes like to dress like girls, and some girls like to dress like dudes. I get it.

One could argue that minority groups (like those who support drag people) hold such events in order to gain acceptance in society. That's a noble cause.

Are the folks behind the "drag show" primarily driven by such a noble cause?

In the online announcement for the event, it calls on one to "celebrate the breaking of gender." Is this any different from gaining acceptance in society? I think it is,

for it seems in the former, acceptance is negligible.

In any event, the "big deal" seems to be about breaking gender.

The desire to "break gender" does diversify the view of gender. Although I have to wonder: Does this type of cause work to create the feeling that groups want to shove diversity down our throats? Another question: Do some of us get irritated when it appears that other folks glorify their differences with little respect for our acceptance? Would that be very moral of us? I fear that it would not.

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How to ... 'Spring Break' in Southern California

BY ANDREW RUISENO
Pride Staff Writer

The time of year all college students look forward to is upon us, and no, we are not talking about graduation ... it is this year's spring break! Sure, you may be graduating this May, and for many this means entering the real world, so all the more reason to have one last carefree celebration as a college student. For those of you students who will not be graduating in the spring, this is your week to forget about the trials and tribulations school seems to bring with it. However, if you do not have the airline tickets or the unlimited budget most would love to have on this down time, here are some local ways to spend your spring break in the state that many college students flock to from around the country.

Spring break is upon us for the Cal State San Marcos student body and here are some options for those of you who have to stay local in a big way. San Diego is the place to be, so it is not going to be hard finding what to do but rather which event to choose.

Belmont Park itself has more to offer than its Giant Dipper rollercoaster; it offers a nice day at the beach with that special someone or friends with arcades and water sport rentals. Mission Beach offers a great night life, as well, with restaurants, bars and clubs. If you happen to stop by the local 21 and up spot Plum Crazy, which pulls in a younger college age crowd, be sure to ask for the 911. The 911, according to signonsandiego.com, is the house specialty which consists of 23 ounces of seven different liquors that resembles a fruit punch.

Another spot is Sea World, which is \$53 per adult. It may sound terribly cliché, but who doesn't love getting splashed or least watching people getting splashed by the 10,000-pound killer whale Shamu? Plus, it is a good way to kill an afternoon just walking around eating and making fun of the tourists while you take pictures of every event, including your kisses with dolphins (it could happen).

Or if Sea World is not what you would consider a good time, there is always the San Diego Museum of Art, where walking and looking at known art works can be fulfilling and relaxing under the California sun.

The San Diego Zoo also offers more attractions than one can visit in just one afternoon. With the exhibits and shows, the San Diego Zoo is truly a place to explore for \$32 per adult ticket.

For the crowd of Cal State San Marcos students that are under 21, there is no need to just drive down to Tijuana; there

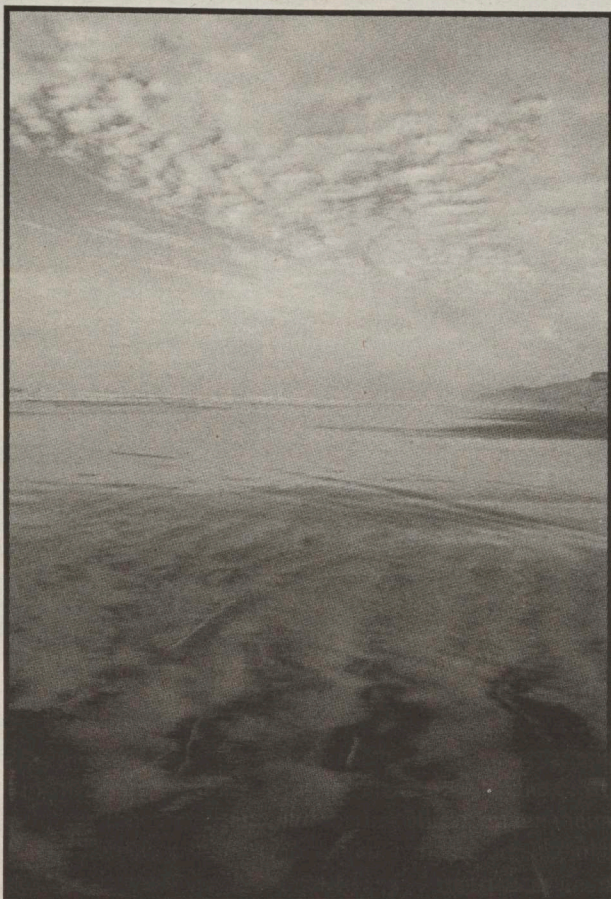


Photo courtesy of David Gatley

are places in San Diego for you, too. Lestat's Coffeehouse is this writer's personal favorite. According to signonsandiego.com, Lestat's Coffeehouse was named after the famed brat prince vampire character from Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles (most notable for the novel "Interview with the Vampire"). Not only do you get gourmet coffee, but a range of gourmet desserts and salads and sandwiches. Not to mention Lestat's Coffeehouse also has a form of entertainment every night, whether it is a rock band or comedian.

Soma is also a good all-ages venue to watch bands play, and this spring break be sure to catch Bleeding Through on March 31 and the punk band Subhumans on April 1.

For those of you who are over 21, there are all the usual suspects for this spring break. The Beauty Bar, according to signonsandiego.com, is one place where it asks "the beautiful people ... the hip ones anyway ... out to play in city heights." The Beauty Bar is a chic location for the San Diego crowd who is into fashion, cocktails, and a 6 dollar manicure while you drink.

In Hillcrest, Hamburger Mary's offers a good time for Gays, Lesbians and friends of the community on Sunday nights.

This spring break if you are staying in San Diego, do not get disappointed; there is so much to do here, all you have to do is decide where and when, and what next.

Beer of the week Chocolate Porter

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer

While there are a number of new and growing microbreweries in Southern California, Bayhawk Ales can claim to be the oldest micro-brew in Orange County. Based in Irvine, Bayhawk Ales produces a number of interesting brews, including honey ales, IPAs, and the uniquely named O.C. Lager. Among these colorful brews is the Chocolate Porter Ale, a beer that is memorable in flavor and quality.

A dark brown/coffee color, the Chocolate Porter has a light aroma of chocolate and malts that is complemented with a brownish head upon pouring a glass. An American porter, the taste of the Bayhawk Chocolate Porter is that of a typical dark beer, yet with hints of roasted coffee and chocolate. Surprisingly light and

smooth, the Bayhawk porter has strong flavors, especially that of toasted malts, yet has a mild aftertaste. A hint of chocolate comes through but is not overwhelming, instead providing a pleasant and non-bitter flavor. Featuring a distinctive stout-like finish, the Chocolate Porter is a beer that will suit lovers of good brews and chocolate alike.

Don't expect the taste of a chocolate bar in Bayhawk Chocolate Porter, but do expect a subtle chocolate flavor, unique and well balanced in this beer. Available in 22 oz. bottles, Bayhawk Chocolate Porter can be found in such stores as Beverages and More, as well as on tap, along with other Bayhawk brews, in California and a few other southwestern states. For more information on Chocolate Porter and other Bayhawk brews visit, their website at www.bayhawkales.com.

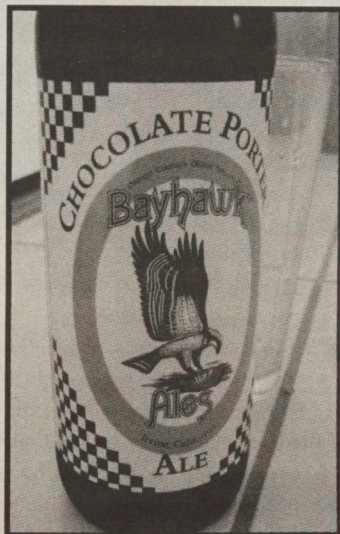
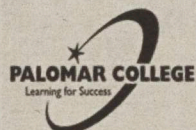


Photo by Matthew Schramm



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Controversial cartoon brings life to race relations

BY RACHELL REYES
Pride Staff Writer

This season on Aaron McGruder's "The Boondocks," an episode was dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was alive, but old. He wasn't quite the hero that we remember, but America wasn't quite the place that he expected after 40 years. At the end of that episode, Dr. King gave an incredible speech and moved to Canada.

"The Boondocks" is not the typical cartoon. It incorporates

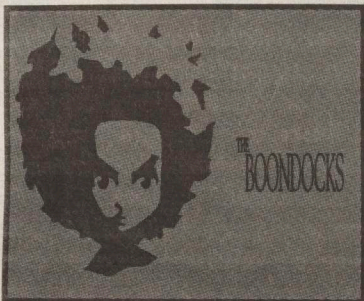


Photo courtesy of Cartoon Network

Japanese anime with adult-oriented language and humor.

According to Boondockstv.com, McGruder's series was originally a comic strip in an independent newspaper. The comic strip has become a huge success and is now published in over 150 newspapers and magazines. In November 2005, the cartoon premiered on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim.

The series follows two African-American brothers, Huey and Riley Freeman, who were adopted by their Granddad. Their Granddad took the inner-city kids and moved them to white suburbia. There is no plot, just their everyday life.

Many of the storylines are about race relations. Rather than completely focusing on racism, the show also touches on biracial identity, political values, and inner-city hardships. Huey, the cartoon's protagonist, wants

to fix the problems with African-Americans. He knows that racism exists, but not everyone around him does. Huey's younger brother Riley, on the other hand, is one of those people who are oblivious.

There's nothing new about the story that many people have not heard about or experienced. But "The Boondocks" does bring something new to the table: The characters use the 'N-word' so freely. Yes, Huey, the ten-year old, uses the word on a daily basis. Yes, Granddad and his friend, Ruckus, use the word to describe every black man on the show. And yes, Dr. King used it in his incredible speech.

Some people may find it offensive; others will say it's keeping it real.

One episode of "The Boondocks" will not only make you laugh, it will make you think. The content is fresh and the mes-

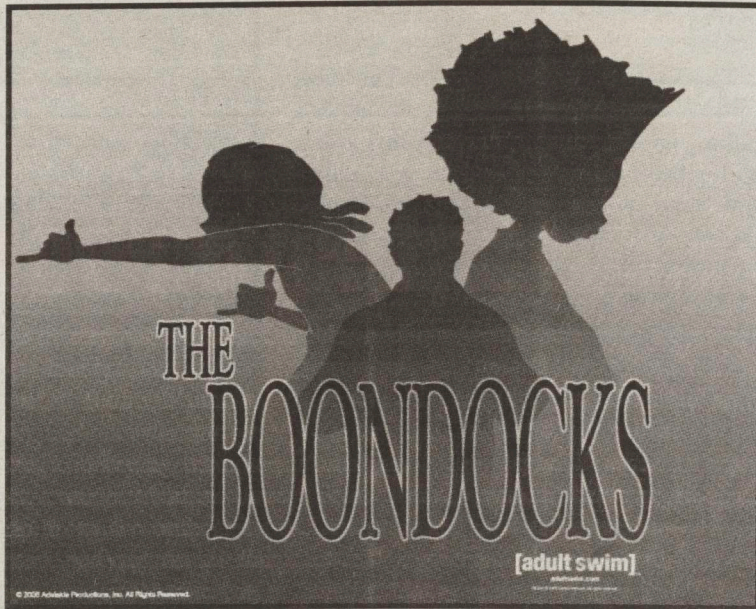


Photo courtesy of Cartoon Network

sage of each storyline will give you a whole new perspective.

If you can bear to stay awake on Sunday nights, be sure to catch "The Boondocks" on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim at 11

p.m. It's worth the 30 minutes of entertainment. If you can't get enough of McGruder's animated series, read his cartoon strip every day on boondockstv.com.

'Black. White.' brings new color to television

BY AMANDA KEELEY
Pride Staff Writer

"Black. White." is not only a new show on FX, but a social experiment. Airing on Wednesday nights at 10:00p.m., executive producers R.J. Cutler and Ice Cube take viewers on a journey that explores the subtleties of racism in America.

"Everybody thinks of a Klan man standing with a shotgun, yelling, 'Keep it white.' Everybody is worried about the guy with the black power, leather jacket on, Afro ... worried about those kinds of people and not really knowing that racism is not just the obvious," said Ice Cube, according to the associated press.

The show follows two families, both middle-class and with educated parents, but one family is black and one family is white. Thanks to Hollywood makeup artists, the families change races by air brushing, skin paint, and wigs. Then the families switch roles for the six weeks of produc-

tion, immersing themselves in each other's culture. For example, Rose, the 18 year old daughter of the white family, joins a young black poetry group, and Brian, the father

of the black family, gets a job as a bartender at a bar that consists of predominantly white customers. The family lives in the same household with each other for the whole process, which gives both families an opportunity to discuss their experiences in each other's skin.

According to Latimes.com, Oprah Winfrey was quoted as saying that 'Black.

White.' was a "groundbreaking documentary series." Some may agree that the show has potential to open dialogue about the issues of race that still persist today, but

others may take the show as not such a great idea. "Black. White." has been criticized as being an unscripted reality show rather than a documentary. According to Latimes.com, journalist and cultural critic Nelson George believes the series could potentially aggravate racial tensions, particularly in L.A., rather than leading to more understanding.

Tensions have run high at times in the families' household as the black parents do

not feel as though the white parents are getting what the experience is trying to show them while the white parents feel at times that the black parents are waiting for them, to say or do something wrong. It seems, so far anyway, that the children are learning the most from the experiment. According to an article by Chip Crews from Washingtonpost.com, "Nick (son of the black family) and Rose (daughter of the white family) suggest that people their age tend to base their opinions of others on the individual rather than on skin color. Unlike their fathers, they're neither smug nor mired in anger, and they're far quicker to learn." Like any controversial topic, the show has come with mixed reviews. Regardless of criticisms, the show is stirring up dialogue, which is a start at accomplishing what the creators set out to do. According to AllHipHop.com, Ice Cube said, "'Black. White.' will force people to challenge themselves and really examine where we stand in terms of race in this country."



Photo courtesy of FX networks

Amanda Bynes is 'The Man'

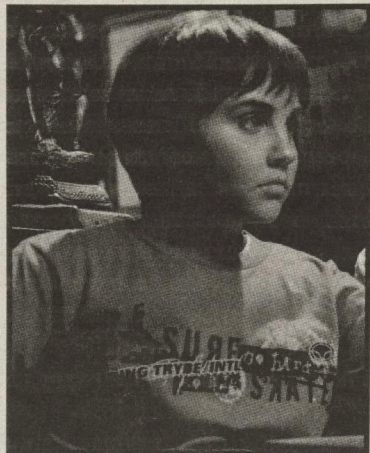


BY RACHEL CARRIE WANN
Pride Staff Writer

While the works of William Shakespeare have been presented on the big screen many times over for the young adult and teen audience in recent years, never before has the gender-bending comedy of "Twelfth Night" been given such an innocent yet comedic modern twist.

While the tragic "O", and teen comedy "Ten Things I Hate About You" helped introduce a younger audience to some of Shakespeare's finest, those remakes of "Othello" and "Taming of The Shrew" lack the endearing nature of She's The Man.

The plot here brings the protagonist, aptly named Viola after "Twelfth Night's" leading lady, to assume the role of her look-a-like brother Sebastian, in order to continue her high school



Photos courtesy of Dreamworks

soccer career at a new school after her girls' soccer program is cancelled.

The resemblance to "Bend It Like Beckham" ends there, and the familiar Mean Girls-esque high school mentality prevails as a complicated love triangle ensues. However, this exceptionally twisted knot of unrequited love hilariously features the

beautiful Olivia who finds herself attracted to Sebastian, who really is Viola posing as Sebastian, who has already fallen for the devastatingly attractive Duke (yes, named after Duke Orsino of the original) who loves Olivia... and then we're back to Sebastian, who neither Duke or Olivia knows is really Viola. Phew!

Amanda Bynes shines here as both the adorable Viola and the chubby-cheeked Sebastian, playing up her faux masculinity. While not entirely convincing as a boy, the slapstick humor that comes into play whenever genders are swapped is predictable, yet still likeable enough to keep an audience pleasantly amused.

Certainly not one of the finest films of 2006, "She's The Man" can at least promise a handful of laughs from the lighthearted, if not goofy, humor from Amanda Bynes. This should come as no surprise to those who are familiar with Bynes' comedic beginnings on Nickelodeon. Bynes

prevails in her dual roles, captivating almost every scene, and her dorky cuteness practically overshadows the lackluster of her supporting cast of unknowns, enough so as to keep those at least moderately familiar with Shakespeare's original works sufficiently entertained.

