

## Haynes reports to community

Breakfast to focus on building local alliances

BY ADIA BESS  
Pride Staff Writer



CSUSM President Karen Haynes will present her first, "Report to the Community," this week to anyone willing

and able to reach into their pocket books, as there is a cost of \$15 per person to cover the expense of the breakfast being served.

Haynes' address to the community titled, "Building Vital Communities," will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Clarke Field House on Thursday, February 3, 2005.

The focus of Haynes' first community report will be to share the importance of creating stronger partnerships between the public and the campus.

A press release from the university states that Haynes firmly believes that the success of Cal State San Marcos' contribution in its regions must begin with the

See HAYNES, page 2

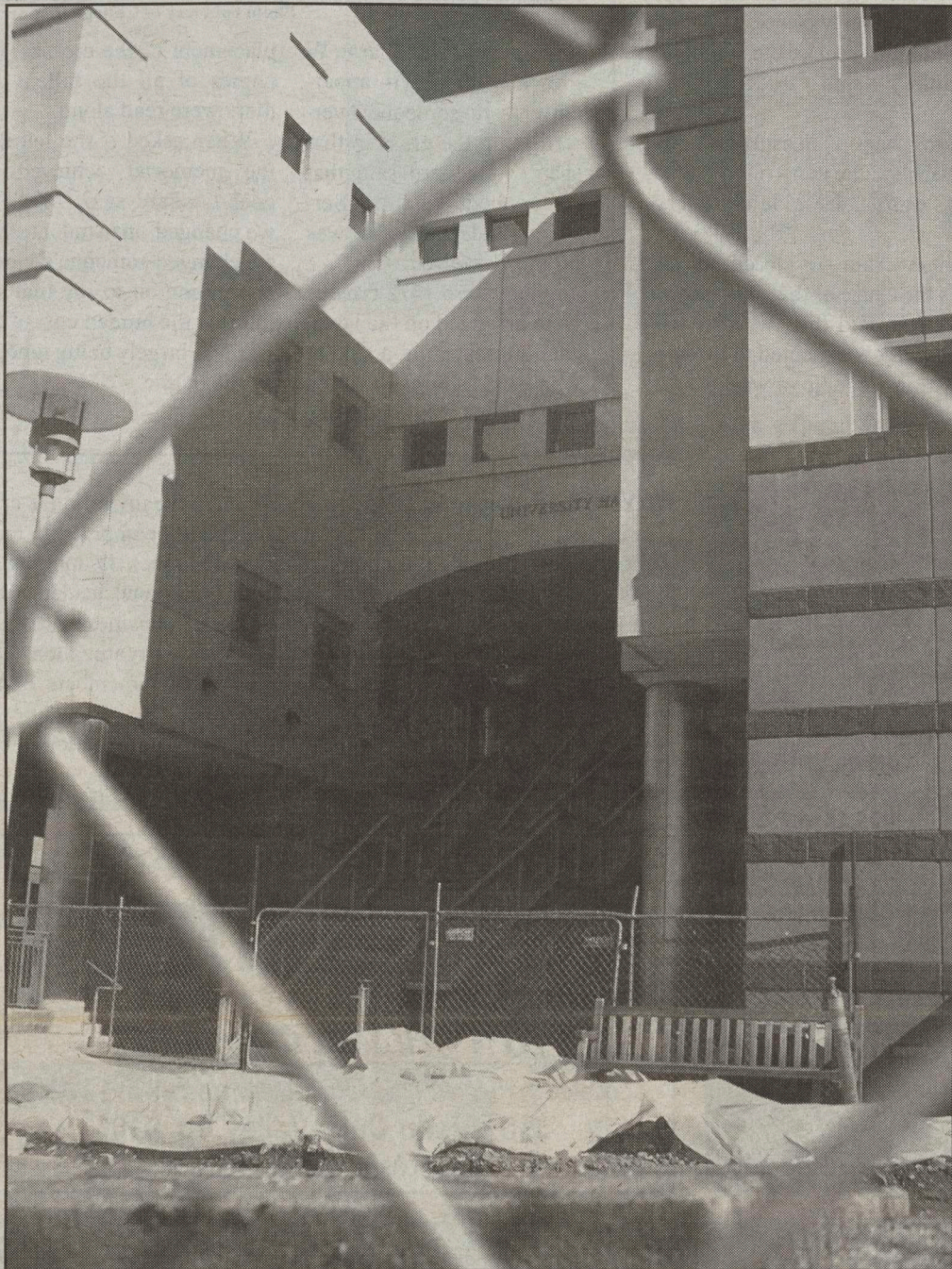


Photo by Jason Encabo / The Pride

## The 'hole' story

Construction to be completed soon in front of University Hall

BY CHEZARE MILO  
Pride Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff trying to access University Hall from the main stairway have had to decide whether avoiding a fence is better than avoiding a puddle since the beginning of this semester.

As part of a new plan to alleviate flooding in front of University Hall and in lower level classrooms when it rains, Facility Services hired Good and Roberts contracting to regrade and install a better drainage system. The construction has resulted in a large trench and fenced off area in front of the building.

According to Assistant Director of Facility Services Steve Watters, the project began over the semester break and was scheduled to have been completed before classes resumed.

Watters said that when it became appar-

See CONSTRUCTION, page 2

## CSUSM students remember fallen soldiers

Crosses were placed in memory of US war casualties in Iraq

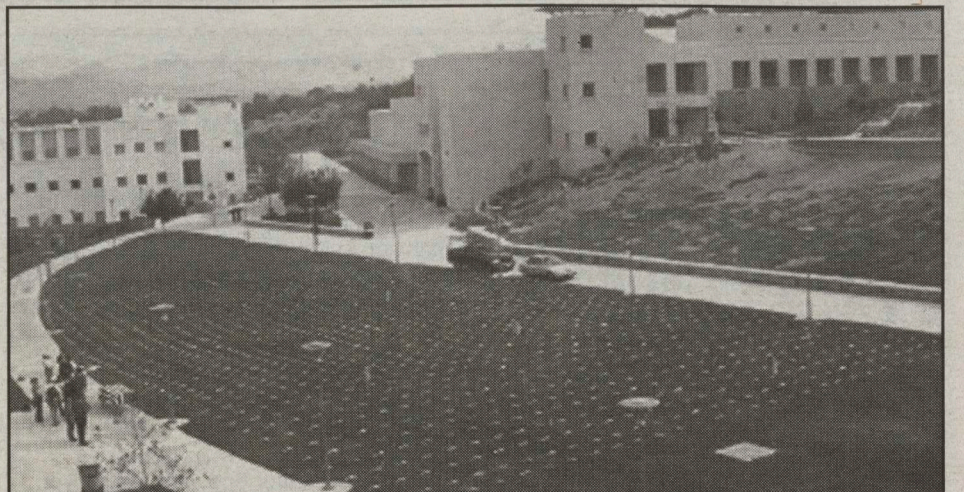


Photo courtesy of College Democrats

BY CHEZARE MILO  
Pride Staff Writer

Thinking about those who have sacrificed their lives in the war in Iraq was the goal of a memorial entitled "Arlington West" held in the large lawn adjacent to the Kellogg Library and Forum Plaza.

The CSUSM College Democrats along with the Progressive Activist Network (PAN) and off-campus organization Veterans for Peace staged the memorial on Tuesday January 25.

According to the Vice President of the College Democrats, Sarah Leonard, what originally started out as the efforts of about four people grew as students from the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA) and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender alliance (LGBT) pitched in to help set up the event. Approximately a dozen people ended up helping conduct the memorial.

When the group arrived to begin set-

See MEMORIAL, page 2

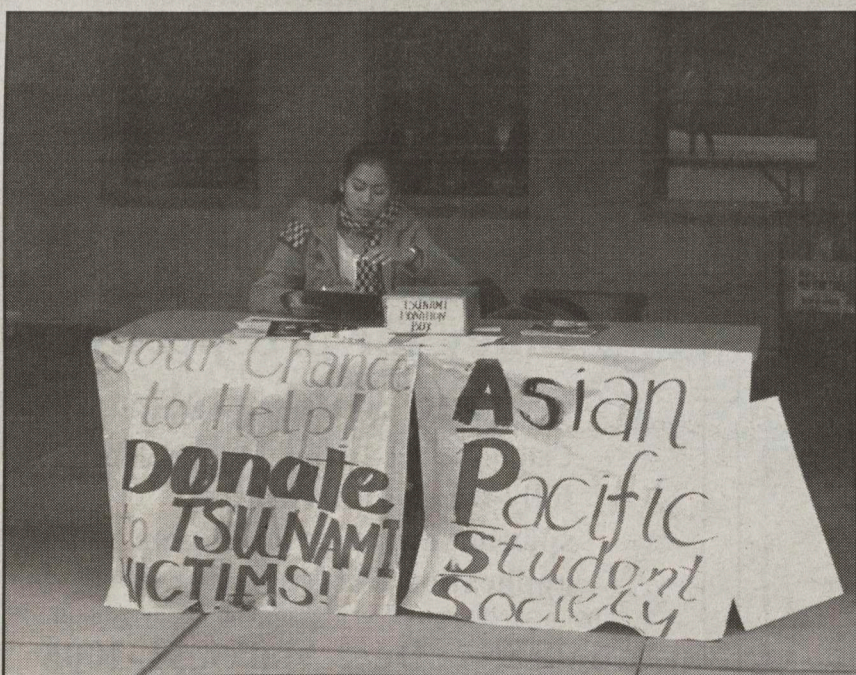


Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride

## An effort to give

The Asian Pacific Student Society (APSS) held a donation drive which collected \$96.86 to help victims of the recent devastating Indian Ocean tsunami. The APSS was collecting money in front of the library all last week between 10 a.m. and 2 pm. All donations received are to be given to the International Relief Team. Vice President of the APSS, Aamara Ysrael said that the amount donated was a result of not being, "able to publicize, due to the last minute planning of the event."



# The Pride

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Letters to the editors should include an address, telephone number, e-mail and identification. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Letters should be under 300 words and submitted via electronic mail to [pride@csusm.edu](mailto:pride@csusm.edu), rather than the individual editors. It is the policy of The Pride not to print anonymous letters.

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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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## CONSTRUCTION, from page 1

ent that the work wouldn't be finished by the time classes started the fenced off area was re-arranged to allow access to the lower level classrooms as well as the first floor elevator.

Student opinions about the trench and fenced off area varied. Some didn't seem to mind the inconvenience, while others complained about the site.

"It's not really getting in my way," said student Clinton McCook.

"It makes me exercise, but it's better than puddles," said student Coral Bruni.

Expressing her displeasure, student Kay Nguyen said the construction area, "Sucks, it's right in the middle of everything."

Citing heavy rains in December and January as the cause of the construction delays, Watters said that, weather permitting the work is expected to be completed, "within a couple of weeks."

## MEMORIAL, from page 1



Photo courtesy of College Democrats

ting up there was a large W grown in the lawn, apparently from someone over-fertilizing the grass in that shape. Leonard said that she called Facility Services, and the lawn was promptly mowed.

There were 1372 crosses were arranged on the lawn, each representing a soldier who died as a result of the war in Iraq. Following the

placement of the crosses, the names of all the fallen soldiers were read aloud.

When asked if she felt that the memorial achieved its goal Leonard said, "Yes....if we changed one student, then we changed someone's view," continuing on to say that she felt that the human cost of the war was largely being ignored by the public.

## HAYNES, from page 1

ability to partner with the communities our university serves.

In the press release Haynes is quoted as saying, "this university and north San Diego and southwest Riverside County region can achieve great things together. We want to get everyone energized about the possibilities."

Although the invitation is open to students on campus, the main audience Haynes is looking to address is regional leaders from government, business, cultural and service organizations, as well as general members of the public.

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## Crime on campus

BY BRIAN EBBIT  
Pride Staff Writer

On January 26 there was a burglary that occurred to a student's vehicle in lot X/Y/ Z between 3-7 P.M. The victim left the scene and cleaned up his car at home prior to reporting the crime to campus police. As a result the police were unable to investigate the incident further due to a lack of evidence. The victim lost the detachable face of his stereo in the crime. Officer Jesus A. Flores of the Cal State University Police advised students that if their vehicle is broken into to contact the police department immediately adding, "Don't touch anything so we can collect evidence."

A suspect was identified in the broken window incident in Academic Hall that occurred on January 20; since the investigation is still on-going the police were unable to make further comment.



# Think you're smart eh?

The High IQ Society: American Mensa

BY PHOENIX LINDGREN  
Pride Staff Writer

Statistically speaking there are at least 140 students at CSUSM who qualify as geniuses--at least as far as their IQ is concerned.

If you're a campus smarty-pants--or think you might be--there's a national organization that wants you: American Mensa, the High IQ Society.

Benefits of Mensa membership include a monthly magazine, opportunities to meet and mingle with other brainiacs at Annual Gatherings and Mind Games tournaments, and the ability to add the ultimate icebreaker to your resume or grad school applications: "Mensa Member."

Joining American Mensa also automatically qualifies you for membership in a local chapter of your choice, like the San Diego Mensa chapter. San Diego Mensa sponsors several events

each week, from brunches to bike rides, in addition to monthly "Newcomers" parties to welcome new members, and a monthly newsletter.

When asked to describe who belongs to Mensa, Catherine Barney, American Mensa Public Relations Manager, said there is no stereotypical Mensan.

"Mensans are as diverse a group as you'll find anywhere. We have members ranging in age from four-years-old to one hundred; every religion, race, and profession," said Barney. "Our members are cab drivers, doctors, CEO's, and stay-at-home moms."

There are 52,000 American Mensa members, and 100,000 worldwide Mensans.

Joining Mensa has gotten somewhat more difficult in recent years. Up until the mid-1990s, a high score on most standardized achievement exams like the SAT

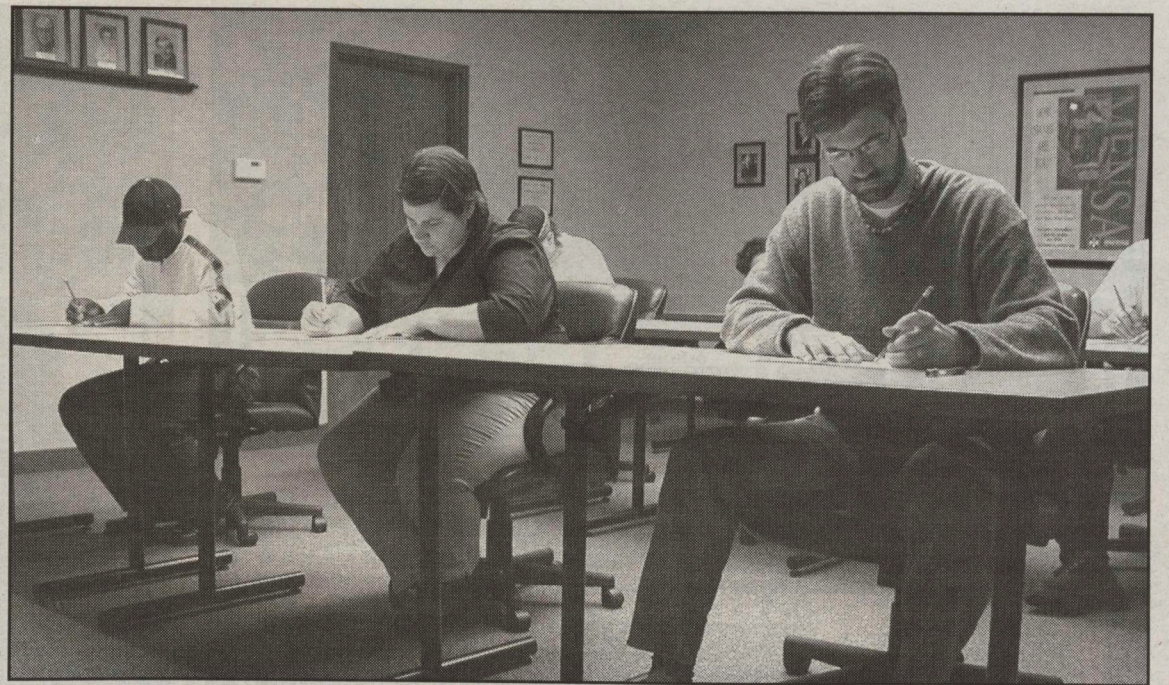


Photo courtesy of Mensa

and GRE qualified as evidence of prior testing for Mensa membership. According to Barney, these tests no longer meet the requirement because they test knowledge, not thinking skills.

"Achievement tests today test what you know," said Barney. "We test for how you think--how do you figure things out."

Intelligence tests administered in grade school, or privately by a licensed psychologist, still qualify as evidence for prior testing, and a list of acceptable prior tests can be found on the American Mensa web site at [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org).

Alternately, San Diego Mensa offers monthly proctored testing for those without access to a

prior IQ test. The next test date is Saturday, February 5, 10am, in room 3509 at Mira Costa College. Contact San Diego Mensa's test coordinator, Nancy Chadwick, through their web site ([www.sandiego.us.mensa.org](http://www.sandiego.us.mensa.org)) to sign up for the test. The cost to take the test is \$30. Mensa also offers an "At-Home" version of their test for \$18 through the national web site which will give you an excellent idea of what the full test is like.

And for the super smarty-pants on campus who find the Mensa test just too darn easy, there's always The Top One Percent Society.



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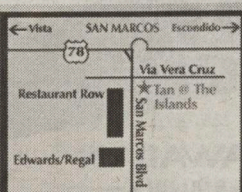
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## UniversityVoice

What is your New Year's Resolution?



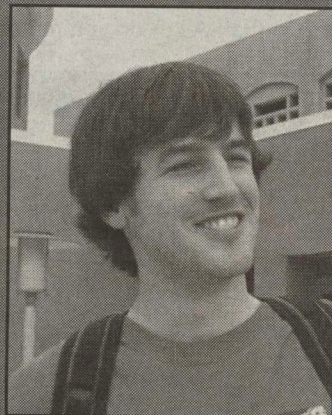
Brian Hughes

*"To learn how to speak southern!"*



Kim Neel

*"To get up to the mountains more and snowboard!"*



Mike Kelly

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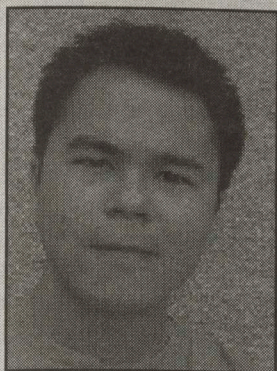
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# OMBUDSMAN'S *notes*



By JASON NICHOLS  
Pride Ombudsman

"Enjoyed the Letter to the editor, but don't they have to sign them?"

Sally Jo Divis tagged me with this Q concerning last week's issue. The best part was the title of her email, "The Phantom Writer."

We could use it for a movie.

A mysterious student sends in a Letter to the Editor challenging the powers-that-be. As the campus becomes all engrossed with the identity of this 'masked' person, we see the writer in the shadows clacking away on a typewriter. (18 and under: the ancestor to MS Word.) We could film them as a series, maybe stopping at "Phantom Writer III: Mystery

of the Large Clock of Academic Hall." (hint, hint)

Well it'd be nice, but I gotta kill my hypothetical by ending the mystery. Our "Phantom Writer" goes by the name Felipe Zanartu. The editing team goofed and kinda sorta missed the fact that Mr. Zanartu's name had been cut. I usually take their words under suspicion, but I think we can chalk this one up to an honest boo-boo. The policy in bold on page two of this puppy is still in force. The Editors apologize to Mr. Zanartu for any pain or suffering that may have occurred as a result of this incident.

I would suggest a doctor to take care of the matter, perhaps one from CSUSM's M.D. program, but that was just a misleading photo illustration in the News section last week. Elizabeth Baldwin with the slick skills and aid of Jason Encabo had a pic of a binder with M.D. on it next to an apple. I've been informed that we readers were to make the connection of Med Doc and apple to translate into an Ed.D. in Education Leadership, the actual doctorate offered here. Obviously, Elizabeth and Jason aren't part of that program.

(Whisper Mode On: 'Yo Elizabeth, J. The Docs that put a stick on your tongue aren't the only ones around. Those people in front of class that we call Professors...I hear they're Docs too. Just thought you should know.)

Above that pic of ambiguous meaning was the question "Looking to become a doctor?" And above that Q was a pic of a busted window with yellow streamers across it: caution caution caution. Another connection we should make? Hmmmm.

What I really dug was that Mr. Milo wrote in his article of "Broken glass" that there were "no suspects for the crime," then quotes Officer Hernandez saying the broken glass likely resulted from "horseplay" and not "vandalism."

(Whisper mode on again: 'Yo Chez. Horseplay ain't a crime. Just thought you should know.)

Somewhere on campus a person is sweatin' bullets thinking there's a dragnet out for 'em. A.P.B.: The suspect is a college student, between the ages of 18 and 25. Please contact the F.B.I. if you've seen this person. The suspect likely frequents the various eateries described in Mr. Schramm's article "When the

Dome won't do."

A nice article by the way Matthew, obviously aided by Encabo's flair for page layout that was more than compensation for the misleading Doc illustration he'd done with Elizabeth. Matthew Schramm neglected my personal favorite chow-down spot, but I'll not advertise in this column. (Sandcrab good!)

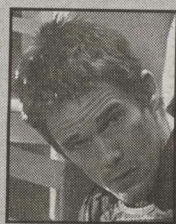
And it'd be nice if Mr. Schramm had covered less obvious locals than those the student body was already frequenting. When you think about it, it'd be like the Union Tribune revealing to us that we have a Convention Center, Stadium, and Race Track. But we gotta break these new writers in somehow, so bear with the regurgitated themes for now. We'll get better.

Of course, that also refers to Zach Simon's subtle opinion that books cost too damn much (a revelation), Patrick Long informing us that there exists a gym in the Field House (another revelation), and Brian Reichert's emphatic opinion that studying abroad is good for the soul (and those revelations just keep coming).

Brian "had the opportunity to study in Santiago de Chile" and apparently liked it well enough

despite Felipe Zanartu's (the Phantom Writer) observation that "the USD in Chile has lost 22 percent of its value." And like the 'caution caution caution' above "Looking to become a doctor?" we had Brian's travel ad atop Felipe's dire currency conversion rate. I'm tossin' my hands up, I'm so confused...

I'm looking like the picture of Ethan Hawke in Al Chu's review of "Assault on Precinct 13." Not the looking like a hotty factor, but we're sharing the same expression that communicates a sense of confusion. The one you make when barking spiders arrive in a crowded room and you just gotta whiff.

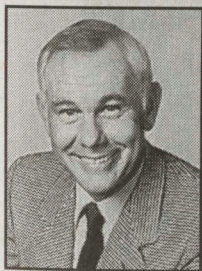


Phoenix is now the A&E editor, and hopefully we won't have any unflattering pics popping up in the future. (About the job Phoenix, my condolences.)

And I'm spent! You can Milli my Vanilli at nicho028@csusm.edu or pride@csusm.edu. Just make sure the title zings like Sally's email.

## Johnny Carson *remembered*

BY ALFRED CHU  
For The Pride



Ed McMahon's "Heeee's Johnny!" is a signature phrase for none other than the undisputed King of Late Night talk

show, Johnny Carson, who passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2005. He died peacefully surrounded by his family and friends. He had battled emphysema for many years.

On October 1, 1962, Carson was introduced as the new host for the "The Tonight Show" on the NBC network. For the next three decades, his monologues and jokes turned him into an American icon as well as one of the highest paid entertainers. Carson was nominated for an Emmy award seven times (1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1991) winning in 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1992. Also in 1992, Carson was given the Lifetime Achievement Award in Comedy and the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest honor to a civilian. Not only being one of the highest paid entertainers during his time, at one point he generated 17 percent of NBC's profit.

Not only was McMahon's catchphrase a trademark for the show, over the years, Carson developed skits that added to the routine and which fans expected to see. For example, if the audience didn't find a particular joke funny, Carson would either have a microphone lowered to him and he would say "Attention K-Mart shoppers" or start tap dancing while the band played "Tea for Two." And of course, he ended every night with a golf swing with an imaginary club.

Through his own hardships, such as three bitter divorces and his son killed in a road accident, he has still managed to keep others laughing. Many well known comedians got their start from his show. Comedians such as Jay Leno, Ellen DeGeneres, David Letterman, Steve Martin, among others all credit Carson for his generosity and expertise.

Robin Williams and Bette Midler were his final guests. Midler sang "One More For My Baby" which caused Carson to shed a tear. Although Letterman was the leading contender for the successor of Carson, the network went with Leno.

On January 24, "The Tonight Show" aired a tribute episode to Carson. Leno, along with McMahon, Bob Newhart, Don Rickles and Drew Carey expressed feelings towards their mentor.

## A Regal dupe



BY YVONNE BRETT  
Pride Staff Writer

Tuesday morning I woke up early, eagerly anticipating the announcement of this year's Oscar nominees. Most of the picks were quite predictable and fortunately I had spent the last couple of months trying to catch a film here or there so I could be ready to root for my favorites on Oscar night. I realized though, that many of the top contenders have never even played in this area, so I signed on to Sign On San Diego to try and track them down. Much to my dismay, I found out that if I wanted to see "Being Julia,"

I would have to trek down to Horton Plaza, and if I wanted to watch "Finding Neverland," I would have to drive to Poway or Temecula. "A Very Long Engagement" is in Hillcrest and "Ray" is playing in the Gaslamp.

I have to question why all three of the theatres in the general proximity of San Marcos mostly play the same movies. I remember that when the Signature Theatre was built in Escondido they promised that they would reserve one of the theatres to play "art" films. Since the Regal whale swallowed up the Signature, it has merely become a clone

Photo by Michael Dolan / The Pride of the San Marcos Theatre. Surely the Krikorian Metroplex in Vista could break out of the mold and show something different, but no, they offer the same homogenized fare as the Regal.

It is frustrating that moviegoers in North County have to brave the I-15 in order to see a film that might be out of the ordinary. The theatres around town need to wake up and realize that they need to offer a wider variety and acknowledge that people in San Marcos deserve to see these films on the big screen and not be forced to wait until they come out on DVD.



# Into uncertainty

BY BRYAN MASON  
Pride Staff Writer

At the tender age of 18, some people reading this would come to question my ability to read the culture of my generation and also the "experience" that I have in it. But it is not so much the extent of "experience" I have, as to how much I realize things in a new light after these 18 years on this planet. It seems to me that everyone is trying to reach a goal – however these people, me included, don't seem to have

the slightest idea of what that goal is.

Some of my friends are so set in their ways about what they want to do after college and their talk of all the millions they will be making makes me question what I really want. I have no clue of what I would like to do in the future and I don't know how I'm going to get there, it is just one of the many wonders in life that I like to call growing up. But these days my generation has procured a certain inamiable sense of life. Everyone just expects to procure this vast quantity of wealth and a consump-

tion of knowledge in what seems to be an instant. But I wonder is it just me that is so confused about my life that I can't seem to pull myself into one direction? Or could it be that the countless masses in college right now are thinking the same thing, and are just to obscure and frightened to reveal to themselves, that their assiduous effort has gotten them absolutely nowhere.

These people are all around us and I say welcome...welcome to what I have just learned to be the first steps out of your childhood realm where everything just fell into place. Now I see that it is not me that plans things, it is the actions of everyone that plan the pitfalls and the peaks in life that can make the most dull person, such as myself, filled with vital exuberance.

I don't regret anything I have done in my life because I know that it was all a series of events leading to the culmination of my life as an entirety – and the feelings I am realizing now of hopelessness and irrelevance are just the phase of life that leads the way until I find my true calling. The things that I have taken for granted all these years are now gone and despite the fact that I am so young I find myself clinging to what is left of my once ecstatic childhood. I know that the things that have come and gone are that of the past but something tells me there is more to life than what we see. I think that life is a culmination of moments that I get too lost in to figure out. I think the best quote about my generations' life would be by Simon and Garfunkel, "Half of the time we're gone but we don't know where," from the song "The Only Living Boy in New York." I know for a fact that I don't know what I am doing to better my life half of the time and it seems that everything has just been bunched up into a little irrelevant ball. These times reflect the exact moments when I feel that I am just doing something because society says it is the thing that has to be done. But if this is true then why am I making the final decisions, and my intuition and common sense lead me to view the finale of my life.

But this is how life is and I have to accept it just like all my peers have to accept the fact that it may be tedious and tiring but someday, just maybe we will find that childhood again and cherish what is left of it for the rest of our lives.

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# Oscar buzz

## The best movies you haven't seen yet

BY JENNIFER IANNI  
Pride Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, the time when Hollywood gathers to celebrate the year's best movies. Academy Award nominations were announced Tuesday, and as always, there were some surprises.

This year, the Academy shied away from honoring controversial films, like Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." Both films were said to have a chance at Best Picture, yet both were shut out. Instead, the Academy stuck with typical Oscar-bait, like the smaller, critically-acclaimed "Sideways," the last-minute contender "Million Dollar Baby," the ambitious biopic "Ray," the epic "The Aviator," and the family-friendly "Finding Neverland."

If the number of nominations means

anything, then "The Aviator," with 11, will be named Best Picture of the year. The number of nominations doesn't always predict the winner, however, and this year is no exception. It will be a tight race between "The Aviator," "Sideways," and "Million Dollar Baby."

In the Best Director category, it will come down to Clint Eastwood for "Million Dollar Baby" and Martin Scorsese for "The Aviator." If the Academy decides to be sentimental, then Scorsese, who's never won an Oscar, could be rewarded for his entire body of work.

The most popular man on the red carpet this year is sure to be Jamie Foxx, whose double-nominations for "Ray" and "Collateral" proves that even if you once starred in a movie called "Booty Call," you can still be nominated for Hollywood's most prestigious award.



Photos courtesy of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

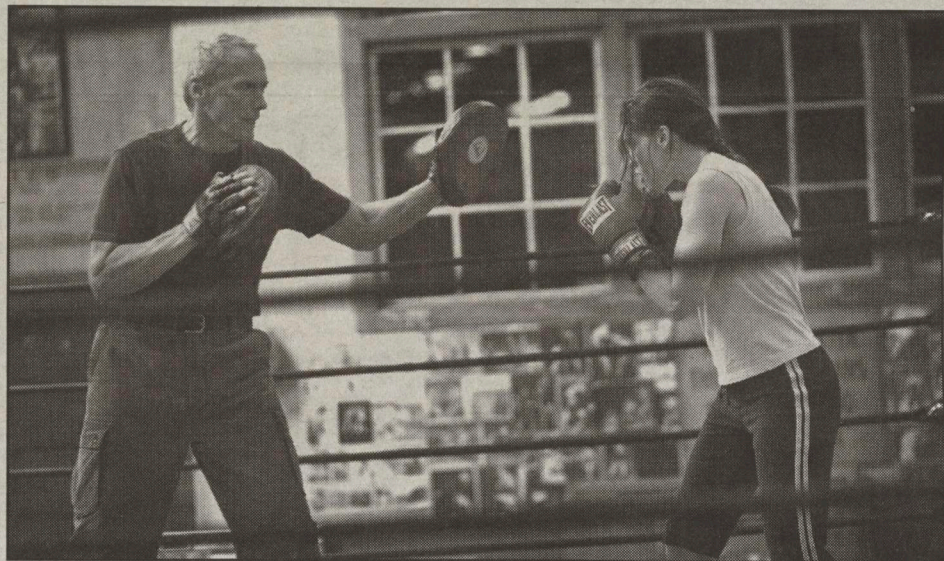
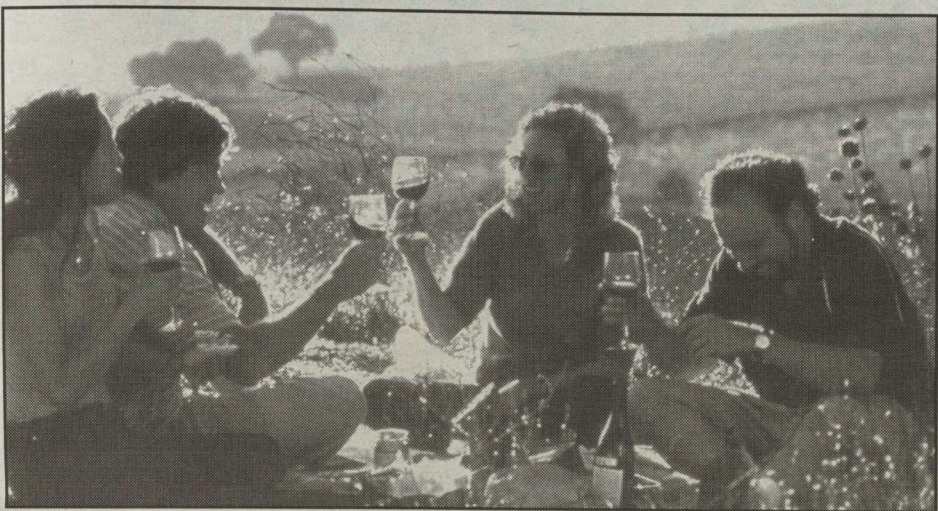
The other nominees in this category were no surprise, except for Clint Eastwood being nominated as Best Actor for "Million Dollar Baby," taking the slot that many assumed Paul Giamatti of "Sideways" would get. Don Cheadle's nomination for "Hotel Rwanda," along with his co-star Sophie Okonedo's nomination for Best Supporting Actress, will give the hard-to-sell film about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda a much-needed boost in audience. However, a win for Jamie Foxx in the Best Actor category is the closest thing this year's race has to a lock.

The Best Actress category will once again come down to Swank vs. Bening. In 2000, newcomer Hilary Swank beat veteran Annette Bening with her performance as a cross-dressing youth in "Boys Don't Cry." This year the two, both fresh off Golden Globe wins, will face off yet

again, but Bening's performance as an actress looking to revamp her career in "Being Julia" could hit closer to home for Academy voters.

There are no clear frontrunners in either of the Supporting categories. For Best Supporting Actor, the Academy could decide to honor "Sideways" by giving Thomas Haden Church the statue, or "Closer" newcomer Clive Owen, the Golden Globe winner in this category. Best Supporting Actress is a category in which the Academy typically bestows the statue on a young ingénue, so "Closer's" Natalie Portman's chances are good. However, the Academy could decide to shake things up this year, so don't count out Virginia Madsen for "Sideways" or Laura Linney for "Kinsey."

The 77th Annual Academy Awards will air on Sunday, February 27, on ABC.



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# The "Hotel" you must check into



BY HEATHER HOFFMAN  
Pride Staff Writer

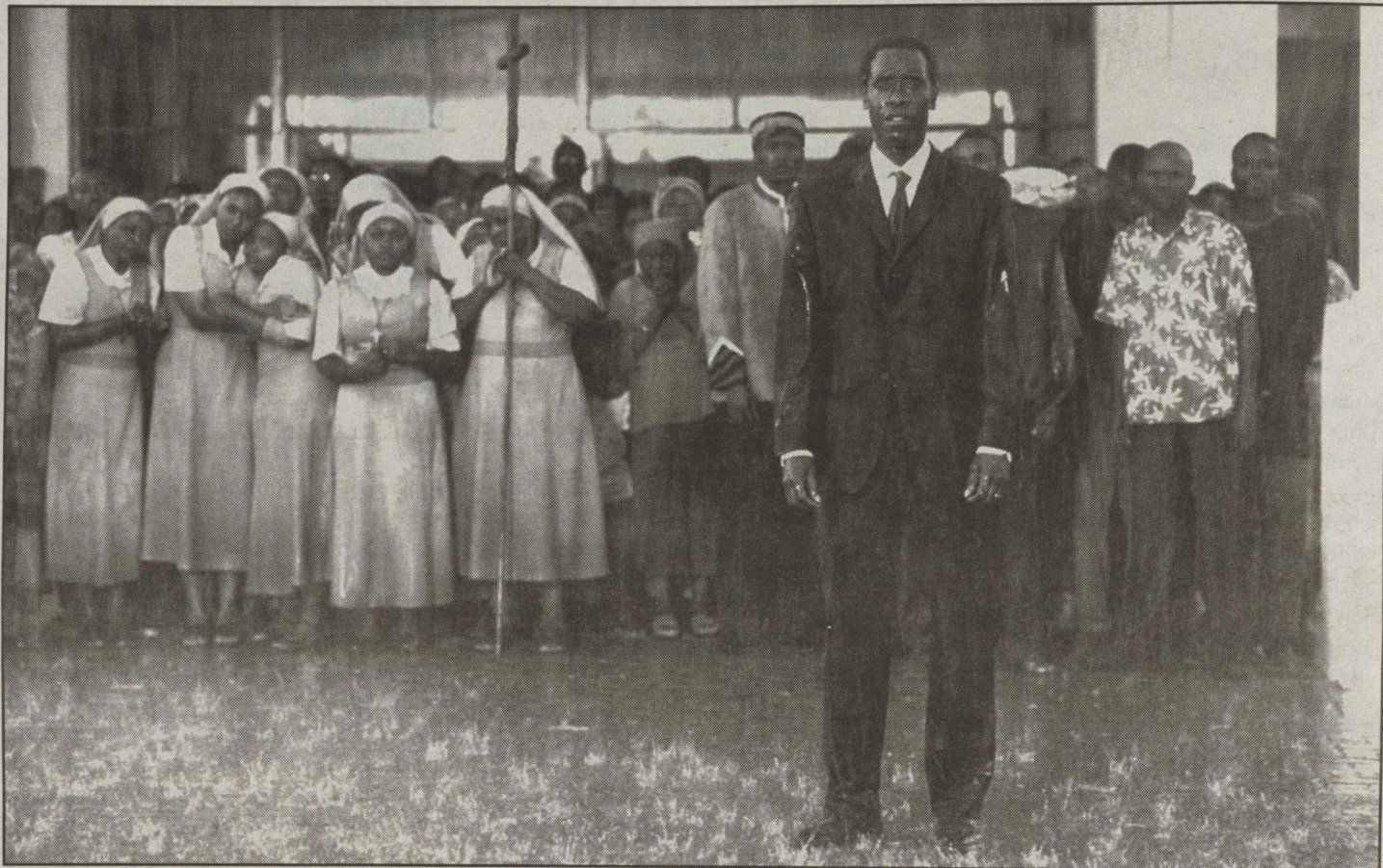
Sometimes movies make you laugh, sometimes they make you cry, but very rarely do they open your eyes and force you to look at the world differently. *Hotel Rwanda* is a movie that will change your life.

It takes place in Kigali the capital city of Rwanda in Africa, and tells the true story of a battle between the Hutu and the Tutsi that killed one million people in 100 days. These two groups had a long history of conflict which came to a climax in 1994, when Hutu extremists attempted genocide of the Tutsi people.

This movie tells the story of Paul Rusabagina (Don Cheadle) the house manager of an upscale hotel in Kigali who is also Hutu, and what he did to save peoples lives. It is an excellent record of a history that is unknown to most.

Paul's wife Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo) and their three children are the most important thing in his life, and they're Tutsi, therefore they are a target of the Hutu's hatred. Paul would do anything to protect his family from harm, making this a wonderful story about love and family as well.

When the President is assassinated, the Hutu blame the Tutsi and they begin attack-



Photos courtesy of United Artists (MGM)

ing the Tutsi and anyone who associates with them. As Tutsi are taken from their homes and murdered, Paul's Tutsi family and friends run to his house for protection, he is the only Hutu they trust.

Paul's friends and family are taken by the Hutu and are not murdered because Paul offers to pay the Hutu a large amount of money, which he has to get from the Hotel Mille Collines where he works and

has access to a lot of money.

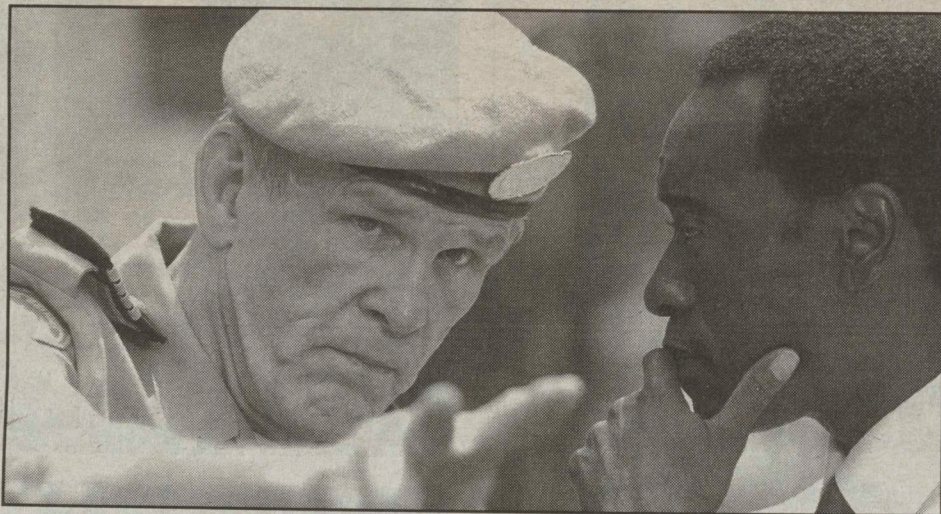
The hotel was safe and was protected by the UN because it had many prominent guests staying there. When the hotel manager leaves, Paul is given control of the entire hotel, so he hides his Tutsi friends away where they will be safe for a while. When the foreign hotel guests are given a military escort out of Rwanda, Paul is left with an unprotected hotel.

Paul uses connections he's made through his job to keep the hotel and his family safe. One of these connections is Colonel Oliver (Nick Nolte) of the UN who is very useful to Paul and does what he can to keep the hotel secure with limited resources. However it is a constant struggle for Paul to remain in control of the hotel and keep his guests safe as more and more refugees show up.

As people everywhere are being murdered, Paul steps up and does something incredible that most people would not have the courage to do. He is a hero and because of him 1268 lives were saved.

This movie is amazing. It reminds you that even in the ugliest situations beautiful things can come out of people. It is heart-warming to know that one person can take a stand and make a difference.

The struggle between the Hutu and Tutsi was largely ignored by the rest of the world. Anyone with a heart will watch this film and ask themselves WHY? Why wasn't anything done to help the situation? Why was the attempted genocide of an entire culture ignored by the world?



## 5th Element: a pearl in the bed of oyster phlegm



BY ZACHARY J. SIMON  
Pride Staff Writer

Back in the latter half of the 90s--a decade that tried to claim immortality by refusing to take a single title--under the roman-

tic dawn of new innovations in film effects, there occurred a brief, yet expectedly passionate affair between America's futurist action blockbuster and France's surrealist romance, captured by MTV and Vogue's self conscious voyeurisms.

"The Fifth Element" has just been re-released with two hours of extras for the geeks' library/shrine/wall, and a more expensive digitally enhanced version for those who need new lotion for the self-pleasure of a bigger screen (guess which one I'm holding.) Remembering that I'd liked this pearl pill in the bed of oyster phlegm, I wish now that I'd been there in the theater and there on the DVD team.

The film itself was still enjoyable enough that I actually watched the whole thing when

I'd planned to do a recap before diving into the extras. Not as many professional actors with amateur lines, but there are some close calls, some action with too much slapstick, some romance with too much action, but it stands out as a reminder that a film environment should be total, that a future world must be remade as well as expanded, and that an B+ prop still carries more emotion than an A- digital image.

Switching off widescreen would have shorthanded this film, but omitting the option is a bit underhanded, as was the potentially more valuable 'fact track' (think low budget pop-up video) which provided trivia every five seconds, then every 15, then every minute, then every 15 minutes. It would seem someone either didn't understand ration-

ing, or got lazy, as interesting facts became more often replaced by banal observations and yeah-sayings.

The extras disc cleverly divides its main features into the 'visual element' the 'star(actor) element,' etc., each with a making-of featurette narrated by the typical photojournalism dropout equipped with over-enthusiasm and bad jokes. We learn that the spiritual heroine is in reality a bit shallow, the gruff hero a bit deeper, and that lip-syncing opera is even harder as a reluctant alien.

Film tests might just seem a way to pad the package, and probably were, but the grittier aspects of filmmaking could as easily spoil the magic for some people as enhance a sense of craftsmanship. What used to help gener-

ate interest for the moviegoer can also counteract buyer's remorse in the DVD addict.

Buy the movie, great for a crowd of mixed tastes: violence but little gore, randiness but little vulgarity (there's two brief shots of the heroine's breasts but they got to keep the PG-13 rating, which seems only fair considering her supermodel's figure.) Rent the special edition to make sure you find the info really gives you a lasting illusion of being closer to the professionals.

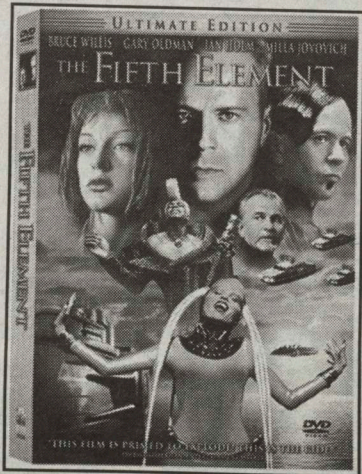


Photo courtesy of Tristar Home Video

