

ASI Election Results Summary *Spring 2005*

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Athletics Fee Referendum

Passed

Academic Freedom Forum

State senator and Stanford professor clash over the Student Bill of Rights

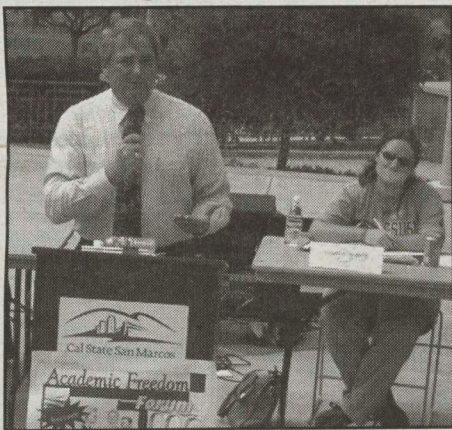


Photo by Chezare Milo / The Pride

State Senator Bill Morrow speaks in favor of SB 5, while PAN Vice President Cheyenne Barr wears tape over her mouth in protest of the bill.

BY CHEZARE MILO
Pride Staff Writer

California State Senator Bill Morrow joined Stanford Professor Dr. Graham Larkin and 6 other panelists to debate and discuss issues related to Senate Bill 5 (SB 5): The Student Bill of Rights at the Academic Freedom Forum on March 23.

Nearly 200 students, faculty, media and community members gathered in the Mezzanine Plaza from 12:30-2:30 p.m. to watch and participate. Some had signs of support while others wore tape over their mouths in protest of SB 5.

Senator Morrow took the podium and said that he was given some poor grades in college because he didn't believe in a par-

ticular professor's ideology. He said this experience inspired him to sponsor SB 5 some 30 years later to prevent other students from having the same problem.

Morrow said that there were "hundreds" of similar cases in publicly funded colleges in California whose experiences made his, "look like a walk in the park."

"I believe that academic freedom is important enough that it should be codified, and indeed senate bill 5 does that," said Morrow.

Senator Morrow read selected excerpts from SB 5, outlining what he called the "five principles of the academic bill of rights." Morrow said that he, "simply could not find the controversy" in the five principles that comprise the bill.

Stanford Professor, Dr. Graham Larkin, took the podium after Morrow and spoke in opposition to SB 5.

He said he was sympathetic to preventing professors from getting out of line and said that universities should, "always take action accordingly," but that he doesn't think, "adding legislation is the answer".

"About 95% of the bill (SB 5) sounds

perfectly reasonable," said Larkin.

Larkin said that the other parts of the bill are personally disturbing, are a threat to his livelihood as a college professor, and would open up professors to frivolous lawsuits.

He said that the bill was designed to make the public falsely believe, "that there is a rampant problem of ideological indoctrination on American campuses and to suggest that the problem isn't addressed by existing legislation."

Citing what he said was dangerously ambiguous wording in the bill Larkin read a portion of SB 5, "Teachers should not take unfair advantage of a student's immaturity by indoctrinating him or her with the teacher's own opinions before a student has had an opportunity fairly to examine other opinion upon the matter in question."

Larkin said he felt there were problems with this reference to student immaturity in the bill saying that, "by definition (college students) are smart and well educated,"

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Professors team up for Oaxacan medicine and culture exhibit

BY YVONNE BRETT
Pride Staff Writer

California State University San Marcos professors Bonnie Bade and Deborah Small have combined their expertise in order to create an exhibition focusing on the medicinal concepts and practices of indigenous Oaxacan communities living in both California and Mexico.

The "Medicina Mixteca" collaboration will open on Sunday, April 10 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. guests will be able to explore the exhibit, as well as enjoy traditional music, dance and food from local Oaxacans.

The band, "Xiuxla," and dance groups, "Rubios" and "Danza de la Pluma" will perform. Hands-on activities will be provided by the Escondido Children's Museum, and traditional Oaxacan food will be served.

A video will premiere, featuring the voice and guitar of CSUSM's Eduardo

Garcia, and President Haynes is scheduled to speak at the festivities.

"Oaxacalifornians" is the term used to describe the hundreds of thousands of native people who have left their homes in Mexico and migrated to California in order to make a living. With the help of the Coalition of Indigenous Oaxacan Communities and other groups, Bade and Small were able to photograph and document the connections between the communities in California and Oaxaca.

"This has been a unique collaboration between a visual artist and an anthropologist that has brought together art and anthropology students, as well as the indigenous Oaxacan community," said Bade.

The exhibit focuses on various aspects of Mixtec Medicine, including the causes of illness, diagnoses, treatments, use of medicinal plants, and the relationship of the medical practitioner to the community. Bade and Small give credit for much of the work to Don Primo Dominguez of Juxtlahuaca, a Mixtec Healer, who spent fifteen



Photo by Yvonne Brett / The Pride

years on the ethnographic research.

The exhibit takes a look at contemporary activities and pairs them up with events that took place over 1000 years ago. Images reproduced from seven surviving ancient books illustrate the continuity of history and underscore the importance of documenting it.

"The practice of working with a historical archive is important because it helps

give people a perspective on their own past," said Small.

For the last 14 years Deborah Small has been Professor of Visual and Performing Arts at CSUSM. Bonnie Bade has been an Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology at CSUSM for the last 11 years. They have been collaborating on the proj-

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The Pride

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adding that the vast majority had legal rights and responsibilities as citizens such as the right to vote or join the army.

Larkin said he felt the bill would create a double standard because it would mandate that professors' speech be strictly regulated while others such as journalists or, "politicians like Senator Morrow get to keep their first

amendment rights intact."

"Who exactly is to say where we should draw the line between a professor's opinion and unadorned facts.... and once these unspecified arbiters have made that distinction how are they going to implement the promotion of objective instruction and the suppression of partisan indoctrination?" Larkin asked Morrow.



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Morrow responded to criticisms of the bill by saying, "I can amend the bill at any time," and told the crowd to, "rest easy.... that (contested) language is going to be gone."

Morrow said that criticisms of SB 5 that maintain the bill will require hateful or fringe ideological perspectives to be offered for contrast were unfounded.

"No where in this bill do you see that there is a requirement to give equal time to any fringe, whacko, off-the-wall fairy that comes in," said Morrow

Morrow said that implementation of the bill would happen at the university level and that the decisions would be made by the faculty of the particular university.

CSUSM Dean of Students Jonathan Poullard discussed the current student grievance policy at CSUSM and said that, "95 percent of the time (disputes) are handled informally."

PAN Vice President of External

Affairs Cheyenne Barr said she was concerned that SB 5 would force teachers to "teach the bad things about racism and the good things about racism...they would be teaching biology and evolution and direct to creationism."

Barr said that if SB 5 goes in to effect the class it would be, "tearing apart the classroom."

Executive Director of the College Republicans Nick Bonomi said that there weren't multiple sides to every subject, and that the bill wouldn't require the type of pluralism critics claim. Bonomi suggested ASI should get involved and develop a procedure for students with grade/instructor grievances.

"ASI could investigate to help the student, ASI actually doing something for the students for once," said Bonomi.

The full text of SB 5 can be found at: [http://studentsforacademic-freedom.org/actions\(boxatop\)/CaliforniaPage/CAsenatebill05.htm](http://studentsforacademic-freedom.org/actions(boxatop)/CaliforniaPage/CAsenatebill05.htm).

MIXTECA, from page 1

ect since 1998 and have relied heavily on student participation to get the exhibition ready for the public.

"We are really thrilled to involve the students in both the research and the installation," said Bade. "Some of the students even enlisted the help of their spouses in creating the project."

CSUSM students and spouses who have contributed many hours toward the project are: Carmelino Cruz, Wendy Baez, Konane Martinez, Josh Walker, Brian

Fisher, Ruben Martinez, Susan Cratty, Brenda Manning, Matt Blackwell, Alejandrina Ricardez, Renee White Eyes, Jennifer Dong and Albert Rascon.

The project will remain on display at the museum until July 4. Admission to the museum will be free on April 10 and also on the first Wednesday of every month. General admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. The California Center for the Arts is located at 340 N. Escondido Blvd. in Escondido and is closed on Mondays.

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Everybody loves a good cox



BY JOELLE M. FRANKEL
Pride Staff Writer

While my fellow students lie asleep in their beds, before the sun has risen, I meet up with eight big, meaty guys and yell at the top of my lungs, "Stroke!" "Harder!" "Drive it in!" and "That's right, long and strong!" Don't be fooled by my naughty language—it's my job—I'm a coxswain.

For the past two years I have been mastering the art of being a coxswain (cox for short). I steer the boat, correct rowing technique, provide motivation and encouragement, and let my boat know where we are with reference to other boats and the finish line during races.

Since we don't have a rowing program at Cal State San Marcos, I cox for the San Diego Rowing Club at Mission Bay. The program is very competitive; six of the rowers in my boat were Olympic Athletes, and we travel all over the world racing against other programs.

Most people associate rowing with having very strong arms but the majority of a rower's strength comes from their legs. The seats slide on a track with wheels, and rowers use their powerful legs and core strength to move the boat.

Rowing is truly an orgasmic sport...pun intended. Nothing compares to being neck and neck on the race course, amidst the elements, staring down the coxswain in the next lane over, and motivating your rowers to fly past the competition and win the gold medal. After all, only first place counts in rowing—there's only one medal to be earned per race—and boy does it feel good to get it!

Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3 was the San Diego Crew Classic at Mission Bay. Crew Classic is a huge regatta (race) with competitors from all over the west coast.

The race course is 2000 meters and the seven lane course is marked by buoys of different colors. Strong winds, usually coming in from port side, make this race both challenging and exciting for coxswains, rowers, and spectators alike. The course can be particularly hairy at the starting line, where coxswains need to back their racing shells into stake boats with very strong cross winds making for a difficult start.

Photo by Joelle M. Frankel / The Pride

This past weekend, I coxed three different racing shells down the course. All of our races were very competitive but my most exciting race took place on Sunday at 9:20 a.m. This grand finale provided some stiff competition. We were up against stacked boats of Olympic athletes.

We were fighting for second place all the way to the 1500 meter mark, when Marin made a big move for the finish and we fell slightly behind. In the end, we took third place, but we were happy with our performance and I steered a good course.

I would have gotten really wet if we'd won first place! Come on now; get your minds out of the gutter. That's because, as tradition dictates, coxswains of first place boats get thrown into the water by their crew.

Seeing coxswains get thrown into the water and watching races is only a small part of the enjoyment that a regatta provides. Going to regattas can also be a great way to meet men. When else can you watch burly athletes walk around in spandex? And girls, isn't it nice to be familiar with your prize before you get it home?

Any students interested in checking out rowing or coxing should visit the San Diego Rowing Club Website at www.sdrc-row.org. This sport has changed my life and made me a more dedicated person, student and athlete. After all, everybody loves a good cox!

Rocky relief

BY JULIE OXFORD
Pride Staff Writer

The end of the semester is so near you can taste it. But you are still here, wading amongst the numerous deadlines which keep you awake at night. If you're looking for a way to relieve some stress, and maybe get your mind to stop and focus for a minute, I have one thing to say to you: go climb a rock.

Five minutes away from this campus, at 992 Rancheros Dr., is a place called Solid Rock Gym. It is an indoor rock climbing gym, one of three in San Diego. It is the place to go if you want to quiet your mind and reengage your body.

When you are balanced on two footholds and holding on with all your strength to two handholds, trying not to fall off the side of a wall, it is hard to think about that paper that is due next week that you haven't started writing yet. And when you begin to feel the burn in muscles you didn't even know you had you almost forget that you have to go to class in two hours. And most importantly, when you finally master the incline on the traverse you've been climbing for weeks you realize that there is nothing you can't do and that research paper no longer seems so daunting.

There are two types of rock climbing: ascent climbing (which includes top-roping and lead climbing) and bouldering.

Ascent climbing is climbing vertically and requires a harness, anchors and a belayer (a partner to take up slack on the rope as you climb upward).

Bouldering is climbing close to the ground; either on short vertical routes or longer horizontal traverses. The appeal of bouldering is that all you need is climbing shoes and a chalk bag. There are no harnesses, ropes or anchors involved.

Every Wednesday, with a valid college id, you can climb for \$10 if you have your own



Photo by Julie Oxford / The Pride

equipment and for \$12 if you need to rent it. The first time you go the staff offers a free introductory lesson. Don't be embarrassed to ask lots of questions. The employees are very knowledgeable and very nice.

I recommend that the first time you go you rent only shoes and a chalk bag and get the free lesson on bouldering. Start with the bouldering, it is the essence of climbing—just you and the rock. It is the best way to improve your balance, strength and flexibility.


Plan on buying your own shoes soon after you start because you are going to want to start climbing a lot and you'll want shoes that fit well. Good shoes can cost anywhere from \$50-\$150 dollars and they are well worth the money.

The gym is a great place to learn and a great place to train

in the off season. But soon you will want to go outside and climb real rocks. Lucky for you it's climbing season and Joshua Tree is only two hours away. There are also plenty of great climbing spots in and around San Diego County. Ask the employees at Solid Rock about where to climb or go pick up a book at REI, Adventure 16 or Nomad Ventures.

But whether you become an avid climber or a once in a while adventurer I promise it will help to relieve some stress and give you a new perspective of just what you are capable of.

To get to Solid Rock exit the 78 freeway at Barham Dr/ Woodland Pkwy, once you are on Woodland Pkwy go east on Rancheros. For more information and locations look online at www.solidrockgym.com or call 760-480-1429.



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In search of "The Disappeared" women of Juarez

BY MATTHEW SCHRAMM
Pride Staff Writer

Over 400 women raped and murdered, 1,000 missing, and the numbers continue to rise in the northern Mexican province of Chihuahua. The atrocities were vividly outlined in a packed room at the Clarke Fieldhouse, on the evening of Tuesday, March 22.

Entitled "The Disappeared," the event, part of Women's History Month at CSUSM, was a chilling realization to those who had yet to hear about the events in Mexico and a forum for those actively working to change the situation.

Following a brief introduction by CSUSM sophomore Nancy Martinez-Molano, the audience heard the first-hand account of Patricia Cervantes, whose daughter, Neyra Cervantes, has become a victim. After leaving for work one day, 20-year-old Neyra Cervantes never returned home and after investigation by local police in Chihuahua City, she was found raped and murdered. The cousin of Neyra Cervantes, David Argueta, was quickly arrested and tortured into confessing to the crime.

Patricia Cervantes is now traveling California in hopes of gaining support and putting political

pressure on the Mexican government to release her nephew for a crime she says he didn't commit. Translated into English as she spoke, Patricia Cervantes noted that by speaking out the Mexican government "is beginning to do its job."

Many families in Mexico share similar stories. Mexican authorities have been slow to admit to the situation. Activists and families who speak out often find their lives in danger. Much of the blame for the murders has been laid at the feet of the police in northern Mexico who if not involved in the murders themselves have been at least uncooperative in finding the real killers.

Drug runners have also been fingered out, and reportedly celebrate successful border runs by kidnapping raping, and then brutally beating and executing young women, leaving their bodies in the desert. Serial killers from the United States have also been linked to the crimes, apparently noting the ease with which they can murder in Mexico.

The situation has grown steadily worse since 1993, when prompted by new trade agreements under NAFTA, thousands of migrant workers began immigrating north towards the Mexican border, creating an environ-


ment of poor migrant women that have become easy targets for assailants.


Much of the controversy has been centered on Ciudad Juarez in Chihuahua, where many of the murders have occurred. Situated directly across from the Texas town of El Paso, only the muddy waters of the Rio Grande separate the murders from U.S. soil.

The over two-hour long event was closed by Sandra Bello, a young photographer from Tijuana who added a strong visual to the presentation. Bello, who is attempting to bring attention to the situation, has launched a campaign using t-shirts. Sporting a black cross and fist, the shirt design was inspired by a similar cross-painted on a northern Mexican lamppost in protest and remembrance. We're turning "t-shirts into flags," said Bello as she showed pictures of a diverse group of people wearing the shirts. Like Patricia Cervantes, Bello has been traveling both in the U.S. and Mexico on a mission to bring awareness and change.

The feeling in the room went beyond sadness to one of action and urgency. It was "just overpowering," said CSUSM student Margaret O'Connell, "the story Patricia [Cervantes] told made me want to get involved."

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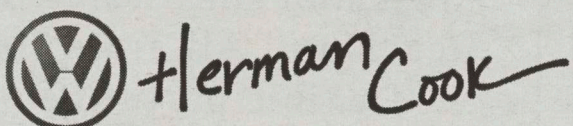
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OMBUDSMAN'S *notes*

By JASON NICHOLS
Pride Ombudsman



This one's not funny.

This is an apology. This is my penance.

An apology to Athletics Director Steve Nichols.

(Nice guy, in great shape.)

An apology to you, the Readers.

I'm sorry.

I failed to do my job. I compromised my principles, my integrity, and my loyalty to you.

You've seen the recent hubbub concerning the Athletics fee.

Athletics Director Steve Nichols (Dr. Nichols) joined me in challenging the article Phoenix wrote about the "Pride denied ballot access." Phoenix felt the need to defend her article, and wrote an editorial in response. Patrick B. Long wrote "CSUSM far from NCAA." Both appeared in the Corrections and Clarification of the last paper. (Just before you went off to party hearty Marty.)

The editorial made comments about Athletics Director Nichols

that have been defended by this paper as "proffered as rhetorical argumentation utilizing the trope of hyperbole." The 'news' article "CSUSM far from NCAA" had some corrections on its 'facts.'

And that was the extent of wrongdoing admitted by this paper.

What a crock of S@#%!

This paper was turned into a means of settling scores.

The Athletics fee made it on the ballot, but the Pride fee didn't.

So, our Editors-in-chief Elizabeth Baldwin and Michael Dolan wanted to be heard and tasked Phoenix with writing a 'news' article where the two Editors-in-chief were interviewed, and by answering the questions posed, were able to take issue with the "Pride denied ballot access" and the article ended by taking stabs at the Athletics fee.

Things didn't end there.

After Athletics Director Nichols sent in his Letter to the Editor taking issue with the article, and I joined him in the attack, we got a one-two punch of Phoenix's editorial in response and Patrick's 'news' article in the next publication of the Pride.

The truth.

I was asked to write the article Patrick wrote. The weekend before that issue of the Pride was published, I contacted the Pride office to inform them my Ombudsman column was on its way.

I spoke with Elizabeth Baldwin and in that discussion I suggested a means to rebut the comments made by Athletics Director Nichols.

I suggested that we make an apology for the errors pointed out by Dr. Nichols' Letter to the Editor, but we should list the numbers. I was convinced that if the Readers knew the numbers involved, we wouldn't approve the fee.

I'd like to say that I just wanted the Readers to be informed, but that'd be a lie.

I didn't approve of the fee, I still don't. But, I should never have gotten involved beyond my little gray box.

I was asked by Elizabeth to write the article. I declined, due to a conflict with my role as Reader's Rep, Ombudsman, whatever. I did, however, write up an example of what I was suggesting and emailed it to the Pride office.

That's what I'm sorry for. I made it personal. I was willing

to use the Pride as a means to settle an agenda. I was wrong. For that, I am very sorry.

When Tuesday came round that week, I grabbed my copy of the Pride. On the front was Patrick's "CSUSM far from NCAA." I knew that Patrick took the job I declined. I knew that article came from my discussion with Elizabeth. I don't fault Patrick. He's always struck me as a decent guy. I don't believe he knew the whole story.

As for our Editors-in-chief and Phoenix:

Wednesday night I got an email from Dr. Nichols.

He wrote some nice things about me, but I'll get to his point, "In her article, Phoenix made some very damaging allegations of a personal nature against me." Then, he used the word "libelous."

Dr. Nichols hoped to set up a meeting with the Editors and myself. The meeting took place between Editors-in-chief Elizabeth Baldwin and Michael Dolan, and Pride Advisor Jennifer Woodring. I met with Dr. Nichols later that week.

I had hoped and still do, that Michael Dolan, and especially Elizabeth Baldwin would do

what I'm doing now.

To admit fault. To apologize. To tell the whole story to you, the Readers.

That's really all Dr. Nichols wanted.

I especially hoped Elizabeth would come forward. She's been the Editor-in-chief in charge for all three of the articles attacking the Athletics fee and Dr. Nichols. But, that word "libelous" has been the means to justify doing the bare minimum for fear of legal action, in the guise of Corrections and Clarification. A clarification that was anything but clear.

Pride is not the name I'd give this paper at this point.

And now, I'll do what others are unwilling. I submit myself to your judgment.

If you, the Readers tell me to "step down," I will.

Derek Heid will be the first at bat next week as the potential Ombudsman for next semester. He'll tell you the results. I can be judged at nicho028@csusm.edu

With Sincere Apologies,

Jason Nichols

Women's history not to be forgotten

BY JARED PETERSON
Pride Staff Writer

Now that Women's History month has come to a close any thoughts we have had about the role that women have played in history slip from our minds. Some reading this might be thinking, "I didn't even know that March was Women's History Month." Well, it was and I would like to write one more article about women. Not about women of the past, but about those that we live amongst today.

I've been thinking about how much they deserve our respect. I'm a married CSUSM student and my wife recently went out of town for a couple of weeks to visit her family. While she was away I began to realize how much I take her for granted. Her name is Stephanie and she's the best.

I forget sometimes about how many burdens my wife and modern women in general take upon themselves. Society places more and more pressure on women to take on an increasing number of responsibilities. I don't want to go into all the reasons why this is, I just want to recognize that they are rising to the challenges and doing great things in the world.

Arthurian legend tells how the Knights of the Round Table were inspired to be courageous in battle because of their love for a woman. All of us today have a woman in our life that has inspired us to be courageous. Take a moment out of your day and go thank that woman. Tell her that you're wishing her a happy belated Women's History Month and thank her for the difference they have made in the history of your life.



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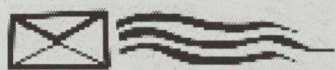
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Pride,
I was pleased to see so many students at the academic freedom forum. This was a forum that was heated, civil, and at times out of hand, but continued to show how polarized our country and campus is. Even though I am a liberal, even though I'm a feminist, and even though I'm a hardcore believer in progressive issues, I am comfortable saying that you conservatives have a point when it comes to "academic bias." There is a load of professors at this and many universities that are left of the spectrum. They have their own views as it relates to their disciplines. My fellow professors in my major have very strong points of views on women's rights and to some it may appear to be "bias." What

we argue is that some disciplines can not be taught any other way. SB5 wants to create an environment for learning that is "fair and balanced." I don't have a problem with that, as long as "fairness and balanced" is not like Fox news. In fact, the more views a class has, the better the debate it creates. This forces students to think critically and become greater learners. I personally am horrible articulating a view I do not hold; thus, when there is an alternative voice, it creates a constructive level of dissent to help students really think about the concepts we learn within our disciplines. We like to throw around the meaning word bias as means of defining a class that is one sided. But bias means "to influence in a particular, typically in an unfair direction." I believe

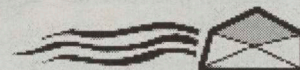
that most, if not all teachers are not "bias" but they teach subject in a one sided way.

The problem I have with SB5 is that it only affects liberal majors. It is a direct attack on one of the last institutions that hasn't been indoctrinated by conservatives. I am no more biased than my friend Nick Bonomi. As Cheyenne Barr so eloquently put it "we just see things though a different lenses." But for the conservatives to charge that there is no academic bias, as they define it, in the economics department or the college of business is outrageous. I believe economics is taught in a very one sided way. To make women's studies or sociology "fair and balanced" on the terms Mr. Morrow would like, is equivalent to economics teachers

teaching communism along with capitalism. We must show "all views." It was stated in the debate that economics has no biases, "its just math." I personally would advocate changing the class name from Econ 201 to Capitalism 101 to reflect its real teachings.

I also heard complaints from students that say if they spoke out in class they would be marked down and failed. The first thing I would say is that there already is a system for that. By the end of the debate I got the feeling that you conservatives had a bigger problem than disagreement. In the debate you all used tactics of intimidation and disrespect towards the speakers who do not agree with you all. I have seen that also used by some conservative students who "speak out in class." Who are you to say the teacher

is being an "indoctrinator"? As far as I'm concerned, if you are disagreeing in a respectful manner and encouraging debate on the basis of an issue that is one thing. However, if you make derogatory comments, use tactics of intimidation, march off and slam the door, throw fits in class as a means of arguments and even make treats toward teachers... Well let me just say that's "immature" and it won't get you far in life. So, if you all want to pass legislation that goes after majors who are liberal, you must apply the same to conservative majors. Then you can go on and fairly preach your doctrine of "fair and balance." Felipe Robinson Zañartu
Women's Studies Major
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Just the way sissies and snobs prefer



BY ZACHARY J. SIMON
Pride Staff Writer

Shakespeare is for snobs and sissies and people who read books.

Alas, there's no escaping the modern conundrum--as modern now as it was a hundred and a thousand years ago--that elevated speech often makes for an alienated listener.

For better or worse, by any theater, "King Lear" is not the play to change the mass's consensus that the greatest plays of the English language would be a lot better if performed English.

Known across many other languages as one of the most enduring of the Bard's (what the aforementioned people will call him) works, it is also acknowledged as one of the most difficult, to perform as well as preserve. Through much of the nineteenth and some of the twentieth century the play was altered to include less bawdiness and a happier ending. Presented in its original entirety by the San Diego Repertory at Horton Plaza's Lyceum, the most offensive and depressing aspects can hardly be blamed on the author, who was (we somehow need scholars to confirm) 'quite a character.'

From the onset the stage is just under par for recreated nature... on a Disneyland ride. The use of half a dozen large sliding doors--built to resemble imposing castle gates--adds a nice feudal tone, but the external praises end there. Attempting to



Photo courtesy of The San Diego Rep.

mix ancient and modern aesthetics, the costumes range from convoluted to goofy, and the soundtrack (excepting a scene guided along by a walk-on's live flute) is slobbered out by a second rate elevator synthesizer. Casting is a tricky one to critique--as 'the best with what you've got' is your more often than not--but the first rate performers are just enough so to show the second-raters for what they are.

Not that a grand TV-to-theater crossover can be hoped for, ever, but if you enjoyed Quark on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," Armin Shimerman plays the oft-coveted role of 'fool,' and proves himself a gifted actor, rather than another beset by drama class nostalgia. Sam Woodhouse is very good, for the part, and for a Shakespearean actor, particularly if you wish to have your reservations kept. He'll be as much a Lear as any Shakespeare-lover could ask for in San Diego, but a big hammy Santa Claus to factory farmed sitcom stock.

Even if you can't handle drama that doesn't come from a toughish cop or a whorish talk show host, try reading "King Lear," then go and listen more closely than you watch; let the imposingly better language become a symphony rather than a rain of puzzle pieces; let eloquence be absorbed rather than clutched at. If nothing else, watch "Titus" with Anthony Hopkins to see modernized Shakespeare done right and well enough to earn the Bard at least a second chance.

"King Lear" plays through April 17, with a handy and necessary student discount. More information is available at sandiegorep.com.

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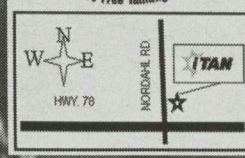
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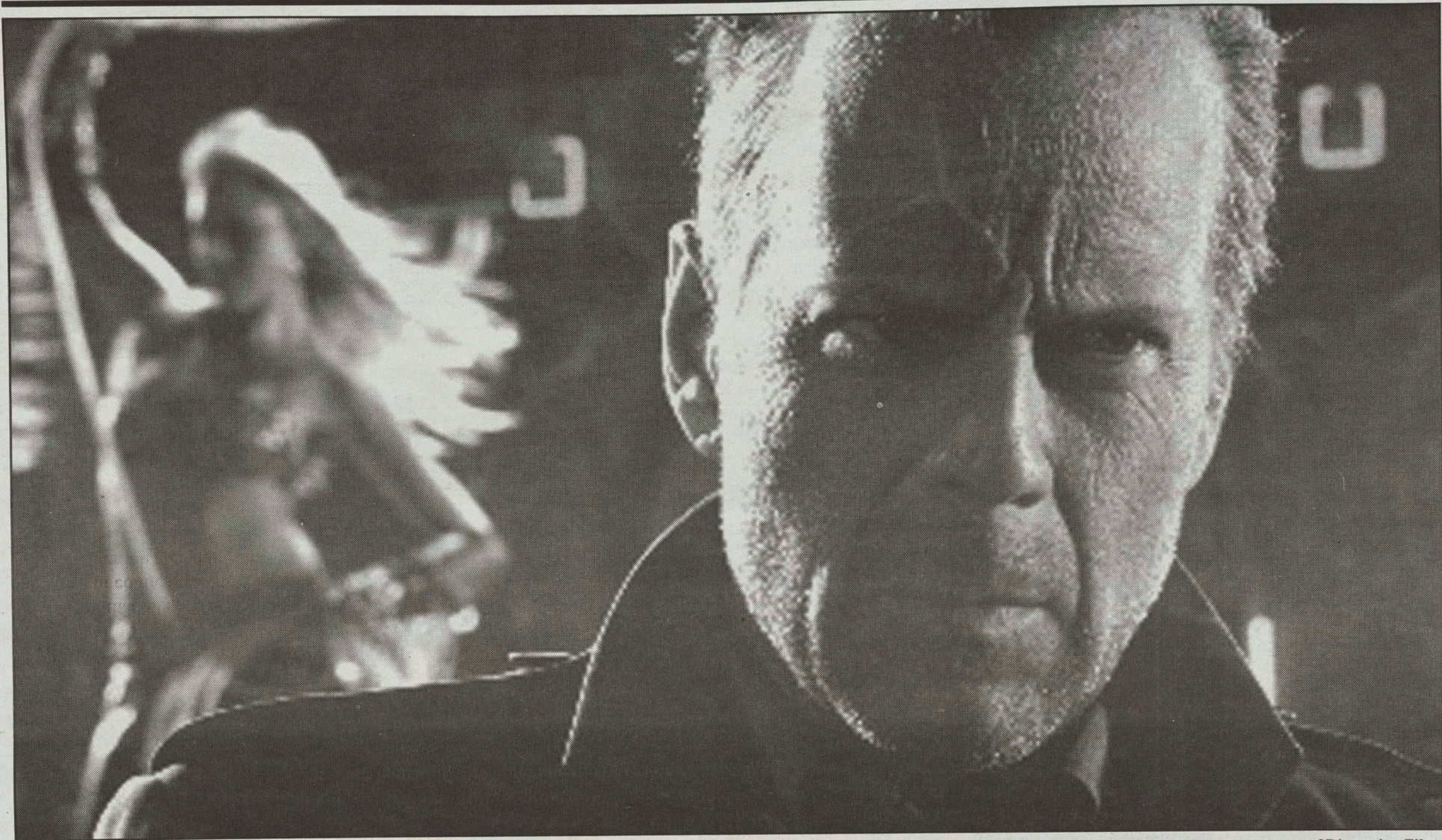
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Images courtesy of Dimension Films

BY ZACHARY J. SIMON
Pride Staff Writer



Sin City is sleazy and cheesy and worth every penny.

Try as mediocre actors and bad writers may, big-budget action will never have the impact of hyper-style violence. Sure, there's the classic prevalence of incredibly bad shots and durable bodies, but the grit-gristle intimacy of glory-gore makes this a film to be held for dear life rather than imitated to death. Sure, like too many comics, its lines are jerked by melodrama--the fermented testosterone bane of every muscle flick. Yet such complaints quickly become moot as macho fifties noir inner (and often outer) monologue becomes as much an element of style as bleeding fluorescent whiteout.

It's all about honoring the original art, baby, and this is a real juicy piece of honor. "Official Director" Robert Rodriguez was kicked out of the guild for working so closely with the creator, Frank Miller, (then actually giving him credit for it), but the end result is better than anything since "Kill Bill." Small wonder Quentin Tarantino didn't turn down a spot as a "Guest Director;" the more Hollywood realizes the talent of comic creators the closer he'll be to another job at a video store.

Not that a great look doesn't usually enable mediocre performances, and not that Frank Miller's cameo doesn't prove most screen actors overrated, but a few did give more than could have been had by those with cheaper agents, or more love for the series. It might be too disturbing to see sweet little Gilmore girl Lorelai as a prostitute, or too disappointing that she does nothing dirtier than talk of what she's seen. A nineteen-year-old Maxim stock coming onto a sixty-ish Bruce Willis would be silly, if its story context were not already exaggerated to perfection. Basin City's scantily, no, scandalously, no, fantastically clad working women take care of their own, hold up under mild torture, and twist something metal into both outdated and newfangled gender concepts. The bare breast shots can be counted on one hand, but are so lovingly sculpted into the encompassing imagery that the other hand can stay in your popcorn.

And if you think that analysis was vulgar, if you can't even stand the thought of blood in any shade: see it anyway. The point of a violent movie is that it's a violent MOVIE, an artificial reality, a catharsis, an aesthetic exercise, not a means of

"Sin City" sizzles



desensitization. To clarify: see this movie, if you're 18, as this one earns its R rather than extorting its PG-13. Just the same, it might be best not to eat before hand...Sin

City gives you two hours entirely of what we're used to seeing for only one total, and gleeful shock can be hard on a tightening bladder.

"Desperate Housewives" spice up late night TV

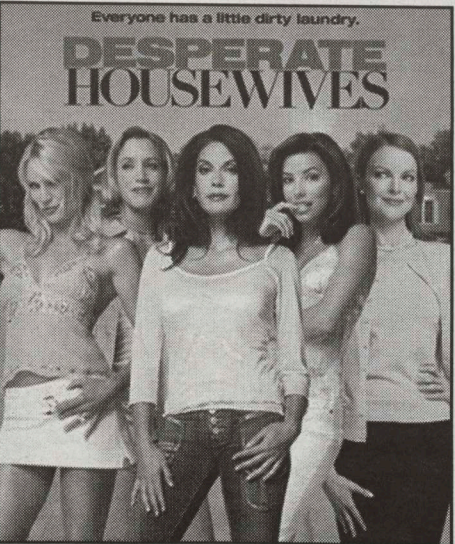


Image courtesy of ABC

BY HEATHER HOFFMANN
Pride Staff Writer

Gone are the days of June Cleaver: the housewife has been reinvented.

The new housewife is beautiful, sexy, smart and desperate.

ABC's hit show "Desperate Housewives" is making everyone change the way they think about housewives and forcing people to rethink the meaning of desperate.

The show tells the stories of the residents of Wisteria Lane. It uses drama, mystery, and comedy to show the lives of suburban housewives.

It is narrated from beyond by Mary Alice (Brenda Strong) who committed

suicide in the premier episode. Mary Alice's death is a mystery that still hasn't been solved, but her narration provides a unique perspective into the lives of her friends and neighbors.

All the characters on the show are desperate for different reasons and that's what makes them so relatable.

Susan (Teri Hatcher), Lynette (Felicity Huffman), Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) and Bree (Marcia Cross) are the friends Mary Alice left behind. Each week they find themselves in extreme situations and rely on each other for help.

Eddie (Nicolette Sheridan) is the neighbor that the other women tolerate, but isn't exactly part of their group. She likes to stir up trouble and has no problem using her sexuality to get what she wants. She is the woman all women despise.

All of the women have men troubles. Lynette's husband works too much. Gabrielle's husband is on house arrest. Bree's husband is unfaithful. Eddie has sex, not

relationships. Susan's boyfriend Mike killed a man.

When the women aren't trying to fix their men's problems and solve their own, they're trying to figure out who murdered Mrs. Huber and the mystery surrounding Mary Alice's suicide.

A common theme runs throughout the show and that's happiness. All of the women are unhappy with some aspect of their lives and trying to figure out what went wrong. The characters all want happiness but so far haven't figured out how to get it.

The cast of this show is beautiful. The women are sexy and the men are hot. The acting is excellent and the sets are appealing.

"Desperate Housewives" has been on a mid-season break but is back now with six new episodes in a row.

Desperate Housewives airs Sundays at 9:00 p.m. on channel 10.