

# The Summit

May 17 2012 Volume 36 Nº 4



Literary Arts on Campus  
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*Author Tim O'Brien lecturing in Griffin Gate is shown within a design element of the logo of the 16th Annual Literary Art Festival*

## Student Art Exhibit

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G R O S S M O N T  
C O L L E G E

# Marcus Pickett advocates looking the part

By Dylan Burke & Barbara Boyd  
News Editor General Assignment

Have you seen a man on campus wearing an all-white tuxedo lately? If you have, then you saw Marcus Pickett. He says people who want to be successful should always look the part.

Pickett is a Grossmont College student majoring in psychology. He grew up in Pompano, Florida, with a younger brother and sister. He will be the first of his family to receive a college degree.

Pickett is involved in several activities including a non-profit organization that he is president of called Nothing But Love; an organization called First Tee, which he has been a member of for a



Marcus Pickett

few years as a professional golfer; and another group that meets to study the Bible.

As a professional golfer he has had the opportunity to travel and meet such famous people as golfer Tiger Woods and rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.

As a youngster, he was featured in "The First Tee" commercial with Jack Nicklaus. "I was picked from 30 other kids for the commercial spot."

Pickett's mom died when he was just 15 and he never got to know his father. Pickett's aunt was his legal guardian, but he says she never treated him and his siblings like she did her own children. He said he was left to look after himself and his younger brother and sister.

At 21 years old Marcus has traveled to Los Angeles, Indiana, Jacksonville, and Atlanta. He said he realized that in order to get out of the "stereotypical box" that often confines African American men, he had to stand out.

In November of 2011 Pickett started his "look the part" movement. He started with a test run of simple dress suits and in February, Marcus upgraded to his signature all-white tuxedos. With more than 20 tuxedos Pickett's motto is "it costs to be the boss."

Pickett says he has lived his life on seven words: trust, responsibility, integrity, love, good judgment, and reliability.

## Health Fair featured some alternative treatments

By Matt Quijas  
Editor

Do people needle you about your smoking?

Karie Rust-Wise, a registered acupuncturist, told Grossmont College students that quitting smoking can be as easy as, well, getting needled.

Scared of needles? No worries. She said you really do not feel anything because of how small the needles actually are.

Rust-Wise was among the health care providers on campus for the April 18 Health Fair.

She said that during anti-smoking therapy, she inserts five small

needles along the ear's rim, and a few other needles in other parts of the body to release stress. "The treatment costs \$45 and is recommended 2-3 times per week," she said. Though, the treatment does get expensive, Rust-Wise stated, "it's cheaper than the addiction of using tobacco."

The treatment's success depends largely on the patient, Rust-Wise cautioned. If the individual does not want to quit smoking, the likelihood of success is not probable.

Rust-Wise practices at the Jamacha Chase Chiropractic, which works with a variety of insurance programs. Her partner at the clinic is Eric Wise, a chiropractor, who performed posture analyses for students at the Health Fair.

# Impressions of a first-time juror

It was a Monday and like many I too thought there was no chance I'd be picked to serve on a jury of 12. I was wrong.

On April 30th I woke up at 6 in the morning; I was required to report to the Hall of Justice building (San Diego County Superior Court) at the jury lounge no later than 7:45 in the morning.

Parking on my first day was over priced at \$16. Food for my lunch cost me an additional \$7 and change. I waited patiently in the jury assembly room for a long period of time, hoping that along the way my name would not be called. Wouldn't you know it? I was in the last major group called for voir-dire, the process by which potential jurors are questioned.

From a pool of four dozen people, 15 were questioned by attorneys for both sides and of those, 12 jurors and two alternates were settled upon. To my surprise, I was juror 11 in a criminal case involving an alleged drunk driving offense.

Although I was pleased to learn that jurors get a stipend of \$15 per day and 34 cents on the mile, I have a radical idea instead: each juror should be provided one meal a day and free parking close to the courthouse.

I feel that one does not need money for driving to the courthouse.

Treating jurors like VIPs is more appropriate considering they are taking time out of their lives to perform their civic duties.

At one point, as the prosecutor was making her closing argument, I needed to use the restroom badly. Embarrassed, I raised my hand to ask the judge if I could take a bathroom break and he replied, "Well, all right." Like a bullet I jumped out of my seat and quickly walked toward the restroom. When I got back to the jury box, I saw that two other jurors had also taken the moment to do the same and so I did not feel as embarrassed.

The case, which started on Tuesday, May 1, finished Thursday May 3. The deliberating process took us a day and a half. Eleven jurors thought the prosecution had not sufficiently proven its case against the defendant, but one juror remained steadfast in her conviction that enough evidence had been presented for a guilty verdict. After four to five hours of discussion, we realized that we were not ever going to reach unanimity. We sent word to the judge, and he declared a mistrial.

The judge dismissed the case along with all of us and that was the end of it. The prosecution has the option of re-filing charges and seeking a new trial.

By Dylan Burke  
News Editor



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# ESL students tell of lives in native countries

*Editor's Note: Students in Mimi Pollack's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL 103) class wrote essays describing customs in their native countries. Here are three examples*

## Stop retaliatory and honor killings in Iraq

By Nabeel Dawood

Every society in the world has its own traditions. Our traditions in Iraq are many and they vary. Some of them are good traditions, such as generosity, hospitality and respect for parents, and there are some of the worst traditions in the world, such as retaliation, and crimes of honor.

It is worth mentioning that there are many different cultures in Iraq who live together, like Arab, Kurdish, Turkmen, Chaldean, Assyrian and many more. Each culture has its own traditions; however, all are affected by the traditions of the majority which are the Arab traditions.

Retaliation is one of the worst traditions in Iraq. When any melee happens between two people, for any reason, and one of them is injured or killed, in most cases, victims don't go to the police station. They resort to their families or their tribes. Sometimes the families solve their problem by paying money or giving a girl from the family who caused the injury or killing to the other family, but in most cases the family which is injured doesn't accept the money, especially if someone died in the melee.

The family or the tribe of the person who is killed must kill the killer or kill someone in his family, such as his brother or his son or anyone from his family or tribe.

They think by this killing the blood of their son or brother didn't go in vain. However, this is not the end because the other family will repeat the same thing, and so on. In most cases, the police can't do anything because the killer always escapes, and his tribe hides him. In contrast, what I have seen since arriving in 2009 in the U.S.A. is completely different. The law has the upper hand, and no one can do

anything against the law without punishment. The other bad tradition in Iraq which I don't like is crimes of "honor." In Iraq, generally, the girl has no right to choose the person to love or marry because the family considers that to be shameful for them. The parents or the older brother choose someone for her to marry.

If one day, the family discovers that their daughter has or had a relationship with a man, and she had sex with him. She brought shame to the family, so she must die to remove the shame from the family. In addition, her father, brother, or cousin must be the one who kills her.

Fifty years ago, such killings were accepted, if not strictly legal, after the medical committee ascertained that the girl was not a virgin. The killer was convicted for six months only, but President Abd Alkarim Kassim who ruled Iraq between 1958 and 1963 canceled this law, issuing in its place a new law requiring honor killings to be treated like other homicides.

In the U.S.A., a girl is free to choose whom she wants because it is her life, and no one has the right to prevent her or tell her how to live. Such bad traditions as retaliation and crimes of honor make their countries backwards compared to those that don't have these traditions. Advanced societies give more freedom to their people, and I hope those countries which follow such bad tradition will follow the examples of advanced societies.

## there's nothing quite like a Russian banya

By Irina Jones

I think it is impossible to know which country invented the steam bath. Steam baths are well-known in many countries, such as Finland, Germany, Turkey, and Korea, but only in Russia, steam bathing or "banya" became a tradition and really such a subject of national pride. Today the Russian banya has accumulated century long skills and traditions of the Russian people.

(Continued on page 5)



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## ESL students... *(Continued from page 4)*

All rules and rituals are very important and must be followed by the people who use the banya.

There have always been both private and public banyas in Russia. At home, in private banyas, men go first when the steam is very hot, and women go next because they usually help the children. In public banyas, there are separate sections for men and women. According to Russian tradition, people who go to the banyas, either private or public, enter the steam room naked. When I was young, I never questioned this tradition, because it was a part of our life, and after all, banyas were fun.

Banyas have three separate compartments including the rooms for resting, the washing room, and the steam room. In the first room you take off all your clothes and leave them in lockers. Here people relax, drink tea or water, and spend time with their families before going to the steam room.

In the second room people wash. It has tubs for water, and here people can use soap and shampoo. The washing room is not hot like the steam room.

The “parilka” or steam room is usually a small room with wooden benches and wooden floors. The benches rise from the bottom to the top. A stove is heated by burning wood (or gas), and has a stone top.

The temperature in the steam room is about 80-90 degrees Celsius, and can be dry or wet. When the level of humidity in the air is higher, the less comfortable the steam is.

During a session, people often will go to the steam room several times, for five to ten minutes. After sweating in the parilka, many Russian people like to take a cold shower or dive in a cold swimming pool. This can be done as many times as they like. First, we go in the “parilka,” then for the benefit of the body, we go in the cold water or even snow!

To go to the banya, there are some things that you will need. When people go to the banya steam room, they must wear a hat to keep the head covered and protected from heat. The hat should not be too tight nor should it cover the tips of the ears.

People should also take with them a “venik,” which is made from twigs and leaves of the birch or oak. The venik is used as a device for improving the body’s circulation. Sometimes people hit themselves with the venik, but most of the time people bring someone to the banya with them to help. The venik should be made in the spring, when the branches are fresh. The men of the family usually make the venik or you can buy them..

People also use a sheet or towel to lie on the benches, so the surface is not too hot.

When I was young and lived with my grandmother, once a week we attended public banyas. Being in the “parilka” was difficult because every time grandmother had me linger longer than I could tolerate. She made me remove all dirt from the body, so that the heat could open my pores, and to have better circulation.

When grandmother felt we had been in the steam long enough, we went back to the second room, which had a long stone bench and small tubs. It had a station to shower and to collect water. She usually put some water in the tub and let me sit inside and play with my bath toys. At the same time, she washed herself and after that it was my turn.

It was most difficult to tolerate when she washed my hair. I was never able to close my eyes tight and soap irritated my eyes and made me cry. My grandmother loved me and she always tried to make this faster and less problematic for me. After the cleaning was done, she liked to pour water from the tub on me. “Water goes from the geese, like sickness from Irina,” she used to say. It meant she wished me good health. I prefer the

private banya because I enjoy spending time in the room with the rest of my family after we are all clean and relaxed.

In conclusion, the banya is a great Russian tradition. The Russian people have pride in the banya, and it is important in the culture and life of many people. Most people use the banya every week to be clean and healthy. This is a tradition which I grew up with and is a part of life in Russia that I miss. Taking a shower every day can not make people clean like the Russian banya!



ESL students Nabeel Dawood (left), Irina Jones, and Nameer Alsawaf, flank their teacher, Mimi Pollack (2nd from left)

## Why young Iraqi couples often live with their parents

By Nameer Alsawaf

Most young adults in my country, Iraq, married and unmarried, depend on their families for support in the early years of their young, adult lives. The parents support their young adults by letting them stay for free in their homes or having them share in the living expenses. Such arrangements have their pros and cons.

On the positive side, this kind of arrangement between the parents and their children benefits both sides and strengthens the family relationship.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Recycling tips to improve the ocean and the campus

An Earth Day event was presented to the student body by the Forgiven Christian Club and the recycling department on Tuesday, April 24. If you had the opportunity to take a few moments and stop by the quad then you would have seen a video about a female snapping turtle named Mae West.

This turtle got stuck in a milk jug ring as a hatchling. Throughout the years her body grew around the ring. Sadly her backbone was not able to form properly so she is now unable to survive in the wild. The video also showed many other horrendous effects that trash has on all of the sea life.

Schools are required to recycle at least 50% of waste each year. Grossmont has a recycling program that is managed and coordinated by Walter Sachau, who has worked on the

campus for 19 years. One of the main problems facing the recycling program is the high theft of the school's recyclables. Due to this problem Grossmont College recycling program is struggling to meet its quota of recycling mandated by the state.

What can the students of Grossmont do to help? To begin with, after you've eaten on campus, recycle everything that you can. Use as little paper as possible, and if you do need to throw it away make sure you put that paper in the recycling cans available all over campus and in the Tech Mall. In essence, be conscious of what you are throwing away, and where you throw it.

By Jenn Sanders  
Commentary Editor

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## ESL students... *(Continued from page 5)*

Young couples may use this opportunity to save for their future and have their parents watch their children instead of giving them to strangers to raise them.

Additionally, this kind of arrangement is an ancient tradition in my country and in most of the Middle Eastern countries, while it is rare in western civilizations.

Many values and benefits come from living with parents, especially for young married adults who learn the family's traditions and customs and in turn nurture the values of their children.

Most young adults in Iraq would prefer to live with their family even after they get married because their children will benefit from the help of live-in grandparents. This is especially important when both parents of the child must work.

Another great benefit of living with parents is coming home after a long day at work to a delicious meal. I think that parents are the best teachers because they have much experience in bringing up generations. My wife and I prefer that we raise our children side by side with my parents. I think that couples who prefer to live with their parents have a lot more time to work and enjoy life than couples who live independently.

Living with parents at the family home also provides financial benefits, such as saving on mortgage, food costs, and utility bills, which helps the young couple to put aside money for a future home.

In my own case, my parents helped us financially during the first years of our marriage while we saved for the coming years.

On the negative side, living at home with parents is not always easy because sometimes we are faced with disagreements and misunderstandings due to the gap between two generations with different ideas.

Differing points of view can cause a big problem especially if there is significant difference in ages and a corresponding difference in cultural attitudes. Seemingly small issues such as the proper method of cooking and cleaning can lead to conflict. These small problems can lead to bigger ones. Some young couples may feel so hurt, they may prefer isolation to a reoccurrence of the problem.

In balance, however, I think generations living together have more advantages than disadvantages. The little children learn good life lessons from their grandparents, including how to respect their elders. I think it is healthy, too, for the grandparents to spend quality time with their grandchildren.



Students, staff and faculty cram into Griffin Gate to hear author Tim O'Brien tell the story behind *The Things They Carried* (Photo credit: Scott Walters)

## Crowds jam Literary Arts Festival

The Creative Writing Program hosted its 16th Annual Literary Arts Festival with such renowned speakers as Sandra Cisneros, who wrote *The House on Mango Street*, and Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried*, April 23-May 4.

This year's festival was organized by English Prof. Sydney Brown, who has coordinated the event for the past 12 years. "In the past," stated Brown "we have had such authors as Dorthy Allison, Kim Addizio, Nick Flynn, and Anthony Swarford."

This year's festival started on Tuesday, April 24 with local novelist Jim Miller and songwriter Gregory Page. Miller read excerpts of his novel *Flash*. The event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the free speech fight in San Diego. Gregory Page sang labor songs in a Woody Guthrie style.

On April 25, the literature of Sandra Cisneros was examined by professors from Grossmont and by local authors. A lecture on Cisneros' world-renowned book *House on Mango Street* was held. Sandra Cisneros visited Grossmont College the next day. Many students gathered in the Griffin Center and Griffin Gate to hear what advice the author had to give. Afterwards, there was a book signing and many students were able to talk one-on-one with Cisneros.

The second week started with current students and alumni reading their original works. "This is my favorite part of the festival

because it showcases the talent of the students we have at Grossmont," commented Brown.

On May 1, Write Out Loud performed poetry of American gothic poet, Edgar Allan Poe, and other authors demonstrated how Poe inspired them in their production of "Shades of Poe." The poetry recited included Poe's "Cask of Amontillado" and "The Oval Portrait."

Two events were held on May 2, both dealing with the Vietnam War. "The Wars We Fought," hosted by Justin Hudnall, dealt with the physical and emotional wars with which veterans have had to deal in their lives. "Vietnam: Fact and Fiction," a lecture and discussion with SDSU Prof. Victoria Featherstone, military history expert Joseph Radzikowski, and Grossmont College student Steve Bedle was held in advance of a visit by author Tim O'Brien.

The festival ended with national bestselling author Tim O'Brien reading from his books, *The Things They Carried With Them* and *In the Lake of the Woods*, and a book signing in the Griffin Center.

Planning is already in the works for next year's festival. The creative writing program is going to host its annual write-a-thon in the fall semester. The write-a-thon helps pay for the Literary Arts Festival. Other sources are donations from private parties and the English department faculty, who set aside funds from their paychecks each month.

By John Weber  
Managing Editor



# Literature opened hearts of O'Brien and readers

The 16th Annual Literary Arts Festival featured author Tim O'Brien, who explained the significance and deeper meaning behind his book *The Things They Carried*.

"Literature is a way of opening our hearts," said O'Brien.

He offered this bit of advice to all the veterans present in the audience who may be interested in putting their experiences in a book as he once did. If you are passionate about it, he said, sit your butts down and keep them down. Writing is a long process that requires much revision. He insists, you must do this over and over again.

*The Things They Carried* is a novel about the horrors, brutality, adventures, and nightmares of war. It tells the traumas so many carry following these unexplainable terrors. O'Brien explained it's a book for military personnel as well as all the families directly affected by the traumas they may have experienced.

O'Brien read a passage from his book about a young girl whose father served in the Vietnam War. Although the story was completely made up, the events are those that very well could have, and most likely did occur. The passage deals with fighting an enemy so many were indifferent about, with the kill or be killed mentality.

Killing becomes instinct, a natural reflex if you will; a lot of times it is something you do with little to no thought. We breed these men to be savages and warp their mind sets, so they are able to do what they have to do to survive. When it's all over and time to come home, there are so many expectations for them to "snap out of it" and automatically readjust to civilian life. The sad reality is, most struggle in doing so.

O'Brien chose this passage because it is the ultimate reality of war, which as he explains, "is the reality of death." He focused on a single death to make it more personal. So many times do we catch ourselves turning on the television to more men and women dying from the wars we have been fighting for over a decade. We see the polls and few are hardly affected. It's because it is not personal and directly affecting our everyday lives. If it were a brother or sister, mother or father, aunt or uncle, husband or wife it would hit home quite quickly. This is the point O'Brien was trying to outline, a life is a life any way you look at it.

O'Brien said his novel is not true, it was invented, but it is "truer than the truth." He picks and chooses bits and pieces from actual events and creates a story out of them. He recalls not knowing if it was his bullet that had perhaps killed someone. War is complete chaos; there were times he would blindly "shoot so they would go away."

He recognized the parallels of today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the war in Vietnam. We continue to fight a guerilla war in which we are unsure who the enemy really is. In a great explanation of why so many innocent people get caught in the crossfire, he said: "A bullet can kill the enemy; the bullet can also make an enemy."

This is also why we see on television so many men going crazy and doing things they would normally consider morally unacceptable. War will warp the kindest heart into something they never thought possible. Politicians quick to judge the things the military has done should walk in a serviceman's boots.

O'Brien told a personal story, not fiction; about a letter he received several years back. A 26-year-old woman wrote him, thanking him for the great piece of literature he wrote. With tears in his eyes, he explained the book was so sentimental because her father went through the same thing; for many years he would not say a word, he wasn't in his right state of mind.

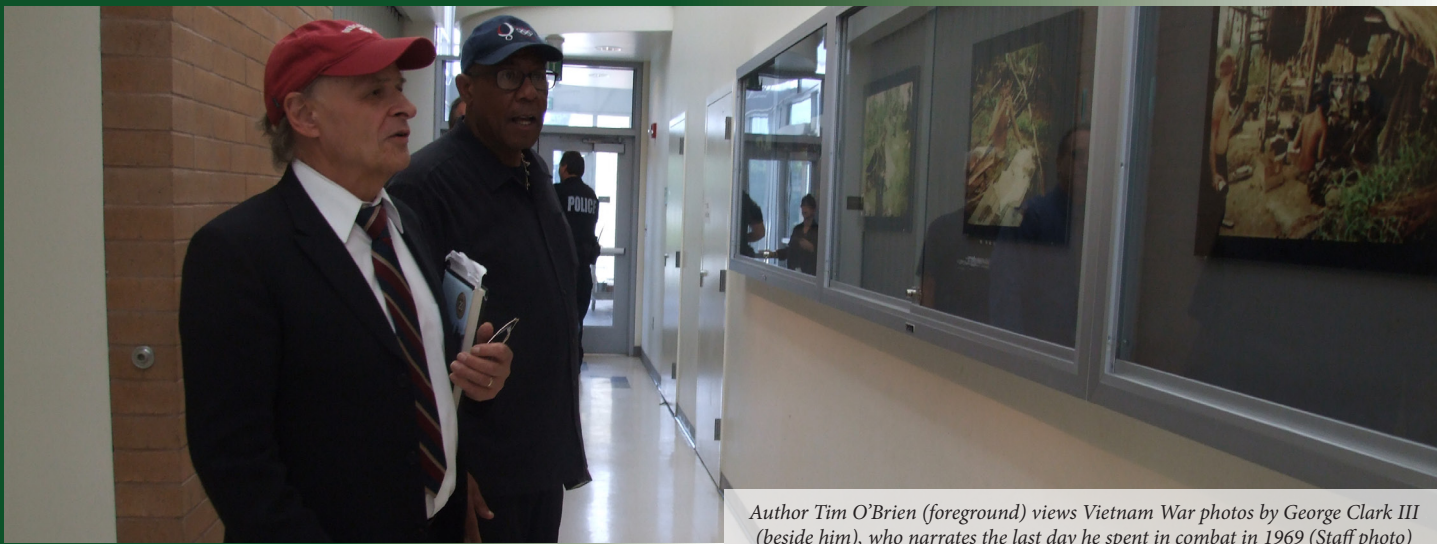
She thanked him for saving her family. Once she read the book she shared it with her father who slowly began to open up about his experiences. The book offered an understanding of why he was the way he was for all those years. When she asked her mother why she had stayed with him for so many years, she replied, I felt sorry for him. The book opened up their family's relationship tremendously.

He was capable of enduring his incapacities with the "keep humping" mentality, meaning he just kept pushing through and would not give into the mental challenges.

At 65 years old, O'Brien is the father of a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old. Sadly enough, he realizes his time with them is limited. For this reason, he is now working on a book entitled *Two Heads* which is a recap of who he is/was and a journal per se, of their life as he grows older. He wants them to be able to pick up the book and relearn the facts and emotions of their lives together.



Students in Griffin Center watch video feed of O'Brien from Griffin Gate (Photo credit: Rick Griffin)



Author Tim O'Brien (foreground) views Vietnam War photos by George Clark III (beside him), who narrates the last day he spent in combat in 1969 (Staff photo)

## Forum provides 3 perspectives on the Vietnam War

With so many distorted views about the Vietnam War, students and faculty gathered for the 101 speed course on facts and fictions of the war. Speakers told their stories and experiences, with the focal point on Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* as a way of expressing the effects war has on those who directly and indirectly experience its traumas

Among the speakers on Wednesday, May 2, were Joseph Radzikowski, Victoria Featherstone, and Steve Bedle, who presented their own personal memoirs of what the Vietnam war was to them

Radzikowski spent 30 years in the United States Marine Corps; two tours in Vietnam. He is a military historian who teaches a 17-week course at Grossmont, explaining that conflict. He explained the war was a misunderstood conflict with a "dark shadow" upon which he hopes to shed a bit of light. America's goal was to stop the spread of communism in a country that had a long history of fighting and conflict.

He offered parallels between Vietnam and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, explaining that the U.S. was trying to create a model of democracy and the individuals we fought were easily able to blend into the local populace. Similarly, media had a great deal of control in persuading American supporters in either direction. The problem, as Radzikowski explained it, "the U.S. was fighting a limited war when the Communist were fighting a full-flung war."

Radzikowski broke down his 17-week course in less than 20 minutes. He closed with a story from 2000 when while giving a presentation, he looked into the audience to see two North Vietnamese generals sitting in front of him. He wondered if he had ever been in such proximity to the two men during the war.

Victoria Featherstone, SDSU professor of literature, opened with a quote from Hemingway; "The writer's job is to tell the truth."

She went on to explain her personal experiences from the war and remembered a recruiter coming to her high school. Her boyfriend who had been the captain of the football team insisted on joining the Green Berets, and within 6 months of being in Vietnam, he was killed by a sniper. That was only the beginning.

She eventually got married and was forced to say goodbye once again. Her husband went off to the war, but he never returned mentally. They had a child together; unfortunately, the child was born with disabilities. The disabilities may have resulted from her husband's exposure to Agent Orange during his time overseas.

Although she did not directly experience the horrors of war, Featherstone was forced to live with the mental trauma of her husband's encounters in the jungle. She is able to see and understand what young men and women have to deal with as they return from a barbaric lifestyle.

Grossmont student Steve Bedle, focusing on *The Things They Carried*, asked the audience "Is it really worth it?" He explored the mental impacts on young men who went to war. He said that Tim O'Brien, who was the featured speaker for Thursday, May 3, at the Literary Arts Festival, wanted his readers to know and try to understand the truths of war. He wanted readers to comprehend not only the physical "tangible" things that warriors carried, but also what they carried emotionally. Though *The Things They Carried* is a fictional account, it is filled with truth and is designed to express feelings in the moments of traumatic experiences.

Bedle closed with a strong and provocative quote; "I tell you all my secrets but lie about my past."

Stories by Matt Quijas  
Editor



# Author offers writing tips for future novelists

Author Sandra Cisneros imparted some writing tips during her appearance on campus Thursday, April 26, as part of the 16th Annual Literary Arts Festival. Some of them may surprise you.

For example, she suggested, “Do not talk on days you write, it allows the words to flow better.” Another bit of advice was: “If you are having a hard time trying to write, try to meditate...Try to bring yourself back to the dream state because your mind creates stories every night.”

The day before her appearance, the English Department celebrated the author of *The House on Mango Street* by announcing the winners in an English 98 writing competition named for that book. Niajib Abraham won first place for his “The House That Moves,” and second and third places were accorded respectively to Taylor Denmar and Fernando Rico.

All three students wrote essays which, like Cisneros’ books, dealt with the concept of “home.” Because Cisneros’s parents moved her family including six brothers back and forth between Mexico and the United States, the concept of home was an elusive one for the author. A long, well-researched article on Wikipedia tells of the Chicana author also struggling with her identity. She was of Mexican parentage, yet she grew up in an Anglo neighborhood, seemingly belonging to neither culture or perhaps to both. The notion of hybridity is an important concept in her writing.

Cisneros was able to escape from childhood poverty to anywhere she wanted through her writing. Her talent and persistence paid off when she earned a degree in writing at Loyola

University in Chicago. After *The House on Mango Street*, Cisneros again won acclaim with the collection of short stories *Women Hollering Creek*. The collection shreds the Cinderella myth in which a handsome and charming prince rescues a beautiful girl from a life of drudgery. In so doing, Cisneros’ use of sex, language and violence in the short-story collection has prompted criticism, even occasional banning.



Sandra Cisneros

At the Thursday event, April 26, Cisneros advised writers in her audience, “don’t throw away anything you think is not good.” She explained that the material might be used later on in another part of the story, or perhaps in a different story altogether.

She also advised: “The way to write the story is to get into the body of the character, then into their heart” and “Everyday everyone needs art, it’s medicine for the spirit.”

The author previewed one of her newest works, *Where is Marie?*, which she described as a story that “is for orphans.” It is scheduled for publication on Oct. 11. Following her lecture and reading, fans lined up at a table, where Cisneros autographed her books.

By Jenn Sanders & Barbara Boyd  
Commentary Editor General Assignment

## Afternoon spent on a Poe-sitive note

“Was he a madman? Was he a genius? Or was he both?”

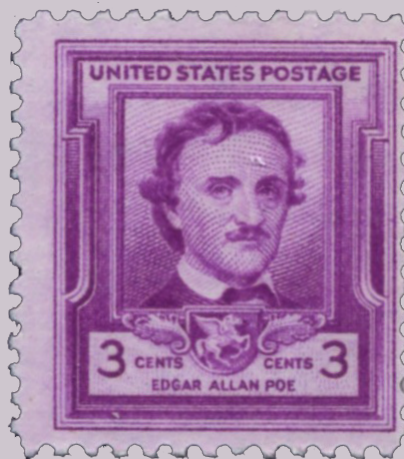
shudder yet yearn for more.

Write Out Loud attempted to unravel the mystery behind the words of one of the most beloved American gothic poets, Edgar Allan Poe at the literary arts festival on May 1.

Write Out Loud is a theatrical group consisting of Veronica Murphy, Walter Ritter and Tim West. Special guest Tom Andrew also performed.

The event stated out with harrowing screams from the actors as they read “The Language of Poe” an introduction to the macabre and morose style of Edgar Allan Poe. Murphy, Ritter, and West’s words echoed off one another in a haunting tone.

Tom Andrew read “The Oval Portrait” in a fireside matter. His vocal inflections kept the audience hanging on his every word. His cadences built tension that made the audience

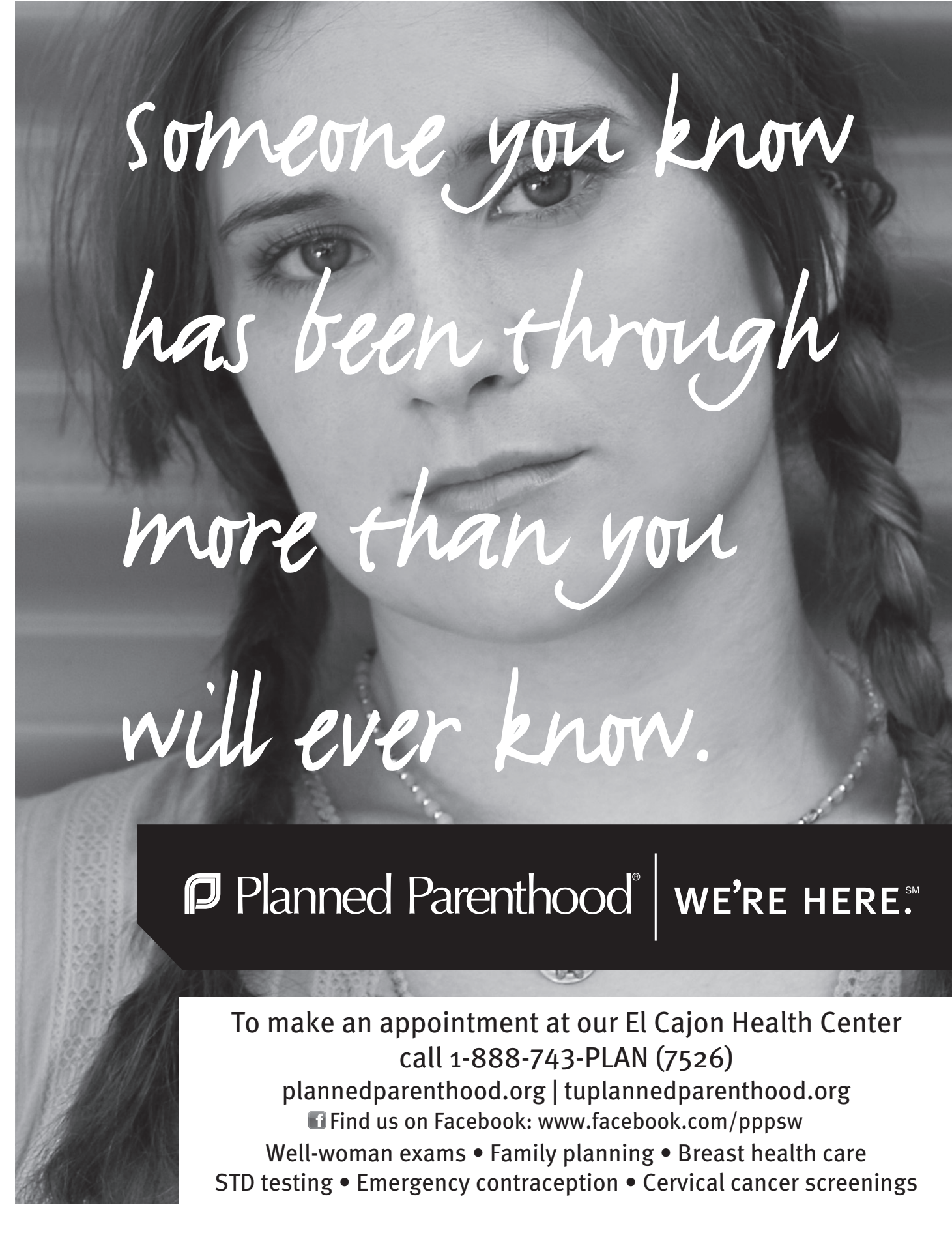


Walter Ritter and Tim West performed the “The Cask of Amontillado” in a “drunken” stupor. West played the evil protagonist, Montresor, brilliantly with a snicker and a wry smile on his face while exacting his revenge. Ritter played the part of Fortunato perfectly coughing loudly here and there and slurring his words together to sound drunk.

Unfortunately, the production had to stop early as it did not have enough time to finish. Write Out Loud had booked Room 220 until 1:50 p.m., and a class was scheduled to begin ten minutes later. The group will be performing its next play titled *Animals I Have Known* around the county. For more information visit [www.writeoutloudsd.com](http://www.writeoutloudsd.com) or call 619-297-8953.

By John Weber  
Managing Editor





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# Student dancers make their 'Entrances and Exits'

For approximately two minutes, Tiffany Goff was neither a student nor a dancer. She was a dog named Sam. She waited and paced by the door for her master to come home, and when he did, her canine joy was unbounded.

Goff's performance in "My Name is Sam" was choreographed by Nancy Boskin-Mullen, a Grossmont College professor of dance, and was one of the highlights of the 2 ½-hour-long performance at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre of "Entrances and Exits," the annual dance concert featuring the work of Grossmont students and their faculty.

I was very delighted to watch the April 26 performance. While I was not at all a fan of ballet, jazz, or contemporary dance, attending "Entrances and Exits" provided me with new insight into these dance styles.

Music gives off many feelings and emotions and also tells a story. A dancer's job is to tell that story through movements and facial expressions so people can further understand the music.

Choreographers Boskin-Mullens, Sylvia Morales, and Melissa Adao created dance pieces that interpreted music in a fashion that could be appreciated by both untrained and trained eyes.

For example, Morales "Dance-Play-Dance" was a very playful piece. I happily imagined having a daughter who would similarly play with her friends, smile, enjoy life, and not worry about anything. Through the use of bright colors and lighting, the audience was able to feel the emotions effectively.

Adao's "In The Wild" was aggressive and primal. I felt like I was in a jungle surrounded by animals ready to pounce on me at any given time. The expressions of the dancers were fierce, like they were ready to go to war with anyone and destroy anything that got in their way. "In the Wild" was probably the most entertaining work because it was dynamic, from slow to fast and weak to strong.

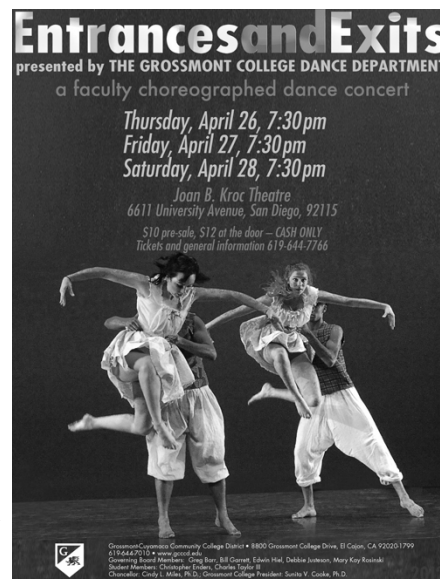
Paul Mota and Kiyoka Nakada, who showed their versatility in other pieces during the evening, were strong in their execution of Adao's "In the Wild." Unfortunately some other dancers lacked their precision.

Initially, I was frustrated by Adao's "Throwback Version 2.0" because I felt that the dancers were not sufficiently attuned to the hip-hop style. I've grown up with some of San Diego's best future choreographers from renowned dance troupes such as Indecisive Dance Krew, Natural Vibes, Super Galactic Beat Manipulators, Syde Fx, and Urban Fx and through watching and learning from them, I have gained insight into this art form.

It seemed to me that some of the dancers in Adao's piece weren't feeling the music and that they were used to other dance styles such as modern dance. Although hip-hop can incorporate any move from any kind of dance, experience is needed along with extreme effort.

In the final analysis, "Entrances and Exits" was an amazing show. I've even begun to like ballet, modern and other dance styles. Some of the dancers danced in multiple pieces and I felt exhausted just watching them. A certain amount of stamina is needed in order to do this and there are not many dancers who can dance in 2-3 minute choreographies 2-3 times and with only a few seconds or minutes of break.

I will be looking forward to more dance concerts featuring Grossmont students and faculty and hope to learn more from the choreographies.



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By Sean Asuncion  
Arts Editor



# Going Bonkers for 'Lost In Yonkers'

By John Weber  
Managing Editor

The Theatre Arts Department premiered its spectacular production of *Lost in Yonkers*, directed by Jeannette Thomas, on Thursday, May 3rd to a full house. The production had its final performance on Saturday evening, May 12.

*Lost in Yonkers*, written by Neil Simon, is from the vantage point of two teenage boys, Arty (Zachary Bunshaft) and Jay (Jacob Gardenswartz) whose mother recently died. Their father (Joel Gossett) has to search for work to pay back his debts to a loan shark, so he drops them off to live with their iron-fisted, stone-cold grandmother (Kate Hewitt) their child like, absent-minded Aunt Bella (Layla Stuckey) and their smooth-talking gangster Uncle Louie (Ryan Casselman).

Once again the cast produced a high-quality, laugh-filled performance that included soft emotional scenes with deep meaning. When Aunt Bella reveals that she is not as innocent as she seems, Grandma reacts indifferently, no longer capable of caring because of the loss of her two youngest children.

Uncle Louie helps Arty and Jay through the torture of Grandma's harsh yet hilarious way of disciplining them. Arty catches a fever and Grandma gives him the worst tasting soup that has ever been invented. Anyone who has had a grandma knows that even though grandma has some weird and wacky remedies, they always seem to work, and in Arty's case, this is no exception. Jay has the misfortune of paying for pretzels and pistachios that have a weird habit of disappearing ever since the time

that Father was a boy.

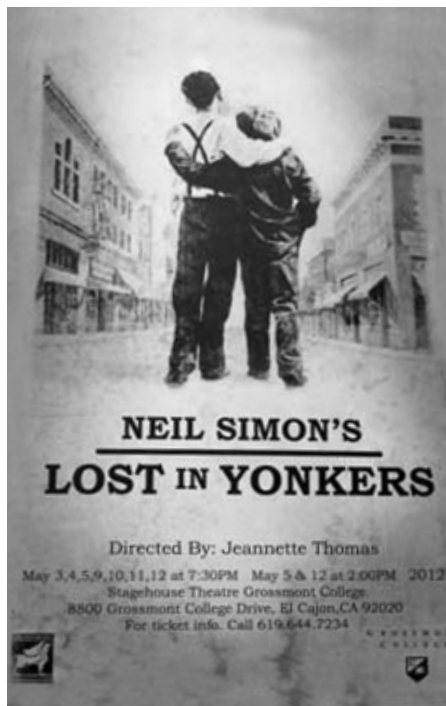
The theatre and stage were set up in a way that really felt like a window into the hearts, souls and minds of the characters. Throughout breaks in the middle of the scenes, a "radio" would play big band jazz era hits such as "Perdido" and a 1940's-style announcer would share news of the wars progress.

Every aspect of the production was put on by the students, from the set design, to the lighting, to costume design. The set design was excellent. From the 1940's style fan, to the dollies, to the fold-out couch with a flower-pattern design, the little details were not overlooked.

The costumes were period style, enhancing the performance. From zoot-suited Uncle Louie, to the "self-designed" dress of Aunt Bella, and to the prim and proper suits of Arty and Jay, the costumes revealed a little bit of who these characters were.

It was a show to remember. From the laughs to the cries, and to everything in between, the cast of *Lost In Yonkers* put out a first-rate performance.

This is the last play of the season, but next season there will be a total of six productions, three in the fall and three in the spring. There are season tickets available for \$50 for all of the plays. Some notable plays are *The Grimmers*, playing from Oct. 4-13, and *The Odyssey: A Play*. Call Alexis Popko at 1-619-644-7267 for ticket information.



## 'Deaf world' game played on campus

By Barbara Boyd  
General Assignment

Griffin Center was transformed into a mini-mall on Saturday afternoon, May 5, to help people who hear better understand the world of the deaf.

About 60 people attended the 'Deaf Deaf World' demonstration, at which little stores represented such services and vendors as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Post Office, a bakery, Wal-Mart, cell phone providers and others.

The idea was to navigate your way through them, using only American Sign Language (ASL). Participants picked a card from a scenario box, going to whichever booth the card directed. During the event you were not allowed to talk. If you did you went to "ASL jail."

While I was there, I learned new ASL signs to help me through the game. I also had the opportunity to talk with three deaf people. I was able to understand them for the most part, but we didn't really

have a long conversation or exchange names.

I think from my nametag they could see that I was in ASL 1, and knew therefore that I was a novice. When I didn't understand a sign they finger-spelled to me. They were more patient than I expected.

At this event facial expressions were important. Without the right expression, someone watching you might not know if you were asking a question, or just making a statement. At one booth, I role-played as a student asking my teacher if she could excuse me for being late. While I was learning the sign, I was forgetting the facial expression that I needed to have with "excuse," so the teacher kept having me re-sign until I remembered the correct facial expression.

Other hearing people attended this event also, but you wouldn't know it unless you read their nametags.



# Super heroes are super at the box office

By Dylan Burke  
News Editor

ences to the characters' upcoming collaboration. It's a blockbuster, setting the bar high for anything else.

*The Avengers* represents a collection of heroes of the Marvel Comics Universe. Four have already starred in their own movies: Iron Man, Thor, Capt. America, and The Incredible Hulk. The team is brought together by an organization called S.H.I.E.L.D. led by Nick Fury and Agent Coulson.

The villain of the movie is Loki, the adopted brother of Thor. He wants to do bad things to the planet on which his brother found love, as well as to steal a powerful relic called a Tesseract for an unseen master. He has power to enslave people with a tap of his staff.

Half of the film consists of the Avengers' own personal conflicts as their big egos get in the way of their duties. Iron Man is almost never serious in the film. Thor thinks he's above the others because he comes from a different dimension. Captain America can't tolerate ego of any kind. Black Widow is hiding secrets about S.H.I.E.L.D. Bruce Banner (The Incredible Hulk) tries to stay calm; he's always angry though but isn't that a good thing?

The plot in my opinion is funny, Iron Man being the funniest

character. The inability of The Avengers to work together without quarreling became tedious to watch, after a while.

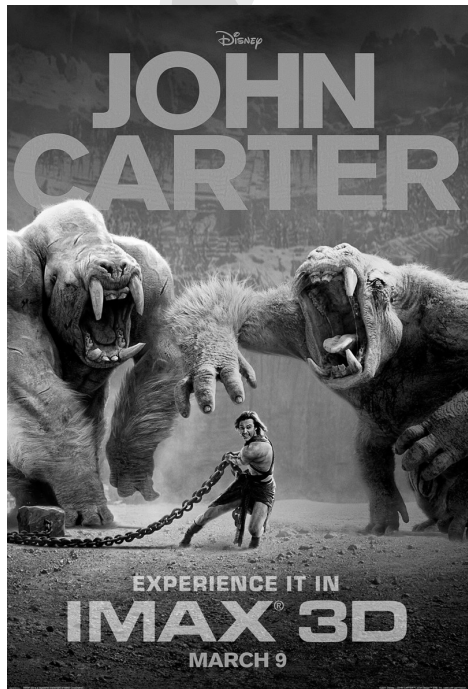
Action sequences comprise the second part of the movie. They were well done in this observer's opinion.

I give the movie an 8 out of 10. Everyone who likes superhero movies and reads Marvel and DC Comics should view this film.

*The Avengers* has done extraordinarily at the box office; the best of 2012 so far.



## 'John Carter' is a violent Martian adventure



*John Carter* is a comedic, dramatic, and adventurous movie based on the book *Princess of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The story is revealed when a nephew finds a note from John Carter telling stories of his travels.

The movie is made enjoyable with some wonderful graphic effects.

Imagine being an alien with superhuman abilities on another planet.

It was entertaining to watch John Carter live out that fantasy. Carter is an ex-Confederate soldier looking for riches who accidentally discovers something that gives him the ability to transport from one planet to another.

He soon finds himself on Mars, known to the natives as "Barsoom," where he falls in love, has to decide whether to join a war or not, and eventually transforms from human to alien form. Along the way, he experiences becoming an alien baby, gaining super natural abilities and learning to travel like the natives.

Although most Disney movies are aimed at the younger generation, *John Carter* is a rarity unsuitable for children below 13 because it contains so much violence. From torturing an alien, killing aliens in gun fights, to a decapitated alien, *John Carter* seems far too raw for pre-teens.

For more mature viewers, *John Carter* can be quite enjoyable, especially for those capable of imagining that they, and not John Carter, are the ones facing multiple crises and perspective-changing new ways of life.

By Sean Asuncion  
Arts Editor



# Student art exhibit

1. *Happy Hour* by Michele Jacobs
2. *Jala (Water)* by Shane Fabila
3. *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Jaquelyn Bulkowski
4. *The Machine* by David Votel
5. *The Rose Man* by Karla Babcock
6. *Roots* by Erin Werner
7. *Smelly* by Alexandro Mejia
8. *Guardian III* by Angela Gardener
9. *Marriage of Metals* by Denise Hughes-Murray
10. *Dyod Orbs* by Elizabeth Nebo
11. *Nature vs Nurture* by Shannon Modica
12. *I Am Africa* by Luauna Stines
13. *Duality* by Joshua Ferguson
14. *Still-Life* by Sam Izzat
15. *Meltdown* by Jacob Zwolinski
16. *Yong* by Nicolette Bailey



1.



2.



3.



4.



# Students exhibit at Hyde Art Gallery



5.



6.



7.



9.



8.

Please see identifications  
and credits on page 15



10.



11.



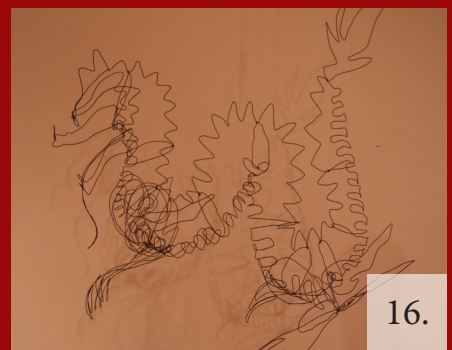
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15.

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and Derek Dubler