



Winter Movies

Comedy, drama, action and sci-fi are all on the table this season at the box office; take a sneak peak

Hiatus, page 9

A Flawed Plan

The sixth college curriculum lacks the breadth found elsewhere

Opinion, page 4

NFL Mayham

The NFL games get interesting this weekend. Here are our guesses!

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T H E U C S D GUARDIAN

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WORLD NEWS

Britain to Permit Openly Gay Men and Women to Serve in Military

LONDON — The government announced a code of conduct for the military Wednesday that ends its ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed forces.

The action follows a European court ruling last fall that Britain could no longer keep the exclusion. It ends a decades-old practice of subjecting gays in the military to intrusive investigations and dishonorable discharges.

The change brings Britain into line with almost all other NATO nations, including France,

See BRITAIN, page 8

NATIONAL NEWS

AOL, Time Warner Shares Drop for Second Straight Day

America Online and Time Warner announced their engagement on Monday, for richer or for poorer.

On Wednesday, investors decided the combination was for poorer, sending shares of the two companies plunging for the second consecutive day. The combined market value of America Online and Time Warner is now less than before the deal was announced.

With the specter of the 1999 failure of a similar merger between USA Networks and

See AOL, Page 8

COLLEGE NEWS

UCLA Study Shows Marijuana Use May Be Linked to Cancer

LOS ANGELES — Researchers at UCLA recently found that marijuana use may lead to an increased risk of head and neck cancers.

"We have evidence that may link marijuana smoking to head and neck cancers," stated Zuo-Feng Zhang, director of the cancer epidemiology training program at UCLA. "Many people may think marijuana is harmless, but it's not."

Zhang's study found that marijuana smoking may be just as likely to cause cancer as cigarette

See MARIJUANA, Page 3

SPOKEN

"I've always found people in the geological and biological sciences to be a little anal retentive."

— Bob Smith
Man ejected from SIO class
See story at right



Plea: U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D - Calif.) talks with democratic supporter Murray Galinson at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies Saturday.

Boxer Discusses Foreign Policy

FORUM: Senator discusses changes needed in new era of global politics

By SCOTT DOBROSKI
Staff Writer

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D - Calif.) addressed foreign policy improvements and changes last Saturday at a luncheon hosted by the UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

Boxer said that U.S. foreign policy must change in accordance with the ever-changing global economy.

"We all need to work together to gain international democracy," she said. "We need to share information, and while our national security is first and foremost our main concern, changes in U.S. foreign policy must be made."

Boxer said that the United States must change its stan-

dards in dealing with foreign affairs in order to better cope with diverse problems that it cannot always properly handle due to present laws and restrictions. Boxer's proposed foreign policy plan contains three main themes.

Boxer said that the United States must be "increasingly flexible" when dealing with international affairs. She added that the traditional, less-flexible approach in dealing with different countries will not work anymore because each country possesses distinct problems that require distinct solutions.

Boxer's second theme for improving foreign policy is to "place a human face on international relations."

"I believe a human face is necessary in not just dealing

with the international diplomats, but also with the actual people of other nations," she said.

Boxer's final theme for her new policy included achieving "multilateral mechanisms" to improve foreign policy around the world. She said that improved world communication can enhance global foreign policy because it will allow for the use of global resources to solve global problems.

One prime example Boxer used to illustrate her new plan is the current relationship between Mexico and the United States. Boxer spoke about an influx of illegal narcotics from Mexico into the United States and how the United States should properly deal with this problem.

See BOXER, Page 3

Parking Spaces Created

TRANSPORTATION:
729 new spaces created east of Interstate 5

By VINCENT GRAGNANI
News Editor

In order to accommodate student needs, Transportation and Parking Services recently opened 729 parking spaces by Voigt Drive on the east side of Interstate 5.

Director of Parking and Transportation Services Greg Snee said that the new lot on the east side of campus provides enough spaces for students.

"With the opening of the second phase of the Regents lot, we should have overly sufficient parking for the rest of the academic year," Snee said.

In order to accommodate students parking in the new lots, the Regents express shuttle was instituted last fall, and runs along Voigt Drive and Matthews Lane between the new lot and the Price Center.

The shuttle makes four stops and runs every seven minutes during morning and afternoon and every ten minutes in the evening.

Snee said last year that Winter quarter is typically the most crowded quarter for student parking. Last winter, student parking spaces in all parking lots were full during peak hours and students had to be directed to lots across North Torrey Pines Road.

Construction is also progressing on two new parking structures, one on Gilman Drive and another on North Torrey Pines Road.

Snee said that both are expected to open in fall 2000.

More information is available at <http://parking.ucsd.edu>

Local Man Ejected from Class, Alleges Discrimination

REMOVAL: Assistant Vice Chancellor Tom Collins describes man as homeless and a 'nuisance'

By LAUREN I. COARTNEY
Staff Writer

Campus police asked a man to leave a geomagnetism class taught by Professor Lisa Tauxe at Scripps Institution of Oceanography on Nov. 29, 1999. The man, who identified himself as Dr. Bob Smith, said that the action was discriminatory.

Smith has been regularly sitting in on classes at UCSD and Scripps for about two years, but this is the first time he has ever been asked to leave. He said he was sitting in a hall 10 feet outside the class because it was full and that he is still unsure why he was asked to leave.

Smith said he is working on

research with some of the faculty and that he was taken aback when campus police asked him if he was homeless.

"I'm not homeless," Smith said. "I have three condos. I have two Ph.D.s and a law degree and they're treating me like a vagrant. If they had asked me nicely to leave, that would have been fine but there was no need to involve higher administration."

Assistant Vice Chancellor Tom Collins, the man Smith alleges had him removed from the class, said that Smith did not have permission to be sitting in on the class.

"He's welcome to sit in on classes if he has the written consent of the instructor," Collins

said. "Nobody that I know of has given him written consent."

Smith said he sits in on classes not for the credits but to further his intellectual development.

UCSD Police Detective Nate Floyd said many people have complained about Smith.

"We've had quite a few calls about him," Floyd said. "Police have been dispatched on several occasions, but he's always gone by the time they get there. He wanders around the buildings and uses the fax and copy machines."

Collins said that others on campus describe him as a general nuisance.

"He has the appearance of a homeless person and carries

around plastic shopping bags full of stuff," Collins said. "He's made it a point to attend Scripps events that are really only for university employees and their guests."

Smith said that the Nov. 29 incident is part of a growing trend.

"I'm an outsider," he said. "I've always found people in the geological and biological sciences to be a little anal retentive. They don't want you sitting in on their class, what are they afraid of?"

Smith said that the incident raises questions about the diversity the university tries to uphold and that he will continue to sit in on classes to further his knowledge of sciences and other subjects that interest him.

UCSD EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 13

Movie: 'American Pie' Cinemaddics present this film in the Price Center Theater at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Admission is \$2.

Friday, Jan. 14

Community Service: Bone Marrow Drive The African American Student Union is sponsoring a blood drive to search for bone marrow donors.

Sports: Basketball

Come see the women's team face Chapman at the RIMAC arena at 7 p.m. Admission is free for students.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Aquarium: Whale Watching

Join a Scripps naturalist to search for gray whales as they migrate past our shores on their way to breed and give birth in the lagoons of Baja California.

Sports: Swimming and Diving

Come see the Division III Challenge in Canyonview Pool. The event is open to the public and takes place all day.

Sunday, Jan. 16

Aquarium: Book Signing

Join artist Wyland for a book signing at the Birch Aquarium at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 534-3474.

ETCETERA ...

LIFE IN HELL

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YOUR FLU CHECKLIST

- NAIVE OPTIMISM PHLEGM MANIA! WHISTLING A JAUNTY TUNE SHUFFLING DOWN THE HALL IN RATTY BATHROBE LIKE CRANKY OLD GEEZER...

BOXER:

Senator offers student internships

Continued from page 1

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MARIJUANA: Zhang's study began in New York in 1993

Continued from page 1

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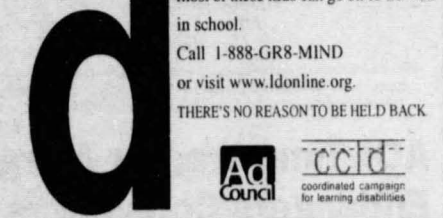
Boxer added that she hopes to see a vote on a bill she introduced last year that would create bilateral agreements on anti-narcotic issues with Mexico.

by saying that foreign policy is like a friendship. "Friendships grow and

change, and as they get older, the ways in which friends interact change also," she said.

Boxer later said that college students can get actively involved in politics and in improving foreign policy by learning about the issues and acting on them.

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BRIEFLY ...

Student Receives Top Math Award

Recognized for her excellence in mathematics as an undergraduate student, senior Mariana Campbell will receive the Association for Woman in Mathematics (AWM) Alice T. Schafer Prize next week at the American Mathematical Society/Mathematical Association of America joint meeting in Washington, D.C.

Campbell will present a paper at the joint meeting on a project she participated in last summer at the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU). The paper, which is on the Igusa local zeta function for different reduction types of special fiber of an elliptic curve, is being prepared for publication.

Campbell presented speeches on complete graphs on surfaces, on genus g and the Map Color Theorem at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. and on braids at the UCSD Undergraduate Knot Theory Seminar.

Campbell's projects include finding low-degree rational approximations to the Navy's antenna data and the mathematics of card shuffling. She has taken two graduate courses: Analytic and Algebraic Number Theory and Fourier Analysis on Finite Groups.

The award was named after the former president and founding member of AWM and professor emerita of Wellesley College, Alice T. Schafer, in 1990 when it was established by the AWM executive committee.

Millennium Lecture Series Presents Physicist Kim Griest, 'Dark Matter and the Ultimate Fate of the Universe'

Physics Professor and Vice Chair Kim Griest will present a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, titled "Dark Matter and the Ultimate Fate of the Universe." As part of the UCSD Millennium Lecture Series, Griest's presentation will be held at the Institute of the Americas Auditorium.

ence on what the fate of the universe is. Griest will explain how measuring the speed of stars, galaxies and other objects in space gives clues as to whether or not the universe will continue to expand and if it will eventually collapse.

Griest will also share his expertise in the mystery of identifying dark matter, the unexplained substance in space that ultimately determines the fate of the universe. Griest will present his research, "Massive Astrophysics Compact Halo Objects" and "Weakly Interacting Massive Particles," about what are believed to be the two most likely components of dark matter.

The UCSD Millennium Lecture Series, running from October 1999 through June 2000, features UCSD faculty members discussing important new ideas shaping the next millennium. The series is presented by UCSD Academic Affairs and Divisions of Arts and Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Public Programs.

Upcoming speakers in the UCSD Millennium Lecture Series include Historian David Guiterrez on Feb. 10 and Sociologist Bennetta Jules-Rosette on March 7.

For more information contact 822-0510 or emunk@ucsd.edu.

Engineering Institute Names Seven UCSD Professors Fellows

Seven faculty members from UCSD's Jacobs School of Engineering were honored as Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) Fellows for the class of 2000, the largest number of any university in the world. The IEEE class of 2000 is composed of 248 engineers from universities, corporations and government laboratories.

Professors Walter Burkhard, Larry Carter and Chung-Kuan Cheng represent the computer science and engineering department, and Professors Peter Asbeck, Larry Larson, Bhaskar Rao and Kenneth Zeger represent the department of electrical and computer engineering.

Each of the four electrical and computer engineering fellows is also a member of UCSD's Center for Wireless Communications, a cross-disciplinary program of research and education targeted at the emerging needs of the cellular and wireless communications industry. The CWC has a variety of research programs unified by the vision of broadband wireless access to the Internet.

Griest will explore his leading work surrounding one of the major unsolved questions in physical sci-

BOXER:

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Continued from page 1

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change, and as they get older, the ways in which friends interact change also," she said.

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AOL-Time Warner Merger Endangers Consumers

On Monday, Internet service provider America Online announced that it will purchase media giant Time Warner for \$160 billion — a deal that will be the largest corporate merger in U.S. history if it goes through. The proposed resulting company would be called AOL Time Warner.

The announcement marks the first major deal in which an Internet company has purchased a corporation with traditional media assets. The new company will control *Time Magazine*, Warner Brothers movies and television, Turner Broadcasting, CNN, HBO, Netscape and — of course — AOL, the world's largest Internet service provider with 22 million subscribers.

The *Guardian* is wary of such a large-scale merger between two media companies. Although the two companies currently operate in what are very different areas of media broadcasting, past large media mergers have only served to limit the diversity of the material that the industry produces. The print and movie industries are prime examples of how centralized ownership can effectively marginalize smaller companies and make it difficult for the market to support a diversity of products.

Under this deal, more consumers will receive content from a single media source, continuing a trend that Time Warner itself started when Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc. first merged in 1990. Already, rumors about similar mergers in response to AOL's announcement abound, including a merger between Yahoo! and Disney (rumors that both companies have vehemently denied). Regardless of the validity of any rash speculation, the AOL-Time Warner deal certainly will set a precedent that will encourage even larger mergers and further stratification of the media.

Another concern is the fate of the rapidly growing cable modem industry. Time Warner owns Roadrunner, which provides high-speed cable modem access to the Internet to consumers across the country, including many San Diegans. With this acquisition, AOL will considerably increase its ownership of Internet access.

In the past, AOL has been quite vocal in encouraging AT&T, which has recently been buying up a lot of the cable infrastructure required to provide high-speed access to computer users, to open up its cable access to allow independent providers to take advantage of its networks. It remains doubtful whether AOL will continue to champion the cause of smaller service providers now that it has secured ownership of vast cable modem resources for its own use.

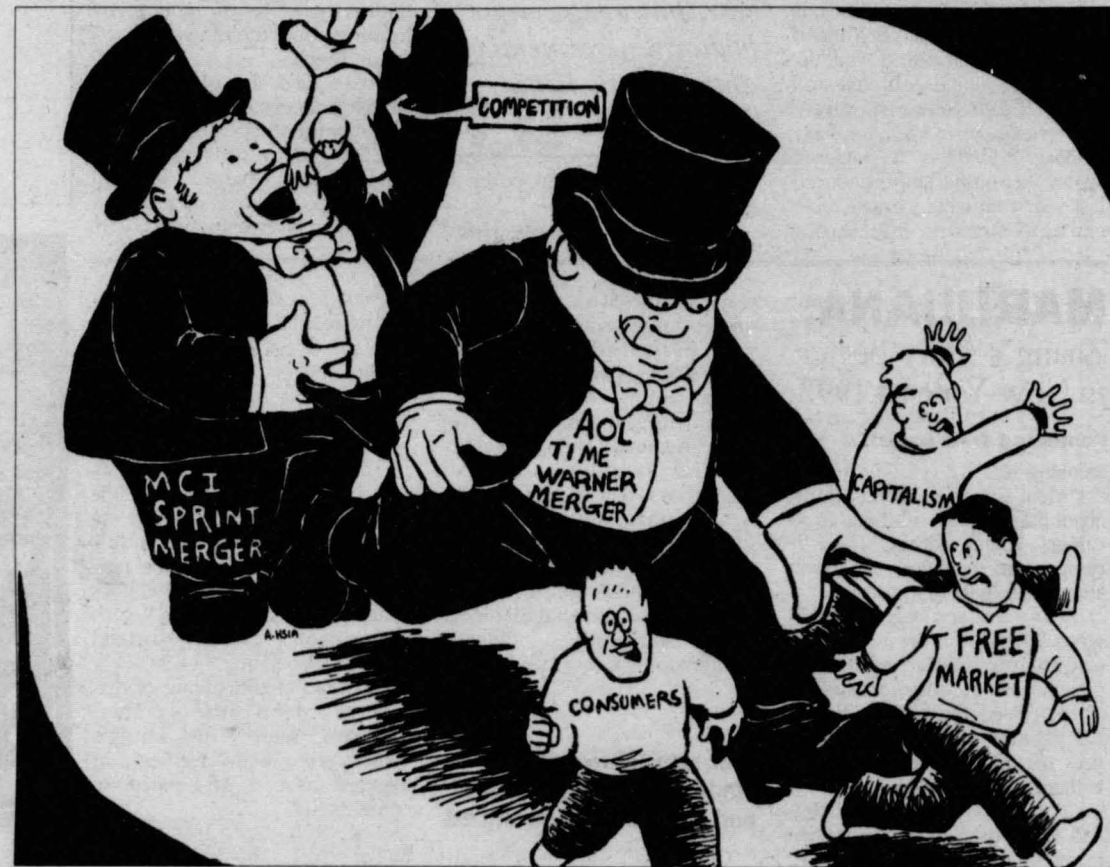
The future of media certainly seems to be leading to the merger of the Internet and traditional media. The *Guardian* had hoped that this exciting new frontier of media would be free of the monotonous corporate bias and lack of diversity that has plagued newspapers, television and feature films. Hopefully the new company will not abuse its power and neglect the interests of its consumers as so many other media giants have done in the past.

Props and Flops

Thumbs down to Studentlink for only displaying textbooks available at the UCSD Bookstore and not those carried at the student Co-ops.

Thumbs up to the U.S. government and the computer industry for spending billions of dollars preparing for that horrible, horrible Y2K bug that devastated all those foolish countries who didn't spend gobs of money preparing for it like we did.

OPINION



Sixth College Lacks Diversity

COMMENTARY: Academic program does not include the breadth of other colleges

By KEVIN SEID
 Staff Writer

As the UCSD student population continues to grow exponentially, plans are currently underway to build a sixth undergraduate college.

The first phase of the project was completed when the Academic Senate approved a theme and a preliminary academic plan for the new college. The "art, culture and technology" theme of the sixth college will highlight the impact of art and technology on culture and society.

The jewel of the college would be a structured three-quarter, freshman core sequence examining this theme of art, culture and technology. The three classes would examine this theme's relation to the past, present and future. The first quarter would cover the history of art and technology. The second quarter would examine modern and present issues with an emphasis on critical reading and rigorous writing. The third quarter would examine the future, consisting of group projects emphasizing written and oral communication skills.

Flaws Need Addressing

However, the proposed curriculum outline has major flaws that need to be addressed. As it stands now, the college would be extremely different from the other five colleges. It resembles an academic program more than a general education program. This would negatively affect the educational experiences of those UCSD students attending Sixth College.

A curriculum resembling an academic program was probably the goal of the Sixth College planning committee. Its report to the Academic Senate states the following: "An art, culture and technology theme would be distinct from the other UCSD colleges and unique in higher education today as a focal point of a major academic unit."

Much has been written of late in the popular press and scholarly journals on the relationship of art and science and the need for interdisciplinary education, but few academic programs exist today that act on this emerging current.

The theme would examine the work of two highly visible industries in California: entertainment and high technology. But a focus on specific industries and fields would undermine UCSD's undergraduate college system.

The whole idea of UCSD's unique system is to let students experience the intimacy of a small college while benefiting from the academic advantages of a major university. By gearing the college's general education requirements toward specific industries, Sixth College would be designed to serve certain disciplines.

Departments Educate

At UCSD, it is the job of the academic departments and programs, not the colleges, to educate students on

It is hard to imagine an arts and technology theme attracting a wide range of students from different cultures, ethnic groups and interests.

industry-based issues.

In addition, the college may not attract a very diverse student body. Diversity is an extremely important component of education. Access to a variety of ideas, customs and values helps students become more effective in interacting with our society, which is enriched by many cultures.

It is hard to imagine an arts and technology theme attracting a wide range of students from different cultures, ethnic groups and interests. It is true that entertainment and technology are two highly visible industries.

But that does not necessarily mean that all cultural and ethnic groups have equal representation or interest in these fields. The ethnicity of a student and his or her level of interest in arts and technology are two completely independent factors.

Another reason Sixth College resembles an academic department is that its general education require-

ments do not provide a diverse academic program. In addition to the freshman core sequence, students would also be required to take three courses in each of the following areas: natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The college would lack the foreign language, math and computer science requirements that other colleges have.

Compare the Sixth College academic plan to the more diverse program of Thurgood Marshall College. Marshall's academic plan is similar because its freshman core sequence, Dimensions of Culture, also spans three academic quarters. But Marshall students also take two courses in math or logic, two courses in humanities, one course in natural sciences and one course in fine arts. There is also a disciplinary breadth requirement in which students take four courses in a different discipline from that of their major.

John Muir College's flexible general education requirements are more diverse than the proposed Sixth College plan, as well. Muir students take two expository writing courses, one math or natural science sequence, one social science sequence, and two sequences selected from two of the three following areas: humanities, fine arts or foreign languages.

G.E.s Lack Important Breadth

A diverse range of general education requirements benefits all students because it provides the opportunity to gain some experience in several fields. Such requirements also help undeclared students by allowing them to explore different fields and prepare them for a broad array of majors. Without diverse requirements, many will be unprepared for certain disciplines.

The Sixth College plan should be sent back to the drawing board. The new college must not be just another academic program. It must adhere to the philosophy of the UCSD undergraduate system and the multiple college campus with a full set of diverse general education requirements. We must not lose this unique distinction that our university and its students treasure so deeply.

Racism Endures in Society

COMMENTARY: Misconceptions are still rampant despite all the advancements of this century

By JENNIFER SPOSITO
 Staff Writer

At the end of a century of countless American civil rights movements, we would like to think that we made some progress as a nation toward eliminating racism in this country. Those who were completely disenfranchised 100 years ago now have rights that are protected, at least in name, by legislation.

However, the struggle for equality is not so easily won. If we were judged solely on our laws, the United States would indeed seem to be the haven of racial equality that it is made out to be. In reality, the everyday thoughts and actions of people define the racial situation in the United States, and these factors convince me that racism is still rampant here. The battle for equality has gone underground, out of the spotlight and into our thoughts and actions — an area that we don't often stop to analyze.

My personal definition of racism is a stereotype, description, label or identification of someone that unnecessarily draws either excess or pejorative attention to the person's race. I have been fortunate that the people I have been around for most of my life have not resorted to taunting someone else about his or her race. Instead, it is the first part of my definition — drawing

excess attention to a person's race — that I see so frequently and with more vehemence nowadays. People don't realize that they often poison their stories and speech with bitter prejudice.

I had an experience a few months ago that illustrates this perfectly. I was talking about tennis with two friends — one is a fan of the tennis star Venus Williams, and said so during the conversation. Immediately, my other friend looked spiteful and said, "Venus Williams is such a stupid name. Why do black people have to give their kids such weird names? Why can't they give them normal names?"

I was stunned. My every instinct cried out in me that what she was saying was reprehensible. Of course, instead of being able to berate her right then and there, as I should have done, I thought of a witty and pertinent response about three hours later, after everyone had gone home. All the same, it was a conversation that stayed with me for several weeks.

What would possess a person to say something like that? I would like to be flippant and say that it was due to my friend's Orange County upbringing, but that wouldn't be fair. Whatever the motivation, her statement was obviously completely unfounded. What is a normal name? One of

See RACISM, Page 6

Holiday Madness

COMMENTARY: Seasonal frenzies of decoration buying are misguided and irritating

By CASSANDRA PIERCE
 Staff Writer

My family was one of the last on our block to put up Christmas lights this year — and one of the first to take them down on Jan. 2. Our neighbor across the street put them up earlier than we did — and he's Jewish!

Such events make me question our society's values. Not that complaining about them will do any good. I'm convinced that another neighbor was seriously expecting alien contact on New Year's Eve; his house was bright enough to serve as a landing strip.

My father still has the same outdoor Christmas lights that he bought about three years ago, in the height of the pastel fad. So our pale pinks, blues and greens flicker in an attempt to chase one another around the window, the lower eaves and a tree that's off to the side of the yard. This year, I helped by contributing my own artistic statement: I grabbed four strands of plain white lights, dumped them in a relatively even clump on my second-story window sill, and plugged them in. I titled it, "Do I Look OK?"

At least our house doesn't look like it's covered with short-circuiting icicles.

I remember looking for a last-minute Halloween decoration on Oct. 30. I went to a craft store near my house and was shocked that the Halloween decorations had been relegated to a small quarter of an aisle to make way for the Christmas decorations already overwhelming the store. And now I'm seeing heart-shaped candy

boxes at Wal-Mart. People are buying valentines 32 days early!

Furthermore, I can hardly remember the last time I saw Thanksgiving decorations, even the childish ones of little pilgrims and American Indians. I remember a few that my parents had about six years ago — the honeycomb fold-out kind. We had a turkey one for a centerpiece, and we always went to Sacramento for Thanksgiving. We weren't trying to impress anyone.

What are we missing in this race from one decorated candy to another? What about the other holidays? Do you know — without looking it up — what month Father's Day falls under? What about Mother's Day? Do you know which one comes first? When is Veteran's Day? Labor Day? Memorial Day? When is Martin Luther King Jr. Day? (No, not the day we get off from school.) When is it, really? What about Lincoln's birthday?

Most of these holidays celebrate people who made an indelible influence on our lives. After elementary school, however, there is little emphasis on decorations celebrating these holidays. This tradition of putting up decorations has a nice ring to it, as if these holidays are above materialism in a way that chocolate rabbits and leprechauns cannot compete with. Yet, based upon my own answers to the quiz above, all the cute, frivolous symbols of other holidays obscure these more sensible holidays.

It would be nice if, for once, Christmas lasted only 12 days, as in the song. Maybe I'm old-fashioned. I guess I wouldn't really know what to do with 23 birds.

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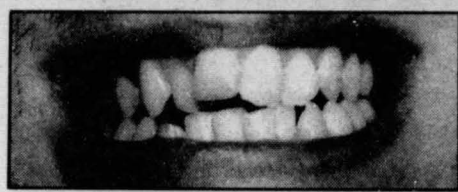
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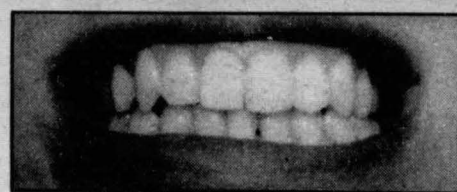
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RACISM:

Everyday comments illustrate prejudices

Continued from page 5

Anglo-Saxon derivation? At least Venus is the name of a goddess. My name, Jennifer, means "white wave" in Welsh. I don't think it gets much more ridiculous than that.

Too often I hear talk like that of my (former) friend. I can understand mentioning race if it can help put a story into a particular historical or cultural context. But otherwise, there is no need to emphasize the race of a person in the course of conversation. When somebody makes a point to convey a person's race in their speech, they are subliminally insinuating and perpetuating stereotypes. What other purpose could gratuitously mentioning someone's race serve, except to draw upon a host of preconceptions?

Often, a person will couple his or her speech with an anecdote of how enervating a particular episode was, and it is by this method that racism is perpetuated. I become very suspicious when a person has a gripe and makes an effort to point out the race of the person involved. In typical conversation, one wouldn't expect to hear an emphatic story about "this white guy who cut me off in traffic today." Hence, I don't see why people have to go out of their way to make sure that I know that the person who cut them off in traffic was Mexican. As a person of Mexican descent, I find that example particularly offensive. Mexican Americans cut other people off in traffic, but so do Caucasian Americans, African Americans and Asian Americans. I can attest to all of these personally.

Even when the context is not negative, people still use race as a convenient labeling tool. If I am talking about a group of people and I need to call attention to a person in that group who happens to be of a different race than the rest, I will be very careful not to use his or her race as the identifying characteristic. There are certainly other things that can be said of that individual's skin. I have found that people will resort to racial labeling too often because it is easy to do. What better way to pick someone out, they think, than to use the most visible label available?

By labeling someone, one automatically ostracizes. A label singles people out as being different — especially a label relating to their appearance. By highlighting another person's physical dissimilarities in a way that makes that individual stand out in a crowd, one subjects this person to an automatic mental categorization: "different." To see people in factions, split apart and dispersed does not promote unity. It is offensive to any attempt at progress.

Racism does not lie only in the crimes committed by fanatics such as the Ku Klux Klan and skinhead groups. Much of it is perpetuated because average people, in normal speech, are not careful enough to think about the effects of our words. We do not realize that the things we are saying actually have a social impact, and that they continually help to shape our national consciousness.

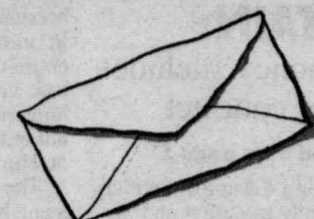
The progress that we have made fighting racism is nothing if it rests upon a weak foundation. That foundation is built on the way that everybody thinks and speaks each day. Until we change our behavior in this respect, legislative progress cannot improve anything. If our thoughts and actions are any indication, we have a long way to go before we can hope to free the United States of racist bias.

letters@ucsdguardian.org

C.A.P.E. Policy Violates Purpose

Editor:

The *Guardian* editorial ("Professors' Boycott of C.A.P.E. is Unfair to Students," Dec. 9) and related article by Lauren Coartney, ("Professor Refuses C.A.P.E.," Dec. 6) are clear examples of sloppy journalism. There are two major points that need clarification.



Letters to Editor

The *Guardian* welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than three pages, typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the *Guardian* office on the second floor of the Old Student Center. Send all letters to:

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La Jolla, CA 92093-0316
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e-mail: guardian@ucsd.edu

First, paragraph four of Coartney's article suggests that I have outlined a set of guidelines by which C.A.P.E. should conduct its affairs. On the contrary, I was drawing attention to C.A.P.E.'s stated purpose as listed on page iii of the current edition. The purpose listed is threefold: to serve students, faculty and those individuals who evaluate faculty. Overall the purpose seems to reflect a commitment to improve instruction on campus.

But how does it improve instruction when the C.A.P.E. staff sits around the table and selects comments for the "Off the Wall" section on the basis of outrageousness and those that make them laugh [according to Coartney's article]?

While the *Guardian* scolds professors for standing up for their convictions, where is the call for C.A.P.E. to conform to its stated purpose?

Would the *Guardian* prefer that professors look the other way while C.A.P.E. promotes intellectual mediocrity, cultural and gender biases and irresponsibility?

My second point is that *Guardian* articles make vague references to a "government grant" as the basis for C.A.P.E.'s financial support. This tactic reflects the C.A.P.E. director's attempt to establish C.A.P.E.'s independence from faculty or administrative oversight. The actual source of these

public funds, professors, administrators, staff people and students have a voice on this committee in determining how well C.A.P.E. achieves its purpose and the extent to which funding should be continued.

The *Guardian* seemed to base its editorial mainly on the article by Coartney. My concern is that I stressed the two major points cited above and in writing at the time that Coartney interviewed me. She recorded the session and accepted a copy of "talking points" that I had prepared for the interview.

While the *Guardian* has a right to publish articles on relevant issues and express its opinion, it also has a responsibility to get the facts straight. Failure to do so will give readers the wrong impression, and diminish the credibility of this important resource.

—Willie C. Brown
Professor Emeritus

Debate Over Cuban Boy Is Good Drama, But Bad News

COMMENTARY: Politicians involved in the argument seem unmindful of the personal effects the situation will have on Elián

By JULIA KULLA-MADER
Senior Staff Writer

It's easy to just ignore the political battle over Elián González, and to laugh at the excessive attention lavished on him by the media and politicians.

After all, the whole situation does seem just perfect for an Oscar-caliber film. Just imagine studio executives pitching the story: A Cuban boy clings to an inner tube for 2 days after surviving a shipwreck that killed his mother, stepfather and other passengers fleeing Cuba. After being rescued, the boy is subjected to a bitter custody battle between U.S. politicians, Cuban exile groups, his father and Fidel Castro. Then, the INS rules in favor of returning the boy, only to be thwarted by a Florida court ruling that the boy remain in the U.S.

I think that Haley Joel Osment (the kid from "The Sixth Sense") would do a wonderful job playing Elián. Osment doesn't look at all like Elián, but, with a little Hollywood make-up I'm sure he would be able to bring a new dimension to the boy's character. The real Elián often appears to have a smile frozen on his face; just think of the range of emotions Osment could bring to the character.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, what's good in the movies is not always good in real life. Although Hannibal Lector may be appealing on screen, no one wants to invite him over for dinner. Similarly, although Elián's story could garner some Hollywood

big shot an Oscar, it may just bring Elián a lifetime of psychological damage.

It is downright disturbing to listen to politicians and interest group representatives speak about Elián's situation. Listening to the presidential candidates talk about Elián, one might assume that the boy is their own son.

However, President Clinton has repeatedly insisted that the decision over Elián's fate is apolitical. Meanwhile, Vice President Gore, carefully studying public opinion, seems to change his mind on the matter every time a new Gallup poll is released.

The irony of it all is that while all these parties act paternally toward Elián, their energy is unnecessary. Elián has a father, one who loves him and desperately wants him back.

Unfortunately, due to a heightened political atmosphere, the boy is instead forced to stay with distant relatives that he met for the first time on Thanksgiving. His relatives argue that Elián is happy and will live a better life if he stays in America.

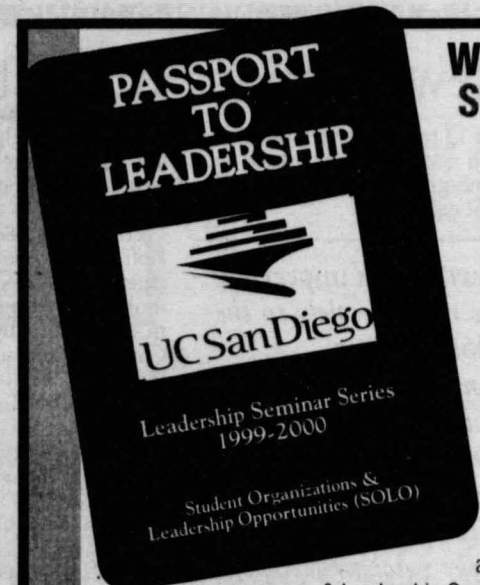
But, this isn't an auction for the highest bidder, and a pile of expensive toys does not equal a happy home. Moreover, everyone knows that these fancy gadgets won't be flowing into Elián's

home forever. And when the free trips to Walt Disney World end and Elián's 15 minutes of fame are up, it's doubtful that any of the politicians who were once so enamored with the boy will be there to throw him a life preserver.

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5	Win-Win Conflict Resolution Price Center Gallery B Presented by Troy Stende, Speaker with the Good Thinking Company	Feb. 7 3-4 pm
6	Preparing for Dental School Price Center Cove Presented by the Princeton Review / Hyperlearning	Feb. 10 5-7 pm
7	Safety on Campus Price Center Gallery B Presented by Officer Eddie Shin, UCSD Police Dept.	Feb. 15 3-4 pm
8	How to Make it as an Entrepreneur Price Center Gallery B Presented by David Finkel, UCSD Alumnus	Feb. 22 12 Noon-1 pm
9	Public Speaking - Yes You Can! Price Center Gallery A Presented by Dr. Renee Barnett-Terry, Dean of Student Affairs, Revelle College, UCSD	Feb. 23 3-5 pm
10	Personal Statements for Graduate School Price Center Cove Presented by the Princeton Review / Hyperlearning	Feb. 28 5-7 pm
11	Flirting with Disaster - Do You Understand Sexual Harassment? Price Center Gallery B Presented by Kirsten Quanbeck, Office of Sexual Harassment Prevention and Policy, UCSD	Mar. 2 3-4 pm
12	Dating 101 - Part II Price Center Gallery B Presented by Associated Students Officers	Mar. 6 3-4 pm

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WORLD NEWS WORLD NEWS WORLD NEWS WORLD NEWS WORLD NEWS WORLD NEWS

Iraq Agrees to New Weapons Inspections

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq said Wednesday that it would allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit the country next week to check its uranium stockpiles, ending a monthlong stand-off between the agency and the government of President Saddam Hussein.

The inspections will be the first by any outside agency concerned with clandestine weapons programs to take place in Iraq since December 1998, when inspectors from the atomic agency were withdrawn in advance of U.S. and British bombing raids, along with U.N. inspectors who monitored biological, chemical and missile programs.

The new inspections are not related, however, to the monitoring systems imposed on Iraq after the 1991 war in the Persian Gulf.

Next week's inspections are related solely to the 1968 nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which Iraq signed and which demands annual inspections of materials that could be used to make nuclear weapons. Iraq has 1.8 tons of low-enriched uranium

and 13 tons of natural uranium. Both could be transformed into bomb-grade material with the right equipment.

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By refusing visas to the IAEA inspectors, Iraq had put itself in violation of the treaty. Iraq's decision Wednesday to

give a green light to the team is not totally unrelated to efforts here to resume other U.N. arms inspections.

This week, Secretary-General Kofi Annan is expected to name a chief arms inspector for the new monitoring commission created in December by the Security Council to replace UNSCOM — the U.N. Special Commission — which had been unable to return to Iraq after the U.S.-led bombing. Its executive chairman, Richard Butler, resigned last year. The Security Council, which has been consulting with Annan as he makes his choice, has yet to agree on a nominee. Several lists of candidates have come and gone, and sometimes come again.

There has been some speculation this week that Annan may try to recall Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish diplomat and arms control expert who created UNSCOM in 1991 and led it until 1996. Ekeus is now Sweden's ambassador to the United States.

Annan is likely to name his candidate on Friday, officials and diplomats say.

— Barbara Crossette
The New York Times

BRITAIN: New policy includes code of conduct

Continued from page 1

Canada and Germany, which allow openly gay men and lesbians to serve in their armed forces.

The United States, with its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, is at variance with that trend.

The policy, adopted by the Clinton administration, allows gays to serve provided they do not disclose or discuss their sexuality.

The new British policy sets out a code of conduct for all manner of social and sexual relations, whether heterosexual or homosexual.

The about-face in British policy became inevitable on Sept. 27 when the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, unanimously ruled in favor of four former servicemen and women who were discharged in the mid-1990s

because of their homosexuality. In ruling against the British government, the court found that its ban violated the fundamental human right to privacy, as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The British defense department has long argued that the presence of gays in the military would depress morale among the 210,000 uniformed personnel and disrupt the services' effectiveness as fighting forces.

But supporters of gay rights and civil liberties applauded Wednesday's announcement, saying that it was overdue.

"When I first came to Stonewall seven years ago, I was shocked that lesbians and gay men in the armed forces were treated so brutally," said Angela Mason, the executive director of the gay-rights group Stonewall. "I am very proud that as from today, they will be able to serve their country with dignity and respect."

— Sarah Lyall
The New York Times

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NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS

FDA Warns of Overuse of New Drugs Against Flu

WASHINGTON — As a widespread outbreak of influenza swamps hospitals and doctors' offices around the nation, officials at the Food and Drug Administration Wednesday warned that doctors appear to be relying too heavily on two new influenza drugs, and said that some patients may have died because they did not get the more aggressive treatment they needed.

The drugs, Relenza by Glaxo Wellcome and Tamiflu by Hoffman-LaRoche, were both approved by the government in the last six months and are being heavily marketed in television and print advertisements. Both are intended for patients with uncomplicated cases of the flu.

But FDA officials said Wednesday that they had evidence that doctors were prescribing these new antiviral drugs to patients with complicated cases. Two flu patients whose conditions were complicated by serious bacterial infections were pre-

scribed Relenza when they should have received antibiotics; both died, said Dr. Heidi Jolson, director of the FDA's division of antiviral drug products.

Three other very sick flu patients taking Relenza also died; some might have needed more intensive therapy, such as oxygen, intravenous fluids and hospitalization, Jolson said.

Deaths among flu patients are not uncommon; an estimated 20,000 Americans, many of them elderly and infirm, die of the flu every year.

Doctors have written 300,000 prescriptions for Relenza, an inhaled medication, according to Lisa Behrens, a spokeswoman for Glaxo Wellcome. Precise figures for Tamiflu, which comes in pill form, were not available, but the prescriptions number in the hundreds of thousands, said Charles Alfaro, a spokesman for Hoffman LaRoche.

— Sheryl Gay Stolberg
The New York Times

AOL: Some people say drop not surprising

Continued from page 1

Lycos hanging over them, AOL and Time Warner are feverishly working to reassure investors that their combination makes strategic sense, meeting with top shareholders, extolling the virtues of the deal to the press and promising more details about linkups between the two companies soon.

Quietly, people close to the deal say the drop in AOL shares was not surprising, given that many AOL investors have come to count on an extraordinary growth rate and care little about traditional measures of stock value, like price-to-earnings ratios. Because Time Warner is growing much more slowly than AOL, buying Time Warner will dampen AOL's growth. Some AOL investors are selling their shares as a result.

On Wednesday, AOL shares fell \$4.50 to \$60, and shares in Time Warner dropped \$5.375 to \$79.625. While Time Warner's stock price remains higher than it was on Friday, before the deal was announced, shares in AOL have now lost one-fifth of their value in three days. As a result, the total value of the two companies now stands at about \$280 billion. That compares with a total value of \$300 billion on Friday.

Still, the two companies say the volatility will not derail the deal.

AOL and Time Warner executives spent Wednesday proclaiming the strategic benefits of their deal and lining up influential shareholders to express support for it. Executives of both companies say they remain confident the deal will go through, and say long-term benefits far outweigh any pain from short-term stock declines.

— Alex Berenson
The New York Times

Teachers' Salaries Lagging

As the nation embarks on a decade-long quest to hire 2 million teachers, teachers' pay continues to lag far behind that of other college-educated professionals — by an average of nearly \$8,000 a year at the start of their careers and by almost \$24,000 a year by the time they reach 50, a report released Wednesday by the journal *Education Week* said.

The report found the salary gap to be greatest when teachers with master's degrees, ages 44 to 50, were compared with other professionals of the same age and with the same level of education. The difference in pay in that category was \$32,511 annually, with teachers earning \$43,313 a year, compared with \$75,824 for other professionals.

The journal's researchers, using census data, determined that the average salaries for master's-degree recipients outside teaching increased \$17,505 from 1994 to 1998, while the average

salary of teachers with master's degrees rose by less than \$200.

In responding to the report, Bob Chase, president of the National Education Association, said: "For all of the discussions about schools' adopting efficient business practices as a means of reform, why should people believe the laws of supply and demand end at the schoolhouse door?"

The report documented numerous other shortcomings in schools' efforts to recruit and retain teachers, especially those of the highest quality.

Though the editors found that 39 states required prospective teachers to pass a basic skills test "to ensure that they are at least literate," 36 of those states have allowed some teachers who have failed such tests to be hired anyway. Only nine states require middle school teachers to pass tests in the subjects they teach, with the rest permitting middle school teachers to teach after obtaining broad elementary

school certificates. "While they set standards for who can enter the profession on the front end," the editors wrote, "most keep the door cracked open on the back end."

Once inside the classroom, teachers are unlikely to get the training they need, the report said.

The salary gap is largest in Louisiana, where college graduates with at least a bachelor's degree earned, on average in 1998, almost double the salary of teachers: \$52,379 compared with \$28,266, the report says. In Montana, where the disparity is the slimmest, the average teacher earns \$31,772, compared with \$34,971 for other college graduates.

The national average, for those who hold at least a bachelor's degree, is \$35,048 for teachers, compared with \$49,362 for other professionals.

— Jaques Steinberg
The New York Times

Deadline Lifted for Return of Rescued Cuban Boy

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno on Wednesday emphatically reaffirmed her belief that Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old boy rescued at sea clinging to an inner tube after his mother drowned, should be returned to his father in Cuba.

But in a letter to lawyers for the boy's relatives in Miami, Reno added that immigration officials had lifted their Friday deadline for Elian to be returned. She said the extra time would give relatives, who hope to keep Elian with them, an opportunity to file a federal court challenge.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department is considering going to court to ask a federal judge to enforce the immigration ruling, hoping to hasten a resolution.

The Clinton administration has adopted a dual approach. On one hand, officials want to show that their decision favoring Elian's father is the product of established law that sets a priority on family, and they are willing to have it tested in federal court. But the administration is also moving to end the stalemate quickly, possibly seeking a court order that could have U.S. marshals' fetching Elian from Miami relatives.

In her letter, Reno said that a separate lawsuit filed in Florida court by the relatives had no bearing on the case, which she said could be decided only in federal court. Judge Rosa Rodriguez of the Miami-Dade Circuit Court ruled Monday that Elian had to remain in the United States until a March 6 hearing.

Ms. Reno brushed aside that ruling, saying that the state court order had "no force or effect" on the Immigration and Naturalization Service's decision in the case.

"The question of who may speak for a 6-year-old child in applying for admission or asylum is a matter of federal immigration law," Reno wrote.

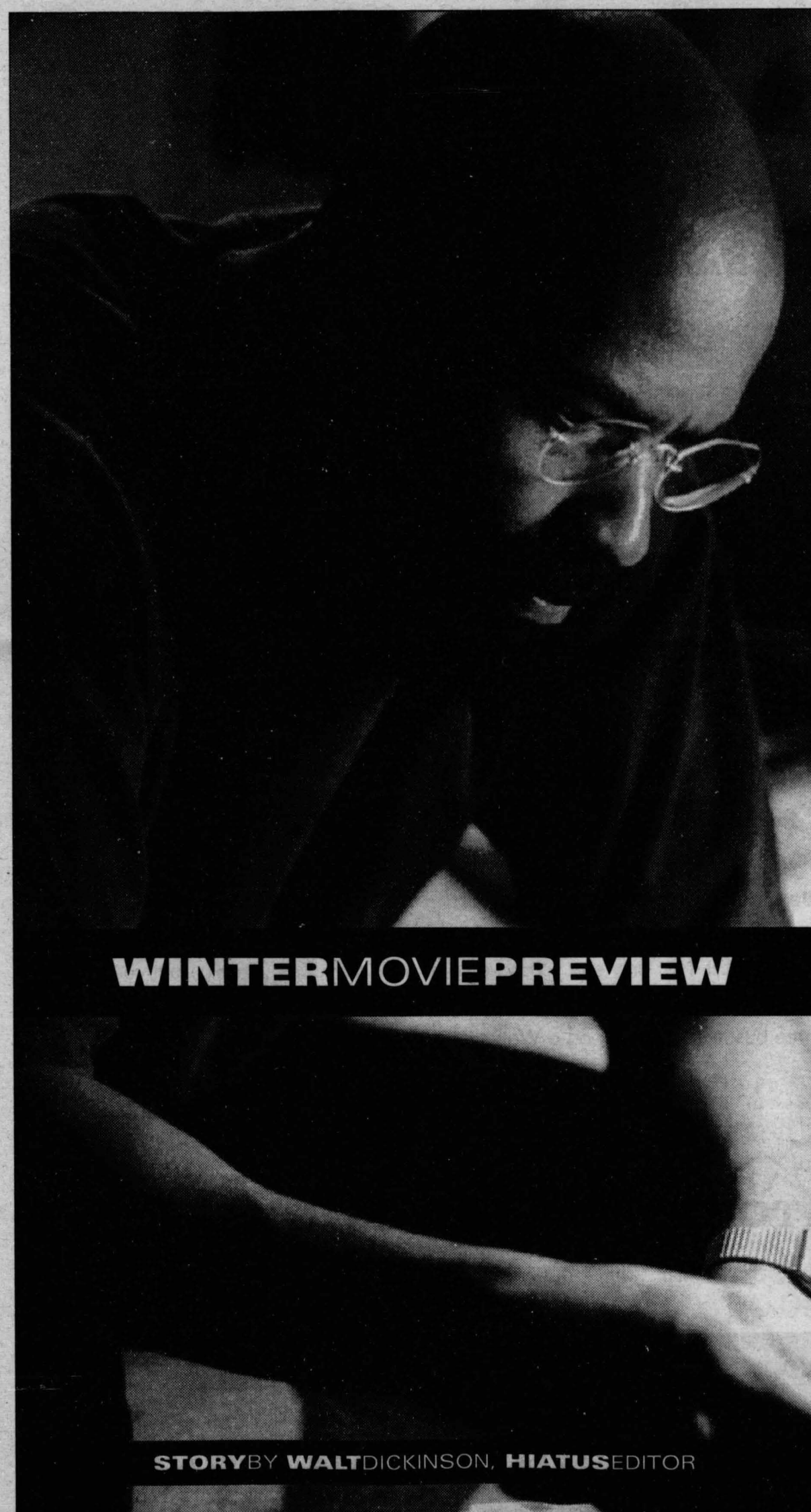
Spencer Eig, a Miami lawyer who represents the Florida relatives, said the family would soon take up Reno's invitation to file a challenge to the immigration service ruling in federal court.

"But Eig said the relatives would also maintain their efforts to have a state court award them legal custody of Elian.

— Neil A. Lewis
The New York Times

hiatus

Arts and Entertainment



Y2K BRINGS A FRESH BATCH OF FILMS TO THE SILVER SCREEN

JANUARY 12TH
Next Friday

Premise: Craig (Cube) moves from the inner city to the suburbs to live with his lottery-winning uncle and cousins but quickly discovers that trouble can find you no matter where you live. Once again, forces beyond his control will test his survival skills and his commitment to family.

Featuring: Ice Cube, John Witherspoon, Tamala Jones, Tom "Tiny" Lister Jr. and Mike Epps.

Outlook: It's just not right to do a sequel to "Friday" without Smokey, but fans of the original will no doubt rush to theaters to see Craig and Deebo duel it out in the suburbs. Epps has big shoes to fill and it will be interesting to see how well he pulls off the comedic sidekick role.

JANUARY 14TH
Supernova

Premise: On the edges of deep space, a sort of space ambulance ship dubbed the Nightingale 9 receives an S.O.S. from a mining crew on the surface of a comet in another galaxy. When Nightingale 9 arrives at the comet, its crew finds only one survivor and a strange alien artifact.

Featuring: James Spader, Angela Bassett, Robert Forster, Lou Diamond Phillips, Robin Tunney and Vincent D'Onofrio.

Outlook: One of this movie's tag lines refutes the classic sci-fi tagline: "In space no one can hear you scream." People will no doubt be screaming for refunds once this abomination hits the box office. We can only hope that our cries do more than fall on Hollywood's deaf ears.

Girl, Interrupted

Premise: Susanna Kaysen (Ryder), like many American teenagers of the 1960s, is struggling to make sense of the rapidly changing world around her. Her psychiatrist labels her confusion and insecurity as Borderline Personality Disorder and Susanna is moved to Claymoore, a psychiatric hospital. Susanna is forced to choose between the safe but dry world of Claymoore and its patients and the often difficult outside world.

Featuring: Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Whoopi Goldberg and Jared Leto.

Outlook: The feel on this picture is borderline. On the one hand, Ryder and Jolie are both fantastic actresses. However, if the story can't back up their performances, there won't be enough to make this film worthwhile.

The Hurricane See photo at left

Premise: The true story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a boxer whose wrongful imprisonment cost him most of his life. Despite impassioned pleas from Bob Dylan and Muhammad Ali, Carter remained in prison until an American youth living in Canada enlisted social activists to campaign for his release.

See MOVIES, Page 11

STORY BY WALT DICKINSON, HIATUS EDITOR

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Bertrand Lavier

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Downtown hosts engaging French artist through Jan. 31

By ILONA FASS Senior Staff Writer

Marcel Duchamp revolutionized the modern art world when he placed everyday objects, for which he coined the term "Readymades," within the context of a museum. The contemporary French artist Bertrand Lavier follows in Duchampian tradition, but with a reverse twist for the exhibit Bertrand Lavier: Walt Disney Productions, currently on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Downtown San Diego.

Lavier engages the viewer in the inherent irony of a 1947 comic strip entitled Very Abstract Lines in which Mickey and Minnie Mouse assume the roles as both subjects and critics of modern art.

The French artist recreated a fantasy museum based upon the original cartoon, complete with plastic sculptures and abstract images.

The result is a sophisticated and synthetic experience of art imitating, imitating reality.

Lavier flexes his Duchampian muscles in a more traditional way with the accompanying portion of the Walt Disney Productions series.

Pastel on Sony O consists of a chair placed on top of a refrigerator. Neither the chair nor the refrigerator serves the purpose usually ascribed to them. The function of the refrigerator has been altered from chilling food to supporting the chair. And the chair, rather than being sat upon, alludes to the lines of classic sculpture.

Composition in 3 Colors is a piece of wooden floor taken from a gym. When in a gymnasium, the red, green and blue lines are the boundary lines for games such as hockey, tennis and basketball. Isolated, the multicolored lines transform into abstract art.

Lavier has shown extensively in Europe and his native country, France. This exhibition is presented as part of Cote Ouest: A Season of French Contemporary Art and will be on display through Jan. 31 in Downtown San Diego. More information is available at (858) 454-3541.

MOVIES:

Some gems, some duds throughout the season

Continued from page 5

Featuring: Denzel Washington, Vicellous Reon Shannon, Deborah Unger and Liev Schreiber.

Outlook: This film promises to be Washington's finest since 1995's "Crimson Tide." Most of his more recent roles have set Washington far below the extent of his talents and hopefully this film will be his opportunity to make a comeback.



Play it to the Bone

Premise: Two best friends (Banderas and Harrelson), who are both former boxers, travel across the country to Las Vegas to fight one another for the first time. Along the way, their competitive personalities spur an intense rivalry as the two friends antagonize each other.

Featuring: Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson, Lolita Davidovich, Tom Sizemore and Lucy Alexis Liu.

Outlook: Think "White Men Can't Jump" plus "Money Train" minus Wesley Snipes plus Antonio Banderas. This film has the potential to be really funny but probably won't be one of the more memorable films.

JANUARY 21ST

A Map of the World

Premise: A woman (Weaver) who has recently moved to a small Wisconsin town with her husband (Strathairn) and family to pursue his dream of running a dairy farm finds her life unraveling following the accidental drowning of a friend's (Moore) daughter.

Featuring: Sigourney Weaver, Julianne Moore and David Strathairn.

Outlook: The casting director should be praised for matching this group of actors. On the other hand, little more can be said for this otherwise apparently stagnant film.

Down to You

Premise: This comedy follows a young man (Prinze) looking back at his first love (Stiles) from three years after they broke

up to when they were in college together ... and the people who came between them along the way.

Featuring: Freddie Prinze Jr. and Julia Stiles.

Outlook: First off, of all the pretty boys roaming through Hollywood these days, how did Prinze come away with the "I'm-In-Every-Teenage-Love-Story" trophy. It just doesn't seem right. Otherwise the buzz for this film seems positive. Not your run-of-the-mill, boy-meets-girl story.

JANUARY 28TH

Boiler Room

Premise: A depressing look at the subculture of the stock market follows the rise and fall of Seth Davis (Ribisi), an enterprising college drop-out who takes a job at a small brokerage firm. As he improves his skills in the company's "boiler room" he gains his father's respect, but rapidly finds himself surrounded by corruption and greed.

Featuring: Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel, Ben Affleck and Jamie Kennedy.

Outlook: The cast and the story make for positive vibes from this film. Ribisi is an excellent actor with a lot of potential, and hopefully this will be a good film for his career, as well.

Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her

Premise: A study of the physical and emotional intricacies affecting the everyday lives of a very diverse group of women, and the strategies they adopt in coping with events — large and small, overt and hidden — that shape the way they live.

Featuring: Glenn Close, Cameron Diaz, Calista Flockhart, Holly Hunter, Amy Brenneman and Kathy Baker.

Outlook: You could put together a better cast of talented actresses, but it would be extremely difficult. The cast and the complex story which they weave should create a dynamic and interesting film.

Eye of the Beholder

Premise: A nameless private eye (McGregor) shadows the same woman (who happens to be a serial killer of men) all over the United States for over 10 years, without her ever knowing. Strangely enough, he even occasionally acts as her guardian angel.

Featuring: Ewan McGregor, Ashley Judd, Patrick Bergin, k.d. lang and Jason Priestley.

Outlook: This richly bizarre tale should

See MOVIES, Page 13



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All-Star Cast Can't Save Dying 'Magnolia'

Tom Cruise, William H. Macy, Julianne Moore and Philip Seymour Hoffman play poorly crafted characters

By DAVID YEN
Senior Staff Writer

Don't buy into the hype. Paul Thomas Anderson's "Magnolia" is quite possibly one of the worst films you will ever see. Certainly, you would think, a film featuring such marquee stars as Tom Cruise, William H. Macy and Julianne Moore and directed by the man who helmed "Boogie Nights" can't be horrible. Unfortunately, it's worse. "Magnolia" is a three-hour movie featuring senseless subplots, tortuous dialogue, ridiculous characters and soap opera-style melodrama.

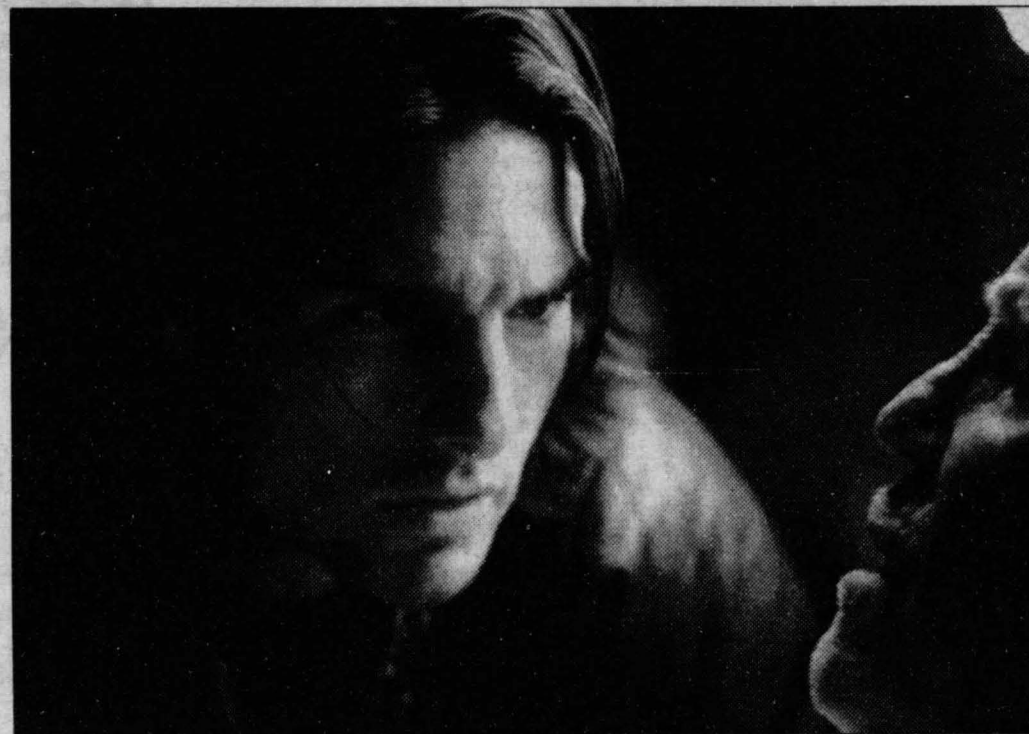
"Magnolia," like one of the year's best films, "American Beauty," challenges you to look closer. It presents a series of seemingly ordinary scenarios and asks the audience to find some greater meaning or connection among the characters and events. Unfortunately, this is just a hoax. When you arrive at the end of the film, there are no revelations, no feelings of redemption and even no surprises (a la "The Sixth Sense"). Instead, there is the dreaded feeling that you have just forfeited three hours of your life at the expense of a director who finds it amusing to wreck a talented cast slowly — and I mean slowly.

In "American Beauty," you learn that despite all of life's hardships, there is still something beautiful about being alive. In "Magnolia," you learn that life sucks and people usually end up doing the things they are supposed to do. You don't need a

movie to tell you that.

There are at least four or five different stories going on simultaneously in "Magnolia" (Honestly, I lost count). There is the story about a dying patriarch (Jason Robards), attended to by his loyal nurse (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and his young wife (Julianne Moore), who only married him for his money. The patriarch's long-lost son is a dynamic, male-centered sex guru (Tom Cruise), who gives long, impassioned speeches about how women are evil. Then there is a young quiz show genius with a bladder problem, an older former quiz show champion who thinks he's stupid (William H. Macy) and an even older quiz show host with cancer. Then there's his daughter — the crazy drug addict — and the simple-minded cop who is supposed to be the moral center of the film.

While all of the characters exhibit intriguing personal traits, none of them appears often enough or engage in any actions to endear themselves to the audience. The consequences for each character, as well, are painfully predictable. As the soon-to-be widow, Moore cries and acts hysterical a lot. Cruise's character, believe it or not, ends up crying on his estranged father's deathbed. The cop, who is supposed to appear profound despite an aura of simplicity, is really quite shallow. He gives an "eloquent" speech about how people sometimes need help and need to be forgiven. But if he is to be the one character who is decent and



Courtesy of New Line Cinema

Intensity: Cruise's work in "Magnolia" earned him a Golden Globe nomination; however, Jason Robards delivers the film's only satisfactory performance as the elderly dying father.

holds things together, how do you explain the fact that he puts his desire for a relationship over his duties as an officer?

"Magnolia" garnered a lot of hype due to the addition of Tom Cruise as a supporting actor (he received a Golden Globe nomination). Pretty boy did not give a bad performance, mind you, but it was the character, not Cruise, that

made the difference. If there was a decent performance in this mockery of a film, it would be Robards. All his character had to do was moan and groan every 30 seconds and then die at the end. Well done.

The final hour of "Magnolia" tops off the insanity with a 10-minute downpour. (Hint: it's not water falling from the sky.) This scene does successfully manage

to shock the audience, but possibly only because it makes no sense whatsoever. It gives the feeling that the producers are sharing an inside joke amongst themselves. Since expectations going in were so high, maybe they could throw in some awful scenes and have people scramble

See MAGNOLIA, Page 15

MOVIES:

Various dramas dominate season

Continued from page 12

make for interesting filmmaking if the cast and director really get inside the story and explore its strangeness to its fullest extent.

FEBRUARY 4TH Gun Shy

Premise: Charlie Mayo (Neeson) is an undercover DEA agent on his last assignment to bring down a known Mafia hit man. Unfortunately, his business and personal lives are full of stress. Therapy and medication don't seem to help, but when Charlie tries massage he meets the girl of his dreams.

Featuring: Liam Neeson, Oliver Platt and Sandra Bullock.
Outlook: Think "Analyze This" but from the other side of the law — plus a love interest. This film will probably turn out to be a run-of-the-mill romantic comedy.

Scream 3

Premise: Sydney Prescott's (Cox) ordeal comes full circle in the third installment of the "Scream" trilogy. Prescott has moved to Hollywood to become an actress but when people start dying, around the set of "Stab 3," Sydney realizes that the final act of her scary movie must take place where it began, in Woodboro.

Featuring: Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox, David Arquette, Patrick Dempsey, Scott Foley, Lance Henriksen, Jenny McCarthy, Parker Posey, Carrie

Fisher and Liev Schreiber.

Outlook: There are some extremely positive reviews floating around by people who have seen advanced screenings of the film. Hopefully the rumors will be true and "Scream" will return to its roots rather than attempt to be just another cheesy, modern, horror flick.

FEBRUARY 11TH The Beach

Premise: Three youths in search of a truly unique life experience discover a completely unspoiled island paradise. Their dreams are spoiled by the introduction of an evil element to the island, forcing them to fight for their home and their lives.

Featuring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tilda Swinton and director Danny Boyle.

Outlook: For those who don't know, Danny Boyle directed "Shallow Grave" and "Trainspotting," which are two extremely well-done films. On top of his foundation, solid acting performances are guaranteed by DiCaprio and Swinton.



Hanging Up

Premise: This comedy follows a trio of sisters who bond over their ambivalence toward the approaching death of their cur-

mudgeonly father (Matthau), to whom none of them was particularly close.

Featuring: Lisa Kudrow, Meg Ryan, Walter Matthau and actor/director Diane Keaton.

Outlook: Think this year's "The First Wives Club" but swap the two crummy actresses for Kudrow and Ryan. This trio promises to be far more captivating than the crew from 1996, but whether or not this film will actually reach its audiences remains to be seen.

FEBRUARY 18TH The Whole Nine Yards

Premise: Nick Ozaransky's (Perry) life is turned upside down by the arrival of his new neighbor, a hit man named Jimmy the Tulip Tedeschi (Willis).

Featuring: Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry, Rosanna Arquette, Natasha Henstridge and Kevin Pollak.

Outlook: The trailer for "The Whole Nine Yards" confirms that Willis and Perry are a perfect match in this screwball comedy about a typical suburbanite who can't deal with the fact that his neighbor happens to have killed dozens of people.

Pitch Black

Premise: When a spaceship crashes on a seemingly lifeless, sun-scorched world, the survivors and one escaped prisoner must face the horrifying creatures which only come out in the dark.

Featuring: Vin Diesel, Radha Mitchell and Cole Hauser.
Outlook: In the grand tradition of

this year's "Supernova" and countless shameless sci-fi horror flicks of years' past comes "Pitch Black." Think "Tremors" but only at night. <Shudder>

The Skulls

Premise: Luke McNamara, a college senior from a working class background, joins a secret elitist college fraternity organization called "The Skulls" in hope of gaining acceptance into Harvard Law School. When his best friend commits suicide, Luke begins to realize the disturbing nature of the organization.

Featuring: Joshua Jackson
Outlook: Jackson ditches the Creek and heads back to the silver screen (he's come a long way from "The Mighty Ducks 3" in 1996) for this disturbingly creepy look at college fraternities.

Deterrence

Premise: The president of the United States (Pollack) must deal with an international military crisis while confined to a Colorado diner during a freak snowstorm.

Featuring: Kevin Pollack, Timothy Hutton, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Sean Astin.

Outlook: Sort of a neat premise but it remains doubtful whether or not it will sustain an audience's attention for more than 90 minutes.

FEBRUARY 25TH Wonder Boys

Premise: A thrice-wed college professor (Douglas) is suffering from writer's block despite a very

successful first novel. In the course of the film, his student (Holmes) develops a crush on the academic. He, however, gets the chancellor (McDormand) pregnant and teams up with another student to find a rare jacket once owned by Marilyn Monroe.

Featuring: Michael Douglas, Robert Downey Jr., Katie Holmes, Frances McDormand and Rip Torn.

Outlook: These talented actors will explore a complex array of interpersonal relationships, however it's difficult to tell whether the crew will approach these subjects from a comedic or dramatic angle. In any case, it's worth taking a look at if only for the cast.



Foolproof

Premise: "Foolproof" is a deliciously mean-spirited comedy about the chaos that ensues when an overworked and underappreciated chauffeur for a nasty dowager teams up with his hot dog-selling buddy to kidnap the old bag's pampered pooch.

Featuring: David Chappelle, Danny DeVito and Maria Arcé.

Outlook: A goofy premise however it stands alone as the sole "dog" film of the season so one can never tell. It's doubtful whether or not this flick will stand out.

See MOVIES, Page 15

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MOVIES:

Shakespearean remakes and silly spoofs

Continued from page 13

MARCH 3RD

What Planet Are You From?

Premise: In this comedy, an alien (Shandling) is assigned to visit Earth in order to breed. Yes, breed. However, his alien sex organs aren't quite compatible with a human's and thus he finds it necessary to be creative.

Featuring: Garry Shandling, Annette Bening, John Goodman, Greg Kinnear, Ben Kingsley, Linda Fiorentino and Nora Dunn. **Outlook:** The premise is bizarre, but the cast is an accomplished collection of actor/comedians, so the product may be quite good.

Chain of Fools

Premise: An avid detective (Hayek) is assigned to investigate the heist of a batch of precious coins that end up in the hands of a suicidal barber (Zahn). The barber subsequently falls in love with the detective.

Featuring: Salma Hayek, Jeff Goldblum, Lara Flynn Boyle, David Cross and Steve Zahn.

Outlook: A heavy contender for this weekend's comedic overload. Another solid cast of comedians and amusing plots will be a tough match for the other films.

MARCH 10TH

Mission to Mars

Premise: The first NASA mission to Mars goes awry leaving all but one (Cheadle) of the crew members dead. Another group of astronauts (led by Sinise) are sent in to rescue him, explore the planet and find out what went wrong.

Featuring: Don Cheadle, Kim Delaney, Jerry O'Connell, Tim Robbins, Gary Sinise and director Brian De Palma.

Outlook: The trailer for "Mission to Mars" makes the film look more epic than the other sci-fi offerings available this season. However, De Palma still hasn't cured the damage inflicted by "Snake Eyes."

O

Premise: The story of Othello retold on the basketball courts of a high school. The story centers on the young Odin (Phifer) — who is convinced by his conniving best friend Hugo (Hartnett) that his girlfriend is cheating on him.

Featuring: Mekhi Phifer, Josh Hartnett and Julia Stiles.

Outlook: The next in a long line of Shakespearean remakes sets Othello in a high school? Could work. Phifer is an extremely talented actor but it's unclear whether or not the rage of Othello will translate well into this version.

MAGNOLIA:

Movie falls apart on every single level

Continued from page 12

to figure out the symbolism (there is none). Or maybe, they figured, since so many Hollywood films nowadays are conventional, formula-driven dramas or action shoot-em ups, then anything wacky or different would be embraced by movie-goers. Quality, after all, is only an illusion.

MARCH 24TH

Romeo Must Die

Premise: A retelling of Romeo and Juliet with modern roles. Set in Oakland, Calif. as a truce between African American and Asian gangs falls apart, two people (Li and Haughton) from opposite sides of the feud find themselves falling in love. Naturally the match is not preferred by either side and violence ensues.

Featuring: Jet Li, Aaliyah Haughton, Isaiah Washington and Delroy Lindo.

Outlook: It's been way too long since "Lethal Weapon 4" introduced Jet Li to American audiences and this will be his first return to the big screen since.

MARCH 24TH

The Road to El Dorado

Premise: Two swindlers (Branagh and Klein) get their hands on a map to the fabled city of gold, El Dorado. The two stow themselves on board one of Cortez's ships and travel to the New World, eventually finding the city. Once there, they are used by a priest (Assante) who's trying to win control of the city for himself.

Featuring: The voices of Armand Assante, Kenneth Branagh, Kevin Kline, Edward James Olmos and Rosie Perez.

Outlook: A fun animated film that probably won't touch at all on the terrible crimes inflicted on the Native Americans by the Spanish.

The Ninth Gate

Premise: A rare book dealer (Depp) seeks out the last two copies of a demon text that are said to have the power of summoning Satan. His venture draws him into the middle of conspiracy with supernatural overtones.

Featuring: Johnny Depp, Frank Langella, Lena Olin, Emmanuelle Seigner and director Roman Polanski.

Outlook: If audiences can ever forgive Hollywood for "End of Days," then this film might be well received. However, it's unlikely that even Depp's talents will win an audience for another Satan-summoning flick.

Scary Movie

Premise: This spoof of the popular slasher flicks: "Scream," "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "Halloween" and "Friday the 13th" was originally titled "Last Summer I Screamed Because Halloween Fell On Friday the 13th."

Featuring: Carmen Electra, Shannon Elizabeth, Cheri Oteri Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans and actor/director Keenen Ivory Wayans.

Outlook: Think "Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood" but with the spoof on the horror genre.

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being is if you were in f or g house during the 96-97 school year, or are one of the few a-j housers and revelle kids who are cool by association- then you are coming to becca-rachel-heather-and yvette's house for a little senior year-winter quarter-week one-party. we'll try to call you this week, or you could call us. (1/13)

WWW.THECOMMENTATOR.COM (1/13)

Beware the evil smile of copy. It looks like this >T do you realize that right now is the easiest the quarter will ever be for you? so smile already and enjoy week one like you mean it 'cause it's only about to get harder. (1/10-13)

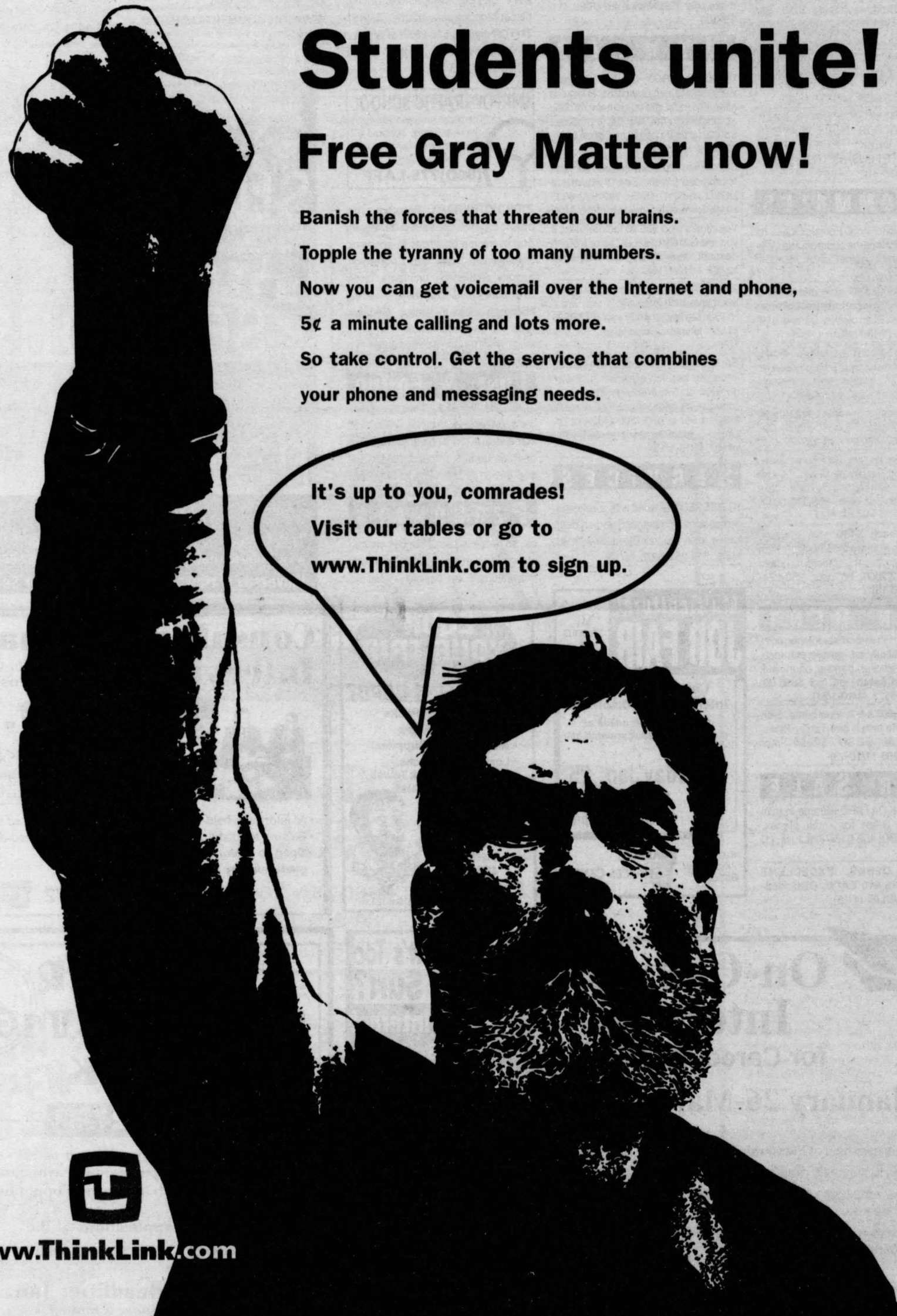
I'm gonna miss yvette, I'm gonna miss yvette, I'm gonna miss yvette, I'm gonna miss yvette, I'm gonna miss yvette. :(

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NFC: Vikings quarterback can't win in playoffs

Continued from page 20
 loser. He lost in Atlanta, he lost with the Raiders and who thinks he won't lose with the Vikings? He is a good QB that can launch a ball 60 yards, but he is not a playoff-caliber leader.
 The Rams have the league MVP in Warner and the best running back in Faulk. Playing at home against the Viking

defense should be a cake walk for the Rams.
 The Rams also have a decent D that sports Kevin Carter, who led the league with 17 sacks.
 The Vikings can win if Robert Smith plays like he played against Dallas last week, rushing for 140 yards on 28 carries. If he can do that again and George and his troika of pass catchers are clicking, the Rams may have bitten off more than they can chew.
 The Rams have two additional advantages that the Vikings don't, however. First,

they are playing at home in the very loud Trans World Dome, which is hosting its first ever playoff game and is expected to be rowdy. Also, the Rams have Head Coach Dick Vermeil at the helm. Vermeil has Super Bowl experience, having lost the big one in 1980 to the Oakland Raiders. He knows how to prepare his team for a big game.
 Don't get me wrong, the Vikings will score, but the difference in defenses will allow the Rams to score much more.
Guardian prediction: Rams 41, Vikings 24.

UCSD CLUBSPORTS

BALLROOM DANCE

The ballroom dance team began its season at the Intercontinental DanceSport Championships on the weekend of Jan. 6 and 7. UCSD's top ballroom dancers traveled all the way to Daytona Beach, Fla. for one of the most prestigious events of the season. Every year, the Intercontinental DanceSport Championships bring out the top teams in dance competition in both the United States and Canada.
 UCSD competed for the first time under new Head Coach Peter Edwards and also used a newly choreographed routine, making nerves higher than usual as the team went into the performance. To make things even more difficult, UCSD could not transport its full squad to the competition due to financial constraints.
 Despite all these apparent setbacks, UCSD returned to La Jolla with a third place finish out of 40 competitors.
 "We rose to the challenge," Captain Kelly Han said. "It's only upwards from here."
 UCSD's finish can be thanked in large part to John Stillwagen and Nikki Haritatos, who took first place in the Argentine tango.
 The ballroom dance team should only improve as the season moves forward. Look for its results and those of other club sports programs every Wednesday in the *Guardian*.
 — Bill Burger

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"We're only up by 22."

— Chick Hearn
commenting in the third
quarter of Tuesday's
Laker game versus the
Denver Nuggets

SPORTS



Reality Check

By Bill Burger

Who Should Be Number One

For me, one of the most enjoyable things about approaching the year 2000 was reading all of the "best of" lists. I know that for most of you these anthologies of people, places and events got tiresome, but I found them interesting.

Probably the best part of these lists is that not a single one could make it to completion without 95 percent of the people knowing about it being upset about the choices made. I definitely fall into this 95 percent.

Since this is a sports column, you've probably guessed that I am referring to ESPN's list of the top 100 athletes of all time.

I have quite a few problems with this list. First, let me get this out of the way. ESPN put Secretariat, generally considered the best racing horse of all time, on the list. There is no way an animal should be considered an athlete. Horse racing is just a way for obsessive gamblers to get their fix in between sports bets and visits to the local Indian reservation.

Secretariat is a problem I can deal with. The problem I can't deal with, however, starts at the very top.

I know Michael Jordan, ESPN's No. 1 athlete of the century, is generally considered a god. Granted, the guy did some incredible things and deserved to be very high on the list. Although Jordan seemed to defy the laws of gravity on many occasions, I don't see how anyone other than Jackie Robinson can be considered the greatest athlete of the 20th century.

Robinson excelled at four sports at UCLA. When he chose baseball, generally considered to be his fourth or fifth best sport, he excelled at that too. He won two MVPs and helped the Dodgers break the curse that the Yankees put on them during the 10 years before Robinson's arrival.

This alone makes Robinson a top athlete, but how he made it to the major leagues makes him the best athlete. Robinson's breaking of the athletic ethnicity barrier gave African Americans a new opportunity. If it wasn't for Robinson, Jordan would never have had a chance to show what he could do. This is why Robinson deserves to be rated as the best athlete of the 20th century.

Robinson received death threats and experienced racism that few people alive today can fathom. Through it all, he took the opposition with a grain of salt and let his game speak for itself. His maturity and pure love for baseball should be a lesson to everyone.

Robinson embodied what a great athlete should be and therefore deserves to be called the greatest.



Nicholas Runco/Guardian

AFC: The Dolphins may have bought themselves more time, but they are no match for the Jags, while the Colts' offensive trio will beat the Titans

By **BILL BURGER**
Sports Editor

The AFC playoff picture includes four teams fighting for a trip to the Super Bowl. Here is the breakdown

Indianapolis Colts versus Tennessee Titans

Tennessee finished its season with a 13-3 record — the best in history for a wild card team. They will be facing off against the upstart Indianapolis Colts, who also finished the regular season 13-3 and won the AFC East, which was the best division in football this year.

Truthfully, however, the Titans should probably be sitting at home watching this weekend's game instead of playing in it. If it weren't for a blown call by referee Phil Luckett at the end of the Titans' game with Buffalo that allowed the Titans to return the game's last kickoff for a touchdown as time expired, Buffalo would be playing in this game. However, the Titans definitely do seem to have what it takes to ante up to the table when they need to and get the job done.

The Titans have found ways to win all season. They are 3-0 against the Jaguars and the Rams this season, whereas all other teams combined were a meager 2-26 against the league's juggernaut teams. This should prove that the Titans can play in a big game. Also, quarterback Steve McNair seems to be able to pull off a big performance when it is

needed while receding back into mediocrity when it is not.

That being said, I am still going to choose against the Titans this weekend. They just don't have the offensive firepower to combat the Colts' magical trio of Peyton Manning, Edgerin James and Marvin Harrison. Moreover, the Colts are coming off a stinging loss to the Bills at the end of the regular season and will likely be very ready for this game as they are coming off a bye week.

Guardian
prediction: Colts 28, Titans 17.

Miami Dolphins versus Jacksonville Jaguars

If it weren't for two things, this would be the most lopsided second round playoff match of all time. The Jaguars own the best record in the league and have looked like a well-oiled machine almost every week. So what makes this game even watchable?

First of all, this is likely to be Dan Marino's last game, and he doesn't want to go down without a fight. Second, the Jaguars are hurting badly. All-world offensive lineman Tony Bosselli is out for the season and star quarterback Mark Brunell is also suffering injuries and he might not play. Quite honestly, I don't think it will matter if Brunell plays or not. I could probably get out there and be the QB for the Jaguars this weekend and score enough points to win the game.

Guardian Prediction: Jaguars 24, Dolphins 7.

AFC

GUARDIAN SPORTS

NFC

GUARDIAN SPORTS

THE SECOND ROUND

NFC: Washington's wounded running game cannot withstand the Bucs' defense, and it should be an air war in St. Louis with the Vikings losing

By **ROBERT FULTON**
Staff Writer

Now that the preliminary round of the NFL playoffs is over, the real teams can now come out and demonstrate their talents. This is where things get interesting.

Washington Redskins vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The first matchup in the next round comes on Saturday when the Washington Redskins (the East Division champion) will travel to Tampa Bay, Fla. to face the Central Division winner, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Although the Redskins earned this matchup with a victory over the Lions, they did not do so unscathed.

Washington has two major injuries that will be its undoing.

Starting running back Stephen Davis' is doubtful due to a knee injury he sustained against the Lions. Meanwhile, left tackle Andy Heck also is out with an injury.

Davis is the most important player on the Redskins.

In last week's game against Detroit, he rumbled for 119 yards and two touchdowns in the first half alone. He also led the NFL in rushing this season. Now, with this key player sitting on the sidelines, Washington's responsibilities fall on the shoulders of quarterback Brad Johnson.

Johnson is a decent enough QB, but without Davis there to run the ball, and with a depleted line in front of him, it should be a long day for the Redskin quarterback as he faces a devastating Tampa Bay defense.

The Buccaneers played in a weak division that sported the 8-8 Cowboys as the second best team and then faced a weak first-round opponent. Thus, there is reason to question their abilities.

The Bucs' D, led by Warren Sapp, is one of the best in the league. With very capable talent all over the defensive side of the ball, Tampa Bay should have no problem controlling a weakened Redskin offensive.

The Bucs' offensive plans are relatively simple. Hand the ball

to fullback Mike Alstott or running back Warrick Dunn and wear out a questionable Redskin defense.

The playoffs are no place for a rookie quarterback, but the Bucs' Shaun King has shown poise the last few weeks of the season in place of injured starting QB Trent Dilfer. Plus, as long as Alstott and Dunn are their usual selves, King shouldn't be forced into too many unnecessary passing situations.

The Bucs are a good team that won a tough division that included the 11-7 Vikings, the playoff-bound Lions and the always dangerous Brett Favre-lead Packers.

With Tampa Bay's Raymond James Stadium rocking in support of their beloved team, the Buccaneers should have no problem in advancing to the NFC championship game.

Guardian prediction:
Buccaneers 23, Redskins 13.

St. Louis Rams vs. Minnesota Vikings

On the other side of the NFC playoff picture are two of the highest flying teams around as the St. Louis

Rams play host to the Minnesota Vikings.

Both teams feature a number of offensive highlight machines. The Rams sport league MVP Kurt Warner tossing balls to Isaac Bruce while running back Marshall Faulk can do almost anything coming out of the back field.

The Vikings have rocket arm QB Jeff George at the helm, passing to two of the best receivers in football: Cris Carter and Randy Moss. With Jake Reed taking the third receiver position and Robert Smith staying healthy and proving his worth in the backfield, the Vikings are very scary when they have the ball.

However, the Vikings have a suspect defense, and when a team is playing the offensive juggernaut of the Rams, a good defense would have trouble, let alone a weak one.

Plus, their quarterback is Jeff George. George has a hell of an arm, but he has always been a

See **NFC**, Page 19