

Graduate student Peter Bull won first place in film contest

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A University of California, San Diego graduate student has won first place in a nationwide film contest for his critique of the films of Robert Altman.

Peter Bull, 25, won \$2,500 in cash, a new car and a four-week paid internship with Playboy Magazine's film reviewer in the FOCUS (Films of College and University Students) competition, sponsored by Datsun and Playboy. Prizes for filmmaking and film criticism were offered.

Bull's winning critique, one of 200 entries submitted, was a 2,500 word essay on American film director Robert Altman. Altman has directed such films as "MASH," "The Long Goodbye," "Nashville" and "A Wedding."

"Altman is extremely prolific. He's rather controversial, somewhat of a renegade in his early career, and he's always innovative and interesting even when his films fail," said Bull. He said he praised Altman's earlier films in his essay, but was critical of the director's most recent works.

Bull, a graduate of Yale University, is in his second year in the three year Master of Fine Arts program offered by the UC San Diego Department of Visual Arts. He currently is working on a documentary film on a political science class in a San Francisco junior high school. He is a Solana Beach resident.

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