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La Voz

The Voice of De Anza College



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Joe Montana speaks to a packed Flint Center

By Patty Guerrero
Staff Writer

The one and only Joe Montana strolled onto the Flint Center stage on Nov. 21st. where he was greeted by applauding fans who waved his jersey and book in their hands.

Montana was originally scheduled to speak on the Nov. 14, but rescheduled in order to attend a father-daughter dance that evening.

Montana, who generally refrains from the spotlight, addressed a packed, standing room only audience for forty-five minutes on the importance of preparing for the future. His father, Montana said, was instrumental in the forming of his career. His encouragement and overall dedication to his son's goals helped shape Montana into the legend he is today.

Montana also spoke on his decision to be traded to the Kansas City Chiefs and expressed regret at not having his son see a live game before Montana returned.

Through numerous football analogies and a few nervous pauses, Montana managed to keep the attention of the over 2500 star-struck audience members. Breaking with the forum's usual procedure for the question and answer period which immediately follows the speech, Montana chose to have a more intimate setting. Instead of having pre-written questions read to him, he simply had the audience raise their hands to ask questions. He also managed to stray from the podium, and walked as close to the people as the microphone cord allowed.

To top off what was already a magnificent evening, the audience was made aware that he had donated his \$35,000 honorarium to the expansion and renovation of the Foothill College Smithwick Theater and Courtyard. The renovation was more than thirty years over due, and cost a total of \$230,000 which was mostly donated by Los Altos community members. The newly expanded theater and courtyard is now, for the first time, wheelchair accessible.



La Voz / Nelson Ching

Robert Lampkin and his neighbor move the furniture back into Lampkin's living room after shampooing the carpets in preparation for the sale of Lampkin's house. "I'm not going to give De Anza the satisfaction of getting me down," said Lampkin. The Lampkins feel they will grow stronger despite the hardship of losing his 14 year tenure with De Anza.

Hard times hit former custodians

■ Lack of money, employment has caused many to lose homes

By Dean Carrico
Staff Writer

As the California School Employees Association attempts to overturn the firing of 18 graveyard and swing shifts custodians accused of theft and drinking or sleeping on the job in Superior Court, many custodians feel they have already lost everything.

Robert Lampkin worked the De Anza campus for over 14 years. In January, Lampkin was called into a meeting, handed a termination notice, and escorted off the campus by the sheriff's department.

Now, after an independent hearing that took four months and endless streams of litigation since, Lampkin is forced to put his home of 15 years up for sale.

The 14 charges levied against Lampkin, including theft of equipment, theft of time, and sleeping on the job, look very serious on paper, so serious that other employers are reluctant to hire him. But Lampkin insists the charges are fabricated.

"This is putting me out," Lampkin said. "What they did was they financially ruined me. They flushed me down the tube."

The charges against Lampkin and 27 other custodians from Foothill and De Anza stemmed from a six month undercover

investigation conducted by the then-newly hired Foothill Peace Officer Darren Douglas.

Foothill Manager of College Police and Safety Services Tom Conom originally recommended the undercover operation and had it approved by the FH-DA Chancellor.

"We had reason to believe there was criminal activity and we had an obligation to investigate it," Conom said.

Douglas, a recent recipient of the Foothill Employee Recognition Award reported the entire graveyard and swing shifts at both campuses were wrought with illegal activities.

"The bad part about it," Lampkin says, "is they bring this guy in for six months. I'm out there almost 15 years, and they take his word over 28 people. Are 28 people going to tell the same lie all the time?"

Douglas is currently on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Lampkin claims there has always been a lack of communication between management and crew. But during his tenure he says he never received any disciplinary actions and received commendations before his release.

See CUSTODIANS, back page



La Voz / Douglas Rider

Auto food drive

Top: Mike Anderson, Nelson Horn and Katie Churn from the Auto Tech Club help deliver 1,200 cans of food to the Cupertino Community Center Nov. 26. Left: Katie Churn helps Auto Tech Club Advisor Michael Brandt unload cases of food for the donation drive. For 15 years Brandt has held a competition between three of his Auto Tech classes, with the winning class earning bragging rights and first in line for a pizza party.



De Anza students given HOPE

By Saadia Malik
Staff Writer

Beginning Winter quarter, many De Anza students will be eligible for the Taxpayer Relief Act, a tax exemption that covers part of a student's tuition and enrollment fees.

According to the Federal Department of Education, the Act "opens the doors of college to a new generation" and promotes "expanded educational opportunity."

HOPE Scholarship

The Taxpayer Relief Act consists of different features of tax credit to appeal to a wide variety of people seeking formal education. Many De Anza students will qualify for the HOPE tax credit part of the Act. For students in the first two years of college, taxpayers will be eligible for a tax credit equal to 100% of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50% of the second \$1,000.

The HOPE Scholarship does come with certain restrictions however. The credit is not available for joint filers

whose income exceeds \$80,000 and for single filers who earn over \$40,000 of income. Also, the credit only applies to tuition and fees paid out-of-pocket beginning Jan. 1, 1998 and the student must be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for any portion of the year. At De Anza, half-time is considered at least six units.

Lifetime Learning Credit

According to the Federal Department

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In praise of the big, furry and cute

The environmental "movement" at De Anza college, in all of its good intentions, would itself have to admit that the big display put on last week in front of the learning center was a bit comical. I certainly thought so. If for nothing else, its narrow view of endangered life on the planet. There were more than twenty displays put on by different student groups, but only two different animals being talked about. Those two of course being what I suppose are this year's "Vogue" animal's, Yellowstone's Grey Wolves and California's Mountain Lions. Amazing! Over twenty tables, and only two animals. Plights being discussed. Whose idea was this? This is almost too



Bobby McGill

Idle Wordship

silly to be a mistake. Forgive the pun, but it's all quite bewildering.

Alas, this is typical of contemporary environmental movements - if it's big, furry and cute, they'll defend it. What about other endangered species such as the California Red Tree Mouse, the Tiger Salamander or the California Bay Pea Crab? Guess they're not big, furry

and cute enough, hmhm? There was one girl who actually enticed me to come over to her Mountain Lion booth as opposed to another because it had "way cooler people."

There were a few good natured people with booths intent on halting "old-growth" logging as well. I agreed with their basic premise, but once again, I think their point was diluted by a narrow perspective. A great example was the guy who topped his list of why we should quit logging the Redwoods with the profound solution of, "so loggers can get real jobs."

Another student organization really went out on a limb by putting on an odd

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Has technology actually made our lives better?

When putting forth the simple query, "has technology made our lives better?" the answer from a majority of Americans is a resounding "yes!" This is due in most part to the fact that what are perceived as the "benefits" of technology are so unshakably tangible, and so readily recognizable. We have cars to get us around faster, medicines and health care to get us around longer,

computers to help us get around without actually getting around, and of course remote controls that for the most part have just gotten us rounder. From this perspective it would seem that life has gotten better.

But, what evidence of a better life is to be found within the intangibles? Studies show that people are feeling more alienated, more alone and thus more depressed than ever before. Sure, we're living longer lives, but at what cost to our mental well being? Furthermore, what has it done to the quality of our communities? Technology has extended our stay here, but by most definitions we are now living alone. This is certainly not a benefit, and assuredly not better.

Cars - those sealed off little segments of individuality that most of us cherish - are a great example. In fact, the parade of "individuality" is being held right now, as we speak, out on the interstates and road ways where millions of people are sitting alone in their vehicles. The parade carries them to their jobs where they work long hours, in a lonely little cubicle, attempting to pay for all of the technology that they've been convinced they should own. Then, after finishing work, they hop back into the car as the parade route carries them back home.

Once there, they find themselves compelled to lock their doors because of the people who want some of the technology too. Then safely locked inside, they open the

microwave up, pop in some sort of concoction full of unpronounceable ingredients, but low on fat, which they eat while sitting in front of their televisions awaiting further instructions on what to do next. Generally those instructions being to alienate your family and watch more TV. Meanwhile, across the street, another neighbor has moved in, replacing the one

that they didn't know moved out. No matter, they adjust the volume, turning it a bit higher so as to drown out the screams of joy from the children gathered in their room who are diligently collecting severed heads that are now used as a scoring system in the latest video game. Their mother sits in front of her computer where she is "chatting" with a "friend" from some far off land made right at home by the internet. She's never met the neighbors who just moved out, nor will she meet the ones that just moved in but, "gee it sure is neat to talk to someone so far away." The second telephone line rings, or is it the third? The children don't pick it up so she does. She yells to her husband who by, all apparent indications is far off in the distance, that it's his friend Fred on the phone. He yells back, bemused, "who?"

"Fred!" she shrieks, as he picks up the other end and professes his regrets that he can't talk right now because he is "so busy," but, "before I go, let me tell you that I really think the video game you got us is good for my boy's motor skills." He hangs up the phone, and the line is severed along with another head and another unknown neighbor. But hey honey, we have a friend we'll never see in New Zealand!

Meanwhile the makers of Prozac and other anti-depressants are sure to include "technology" as another blessing of which to be thankful for in their bedtime prayers.

Editorial The Opinion of La Voz

Make sure you get a grade you deserve

by Elise Johnson
Counselor Corner

It's that time of year, papers due, finals taken and then grades posted, concrete evidence of all your hard work. But what happens when you are unhappy with your evaluation from your instructor? As a counselor I have been privy to many disgruntled students who feel they have been treated unfairly, and as an instructor I have also been on the other side of this unhappy scenario. I would like to give my advice based on experience from the counseling and instructor perspective.

Number One: Confront your instructor in a constructive and non-threatening manner. I know this can be hard. Some of you would rather have a root canal than talk to your instructor, while others have a hard time with the "non-threatening" part. Ask the instructor for advice on how to improve your grade. Ask them for clarification of the greensheet (remember, the greensheet has the rules for the class). Do not approach them in a demanding, threatening, whining, wheedling manner. You might be nervous so write down your issues beforehand so you will sound reasonable and coherent. Practice what you are going to say in front of someone that you can trust for useful feedback. You might want to get help from a counselor on how to approach your instructor constructively. **Number Two:** After

talking with the instructor if you are still not satisfied you can see the Division Dean, but remember the instructor has the last say on a grade. De Anza has an academic council that also handles certain complaints. They cannot change grades. However, if you have a serious medical or personal problems, which can be documented, that has interfered with your school work, the academic council may grant your petition for a non-punitive withdrawal.

Student Rights

De Anza also has a student grievance procedure that has an informal and formal procedure. A grievance action is any action that violates an established rule or regulation of the district or college or any law that protects student's rights. A complete description of these procedures is in the college catalogue.

An example of a right that might be violated is the right to be free of sexual harassment. Students have the right to be free of sexual harassment not only from De Anza staff and faculty, but from other students. Many people are not clear as to what sexual harassment actually is. Legally, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

submitting to one or more of these behaviors; 2. Your submission to, or rejection of these advances affect your grade, or your ability to be successful in class; 3. The verbal or physical behavior towards you in or outside of class interferes with your performance, or creates a classroom or campus atmosphere which you find threatening or uncomfortable.

There are two types of sexual harassment *Quid pro quo*, which is Latin for "this for that". This kind of harassment usually involves someone offering you something as a result of you doing something, or allowing something to happen. In other words your instructor offers you a certain grade for sexual favors. The second type of sexual harassment is the most common and is harder to define. It is called Hostile Environment. This involves creating an atmosphere in the classroom or on campus, where a student is exposed to sexual advances or comments, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which they do not want, or ask for.

Dr. Robert Griffith, Vice President of Student Services is the contact person for sexual harassment cases. Any kind of sexual harassment can make it difficult to study, concentrate or even attend class. If you are having any problems related to these issues the counseling department is one place you can come to for help.

Various factions help make SWEL

In the Nov. 4, 1997 issue of La Voz, an article by Dean Edwards reported that I had stated that at one time the only manager who would provide jobs for teens in the Summer Work Experience and Learning Program was Klaus Dehn.

This is in fact, incorrect. On one particular year some supervisors were hesitant to participate in the program, but

Klaus reminded them of the value of programs like SWEL. Just about every year since then, I ask Klaus how many participants he wants and he says he will take them all; that's when I remind him that he has to share.

-Vivian "Vickie" Cooper
De Anza Student Body
Vice President of
Programs

A response to McGill's idle ramblings

Dear Mr. McGill

I just read yet another issue of La Voz and was yet again impressed with you. Perhaps because so few other articles interest me. I may be overpraising you, but I think not. I find your opinions to be well rounded, logical and a fair

view of a tedious world. Your articles provide an insight, with just the right amount of humor. I enjoy reading your words and just wanted to let you know that there are still just a few people in this place that can read.

Hilary Pedigo

Attention teachers!

La Voz needs your help recruiting writers, photographers, and copy editors. Instructors willing to offer extra credit for certain assignments are encouraged to contact us for information. Seriously, don't make us beg, we will.

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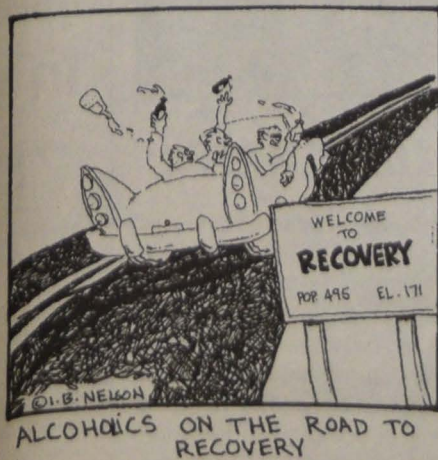
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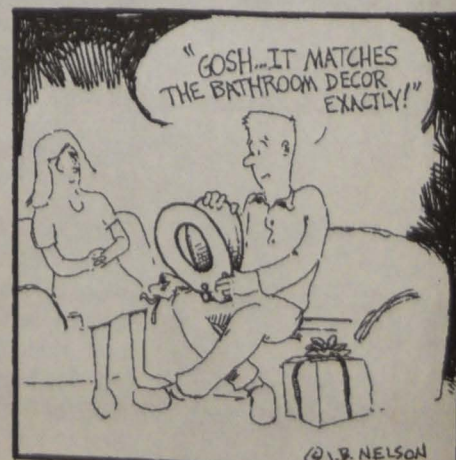
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ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

I.B. NELSON



ALCOHOLICS ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

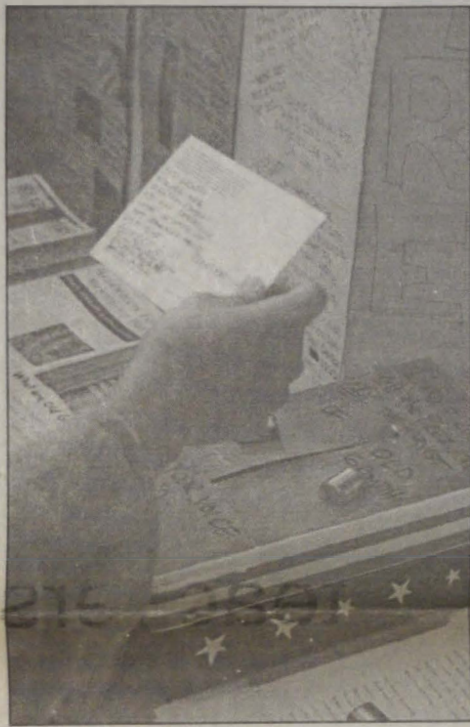


GIVE THE GIFT THEY'LL OPEN EVERY DAY

Environmental science day



Above: David Lundquist had a booth on the California mountain lions. Below: Over 60 signatures were collected at a booth supporting the protection of old growth forests. The signatures were sent to President Clinton and Senator Feinstein.



Above: Kathleen Hansen dressed as a lumberjack from Pacific Lumber Co, attempts to cut down Etheridge James, who played the part of an old growth redwood. Stopping Hansen is Amy Wilkins.

The three were part of a group supporting Headwaters Forest in Humboldt County. Headwaters Forest, the subject of recent controversy, is the last stand of virgin old growth redwood in the world. Three class

sections from Environmental Science 1 participated in the event as a project for their class on Tuesday, Nov 20. Instructor Julie Phillips has been putting on the environmental project day for six years.



Footprints of a mountain lion, which were drawn all over campus in chalk, led the way to the main quad which was where the environmental studies student exhibits were held.



Above: A booth showing information about the California mountain lion used a rubberband gun and a target of a mountain lion to help illustrate the hunting of mountain lions.

Left: Julie Phillips grades Danny Schulz's booth on wolves.



Photos by Nelson Ching

Eastwood does it again

By David Rigel Brooks
Film Writer

"The Book," as many Savannah residents call it, has put John Berendt on the top of many best-seller lists, but the "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" movie falls short of greatness.

The story and the characters are both very interesting. It takes place in Savannah, Georgia, the home of Johnny Mercer and various historical buildings.

Ranked as one of the greatest lyricists of all time, Johnny Mercer wrote 1000's of songs including Academy Award winning "Moon River" from "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (Edwards, 1961) and Academy Award winning "Days of Wine and Roses" from the movie of the same name (Edwards, 1962). The soundtrack of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" is solely comprised of Johnny Mercer music, of which Kevin Spacey, Alison Eastwood and Clint Eastwood sing Johnny Mercer songs.

It all starts out as John Kelso (John Cusack) gets sent by Town and Country magazine to write an article about Jim Williams' (Kevin Spacey) upcoming notorious Christmas party at the Mercer House. His 400 word article soon changes into a book after Jim Williams is charged with the murder of Billy Hansen (Jude Law).

Kelso is sent by Williams to help Sonny Seiler (Jack Thompson) clear his name by digging up dirt on Billy Hansen. The real Sonny Seiler also plays a role in this movie as the honorable Judge George Oliver.

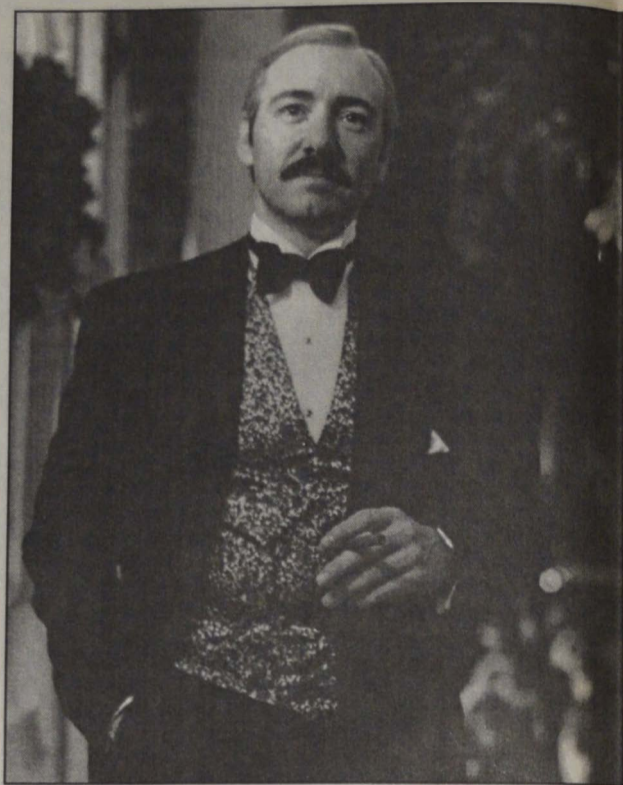


photo by Sam Emerson

Jim Williams (Kevin Spacey) in full Southern splendor

The first place that Kelso goes with Williams is to the Old Bonaventure Cemetery to visit Minerva (Irma P. Hall), the widow of a great southern voodoo doctor. Minerva, being quite the practitioner of voodoo herself, only practices her magic a half an hour before midnight for "good" magic and a half an hour after midnight for "bad" magic.

After Williams is put in jail, Kelso befriends The Lady Chablis (played by herself) for her knowl-

edge of Billy Hansen's dark side. The Lady Chablis is a popular self-important drag queen who has a gig as comedian at a local nightclub.

She helps Williams' case by giving the court information on Billy Hansen abusive drug and sexual habits, she helps Kelso by getting him into the morgue in one funny scene, and she helps the film by adding a little color to the tedious 155 minutes of screen time.

Clint Eastwood has made some great films, like "Play Misty for

Me" (1971), "Bird" (1988), and the 1992 best picture winner, "The Unforgiven." It was only inevitable that the old spaghetti western hero would make some horrible movies.

"Absolute Power" (1997) was his last filmatic fiasco. This latest film is not quite as bad as "Absolute Power," but "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" has the same lack of feeling and tired film techniques that infest "Absolute Power."

John Cusack is great actor, even in this trying movie. It seems like the guy is having trouble landing a good movie. In his last movie, "Grosse Pointe Blanche," (1997) his funny ambiance was the only thing worthwhile in the movie.

Kevin Spacey is also fine actor, but his performance is also muted by the stylistics and the directorial choices made in this film.

On a more positive note, the film had some major homosexual themes. Almost half of the characters were either gay, or curious. This is quite a surprise from a director known for a more conservative alliance. Still, before the film ends, Eastwood sells out the audience and his characters with the normal heterosexual Hollywood ending that we've all seen too often.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil ★★

155 minutes

D: Clint Eastwood
S: Kevin Spacey, John Cusack, Jack Thompson, The Lady Chablis, Alison Eastwood, Irma P. Hall
Rated R for language and brief violence

Alien films on top of money hungry horror film sequels

By David Rigel Brooks
Film Writer

No matter how much you love your favorite bad guy, the truth remains that horror movie sequels usually stink.

For example, "The Exorcist" (Friedkin, 1973) was a good movie. It received two Academy awards and four golden globe awards. People puked in aisles when it first hit the screens. When the "The Exorcist 2" (Boorman, 1977) came out, most people didn't even notice, and the people who did wish they didn't. "The Exorcist 3" (Blatty, 1990) attempted to regain some of the quality that made the first one famous, but it ended up somewhat boring and lacking in the scary department.

Another good example of horror movies getting ruined in the sequels is "Psycho" (Hitchcock, 1960), which is a classic film. Alfred Hitchcock was a master of suspense and terror. In his films he had the power to make people dreadfully afraid of things. For example, many people learned to fear taking a shower after watching "Psycho," and even more people cringed at the sight of birds flying overhead after watching "The Birds" (Hitchcock, 1963).

Now take that good product and make sequels out of it, and you get "Psycho 2" (1983), "Psycho 3" (1986), and "Psycho 4" (1991), all of which come nowhere close to being the slightest bit Hitchcockian.

There are more than two examples of horror films going bad with a barrage of sequels. The easiest examples come from the trendy slasher pop anti-hero bad guys from the 80's. "Nightmare on Elm Street" (Craven, 1984) had six sequels, of which only the first and the last were good. Friday the 13th (1980) had eight sequels. Of course, the sequels never end. As long as there is a buck to be made another one will come out. "Freddy vs. Jason" aka "Nightmare on Elm Street Part 8", aka "Friday the 13th X" comes out next year.

Perhaps, the only good horror film series, besides the "Godfather" trilogy is the "Alien" series.

"Alien" came out in 1979, and was directed by Ridley Scott, who also directed the film noirish, sci-fi, dystopian "Blade Runner" (1982) and the classic female buddy flick "Thelma and Louise" (1991). This first "Alien" film scared people silly.

The second "Alien" film, "Aliens" came out in 1986 and was also a success. This time James Cameron directed it. Cameron would later become famous for action films like "Terminator" (1984) and "Terminator 2" (1991) aka "T2", and the upcoming love story/disaster

movie with a 300 million dollar budget "Titanic."

The third Alien film, "Alien 3" was a flop. It was directed by a music video whiz kid, David Fincher who sunk back into music videos after being slammed by critics. Later he would make a come back to the big screen with the psychological suspense thrillers like the award winning "Seven" (1995), and "The Game" starring Michael Douglas and Sean Penn.

Which brings us to the point of this article, the current installment of the "Alien" series, "Alien: Resurrection" (Jean-Pierre Jeunet).

Usually after one sequel stinks, the sequels after usually follow suit, like after "Hellraiser" (Barker, 1987) and "Hellbound: Hellraiser II" (1988), the sequels "Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth" (1992) and "Hellraiser: Bloodlines" (Smithee, 1996). By the way, this Alan Smithee who directed the last "Hellraiser" is not even a person. It is a pseudonym that directors take when they are too embarrassed to put their own name on a film.

Alien: Resurrection

At first glance "Alien: Resurrection" would seem to be the next bad Alien film following the lousy third one, but after considering the fact that Jean-Pierre Jeunet directed it, it becomes a worthwhile watch.

Jean-Pierre Jeunet director and writer from the award winning "Delicatessen" (1991) and "The City of Lost Children" (1995). Both films were full of visual and aural precision and splendor. His contribution to this film is undeniably the reason for its success. Jeunet also brings Dominique Pinon and Ron Perlman from "The City of Lost Children."

The story, as it always does, begins in deep space, where nobody can hear you scream. In the last "Alien" film, Lt. Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) dove backwards into molten lead, killing herself and the alien child inside. This ruined the chance for "The Company" to get a hold of these highly dangerous species of man killers, and ruined the chance for a sequel. However, where there is a will, and money, there is a way.

The way that they bring back Ripley, 200 years later, is by taking a drop of her blood and make a clone out of it. The purpose of bringing her back is to finally get at the alien baby inside. "The Company" no longer exists, but the scientific importance of a slinky acid monster is still great. So they resurrect Ripley and breed 12 of these aliens. The replacement for the company is "The Government" and its lab under the order of General Perez (Dan Hedaya). You may recognize Dan Hedaya as Nick Tortelli, Carla's first husband on "Cheers."

Gen. Perez orders a special illegal shipment from a band of space smugglers. Among this group is a giant (Ron Perlman), an mechanic strapped in an off-road wheel chair (Dominique Pinon), a dreadlocked space pirate (Gary Dourdan) with two concealed guns, "Taxi Driver" (Scorsese, 1976) style, their leader (Michael Wincott), his girlfriend (Kim Flowers) and a newcomer (Winona Ryder) who has a secret for everybody.

Eventually the band of thugs meet up with Ripley and the expected happens, but at least this time it happens with that good ole french Jeunetian style.

The themes of motherhood return in full force. The mother, Queen alien, is back and Ripley plays a motherly figure to both the aliens and Winona Ryder. The theme is contorted when man tries to take the creation of life into his own hands and begins cloning. The implications of this creating of life stream throughout the movie and play right into the end.

Everyone in this film did an excellent job and meshed perfectly into Jean-Pierre Jeunet's celluloid painting. Everybody with the exception of Winona Ryder. This award winning actress is like a piece of the puzzle that just does not fit. Perhaps Judith Vittet who played Miette in "The City of Lost Children" or somebody like Carrie Henn who played "Newt" in "Aliens", might have fit Jeunet's puzzle a bit better.

Sequels, why not?

Speaking of sellout horror sequels making quick bucks, "Scream 2" comes out next week. "Scream 2" promises to be the definitive sell out by both selling out and literally being a sequel while at the same time defining what it means to be a horror movie sequel.

As far as sequels go, there has been some great sequels in the history of time. For example, the "Star Wars Trilogy," the "Godfather Trilogy," and the "James Bond" series of movies. In the horror department we have the "Evil Dead Trilogy," the "Phantasm" series, and the first two "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" films are pretty groovy.

The truth is that sequels will never go away. There will always be an audience for "The Crow part 8: Burn it up, again." As far as the "Scream" series goes, it has been arranged since day one that "Scream" would be the beginning of a "Scream Trilogy." "Scream" creator Kevin Williamson says he won't write any more "Scream" flicks after "Scream 3". However, if there is a market for a "Second Scream Trilogy", I wouldn't doubt it if we will see it make it to the big screen to syphon our money one more time.

Hungry Student knives into Spoons Restaurant

By Bobby McGill
Hungry Student

Do you ever get that feeling when entering into a particular situation that something is just not quite right? Maybe there's a minuscule, tell-tale sign that tips you off that things to come will only get worse? Well, when a friend and I first walked into the Spoons restaurant in Sunnyvale and were nearly impaled by a balloon hat, we should have turned around and headed for the door right then. But, we were hungry, and the deadline for this review was bearing down on me like a teenage boy on a thumbtack into a Spice Girls poster. So, in light of my duty to the paper, I asked the hostess to seat us anyway.

Spoons, with all of its colorful surroundings and busy music is attempting to be one of those "feel good" restaurants; a place where you can step in out of the cold, harsh world and feel good about being at the top of the food chain, while dining on those who are lower down.

After settling into the spacious booth, we were handed two gargantuan sized menus. Inside were large pictures of people who looked like they were having the time of their lives eating at Spoons. The build up must have been too much for me - it was not the time of my life.

We started off the meal with a pound of Buffalo Wings. I'll avoid the obvious "wing" joke, but I can't refrain from saying that they had the texture of Buffalo chips. My guess is they make a huge batch on Monday and then hold an employee pool to see how many times they can reheat and serve them until someone complains. It could have been worse, I guess - it was only Tuesday.

For the main course my friend (who I shall now refer to as "my charming companion") ordered the cheese quesadillas and a lemonade. After trying the Buffalo chips, I figured I would play it safe and go for a burger. I ordered one of the mushroom and Swiss variety, a coke and a side of fries. The food arrived very promptly, which I would normally be happy with but...

I started in on the fries first; they were warm and they were damp. But, this was okay for me, for I am of also known in the

nether world as "Bobby, lover of sauces," therefore I always order a variety of dressings and concoctions to dip my french fries in to keep me happy. My charming companion though, prefers the simple pleasure of ketchup with hers. Unfortunately, the waitress neglected to bring us any ketchup with the meal. We sat there, I kid you not, for fifteen minutes until she returned, and then another five until she showed up with the ketchup, which was by then far warmer than the fries.

My mushroom burger wasn't really that bad, it just wasn't really that good. I guess in Spoons "code," when you want something "medium rare," that translates to "well-done."

So, there I sat, chewing away, contemplating how someone could possibly ruin something as

simple as a burger, when suddenly, out of the blue, I was hit with a wall

of sound from the table next to me. Turns out that someone was celebrating their birthday, and every server in the restaurant (except mine of course) had gathered round to sing some patty-cake version of "happy birthday to you." I gazed across the table at my charming companion and begged her to never do something like that to me on my birthday.

After finishing what I could, we started giving the "can I please get my bill" look to anyone who even remotely resembled a Spoons employee. After five minutes of no response, I walked up to the front and asked the hostess to get my waitress. The waitress came with the bill and acted like everything was great and gave me a smile as if nothing ever happened.

Well, after paying the bill and getting to the point where I figure out the tip, I can assure you nothing happened then either.

Spoons

★ 1/2

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Rice milk band



photo by Nelson Ching

By James Burrows
Staff Writer

Horchata, Horchata. What can I say about them? Well, first of all, I don't even know how to classify them. Are they jazz funk, or rock? They have a horn section. So I guess that makes them kinda jazz or funk. They use a guitar (sometimes with distortion) so I guess that makes them rock, baby. Harmonica? I don't even know.

Last week I saw them play at the Agenda Lounge in San Jose. I had heard their CD before and thought I knew what to expect. I was wrong. Their CD, while excellent, fails to do them justice. I later found out that their CD was recorded live in a garage in one take. Their tightness

definitely shows when they play.

From the jazzy feel of "Harry Hempseed" to the multiple changes in "Speakerbutt II," it was tight man!

Ona Stewart's guitar work on Beans and Rice was pretty eclectic in some parts. It was totally boss. I mean Boss Hog bossiness. The four man horn section of saxes, trombone, and a trumpet is a real nice topping to the pie, while the rhythm section made up of Dale Means and Brady Loucher adds a foundation.

Check them out when they play at the Last Days Saloon in San Francisco on Dec. 16. You'll want to hook up with foxy mamas and the like with all the energy you get from the show.

Racial slurs a problem for some in NHL

By Ali Abdollahi
Staff Writer

Recently, there was an incident in the National Hockey League where after a black player scored a goal, a racial slur was thrown his way by one of the white players. After overcoming the shock of learning that there were black players in the NHL, I was extremely disturbed at the little attention this situation received from the media. The players involved handled themselves with great responsibility and class, especially the offending party who flew to the other man's hometown to personally apologize to him.

The situation itself, however, got frighteningly little attention from the sports world. If a black player in the NBA were to make a racial taunt towards a white player, it would not be tolerated nearly as easily.

The difference has little to do with the fact that one offender is white and the other is black. The main difference is that one plays in the NBA and the other plays in the NHL. The NBA and NFL have earned their collective status as far and away the most popular sports in America by establishing an extremely diverse fan base. The same can not be said of the NHL, where the minority players can probably be counted on one hand.

Simply standing on the side of an outdoor basketball court you can hear every race under the sun discussing Chris Berman's newest wacky nickname or Kobe Bryant's latest highlight-reel play. Racial

harmony is of utmost importance to organizations who's marketing is meant to reach fans of any race or creed. The NHL, however, apparently figures that since over 98% of their players and probably a similar percentage of their fans are white, then the degradation of any other race is just something that they'll deal with after lunch.

This distinction is simply bad any way you look at it. For outside parties, it represents almost an organized acceptance of racism from a large American corporation. To the NHL itself it represents a barrier between them and true marketing success in this country, the kind that professional and college basketball and football have long since reached.

Therefore, this becomes a problem for any athlete, sports fan or sports journalist because it is as much their faults as it is the NHL. Through replying to this incident by saying that it is, "just hockey", does just as much to cause the acceptance of such a truly unacceptable action as the action itself.

Although the NHL probably won't agree, the seeds were planted long ago to cause a situation like this through an extremely one-dimensional fan base. And since they clearly do not care about the moral and ethical mistake they are making in forgetting all other consumers except whites, they will care when they compare their collective checkbooks with those of the NBA or NFL and find themselves looking like peasants by comparison.

De Anza soccer #1



La Voz / Christopher Anderson

De Anza players celebrate after a goal that placed the Dons in the lead over Consumnes River College on Nov. 18 at De Anza. The Dons won the state championship with a 3-1 victory over Rio Honda College on Nov. 30 at Ventura College.

Staff Report

The De Anza Dons mens soccer team won the state championship title for the second time in four years on Nov. 30 at Ventura College. The Dons also won the title in 1994.

De Anza defeated Rio Honda College (22-3) 3-1 to to take the Community College Soccer Finals title.

Enrique Tovar had two assists and one goal for the Dons, while

Kris Menzel and Scott Flanigan each had a goal for the 3-1 win against Rio Honda College.

Ross Touli was named Most Valuable Player for the mens final four.

Coach Kulwant Singh was named the top mens coach for the 1997 season state community college district.

The De Anza Dons also defeated Consumnes River College Nov. 18.



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Financial crunch for former janitors

■ CUSTODIANS, from front page

"Every evaluation I had was perfect," he said. "The only thing I got on paper was the termination notice. That was without any warning. They marched us in like we were cattle going to the slaughter."

Chancellor Leo Chavez stated the terminations stemmed from the charges of misconduct, and therefore did not need to adhere to progressive discipline guidelines.

Chavez also said the district was careful to abide by federal, state, and district laws.

Lampkin says he has been stung by rumors that circulated around campus regarding his dismissal. Several stories circulated among students and staff shortly after the terminations, saying custodians were involved in major heists regarding computers and television sets.

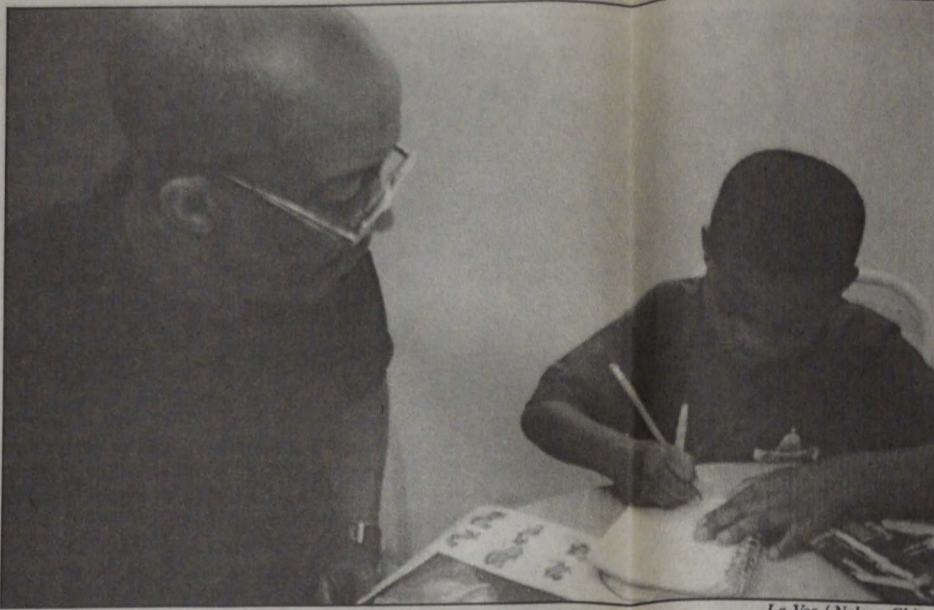
Lampkin's charge of theft of equipment involves a 16 ounce bottle of water, an item Lampkin claims Director of Food Service Klaus Dehn said he could have.

While Dehn could not comment on Lampkin's situation due to ongoing litigation, he did praise his work.

"As far as I know, Robert Lampkin has never stolen from me. He was always a good employee. He has never given me any cause for trouble or unhappiness," he said.

"In my opinion he was ill-advised by the union. I told him to go back to the district and explain it himself, without lawyers, without all this. The union advised them that they shouldn't go by themselves. But he was confused and frightened, so he listened to the union. I think he could've done very well without them. I'm sure he could've talked it over."

While working with Douglas, Lampkin says other custodians often



La Vo / Nelson Ching

Robert Lampkin helps his eight year old grandson with his homework. The house had been in the family for 30 years. The house went up for sale on Dec 1.

complained that the new hire was a "slacker," a derogatory term used for someone who fails to meet the standards around them. He states if he hadn't spoken in defense of Douglas, he may not be facing the charges he has today.

"The first day he came on the job people were saying they didn't want him," Lampkin said. "And in my mind, instead of going with the people I had been dealing with for 13 to 14 years. I was thinking he's a young guy, he's black, lets give him a chance. Because somebody gave me one. I saw myself in him."

"If I hadn't spoke up for him," Lampkin continued, "they would have had him cleaning bathrooms

by himself. He would have never seen the light of day."

Collecting information

CSEA Labor Relations Representative Joyce Scilingo has assisted the custodians since the termination in January. She claims the lack of time cards and notes, in addition to the original notes being destroyed undermines the credibility of Douglas's undercover work.

"If you're an undercover agent, you're prepped in a certain way. You know who you're watching, what kind of cars they driving, you can identify them, that's part of the set-up. He didn't know any of that," she said.

Hzrot Cademas had only worked for De Anza for two years before the abrupt firing. He can only speak a minimal amount of English, and struggles intensely to explain the pain he feels the district has caused him. At 67 years of age, Cademas worried that he was slower than everybody else. To compensate, Cademas says he started an hour earlier than scheduled.

"I always want my area to be clean," Cademas said. "I don't want to hear any complaints for my area. Then they terminate me from my job." Cademas claims he never worked with Douglas, and didn't even know what he looked like.

"He (Douglas) really hurt me,"

he continued. "He did not see me. He was not in my area." Cademas says that Douglas started his shift at ten o'clock, at which time he worked in a section of the Advanced Technology Center in an area only accessible to select crew members carrying special keys.

"How could he see me? Douglas is a liar," Cademas said.

Two days after receiving his termination papers, Cademas suffered a heart attack so severe, paramedics had to use (zapper pedals) to restart his heart.

"These are people who don't know the system," says Scilingo. "They don't understand. There's just been this blow of terrible things that have happened to these people. The whole thing is so unjust. You see these things happening and you think, no, that can't happen in this country. There's a system, there's a way of doing things, it doesn't happen here. These people must have done something, or this wouldn't have gone down this way. But it's not true. It's just not true."

"I don't think the district thought CSEA would pursue it at this level," she continued. "I think that they really truly believed that once the administrative hearings were over, it would all just go away. We just can't let that happen."

Struggling for the future

Lampkin has been married to his wife Helen, for 22 years. She owned the house they now reside in for ten years before meeting Robert and moving to Washington and Texas.

Now she spends her time filling out applications for low income housing suitable for them. Robert has tried to work when and where he could find it, and has been collecting unemployment, something the district has tried to block.

"De Anza should be ashamed of

itself," she said. "After being on the job for 14 years you expect to retire off of it." Mrs. Lampkin says the hardships have increased even further from her health condition and the cost of caring for her grandson, which they have legal custody over.

"This has made us stronger, 'cause we depend on each other," she said. But, both acknowledge that the entire experience has soured their faith.

"It leaves a great deal of mistrust in the system," Lampkin said. "These people destroyed our lives. And when we do try to put them in a situation (and) ask somebody who knows the law, they duck and dodge. They run and hide."

Along with the CSEA lawsuit which will attempt to regain their jobs, Lampkin and 11 other custodians are in negotiations with private lawyer Carl Lindstrom. Lindstrom has approached the district for a mediation to resolve all issues.

"This would save the district literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and possible exposure," Lindstrom said.

Still, the time span involved in the legal proceedings and the general unwillingness of potential employers to hire them have made things hard — something that appears to benefit the district.

"We're the down-trodden," says Lampkin. "I guess they think if they put it off long enough, they'll wear us down. Because they're up there, they have the money. They figure they can wait us out."

"I can't go out like this. I didn't do anything. If I had, then it would be okay. I could accept it. Because I'm just that kind of man. I'm a better person than they are. If I had made the mistake, I'd deal with it. But I didn't make this. And I don't feel that I should suffer for something I didn't do."

What I really learned this quarter

■ MCGILL, from front page

drama of a Redwood tree being chased around the quad by a woman masquerading as an ax wielding logger. This was unfair really. To portray the logger as the sole bad guy is a derivative of the "cute and furry" complex related to the animal activist. The logger is easily identifiable, and therefore an easy target. Perhaps a bit more emphasis on the wood hungry public would balance out the attack and make for a less divisive relationship between the loggers who are trying to feed their families, and the environmentalists who are trying to save this beautiful land.

By the way, there were a lot of people working at the booths wearing Gore-Tex hiking shoes. Gore-Tex, now there's an environmentally friendly material.

But hey, all joking aside, it sure was nice of them to give out candy. Thanks folks!

Idle Babble

—Going back to the subject of "movements," what's up with the people wearing the Nike footwear with the "swoosh" crossed out? Unless they stole them, I really



Bobby McGill

Idle Wordship

think the point has been somewhat squandered, don't you?

—I have been doing some research into the arrest, conviction and sentencing of journalists Wesley Cook (aka Mumia Abu-Jamal) for the alleged killing of a Philadelphia police officer. It looks like this guy has been railroaded by the "justice" system. Though I do not think the "Free Abu-Jamal" slogan to be completely appropriate as of yet, the man definitely deserves a retrial. If you care about justice in this country, then I hope you will pay attention to this situation, it is important. Forgive me for once again beating the "get involved" drum but dammit, get involved!

What I really learned this quarter

—I learned that if I talk too much in class, other students might feel obliged to pumnel me. After

one class a few weeks ago, I was approached by two guys who were so upset with my classroom commentary that they actually made threatening remarks. They repeatedly quoted the literary great "Ice Cube" with the admonishment that I better "check" myself. What was I to do? Here I was being threatened for establishing rapport in class! I've resolved to let it go as an instance where years from now they will look back and ask themselves, "what in the hell was I thinking?" Peace.

—I learned this quarter that if I schedule my classes to fall on intermittent days, I can wear the same clothes twice a week.

—I learned this quarter as well, that a great school does not necessarily rely on a great football program.

—I also learned this quarter that reasoning with political extremists is completely futile. Whether right wing, left wing, religious or atheist, they are generally so one-sided in their views that they see your mouth moving, but they hear nothing you say. I was talking with a girl one night about the state of racism in America. A few minutes

into the conversation (our first ever) she had me labeled as a close minded "arrogant white male!" Strong stuff when considering I've been working towards a more open minded society since before she could speak in complete sentences.

—I learned this quarter that I am at an age young enough to be cool but, unfortunately, old enough to look good in a mini-van.

—I also learned that college girls generally don't fall for spontaneous, cleverly worded opening lines. Poetry is a long shot as well. Trust me.

—I also learned that the reason I am not an "A" student is because I'm too damned smart for that nonsense! Sigh.

—Lastly, I learned that I really loved writing this column. It gave me a chance to speak to the many peculiarities that make us all so wonderfully human. I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed writing it. See you next quarter.

—Oh, by the way, if you see Santa over the holidays, let me know, I'll buy you another drink. Be well...

MrSposd2B@earthlink.net

Mumia rally in S.F.

By Darya Danesh Guest Writer

Organizers hope to attract five to ten thousand people to San Francisco rally Dec. 6 demanding the release of Death Row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. Jamal has spent the last 15 years in prison for the alleged shooting of a Philadelphia police officer.

Jamal's life, and subsequent fight for it, paints an intriguing picture. He served as Minister of Information for the Black Panthers when he was 15 years old. Closely watched by the FBI's infamous COINTELPRO program, Jamal's FBI file grew to more than 800 pages.

He is an award winning journalist and author of two books, written from his prison cell, "Live From Death Row," and "Death Blossoms." His case is currently up for appeal.

Jamal's fight for life from Death Row began when he found himself immersed in an altercation with Police Officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981. When it was over, both Jamal and Faulkner were shot. Faulkner later died from his wounds.

Since his short nine week trial, several key witnesses have recanted their testimony, saying they were coerced by Philadelphia police.

De Anza instructor Rich Wood has used Jamal's situation as a focal point for his Social Problems course, and consistently urged students to learn more about the case.

"I think in the history of the United States the judiciary has often been influenced by public opinion," he said. "From the Dred Scott decision to the 1973 abortion rights case, it's always responding to social conditions."

Wood says the study of Jamal's trial and conviction shows an important link between the relationship of race to capital punishment, crime, and political repression.

"The fact that he had a Black Panther background, that he had no previous criminal record, that he had been followed since he was a teenager by the FBI, I thought it made a pretty special case for discussion of the death penalty," Wood said.

Parliament members from several countries have expressed their support for Jamal's cause. Speakers scheduled for the San Francisco rally include Actor Ossie Davis, Vietnam veteran and author Ron Kovic, and Afeni Shakur, mother of the late artist Tupac Shakur.

For info on the rally or the Jamal case, contact the Dec. 6 Mobilization to free Mumia Abu-Jamal at (415) 821-0459

Educational tax credit for eligible students

■ HOPE, from front page

of Education, "The President has long understood that our changing economy demands that people have opportunities to enhance their skills throughout their working lives."

This is why President Clinton insisted in addition to the HOPE Scholarship for the first two years of college, the Lifetime Learning Act will benefit those beyond their first two years of college and those who seek to enhance job skills through a college education, according to the Department of Education.

With the Lifetime Learning Credit, the taxpayer will receive a 20% tax credit for the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees through the year 2002, and for the first \$10,000 thereafter. As with the HOPE Scholarship, individual filers who earn over \$40,000 and joint filers

"The President has long understood that our changing economy demands that people have opportunities to enhance their skills throughout their working lives."

—Office of Education

who exceed \$80,000 in income cannot claim the exemption from their taxes. The Lifetime Learning Credit applies only to tuition and fees paid out-of-pocket after June 30, 1998.

Other factors

All tax benefits contained in the Taxpayer Relief Act may be claimed within two taxable years after the student has completed the education that the credit applies to. The


amount of HOPE tax credit that a student may receive is reduced if the student is receiving other grant and scholarship aid such as the Pell Grant. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, students convicted of a felony related to the possession or distribution of a controlled substance such as marijuana or heroin are not eligible for any of the tax credits outlined in the Taxpayer

Relief Act.

Currently the Department of Treasury statute will require colleges to submit the following information from the taxpayer claiming the exemption: name, address, and social security number of student; name, address, and social security number of anyone who the student certifies will be claiming the student as a dependent; and the amount of tuition that the student is expected to pay out-of-pocket. Official forms will be available from Financial Aid sometime next year.

For more information on the Taxpayer Relief Act, contact the Internal Revenue Service or a tax accountant. Information is also available on the web site of the Office of Education at www.ed.gov/offices/OPE which links to the HOPE Scholarship.

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