Board of Trustees conducts self-evaluation

Last Tuesday, the MiraCosta College Board of Trustees held an open meeting, lasting more than four hours, where they discussed their progress and presented a yearly performance review. The review, required by the Accrediting Commission, allows the board to determine adherence to board policies or bylaws.

The evaluations filled out by all seven trustees addressed areas of board governance from assessment of the board as a whole, to the assessment of the fiduciary responsibilities and relationships with external constituencies.

Ratings varied from unanimous concerning meeting expectations (such as question 29, “I assure that the institutional policy goals support the vision, mission and values”) to unanimously conceding areas need improvement (such as question 30, “Continually discuss what the college stands for and how that is related to the matters before us”).

Another issue addressed by Trustee Batiste regarded a press conference held shortly after the announcement of the buy-out deal of former president Victoria Munoz Richart made by three trustees. The board outlines its policy regarding media communication in Section IB as, “Other trustees shall refer inquiries from the public and the media to the Board President, the Superintendent/President or the District Public Information Officer to ensure coordination of statements regarding the District.” However, Trustee Batiste has yielded that “political speech” is not prohibited under the Board policy.

The three trustees accused of violating the policy argue that they were speaking to their constituents and that the press conference constituted political speech.

School springs between $30 and $40k on palm trees

The palm trees in front of the new Counseling, Career and Transfer Center were purchased from a palm broker from Riverside. The center palm, a 13 foot, 87 year old Blue Hesper palm was harvested from a residence in Hollywood. The price of palm trees are between $400 and $500 per foot of bare trunk height (BTH). Additional costs of the trees include wages for work teams to dig up and replant the palms, crane fees to raise the palms onto shipping trucks, and transport expenses to haul the trees from initial location to final destination. “This can make the cost three times more per foot of BTH,” said Ralph Pickering, the Grounds Supervisor at MCC. According to Pickering, the three palms have a total BTH of about 38 feet. An estimated range of total cost for the three palms comes to between $36,000 and $45,000. “What makes them unique is the trunk to crown size proportion and their innsence is very prominent compared to other palms,” said Pickering.

Pickering has worked as a Grounds Keeper at MCC for over 17 years and has held the position of Grounds Supervisor for the last two and a half years. “It’s not about me, it’s not about recognition. It’s just knowing that I have left something for future generations to enjoy,” said Pickering on his philosophy in his field. “He [Pickering] picked special palm trees to make a statement. They have a greyish color and once they get established, they get these beautiful arms,” said Lucy Dominguez, the Facilties Secretary.

The palm trees purchased from the center were purchased from a palm broker from Riverside. The center palm, a 13 foot, 87 year old Blue Hesper palm was harvested from a residence in Hollywood. The price of palm trees are between $400 and $500 per foot of bare trunk height (BTH). Additional costs of the trees include wages for work teams to dig up and replant the palms, crane fees to raise the palms onto shipping trucks, and transport expenses to haul the trees from initial location to final destination. “This can make the cost three times more per foot of BTH,” said Ralph Pickering, the Grounds Supervisor at MCC. According to Pickering, the three palms have a total BTH of about 38 feet. An estimated range of total cost for the three palms comes to between $36,000 and $45,000. “What makes them unique is the trunk to crown size proportion and their innsence is very prominent compared to other palms,” said Pickering.

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With no showing of rust, the new-look soccer team successfully opened their season with back-to-back victories against Cypress College and Compton Community College. After a 15 year absence, the club opened on August 31, against Cypress, and impressed with a 3-1 victory. Leading the attack was midfielder Jason Belcher out of Rancho Bernardo High School, who led the Spartan scoring with two goals. Adding to the lead was Mitchell Greene who scored the second goal of the game. While the first half of the game saw even momentum shifts, the second half was played mostly on Cypress’ defensive side of the field. Coach Evan Campere’s only critique of his team was not being able to hold the shutout intact. “We saw great cohesion in our first game as a new program,” Campere stated in an email interview. “There was organization in our backbone that we finished on three opportunities, converting them for goals.” Goalie Jose Reyes stymied the Cypress offense, converting on 6 of 7 save attempts. Defender Nick Carter, also out of Rancho Bernardo High School, helped pave the offense’s way with two assists. September 4 saw the Spartans grind out an even better shellacking against a hustle-heavy Compton team. While the opposition came out playing hard, two quick counter attacks by the Spartans quickly put them in the driver’s seat. The match saw four different players score a goal, including team scoring leader Jason Belcher’s third goal of the season, as well as a Compton own-goal that nailed down the victory for the Spartans. Goaltkeepers Jose Reyes, Jason Belcher, Estok Aquino and Javier Gutierrez solidified the brick-wall defense; collaborating on 8 saves and a shutout in the team’s home opener. Nick Carter pitched in another assist, collecting his third of the season. Coach Campere and company certainly hope to see the same cohesion from this unit, as well as the spectacular play of a defense that has managed to create scoring opportunities for the midfielders. The 2-0 Spartans will play four straight home games beginning on September 10, against El Camino College. The Spartans will host rival Palomar College on October 19.

BYRON BURKE
Staff Writer

The Chariot

With no showing of rust, the new-look soccer team successfully opened their season with back-to-back victories against Cypress College and Compton Community College. After a 15 year absence, the club opened on August 31, against Cypress, and impressed with a 3-1 victory. Leading the attack was midfielder Jason Belcher out of Rancho Bernardo High School, who led the Spartan scoring with two goals. Adding to the lead was Mitchell Greene who scored the second goal of the game. While the first half of the game saw even momentum shifts, the second half was played mostly on Cypress’ defensive side of the field. Coach Evan Campere’s only critique of his team was not being able to hold the shutout intact. “We saw great cohesion in our first game as a new program,” Campere stated in an email interview. “There was organization in our backbone that we finished on three opportunities, converting them for goals.” Goalie Jose Reyes stymied the Cypress offense, converting on 6 of 7 save attempts. Defender Nick Carter, also out of Rancho Bernardo High School, helped pave the offense’s way with two assists. September 4 saw the Spartans grind out an even better shellacking against a hustle-heavy Compton team. While the opposition came out playing hard, two quick counter attacks by the Spartans quickly put them in the driver’s seat. The match saw four different players score a goal, including team scoring leader Jason Belcher’s third goal of the season, as well as a Compton own-goal that nailed down the victory for the Spartans. Goaltkeepers Jose Reyes, Jason Belcher, Estok Aquino and Javier Gutierrez solidified the brick-wall defense; collaborating on 8 saves and a shutout in the team’s home opener. Nick Carter pitched in another assist, collecting his third of the season. Coach Campere and company certainly hope to see the same cohesion from this unit, as well as the spectacular play of a defense that has managed to create scoring opportunities for the midfielders. The 2-0 Spartans will play four straight home games beginning on September 10, against El Camino College. The Spartans will host rival Palomar College on October 19.

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First rule about Michael Vick's dog-fighting club: Don't talk about Michael Vick's dog-fighting club. Unfortunately for the 27 year-old, former signal-caller for the Atlanta Falcons, somebody didn't pay attention on the first day of class.

When the story was first whispered over our sports media outlet, it begged for more attention. What? Mike Vick is facilitating dog-fights? He's training them? Betting on them? Over the next couple of months, the good folks at ESPY did some investigating. Vick, clearly guilty of some malfeasance, was sold up the river by three former associates, who all cooperated with the feds. That's a shame. After all, if you can't count on your underground dog-fighting associates, who can you count on?

The evidence mounted against Vick who, after repeatedly denying any wrongdoing, was forced to go to trial with a penalty of up to six years in prison, or take a plea between 12-18 months. His cohorts had told the feds that Vick assisted in the murder of nine dogs, with hanging and drowning being the preferred style of execution. That was enough to make attentive fans forget about the 66 pit bulls found dead or malnourished at the Vick property. Not to mention the canine-pranksters created. Some of the public as a whole has failed to grasp is the motive behind football's highest paid player in history, the love-affair of Atlanta sports, the most dynamic player the league has ever seen, and a model in philanthropy for the community, would gamble his career over such a vicious act. Athletes will tell you that when you hit the big time, you have to shed some of those connections you made as an amateur. Get rid of the parasites and the cancers, the dudes that made you do. Vick didn't. Maybe he was living too fast. He's a southern boy who went from nothing to something, and did it real fast. It's pretty easy to lose sight of things when you see your first $20 million paycheck.

It's even easier to be irresponsible with it. But that's just too convenient. Everybody has an excuse. Nobody wants to hear it. Vick is a degenerate, there is no Freudian logic to it. The hot word throughout the Vick saga has been "contrition." Everybody wants to know if Mike is truly sorry, and willing to repent. For torturing and murdering dogs, for lying about it, for taking a plea bargain while simultaneously denying the terms of it, for not having the stones to address the public during the course of litigation. Staying silent until a guilty plea, then surrendering yourself to God in the heart of a tardy apology is not contrition. Stop reading Mark Foley's top 10 of a tardy apology is not contrition. The details are heart wrenching. The facts of Vick's case are absolutely gut wrenching. The details are heart breaking.

One may argue that Vick's crimes, while inhumane, could be overlooked simply by the fact that there are players around the league committing crimes against people. Why should Mike Vick be ostracized for a crime against dogs when Ray Lewis was indicted on charges for conspiracy to commit murder? Well, one thing has little to do with the other. The facts of Vick's case are absolutely gut wrenching. The details are heart breaking. The old question of whether or not Mike can throw in the pocket is irrelevant now. He is unworthy of the opportunity anymore. Don't believe me? Stroll through his pit bull cemetery in Atlanta and tell me this is the life of a good human being. Good luck in prison, Mike. You might be the prettiest girl at the ball.
Vinaka Café: An escape from the ordinary

MEGHAN WASHBURN Contributing Writer

Vinaka Café.  With enough floor space and seating to accommodate more than 50 guests, this relaxing coastal café conjures up some sultry sweets. Between the caramelized beverages and the splendor of the blender, slaking my thirst was easily accomplished. A good beverage deserves good surroundings.

The interior design reflects the dedication Adam, the owner, has to keeping Vinaka Café a vacation destination. Inside, a totem pole carved out of a palm tree stump greets you at the title board and register, and various forms of art from Hawaii and Fiji adorn the walls. The tag line on the title board is “Where Every Day’s a Vacation.” Carpet and Spanish tile cover the floor, with chairs and specially made wooden tables arranged strategically throughout the establishment. Books, games, newspapers, magazines, collectable mementos, and memorabilia titivated on one of the walls with a title painted personalized mug hung up on a rack its belt, Vinaka Café has a regular welcoming atmosphere with family products. The interior design reflects the

“Hamlet” rises from the grave

SHEENA GIBBS Content Editor

After 11 years, Kenneth Branagh’s “Hamlet” is finally out on DVD. Hailed as being the definitive version of Shakespeare’s ultimate tragedy, the film lives up to the hype. Filmed in 70mm and featuring a cast including Jack Lemmon and Robin Williams, “Hamlet” makes all previous incarnations seem to be high school plays. The story is perhaps the most well-known of all Shakespeare’s works. It’s the story of a tormented young man who knows the killer of his father and the cost of seeking revenge. In the hands of long Shakespeare lover’s Revised Edit of the definitive version of the film doing a back story on the character of Michael Myers. I thought it was carefully laid out. In the original, I didn’t have any sense on who he really was and why he went on a murder spree to begin with, but in the film version I really got a good take on the man behind the mask. The film boasts a classic choice of music that draws the audience into the film. Zombie spends the first act of the film building suspense. You never know when Michael Myers is going to pop out. Over all Halloween gave me a frightful scare. Rob Zombie really did an excellent job of keeping the franchise fresh and took “Halloween” to a whole new level excitement and horror.

The gastronomy of García’s

Y et another Mexican restaurant in San Diego County is García’s in downtown Carlsbad, on State St. They offer great chips and salsa and provide a warm, inviting atmosphere with family pictures on their walls, as they are a family-owned restaurant. Although their food is a little greasy, it is deliciously cheesy. They have a long list of items on their menu and they provide excellent service.

Their portions are generous and their prices are reasonable. Classic rice and beans come with each of the combos. If you have a taste for Mexican, you’ll enjoy this culinary treat. However, if you can’t stomach the grease, you might want to go somewhere else. Keep in mind, finding non-greasy Mexican food might be a challenge. I recommend García’s, and leaving with a to-go bag. I left stuffed, and slightly regretful.

Family owned since 1963, Point Loma Seafood is a seafood lover’s heaven. The fish market’s slogan as “The Freshest Thing in Town,” the family has continued the tradition of providing the freshest, never been frozen, ready-to-be-cooked and prepared fish to So Cal locals and visitors for nearly 50 years.

The menu has all the favorites, including seafood plates, sandwiches, cocktails, and salads, not to mention fresh sashimi and squid for those who dare. As a family environment, the market also offers a kid’s meal with a chicken substitute for the “newbie.”

Guests have the option of dining under a shaded outdoor patio or around picnic tables with umbrellas, both surrounded by the gentle sounds and San Diego’s beautiful sunny weather.

Satisfying your appetite with the highest quality fresh fish, all for about $10, far compensates for the 30-45 minute drive from the North County area.

The Case for caffeine:

E L E C T R A

Reduces headache symptoms
Boosts athletic performance
Improves memory
Decreases fatigue
Spreads up metabolism
Aids in weight loss
Prevents cavities
Makes you less cranky
Keeps you awake in class
Full of antioxidants

It’s a whole new Halloween

NICK FUNK Staff Writer

Rob Zombie’s remake of the 1978 horror classic “Halloween,” screamed its way into theaters last weekend. Even though this movie has a lot of gore and strong violence, there are a lot of things that are really good in the movie. Rob Zombie spends the first act of the film building suspense. You never know when Michael Myers is going to pop out. Over all Halloween gave me a frightful scare. Rob Zombie really did an excellent job of keeping the franchise fresh and took “Halloween” to a whole new level excitement and horror.

Reviews

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Landing that first job requires at least one interview and a decent professional outfit. MiraCosta College’s First Impressions Clothing Program provides free clothing to students. Students with limited availability of appropriate interview apparel can score some free business attire from the full service program, operated out of the Career Studies and Service Center in building T310.

With colors and styles for any occasion, First Impressions caters specifically to students who are going for their first interview in hopes of securing a career. With new and slightly used career clothing available, students can mix and match overcoats with suit pants, and select from a variety of men’s and women’s garb. The clothes are hung just as they would be in a retail store, separated by gender and type. Browsing the selections is like exploring through a first-rate second-hand store for business attire and fashionable office-wear. I felt excited to be let into the First Impressions clothing boutique.

The First Impressions Clothing Boutique first opened in 1999, and since then thousands of dollars have been invested to ensure its continuation. Most of the money is received as donations from the community or made through fundraisers the clothing program holds. During the 2005 Dress to Impress Fashion Show, local clothiers including Men’s Wearhouse®, Gap, DBJ Collections, WalMart, and MCC’s First Impressions store provided students first class treatment in dressing for success. Two years later Laura Ponterotto, CalWORKS and Employer Liaison, received the Associated Student Government’s Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award as a Classified Staff member.

Pamphlets with tips on how to pick out professional-wear and suggestions to improve the look of an outfit are in the Career Studies and Services Center. Wardrobe selection and guidance is also offered to help those students who are not as fashion conscious as propitious employers may expect during a first interview. The additions of manikins in the Career Studies and Services Center give the entry into Ponterotto’s office a flicker of fashion. “I majored in art and worked in New York as a graphic artist. The professional style of dress is expected by employers,” said Laura Ponterotto.

When First Impressions was conceived, services were available to a limited number of students in financial need. Over the years, as Ponterotto noticed many more students lacking necessary interview and career clothing, she opened the opportunity to all MCC students. Ponterotto keeps up on recent fashion changes as she continues to manage the clothing supplies of the boutique. “The styles, colors and classics are coming back from the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s,” said Ponterotto. Keeping clothes basic and simple for interviews is still suggested.

“My job is to make students aware of how to dress for success,” said Ponterotto. “I feel blessed to be able to pass on my experience to the students.”
Students check out clubs at Club Recruitment day

Thursday's College Hour showcased campus clubs and offered students the opportunity to see what student organizations are available on campus. It was a great opportunity for students to get acquainted with the more than 20 clubs that participated in the event. Many of the clubs brought unique gifts and plugs for the students as bail to reel them in. The clubs were well prepared with information on their clubs as well as club members who were knowledgeable about upcoming events. The Inter-Club Council sponsored the lunch-time event and served students ice cream sandwiches.

Free foreign films on Fridays

The International Languages Department and MiraCosta College's Language and Culture Alliance are sponsoring the showing of foreign films in their original language with English subtitles. Films will include Let's Go with Paunch Villa, Little Black Angels, and Adventuress. Showings will be held on the evenings of September 14 and 15 in the Little Theater at the Oceanside Campus. Admission is free, but seating is limited. For more information, go to www.mira Costa.edu/languages.

Upcoming films:
- October 12, 7 p.m. “Clash of the Titans” (2005)
- October 26, 7 p.m. “Mona Lisa” (2002)

MCC Events

September 10-16

Monday, September 10
-- LDDS Student Alliance, 8 a.m., Temescal, MCC Student Center.
-- Friends of EOPS, noon, Temescal, MCC Student Center.
-- Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), Games Day, noon, Dining Room, MCC Student Center.
-- Student Senate, 12:30 p.m., Club Room, MCC Student Center.
-- Career Center Workshop “Choosing Your Major & Exploring Careers,” 1 p.m., T310, Oceanside.
-- MCC women’s soccer game vs. El Camino College, 2 p.m., lower soccer field, Oceanside.
-- MCC men’s soccer game vs. El Camino College, 4 p.m., soccer field, Oceanside.
-- Anime Club, 4 p.m., Club Room, MCC Student Center.
-- Kung Fu Club, 7 p.m., Club Room, MCC Student Center.

Tuesday, September 11
-- Faculty Art Exhibit, featuring the works of MCC’s art faculty, opens today and continues through Sept. 27, Kruglik Gallery, MCC Student Center. Gallery hours: Mon-Thurs., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tues/Wed/Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Admission is free.
-- Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Bible Study, noon, Clock Tower Lawn, Oceanside.
-- Art Club, noon, Room 2104, Oceanside.
-- Puente Club, noon, Temescal, MCC Student Center.
-- Domestic Violence Support Group, noon, Oceanside. For location and other info., ext. 6675.

Wednesday, September 12
-- LDDS Student Alliance, 8 a.m., Temescal, MCC Student Center.
-- SEC Club Recruitment Day, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., in front of the 300 Bldg., San Elijo.
-- Inter-Club Council (ICC) videoconference, noon, Club Room, MCC Student Center and Room 308, San Elijo.
-- Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), noon, Room 3601

Thursday, September 13
-- Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) Community Group, 2 p.m., Clock Tower Lawn, Oceanside.
-- Study Abroad informational meeting, 5:30 p.m., Room 303, San Elijo.
-- Kung Fu Club, 7 p.m., Club Room, MCC Student Center.

Friday, September 14
-- Inter-Club Council (ICC) videoconference, noon, Room 3601

Student Success Workshops

September 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. OC 1201

Computer Lab Tricks and Tips presented by Jill Ringer
Not sure how to print or find your print account, don’t know what Blackboard is but your teacher is using it? If these are some of the questions you ask, then come to this workshop to learn the answers to these and other questions you may have about the Open Computer Lab.

September 11, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., OC 1202

Basic Punctuation presented by Anna Alessi.
This workshop will focus on the use of commas.

September 12, from 12 to 1 p.m., OC 1202

What's Eating You presented by Linda Shaffer.
How you feel about yourself can be a powerful motivator toward achieving your weight management goals. What can understanding ABC thinking do for you?

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At 5:27 p.m. on September 1, “all associate faculties” opened their inboxes to find that their junk filter had failed them once again. With the subject line as “AS Fall Announcements,” ASG President Benjamin Weiner sent an email requesting that all instructors and professors advertise the “Senator Position availability in the ASMCC” to their students. There is a total of 22 positions open to MCC students, with a $250 stipend for a year of service. At this last year, former ASG President Jeff Hale had the Senate positions filled with many qualified MCC students. So if the task of filling these positions is possible, why is it that the current ASG president is still in the recruiting process?

“This is a student driven association, so the students need to be spearheading the recruitment process,” says Jeff Hale. “This is a position you take on because you want to do it, not because it looks good on a resume or school application. The students have to have an initial desire to take part in the student government.”

Hale credits a “very proactive recruiting process” as the reason for his success. “We sat down and talked to students one on one to give a perspective on what’s it’s like to represent the students as a student. We found an executive team over the summer and recruited as many qualified applicants as possible before the start of the new semester,” says Hale.

The ASG does provide students with an educational “hands-on” experience in politics, but with the responsibility of the student government’s $100,000 budget, you would think the potential Senators would be students with some experience or knowledge of accounting, or better yet, politics. With that said, why wouldn’t Weiner consider at least one of the 12 current applicants who are actually interested in the position, rather than advertising to uninterested students while taking up valuable class time?

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Did you know???

The average GPA for UCSD Fall’06 admitted transfers is 3.42. SDSU ranked 7th in the nation for Bachelor’s Degrees awarded to Hispanics. CSUSM requires all students to complete through the third level of a foreign language.

Scholarships

MiraCosta College Scholarship, available to continuing full-time students and part-time students, transfer students, and high school students enrolling for the spring 2008 semester. Applications are available in the Scholarship, DSPS, EOPS, and Financial Aid offices located in building 2000 on the Oceanside campus and in the administration building on the San Elijo campus. The application deadline is January 25. For more information, call (760)795-6755, www.miracosta.edu/studentService/ScholarshipProgram.

Room for Rent

Close to Campus
$500/mth + utilities
luxury apt
Including amenities (pool, gym, w/d, tennis courts)
Contact: 760-277-5290

Part-time Local digital imaging retail lab
Neat front-office attire, good customer skills, cash register experience. Will train on digital printer. Salary based on experience

Send resume to lyn@pc-photo.net.
Attention all students

The Chariot is looking for students to contribute comic strips for the Back Page. If you would like to draw a one panel comic about life at MiraCosta, or about life as a student as whole, WE want to hear from you! You don’t have to be an artist to have your work printed in The Chariot. For size guidelines and submissions, send an email to: mccchariot@yahoo.com with “Comic” in the subject line.

We look forward to putting your artwork in your paper this year.

See your comic here

Back Page

September 10, 2007
MiraCosta College

Boy meets Girl

Tatoo  

With all the very beautiful women at this school, why do they tattoo their bodies? Tattoos on a beautiful woman are like graffiti sprayed on a nice building— it’s just plain disgusting. If you look through a high fashion catalog, such as Victoria’s Secret, you don't see tattoos on any of those models. Why is it done and what purpose does it serve?

Signed-tats on girls make me ill.

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The purpose of the MCC Food Pantry is to provide emergency food assistance to students. They also provide referrals to community organizations that may further assist students. This service is available to any student currently registered at MCC. The Health Services Bldg. 3300, Service Learning Room 3445, and ECCP Bldg. 3000 provide access to the food pantry.