

THE SAGE

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OCTOBER 1, 2010

Campus construction going as planned

by David Burluson
Sage staff writer

“On budget and on time,” is how Vice President of Administrative Services Brett Bell characterizes the ongoing construction projects on the Miramar College campus. “But of course all of that can change at a moment’s notice.”

In 2002, San Diego County voters approved Proposition S, a \$685 million general obligation bond measure to fund construction and renovation projects throughout the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD). Voters approved Proposition N in 2006, authorizing an additional \$870 million in bonds.

“Each of the [district’s] campuses,” Bell said, “prior to the voters passing Propositions S and N put together a Facilities Master Plan with a vision of what their campuses would look like in the future.”

According to Bell, Miramar College has an anticipated growth to 25,000 students by 2025 and these construction projects are needed to provide services to a growing student popula-

tion. “The primary focus of all of our construction is geared toward students,” said Bell. “First and foremost we will have actual classroom space and permanent classroom space that we will be able to offer students. I think that is the most important thing to emphasize.”

Ground has already been broken on two new classroom buildings—a new Arts & Humanities building and a new Business & Math building. Both are expected to be complete for this coming spring. An expansion of the Automotive Technology Career building is also scheduled to be complete by spring.

Construction has also begun on the new Library/Learning Resource Center (LLRC) and a new Campus Police Station/Parking Garage. According to Bell this project will be “the first LEED Platinum parking structure in Southern California.” Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design or LEED certifications were developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide a third party veri-



Photo by David Burluson

Construction on the new Arts & Humanities building is moving along.

fication that a building was designed in an environmentally conscious way. Platinum is the highest level of certification. Both buildings are scheduled to be operational by fall 2011.

There are also plans to build a new student building containing a new cafeteria and bookstore, a new Student

Services Center and a new Maintenance/Grounds Keeping facility. These projects, as well as renovations to the Aviation and Science buildings, are expected to be complete sometime in 2012. According to the college website, construction will “impact 80% of the campus property” by the time all of these projects are

completed. “The center of campus is going to shift,” said Bell, “to the north end of campus, where the LLRC and the two classroom buildings are being built. Everything is going to be up there once we are done building out.”

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Chancellor Carroll discusses state of the district at campus forum

by Courtney White
Sage staff writer



Photo by Courtney White

SDCCD Chancellor Carroll discussed the state of the district.

On Tuesday, September 14, San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Chancellor Dr. Constance Carroll held an open forum on campus. At 3 pm, students, faculty and staff gathered in the new gym building to view a presentation on the goals, issues and state of the SDCCD. Carroll used a Powerpoint presentation to

show how Miramar is surviving the budget crisis.

With so much construction underway, it’s easy to wonder if the state budget crisis is affecting the college and district. The chancellor assured the audience that everyone is feeling the sting of the crisis. In fact, the picture on the slide that addressed the budget crisis featured a photo of a shark.

Carroll said that because the California state assembly has not passed a budget, the state has been holding back funds for colleges and universities. The chancellor described the hardships other community colleges throughout the state have suffered from closing campuses to mandatory furloughs and pay cuts for employees. Still other districts have eliminated jobs to save money. Additionally, some college districts are borrowing money in order to get by. The SDCCD has fared better than those districts. According to Carroll, the district’s conservative fiscal management has garnered enough cash reserves so the SDCCD can meet payroll and pay its bills. However, the Chancellor warned, that if the budget impasse in Sacramento goes much past December, the district could be in trouble.

The chancellor described the district as “building rich and staff poor.” Despite major construction projects throughout the district, the SDCCD does not have the

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Enrollment up despite cuts in state funding

by David Burluson
Sage staff writer

According to Vice President of Instruction Kathy Werle, student enrollment at Miramar College is up 2.3% for the fall semester compared to last spring. “Our summer enrollment was [also] up quite a bit,” she said. Higher enrollment “greatly affects [a student’s] ability to get the classes they need to get a degree or certificate or just skills that they need for their job,” she said.

Miramar has “a 95-99% fill rate,” said Werle. “What this means is that many faculty took extra students in their classes [last year] and they are doing that again this year. They do that so that the low-enrolled, high-end class—you know the last class you need in a sequence for a degree or certificate—can run with a lower enrollment if it’s needed. We want students to be able to get through.”

“I was talking with a Chemistry teacher today who was supposed to have 24 students in a section and she’s got two combined sections with, at this mo-

ment, 56 students.”

In August 2009, the State Chancellor’s Office notified the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) that there would be a 3.3% reduction in funding for instruction. “That cut a large number of [class] sections district wide,” said Werle. She said that the state “will restore 2.1%, approximately, in this year’s budget, maybe.”

“We are given very few dollars from the state to service a vast number of students. We want to use the

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Opinion: Is the problem with Microsoft greed, incompetence or both?

by David Burleson
Sage staff writer

As I stated in my review of *Halo: Reach* in this issue, I was waiting with baited breath for this game. This game, that when all is said and done, will be one of the highest (if not the highest) selling games of the year.

I wanted to play this game so badly that I had to purchase another Xbox 360 to replace the one that was stolen from me. A month prior to the games' release, I walked into my local GameStop store to purchase a 4GB Xbox 360 Slim (a new, smaller redesign of the original Xbox 360) and preorder a copy of *Halo: Reach*.

There was nothing out of the ordinary about the transaction. I paid the \$200 plus tax for my redesigned Xbox 360 Slim system. A system touted as not being plagued by overwhelming hardware problems such as the original design's dreaded "red ring of death."

My original Xbox 360 red

ringed twice. Both times I had to send it back to Microsoft for repair. The second time I received a refurbished system but had to return it to Microsoft because the audio output did not work. Microsoft only took it back after I bought a new \$30 connection cable to prove to them that it was a faulty system and not a faulty cord.

According to Microsoft, the new Slim model will not red ring. I know they are telling the truth because, as IGN reports, Microsoft removed the red LED's that indicated a hardware problem from the light ring around the power button in the new model. Crafty.

Upon putting my brand new copy of *Halo: Reach* in to my brand new Xbox last week, I found that when I tried to play through the campaign with my friend over Xbox Live (a service that costs \$50 per year, soon to be \$60), I got the error message, "One or more players do not have the hard drive required for this game type."



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This confounded both my friend and myself. I opened the hard drive panel on the bottom of the system and to my surprise there was in fact no hard drive. The 4GB of memory on the new Slim model is internal flash memory, not as it turns out a 4GB hard drive. A fact that is not mentioned anywhere on the box or on the product page on the website. The *Halo: Reach* game box (a Microsoft owned IP) does not state that the cooperative modes of the game require an actual Xbox 360 hard drive to play either. I could not

play a third of the game's content that I paid the full price of \$70 for because I did not shell out the extra \$100 it costs to get the 250GB version of the new Xbox 360 Slim model.

GameStop did not inform me of this when I bought the Xbox either. I can't blame them however because I am not sure if they knew themselves. Nukezilla.com reported that UK retailer Comet was selling a 4GB Xbox 360 Slim bundled with a copy of *Halo: Reach*. The retailer has since removed the bundle from its website.

After speaking with Xbox support, it was clear to me that the only thing I could do was wait for Microsoft to resolve the issue (which they said they "are aware of," in a statement to Eurogamer) or buy a 250GB hard drive for \$130. Thirty dollars more than I would have paid had I bought it upfront. I opted for the later when I found out that this same hard drive issue was reported in *Halo 3: ODST*

on a Bungie.net forum over a year ago. Microsoft could have resolved this issue prior to the release of one of the most anticipated video games of the year but it did not.

Microsoft knew this problem was going to occur in *Halo: Reach* and either did not care because it would mean more money in the bank or could not resolve the issue in a year. I believe it to be nothing more than old-fashioned greed.

To further exemplify my point, Kinect—Microsoft's new \$149 motion controller for the Xbox 360—will not work with the old Xbox design without an additional \$50 adapter. Instead of releasing defective hardware as they have done before, Microsoft has now taken to building defects into their hardware that only buying additional Microsoft hardware can correct. This is why I am a Mac and not a PC. Shame, Microsoft, shame.

Opinion: Bottled vs. tap-- which is the better choice?

by Laura T. Gonzalez
Guest writer and Sustainability Coordinator

Pure. Fresh. Clean. From a mountain spring. Words to describe bottled water... or are they? Although bottled water companies would like us to believe their advertising, the truth is that bottled water may not be any of these things. Better descriptors might be under-regulated, possibly harmful to our health and an environmental and ethical disaster. In this column, I'd like to tackle just one of the many issues with bottled water and that is the myth of healthy bottled water.

Bottled water is regulated by the FDA. The FDA tests less frequently and has less stringent standards than the testing of tap water. The bottled water industry is not monitored independently. Even more troublesome is the fact that bottled water is unregulated if sold within the state where it is produced. This means industrial water companies, such as Nestle, bypass regulation altogether if they create regional subsidiaries to sell within states where they are pumping out local water, including Poland Spring (which pumps and sells in Maine), Deer Park (Maryland) and Arrowhead (California).

On the other hand, municipal tap water is tested by the EPA with more stringent regulations. In a city of over a million people such as San Diego, the municipal water supply is tested several times a day every day and results are publicly available. Rather than spending our money on water bottles, we might spend our time lobbying for upgrades to our city water system to provide the safest and cleanest water for everyone.

According to the Beverage Marketing Corporation (2009), Americans drink 8.6 billion gallons of bottled water a year. However, there is no guarantee that chemi-



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cals aren't leaching into the water as it is transported in the heat and sits on the shelf. In 2000, Consumer Reports found eight of ten PET plastic jugs checked left residues of BPA (bisphenol A), an endocrine disrupter, in the water. Low doses of BPA are strongly linked to diseases such as breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes and to problems with reproductive and neurological development.

The President's Cancer Panel agrees. In spring 2010, it published a statement citing evidence that some environmental agents may initiate or promote cancer by disrupting normal immune and endocrine system functions. One of their recommendations included using "filtered tap water instead of commercially-bottled water."

For this reason and others, the Miramar College Academic Senate and Associated Student Council have adopted a resolution to ban the distribution of single-use PET plastic water bottles on campus. Of course, you can still buy bottled water in the Cafe but the resolution recommends that we no longer buy cases of bottled water to distribute at meetings, class parties and other gatherings. Due to the problems and dangers associated with water bottle production and usage, we ask the campus community to choose reusable water bottles and gallon jugs for on-campus water consumption. For the full text of the resolution, please contact lagonzal@sdcdd.edu.

Opinion: Coastal fashion and coastal attitude: Stereotypes about style and attitude from the east and west coasts

by Courtney White
Sage staff writer

Fall fashion is here. For the two coasts of this country, this means something completely different. Having just moved here from the east coast, fall has always meant leaves falling off trees, jackets, boots, sweaters and sometimes even snow. Discovering more about west coast fashion, while adjusting to the climate change, I am learning that there are more differences among the coasts than meets the eye. And it's not only the weather.

Sometimes it's hard to imagine how the coasts are a part of the same universe, let alone the same country. Everything seems so different; the weather, the accents, the attitude and the style. What does the west coast think about the east coast and vice versa? Interviewing a college student from the west coast, I found that the attitude tends to affect the style.

Corinna Lopez is a student at Miramar College. She was born and raised in California. She is a young woman with seemingly lovely, stylish, very "west coast" taste and has never been to the east coast. "I really want to see New York City but I'm kind of afraid," she laughs, "Everything is so different." I asked her what stereotypes she thinks the west coast has about people from the east coast. "Um... kind of snobby; stressed out and always in a



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hurry to be doing something." Not surprised I laughed, for I had been getting this stereotype every hour on the hour since I arrived here. Just the other day a man at a cash register said to me, "There's no way you're from the east coast— you're actually nice."

I asked Lopez what the typical style for a west coast teenager is and she replied, "Basically, jeans, a tee shirt and Vans. For women, True Religion jeans and in the summer gladiator sandals. That's pretty much the basics. It's a very laid back attitude here. The east coast seems really...overdone."

Thinking back to my old high school's typical "uniform," I asked her if teenage girls wore North Face here. When she looked at me puzzled, I nearly fell out of my chair. I can almost guarantee that every young woman on the east coast (that is lucky enough to afford them) has a pair of Ugg boots, skinny jeans and a North Face

sweatshirt!

Lopez looked taken a back. "Really?? I mean, people who ski wear them, I guess, but everyone?" So for me, the west coast fun facts about style are the absence of heels on boots or heels at all. Also not a regular in west coast fashion is long sleeves, trench coats (this was a big deal for me) and natural skin and hair. Who needs cosmetic products when you have sun kissed everything.

Now for the east coast. Many here believe that someone will pass you while driving in snow storm. Black consumes stylish wardrobes and seeing heels in high school is common. For the west coast "being chill" isn't bad, cute jumpers and colorful little dresses with sandals rule the beach and au naturale is the way to be. Not to say that all people are like this but this is the style stereotype. However, these stereotypes have molded the style standard that so many Vogue reading, style loving women look to. The east tends to wear more make-up, straighten their hair more and dress up which reflects a kind of "perfectionist" attitude that the stereotype conveys. The east stereotypes the west coast as "hippie town." While it may be only a stereotype, it also conveys a more casual natural style to fit that description.

THE SAGE



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Affordable health care available to students

by David Bureson
Sage staff writer

Even with the upward spiral in the cost of medical services, students at Miramar College have an affordable option for health care at the Student Health Services Center (SHSC). “We actually act like a regular primary care office,” said Nurse Practitioner Michelle McCurdy. “Most [students] don’t seem to realize what we offer.”

Any student enrolled in classes at Miramar can visit Student Health Services. “We’re here for all students regardless of whether or not they have insurance,” McCurdy said.

Students can receive examinations by a registered nurse, nurse practitioner or medical doctor without paying an additional fee or co-payment provided that they have paid the \$17 per semester student health fee. The student health fee provides the operating budget for the Student Health Services Center.

“Community clinics,” according to McCurdy, “based on a sliding scale fee, may charge anywhere from the lowest end, like \$35, up to \$200 per visit.”

In the SHSC, students have access to a wide variety of medical services. Procedures such as blood pressure monitoring, vision screening, immunizations, tuberculosis testing, laboratory testing, pregnancy testing and EKG testing can be done for free or for a nominal fee.

“Things that we do have to charge for,” said McCurdy, “are the blood tests and other things like that but those are given at a significant discount. For example, a basic health panel here costs \$20. If you were to go and get billed by a regular medical group, it’s \$300 for the exact same thing. So there is huge savings for the student coming here.”

The SHSC can also prescribe medication as deemed necessary by the medical staff, including contraception. They also offer sexually transmitted disease testing in conjunction with the San Diego County Health Department.

“I think the services we provide are highly underutilized,” said McCurdy. “The students that do use them really do appreciate all the things that we do.”

The Student Health Services Center is located in S-103—across from the campus bookstore. It is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 am until 4:30 pm and Fridays from 8 am until noon. Students can either make an appointment or be seen on a walk-in basis. A list of services provided can be found on the Miramar College website.

“It’s certainly more convenient here,” McCurdy said. “I think students get a lot more of a personal touch than they would get a regular clinic. And it is definitely cheaper.”

Paulson receives first Honors Certificate of Completion in Global Competencies

by Courtney White
Sage staff writer



Photo by Unknown

Heather Paulson earned the first Honors certificate in Global Competencies.

The Honors Program has its first recipient of the Certificate of Completion in Global Competencies. Former Honors student Heather Paulson, who transferred to and is now attending Berkeley, received the certificate.

According to Honors Program Coordinator Carmen Jay, the Certificate in Global Competencies offers stu-

dents the opportunity to gain a global perspective through completion of coursework in intercultural competencies, technology skill and world languages. To complete the Certificate, Heather earned honors units through a combination of honors classes and contracts. The Miramar College catalog specifies the requirements for the certificate.

Bacon named to San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

by Sandi Trevisan
Guest writer

Retired History, Physical Education professor and tennis coach Robert “Bob” Bacon was inducted into the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame on August 28.

Coach Bacon’s influence on the San Diego tennis community has encompassed competing, coaching and community service. He has won (with doubles partner Jack Movido) USPTA National championships, American Tennis Association National championships and Western U.S. championships.

He also earned nine consecutive conference titles (1969-1977) while coaching the San Diego City College tennis team.

Bob has been a USPTA professional since 1955, taught at the Vacation Vil-



Photo by unknown

History and Physical Education Professor Robert Bacon was inducted into the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame.

lage Tennis Club for ten years, and is one of the founders of the San Diego District Tennis Association.

Bob was awarded the San Diego Professional Tennis Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

The PLACe can help with class work.

by Courtney White
Sage staff writer

Looking for help with your classes? Want to get ahead in your studies? There is a resource on campus that can help. It’s called the Personal Learning Assistance Center or The PLACe for short. It’s the campus learning center.

The PLACe offers one on one tutoring, online tutoring, handouts with tips for studying and test taking. It also provides help with online assignments and software. If a group needs help with a particular subject, The PLACe will arrange a workshop. Additionally, The PLACe provides a quiet place to study.

For classes that are difficult for many students, a workshop can be requested. Interim PLACe Director Dr. Daphne Figueroa states, “What we are trying to do is make sure that students makes the connections to the material tested by the professor.” Figueroa explained why this is not just a tutoring center but a place where students can learn more about the subject of their choosing. According to Figueroa, each tutor is carefully selected. Moreover, each tutor knows what it is like to be a student with questions. Many of the tutors also understand what it means to struggle with course material.

Figueroa, who was on the founding committee for The PLACe, explained the purpose and potential of all the center has to offer. “We work



Photo by Courtney White

Tutor Zohreh Roshanzaer (left) assists student Faranaka Safaeicharamakani.

very closely with the chairs of the Math and English departments when selecting our tutors. Our tutors are hired as part-time Miramar employees.” They have a series of requirements that must be met just to fill out an application. These requirements include a tutor training course. This strict policy is what allows students to have access to tutors with knowledge in all basic skills and then some. In fact, according to Figueroa, The PLACe is looking to hire qualified tutors now.

Figueroa says she would like students to know that “The PLACe is for all levels of course work but with an emphasis on basic skills. This service is not only for students who are having trouble in a class but also for those who want to excel. For example, if someone is getting

a B in a class but wants to earn an A, going to The PLACe can help. While an appointment is not required, it is highly recommended. Both half hour and full hour appointments are available and it must be an assignment related to a class the student is currently enrolled in on the Miramar campus. When students use this service, the center can show it is helping students and needs funding.

Located in D-106, The PLACe is open weekdays from 8:30 am until 6 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Best of all, services at The PLACe are free to registered Miramar students!

Interested in checking out The PLACe? Appointments can be made at D-106 or by calling 619-388-7852 or 858-536-7852.

Call for submissions!



Community Voices is Miramar College’s literary magazine. We publish poetry, prose fiction, prose nonfiction, drama, digital art, and photography.

Deadline is November 11, 2010

For more guidelines and more information, contact Carmen Jay at cjay@sdccd.edu.



Restaurant Review: Zensei Sushi is heavenly sushi with a spicy twist!

by Courtney White
Sage staff writer

The sushi at Zensei is all that is heavenly about sushi. Yet Zensei provides a spicy twist.

At 8 pm on a Friday night, also known as hell for waitresses, the place was buzzing with music, people, the Padres game and great sushi. The service was good but the sushi was phenomenal! However, what I found most surprising was the restaurant's interesting history.

In 2005, Chef Rosendo Rendon of Zensei Sushi took his knowledge of Japanese Cuisine and Latino based inspiration for sauces all the way to the First Annual California State Sushi Competition. While I am unsure of his whereabouts today, he

obviously left his mark on the place. There were many spicy special rolls and unique pepper toppings for the sushi and sashimi.

The fish itself was light, smooth and fresh. The tuna was so pink and light it looked like it had been caught, cut and carved only minutes before I arrived. Having worked at a sushi bar for years, it was more apparent to me that the quality of fish is excellent.

This restaurant is also unique in that both types of sushi people are served-- traditional and Americanized. While I enjoy both equally, I know few people who feel the same. Most generally either lean toward the simple, traditionally Japanese style of sushi (they usually stick to sashimi or regu-

lar rolls with only soy sauce) or the Americanized specialty rolls (with spicy mayo or eel sauces, on top of a combination of fish). This can create a problem if your dining partner isn't rooting for the same team as you. These people will find paradise at Zensei due to the unique but subtle amount of spicy Jalapeno peppers on top of a fresh, clean, piece of sashimi and the delicious rolls in decadent sauces with combinations of freshly cut fish.

The friendly, helpful waitress recommended the Dream Roll and I took her suggestion. My dining partner ordered a yellow tail hand roll and we decided to share everything. The slight sweetness of the rice accented the light yellowtail perfectly. However, I person-

ally thought that \$6.00 for a hand roll is a bit much but the fish was so fresh so we didn't mind.

The Dream Roll really lived up to its name. Although it had no sauces and was a little more pricy than expected, the sweetness of the yellowtail, tuna and white tuna came through and was complimented by the avocado, masago (egg custard), onions, gobo (a kind of root) and sweet and sour lemon slices on top. My partner and I agreed it was wonderful and completely worth the \$13.75.

Although, the menu focuses on sushi, it offers many options for those who are not "raw fish people." Having a plethora of teriyaki grilled items, curry, salads and vegetarian items, it is a great place for people

who like different types of Japanese food. The teriyaki chicken looked mouthwatering on the table next to us, along with the Chicken Katsu, which is lightly breaded chicken with steamed rice and vegetables. Some tasty looking vegetarian options were the Udon noodles with tofu mushrooms, green onions and chili and the Roasted Pepper Roll with cucumber, avocado and tofu wrapped inside roasted bell peppers.

You can find Zensei Sushi at 3396 30th Street, San Diego and make reservations at (619) 546-6171. They are open Mondays through Wednesdays noon-10 pm, Thursdays through Saturdays from noon-midnight and Sundays from noon-9 pm.

CALENDAR

TUESDAY-THURSDAY, FALL SEMESTER

Seasonal/H1N1 Flu Shots • Health Information Booth, S-100 Patio, outside Student Health Services Free flu shots. For more information, contact Health Services at 858-536-7734.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Blood Drive • All day, NTC, 4347 North Harbor Drive. For more information, contact Stacy Rodgers at srodgers@sdccd.edu.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Community Voices Literary Magazine • Deadline for submissions. *Community Voices* is Miramar College's literary magazine. We publish poetry, prose fiction, prose nonfiction, drama, digital art and photography. For more information, contact Carmen Jay at cjay@sdccd.edu.

Construction from page 1

When asked about delays or budget concerns regarding any of the ongoing or planned projects, Bell responded, "We involve so many people

in so many divisions on campus in this process and get so many perspectives that only something that is beyond our control would cause one of these projects to either be delayed or to be over budget."

If all goes according to plan, students will be attending classes at an almost entirely redesigned Miramar College campus by the end of 2012.

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money responsibly," she said.

In addition to last year's cuts in instructional funding, Werle said, "going into this year we had to also absorb all kinds of salaries for people in student services, primarily because the state pulled that funding specifically for those programs." Everything from Counseling and Admissions to lab technicians and EOPS "were cut across the board an average of 45%."

Instead of layoffs in the student services departments effected by the reduction in state funding, the district absorbed the cost of those salaries into the general fund. "That put us on the wrong

side of the 50% law as a district," Werle said.

The 50% law states that half of every general fund dollar must go into classroom instruction. Money used for student services is not considered spent in the classroom.

"We fortunately have had good financial management for many years," said Werle. "We had reserves enough to be able to offer additional instructional sections." These sections were added to comply with the 50% law but will not be funded by the state. According to Werle, the district allocated Miramar funding for approximately 240 additional class sections over the next two years.

"The only thing that worries me," Werle said, "is that

our institutions—California Community Colleges—are about access. We are the open enrollment option for anybody and everybody and historically serve the student who traditionally would not be found at a four-year college. Right now that's changing because UCs and CSUs—even though they are funded at 4-7 times what we are per student—have cut back their enrollments and they have cut them back hard. So we've got more of their students knocking on our doors and their students are the ones that really know how to work the education system. I'm just a little nervous that that might be shutting out some of the students we would traditionally serve."

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funds to staff all the new buildings coming on board. Funds to build out the campuses came from two bond measures—Propositions S and N—where residents voted to tax themselves to build out the campuses. These bond measures were passed many years ago. Since the building approval process is complex and takes time, the actual construction funded by these bond measures is

finally being done.

With new environmentally conscious LEED buildings underway, much of the construction is scheduled to be completed as early as next semester and others by fall, 2011. The new buildings mean that more classrooms will be available and the classrooms will have state-of-the art technology.

Carroll also discussed the addition of classes beginning this coming spring semester. In order to keep jobs intact, the district cut classes to save

money. These class reductions put the district out of compliance with the state's 50% law. This law states that at least 50% of a community college district's budget must be spent on providing instruction. So the SDCCD decided to spend money from its reserves to fund more classes so it would not be out of compliance with the law. As a result, students will find more sections of classes offered in the spring and next year.



Gaming Review: Bungie wants us to "Remember Reach"

by David Burleson
Sage staff writer

Mere words cannot express the anticipation I felt for the release of *Halo: Reach* for the Xbox 360 on September 14th. *Reach* is the fifth and final Bungie Studios produced game in the *Halo* franchise. *Reach* is a direct prequel to the original *Halo* trilogy, which began with *Halo: Combat Evolved* in 2001.

The campaign mode of the game (which can be completed solo or cooperatively) chronicles the fall of the human colony on Planet Reach to the Covenant—a malevolent coalition of alien races who believe that their gods want humanity wiped out—in the year 2552.

You assume the role of Noble Six—the newest member of Noble Team, an elite group of United Nations Space Command (UNSC) Spartan super soldiers. Before the campaign begins you are tasked with building your Spartan utilizing the game's new in-depth character customization system. Your Spartan can be male or female and can be outfitted with a limited number of armor options. You unlock different armor options as you progress through the game.

The opening cinematic of the game shows the helmet of a Spartan—your Spartan—lying on the ground with a bullet hole through the face shield. The tone of the game is set. You are on a futile mission to save Planet Reach from an overwhelming invading army.

By the end of the game you become fully aware that without the actions of Noble Team, the events that happen in the original *Halo* trilogy would not have taken place. The game ends where the original trilogy begins—with the UNSC ship Pillar of Autumn escaping Planet Reach.

The campaign is by far the best one in the franchise to date. The enemy AI is the best of the franchise. The various changes in game play during the campaign flow seamlessly from one mission to the next and it is not plagued with the pacing issues of previous *Halo* campaigns. Whether you are going face-to-face with an Elite, or taking out Banshees in an epic *Star Wars*-esque space battle, the campaign does a fantastic job of ensconcing you in the telling of the heroic actions and bravery of Noble Team during the final hours of Planet Reach.

Like every *Halo* game before it, in addition to campaign mode, *Reach* has several different online multiplayer modes. *Reach* includes traditional *Halo* multiplayer variants like Slayer and Capture-the-Flag along with the new Invasion mode. Two teams of six are pitted against each other—one team attacking a set of objectives and the other team defending. *Reach* also includes the cooperative Firefight mode introduced in *Halo 3: ODST*. You and three others eliminate increasingly difficult waves of Covenant forces.

Where *Reach* really shines is its deep customization system. You can customize everything from your character's appearance and abilities to how much ammo you have during the game. If you are looking for a real challenge, play the campaign alone on Legendary difficulty with ammo set to low, health set to low, enemy health set to high and with the motion tracker turned off. You can even build your own maps and game types in Forge mode and share or play them online through Xbox Live.

Although this is Bungie Studios' last foray into the *Halo* universe, it most certainly won't be the last game in on of the most successful franchises in the gaming industry. I can only hope that Bungie's new intellectual property, currently in development under their new 10-year publishing agreement with Activision, will be as engrossing as *Halo: Reach*. Bungie has definitely given us significant reasons to—as the game tag line states—"Remember Reach."