

# Traffic explores war against drugs

TAM OLIVER  
A & E Editor

*Traffic* is a powerful film that explores the reasons we are not winning the war against drugs.

Directed by Steven Soderbergh, the film features a fine cast of actors: Michael Douglas, Don Cheadle, Erika Christensen, Benicio Del Toro, Dennis Quaid and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

*Traffic* scores all of its points with effective restraint. A torture scene is heard but not seen. Instead, the horror is reflected on the face of a Mexican police officer who hears his prisoner delivered to a terrible fate.

Rather than bombard the viewer with blood and brains splattering or a needle entering a teenager's youthful vein, the film holds back. In doing so, it frees the imagination of the audience.

Make no mistake, *Traffic* earned its R rating. Senator Orin Hatch of Utah, who has a cameo role in the

movie, was quoted in *The Columbian* on Jan. 29 saying, "I was shocked and dismayed at the gratuitous amount of violence and profanity in *Traffic*."

As the film traces the war against drugs on both sides of the Mexican-U.S. border, it intertwines the stories of several groups of people; some rich and some poor, some morally corrupt and others decent, and some powerful and some weak.

A new American drug czar (Michael Douglas) is so busy fighting drugs and politicking to keep the financial support coming in that he misses

the fact that his teenage daughter (Erika Christensen) is becoming an addict. A Mexican police officer (Benicio Del Toro), who makes about \$300 a month, trades informa-

tion to United States' DEA agents in exchange for lights for a baseball park so the children of Tijuana can play safely at night. A pampered California housewife, who is origi-

nally shocked to discover her husband is a drug lord, takes over the business when he is imprisoned. She'll pay any price to keep from being poor again.

Through these stories, one question stands out. Why are so many people addicted to drugs, legal or illegal?

An undercover policeman on a stakeout in a cramped van asks his partner why he doesn't try the patch to quit smoking as the van fills with smoke. A husband tells his wife that if he didn't have his nightly glass of Scotch, he'd be bored to death. A crack addicted teenager who seems to have everything - private schools, money, excellent grades and good looks - talks about the fear of not being able to measure up. An overworked father throws himself further into his work when problems develop at home.

*Traffic* is a thought-provoking movie. It hints of reasons for losing the war against drugs, but it doesn't sermonize. It leaves room for the audience to do their own soul-searching.



Two Mexican police officers find themselves in trouble in a scene from *Traffic*.

## Spanish, Latino Clubs bring bilingual play to campus

MAGGIE JIRASEK  
Feature Editor

To save Earth from an old prophecy and learn how to live in harmony with our planet is the theme of *Profecia*, Teatro Milagro's bilingual play being performed at Clackamas Feb. 7, 12 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall theater.

The play is set in the year 2012 and the fulfillment of Xutan, an ancient Mayan prophecy, is about to approach. Great earthquakes and floods have been foretold, and our planet's future lies in the hands of four individuals who can alter the course of humanity. The play, written by Danel with original music by Rodolfo Ortega, is set in the highlands of Chiapas where some of the earliest records of people in the Americas - dating from 2500 BC - have been found.

Teatro Milagro, the bilingual touring company of Miracle The-

atre, has toured throughout the West Coast, Mexico and Canada for over five years, addressing important global issues in their plays. Past works have included stories about saving the rain forest, immigration and freedom of artistic expression. Miracle Theater group is the largest Hispanic arts and culture organization in the Northwest.

With the help of fundraising, the Spanish Club as well as the Latino Club made it possible for Milagro to come to Clackamas. Admission to this bilingual production is free.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LARA KLINGEMAN

Cast members from left to right are Danielle Malan, Francisco Garcia, Maya Malan-Gonzalez, Manuel Hall and Laurel Garcia

## Horoscopes

By Corinne Rupp

**Aries:** Recognition for all your hard work should be coming soon, but it may not take the form you expect.

**Taurus:** Cut yourself some slack, Taurus. Don't set the bar so friggin high you can't jump it.

**Gemini:** Kindness matters in this world, and you have been extremely

kind to others. Remember to be kind to yourself too.

**Cancer:** Sorry Cancer, but don't plan on the road being any smoother for another couple of weeks.

**Leo:** Don't let your last tumble keep you on the ground. Dust yourself off and try a different way.

**Virgo:** The world is not quite as linear as you might want it to be. Instead of trying to force the world into your narrow parameters, widen the parameters.

**Scorpio:** This is your week to be like the Eggman. Koo-Koo-Ka-Choo.

**Sagittarius:** I could tell you noth-

ing bad would happen to you this week, but your skeptical nature would keep you from believing me.

**Capricorn:** If it feels like you have been beating your head against the wall, it is because you have been. Find a new hobby before you get a headache.

**Aquarius:** Sometimes there is no

hidden message. Don't read between the lines this week, just take things at face value.

**Pisces:** Dust off those old positive affirmations. You are good enough, smart enough, and gosh darn it people DO like you, so quit your whining.