

## City by the Sea leaves audiences adrift

**JULIE HOLLEMAN AND ELIZABETH EVANS**  
Movie Critics

The new release *City by the Sea* follows the lives of the La Marca family through divorce, drug addiction and murder. Vincent (Robert De Niro) is a top detective with the New York Police Department whose reputation is compromised when his son is the prime suspect in a cop killing. Joey (James Franco) is Vincent's son who is a drug addict in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The relationship between father and son, which was non-existent for many years, is tested during the film, through trials of their loyalty and courage. Despite the strong efforts of the police department to rip them apart once again,

Vincent remains convinced his son is not guilty.

De Niro (*Meet the Parents*), known for his remarkable acting talents in comedic and dramatic roles, is given little to work with in this film. His character is a monotonous cop and nothing more. He rarely shows any emotion in the film and when he does it seems out of character. The film squanders his talent.

Franco (*Spiderman*) does a believable job of portraying a troubled, drug-addicted man. He brings the audience into his drug-filled existence and makes viewers feel sympathy for him. His acting is good, but he focuses too much on his depression and self-loathing.

The previews for *City by the Sea* show a film filled with action and suspense. However, there is no edge-of-your-seat action, and it lacks suspense. There is little explanation of the trou-

bled past of the La Marca family, which is central to the movie's plot. The absence of these qualities creates a movie that is slow at times and comes to an anticlimatic conclusion. Our recommendation is that you wait for the rental.

### Our Movie Critics Rate *City by the Sea*

H: \*1/2  
E: \*1/2



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## World News Brief

EMILY STATON  
Contributing Writer

**India** – Train wreck kills 106 people, unknown cause. Militants vow to disrupt the elections by killing anyone who participates, while U.S. tells Pakistan not to interfere.

**Russia** – Roman Catholic church building halted and priests are being stripped of visas due to negative feelings from the Russian Orthodox Churches.

**England** – Both Tony Blair and Iain Duncan Smith, leaders of opposing political parties in England, are in favor of war with Iraq. Blair promised in a speech to work with the UN and Parliament before taking military action.

**China** – Smog from nearby industries blankets Hong Kong, endangering health and tourism trade, which accounts for 5% of the economy. Although the city has switched to cleaner-burning fuel, the problem is still ongoing. **Mexico** is one of the 20

countries introducing plastic money bills for its durability and security from counterfeiting.

**Afghanistan** – U.S. launches new operation along Pakistani border to rid land of Al Qaeda members now returning to Afghanistan since collapse of Taliban. Arrests have been few. More security and aid is necessary for reconstruction. **Nigeria** – The president publicly admits to deploying troops in the two massacres of which he has been accused.

**Southern Africa** – 14.5 million in desperate need of food aid.

**Middle East** – Bush urges immediate UN action to require Iraq to comply with sanctions. Egypt supports the U.S., and Israel will follow U.S. orders as it prepares for attacks from Iraq if the UN approves military action.

**Israel/Palestine** – Arafat's entire cabinet is forced to resign to create an executive prime minister, giving the president very limited power.

## Has September 11th limited our Freedom of Speech?

**MARGARET ANN COONEY**  
Staff Writer

Is the era in American society of free speech finally coming to an end? Some might argue that we have never had free speech to begin with and were never able to speak our minds. But even so, in the wake of recent events, people are watching what they say more and more.

The main story on CNN

last Friday was of a terrorist threat along Alligator Alley in Florida. The story was enough to make me think last Sept. 11 was just the beginning.

A woman from Georgia claimed she overheard three Muslim men in a Shoney's restaurant plotting to take something down in Florida. It was obvious to her from the men's conversation that they were planning to blow something up. The authorities were

informed and the men were apprehended.

This story is an example of an American citizen doing her patriotic duty in times of fear. The three Muslim men might disagree; authorities searched them and found nothing. It was all a misunderstanding, but one leading to death threats against the men.

America, a country that thrives on satire, from *Saturday Night Live* to late night talk shows, is begin-

ning to question whether a joke is too risky and whom it might offend. Even Hollywood, usually quick to make a penny off of anything, is changing blockbuster movie scripts so as not to step on anyone's feet. I applaud the effort, but how much will it really help?

Take Bill Maher and the recent cancellation of his show *Politically Incorrect*. Rumor has it his comments after September 11th were

the reason for the show's departure. His show, which exists to push people's buttons was cancelled because Maher stated that military actions in the past were "cowardly." The show's run ended because a few buttons were pushed too hard. It makes me wonder, what

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