

Entertainment

Chua Roars With Tiger Mother

By Karrie Bowen- *Lions Eye Adviser*-kab44@psu.edu

When I read the first excerpts of Amy Chua's *Battle Hymn of The Tiger Mother*, I was horrified. A law professor at Yale, Chua takes her readers a completely crazy roller coaster ride as she attempts to parent her two daughters, Sophia and Louisa, in what she believes is a lax and indulgent American culture. Chua's answer? Raise them in the old fashioned "Chinese" way. Thus begins the ride into the mind's eye of The Tiger Mother.

Reading this book, you get a fly on the wall viewpoint of Chua as she raises her kids and you get to endure the rules that she thrust upon them from toddlerhood. No play dates, no sleepovers, and a minimum of three hours a day of instrument practice. Nothing but A's were acceptable for grades and when she was disappointed with them, she told them they were "worthless" and "garbage". On family vacations, Chua only booked hotels that had a piano so that Sophia, her pianist, could practice. Lulu took her violin everywhere with her as well, and was loaded into a car so many times to meet with world-renowned violin teachers before she was 10 you wondered if she ever attended school... which she did...with perfect grades.

However, within the confines of *Tiger Mother*, readers see not only imperfection in her parenting, (some parts are really hard to read) but you also see incredible achievement as well. For example, Sophia played in Carnegie Hall at the age of 14 and Lulu was accepted to be a student at the age of 10 by a woman who only taught students at Juilliard.

Many people were angered by the contents of this book, but the more I got into the story, the more I started to actually think that the people who are taking this book the wrong way, particularly those, like me, who only read the excerpt in the newspapers and not the book itself, are actually missing Chua's point.

Interestingly enough, as I read Chua's book, I have to say that my opinion shifted with regard to both her approach and my own viewpoint on parenting. As you start to live her struggle with a parenting style that's seen as extreme by our standards, you also start to question your own values and approaches to child-rearing as well.

People who are looking at this book as a parenting manual that advocates raising their children the way Chua was raised and the way Chua opted to raise her kids, either didn't really read the book or are too blinded by what they want to perceive to see the underlying introspection that she is putting out there.

Ultimately, this book is really about the struggles of raising successful children, and the fears that all parents have as they embark upon that journey. The book has a wonderful page turning quality and, even if you are annoyed at Chua's behavior, you keep reading because you want to know what is going to happen. Ultimately, the story Chua relates is one that is reflective, unabashedly honest, and shows real growth and humility, while still staying true to her own story.

Battle Hymn of The Tiger Mother has sparked quite a bit of outcry on a national scale. Everything from cheers for her candor to people calling for Chua to be arrested for child abuse has come down the pike since its January release, and it has been on the New York Times best seller list as well. I highly recommend you grab a copy and read it for yourself, and then ask the question that ultimately, I think Chua wants her readers to consider. Is it really so wrong to demand discipline, excellence, and success from our kids, and if it isn't, then why do we live in a culture that continuously slips down those very ranks?

BATTLE LA

By Paolo DiPaolo--*Lions Eye Staff Writer*-pod5013@psu.edu



Actor Aaron Eckhardt starts in *Battle: Lost Angeles*, a post-apocalyptic tale of aliens taking over the world. (photo courtesy google.com)

In theaters now is movie I recommend all action lovers go see. Its *War of the Worlds* meets *Black Hawk Down*. It's a movie that has action from the very first moment until the end. Its fast pace and action packed with extreme live shots of an alien attack. It's a survival of the fittest against a world takeover.

The movie starts with what the world believing that they are experiencing a meteor shower and round troops to help restore safety. When the world realizes that the meteor shower actually is an invasion by an alien force. People start to evacuate certain cities where the aliens are most attacking which are all the coasts, you will figure out why when you go see it.

Los Angeles is where the movie takes place because what you find in the movie is that most major cities have been taken down. Don't worry you find that out in the beginning. In it's the last fight that troops have to maintain to keep the west coast region protected away from the alien invasion.

The story follows star Aaron Eckhart who plays SSgt. Michael Nantz, who is up for retirement from his marine services, is put in a command group to save and get out local people who are trapped in a police station in downtown Los Angeles. The group is in charge of 2nd Lt. William Martinez played by Ramon Rodriguez. Their job is basically to rescue people and return to base before the nuclear bomb is sent to destroy the aliens in Los Angeles, but certain things don't go their way when the alien army seems to have already taken over. Ironically, they are thrown into the lion's cage and have little time to find a way out of the city.

I give this movie three Lion's eyes out of five because of its apocalyptic style and off your seats battle scenes. The only one problem though is that there certain parts that tell you everything so try and not go to the bathroom for this one.

Horoscopes

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Courtesy of www.horoscopes.com

Aries March 21 to April 19

There is a real sense this week that you're coming into your own, that not only have recent pressures and challenges not defeated you, that they have made you stronger. It's during the Sun's last full week in your sign, during what is without a doubt one of your most powerful and important solar returns in decades, that a lot of things are falling into place.

Taurus April 20 to May 20

During what is the last full week of your old solar year, with the Sun due to return to your sign and kick off your most important solar return in a decade, you have a chance this week to put things into perspective. Already a sense of anticipation is likely to be setting in, telling you that this year your birthday month is going to be special, that this is going to be your year.

Gemini May 21 to June 20

As your professional and personal confidence returns and in most cases stronger than before, you're gaining the confidence to step out of your shell and out of your comfort zone. It's where there were challenges, pressures and obstacles before, especially on the social or networking fronts, that there is both a better sense of awareness and mutual understanding, as well as a lot of hindsight.

Cancer June 21 to July 22

You're finally able to find the right pace this week, especially on the professional front, which in turn is leading to better time management and a chance to finally create the work/life balance that has been such an issue until now. While you're not out of the woods yet, with next week's Full Moon likely to test that you really do have the right balance, it's now easier than ever.

Leo July 23- August 22

Even without the fact that the Sun is due to move into your career sector next Wednesday, opening the door to a

continuous period of planetary activity that extends out to June 2012, this would still have been a week for embracing a sense of adventure. While you may have to wait for an especially late Easter weekend this year, the latest it can possibly be, that doesn't mean that you can't still embrace a sense of adventure or curiosity for life.

Virgo August 23 to September 22

Powerful forces in both your financial and income sectors are playing nicely this week, with a chance to regroup on both sides. This gives you a chance to look beyond money to life's other currencies and in the process gain some perspective.

Libra September 23 to October 22

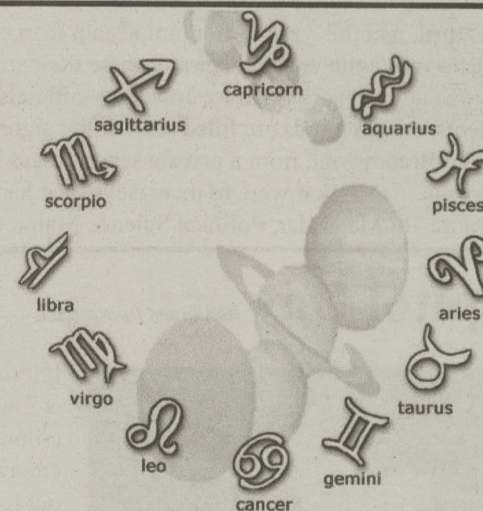
Across all the currencies and fronts of your life you're likely to get a sense that you're coming into your own and that if you haven't yet found the balance that you need, then you know how to make it happen or it's just a matter of time. As you draw closer to next Monday's Full Moon in your sign, that will mark the halfway and the turning point of your solar year, many things are coming to a head.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21

If there was ever a week where finding the right balance between work and play was possible this is it, with powerful forces on both the work front and on the romantic, playful and creative fronts both finding their stride. This is something that is happening side by side and is not in competition with each other, making it possible to create a real balance with minimal effort.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21

Next Wednesday the Sun will move into your work sector and when he does, he'll open the door to a period of continuous planetary activity in your work sector until June 2012, but also to continuous planetary activity across both your professional houses until July 2012.



Capricorn December 22 to January 19

Don't be surprised if you move into the week with a case of Mondayitis or if you find it hard to get moving. It was only over the weekend that Pluto, planet of change and revolution turned retrograde in your sign and as the slowest planet in the solar system when he comes to a stop in order to do a U turn it takes him longer to build up speed again on the other side.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18

A new sense of confidence that is developing on the income front is going viral this week, spreading out to all the currencies in your life. At the same time this is revealing where your priorities lie, allowing you to appreciate what's important and what isn't. Where before you may have sweat the small stuff, there is a growing awareness that some things aren't worth the effort.

Pisces February 19 to March 20

As Neptune, planet of dreams and fantasies spends his first full week in your sign, in your lifetime Venus, planet of love, desire and attraction is spending her last full week in your sign, making this their only full week together, until early next year.