Richness in Mind

-A Movie Review for The wild parrots of Telegraph Hill

The documentary named “The wild parrots of Telegraph Hill” tells an amazing story between a homeless musician and a flock of wild south American parrots. It narrates the whole story through a quite straight-forward way. There wasn’t much embellishment to the pictures, which made it look more natural but also soothing. As the main character of the story, Mark did a great job of illustrating his feelings and thoughts. On the other hand, the story was also Mark’s real life experience. Thus, it has made this documentary more credible and touching. With the recordings of interactions between Mark and the parrots, it is rather clear to tell their deeply-rooted connections composed by trust and accompany. In addition, the background music of this documentary helps to render the overall atmosphere of this story. For example, the audience can feel Mark’s cheering mood through the music when he was together with his parrots even without the expression of words.

Even though some people may consider homelessness as a miserable status, Mark’s story provides a strong rebuttal against this view. With the interests toward these parrots, Mark has added another meaning to his life. Instead of struggling in the abyss of being disparate and anxious to his future life, Mark started to observe these parrots. As he said in the documentary himself, he was “the only one studying them.” (Irving, J.) This hobby certainly replenished his life. At the mean time, it also refutes people’s stereotypes toward homeless population. It turns out that a person does not need a college degree to conduct academic researches.

The genre of this film helps to make the spirit behind Mark more convincing. Since
it is adapted from a person’s real life experience, people wouldn’t question whether
the producer has other ulterior motives such as intentional speculation just to attract
people’s attention. Instead, the documentary revealed true sentiments between Mark
and the parrots, which was fascinating and thought-provoking.

Compare to Mark’s decades of dedication on observing and recording on those
parrots, some students simply choose to waste their college lives by drowning in
alcohol and drugs while their parents are paying expensive tuition for them. Marks’s
interest not only added a great amount of pleasure to his life but also helped him to
enrich his mind. A person with richness in mind can truly accomplish almost
everything without fear.

Bibliography
   Irving, Judy Irving, and Chris Michie. Perf. Mark Bittner and Judy Irving. Shadow