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OUTSIDE



High: 86°
Low: 57°

Boarders do the LocoMotion



Members of SJSU's longboarding club, LocoMotion, ride down a parking structure.

See full story on **LONGBOARDING** Page 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF: LOCOMOTION LONGBOARDING CLUB

Counselor teaches students to relax

KELSEY HILARIO
Staff Writer

An SJSU educational counselor said in a workshop Tuesday that in addition to the short-term effects of stress there are serious consequences as well, including — ulcers, hypertension and heart disease.

Veronica Mendoza hosted a stress management workshop for approximately 30 students in Clark Hall.

Mendoza said the majority of students request education counseling for help with time management, low grades or to change majors.

Students received stress "mood cards" that mimicked a mood ring and whatever color their card turned determined the amount of stress they were dealing with.

There are two types of stress Mendoza said, positive stress and negative stress, positive stress helps students make deadlines and perform during exams while negative stress can be debilitating.

Mendoza said the effects of negative stress include increased heart rate, problems with appetite and sleep, increased use of alcohol and drugs, inability to concentrate, crying outbursts, headaches and backaches.

Freshman psychology major Lena Pham said she had recognized some of the symptoms that Mendoza described.

"My favorite part of the presentation was now that I know the symptoms that I have are real and not just based on research," Pham said. "It seemed like it was actually really accurate."

See **STRESS** Page 3



SJSU counselor Veronica Mendoza explains the purpose of a stress "mood card" during a stress management workshop held in Clark Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

PHOTO: JACK BARNWELL | CONTRIBUTOR

Compassion needed to beat suicide, says psychologist

AIMEE MCLENDON
Staff Writer

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death nationwide, but it is the second leading cause of death among college students, said David Emmert of Counseling Services.

In a 2008 survey nine percent of SJSU students said they had seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months said Emmert, a clinical psychologist.

To help students better understand those who are going through dark times, a suicide prevention workshop was held in the Student Health Center on Tuesday.

Phi Le, who led the workshop, recalled a story about a man who tried to commit suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge but survived.

"On his way to jump off the bridge the guy said to himself,

'OK, if just one person smiles at me I'm not going to do it,'" said Le, who is taking prerequisite classes for medical school. "But no one did smile at the man and he jumped."

Although he survived, the point is that people just need the smallest gesture of compassion which could change everything, he said.

People don't always want to talk about suicide because it's a touchy subject, Le said.

"But being suicidal is not a chronic disease like cancer," Le said. "It can be overcome and it's completely changeable."

When dealing with someone who is very depressed or suicidal, Le said to look out for warning signs such as anxiety, hopelessness, isolation, increased substance abuse and decreased job performance.

He said that a majority of suicidal people do give some kind of

warning signs, it just takes some extra concern to notice them.

One student who attended the workshop said he was interested because he heard of a recent suicide by an Air Force Academy cadet and he didn't realize how often suicide occurred.

"It's sad to hear about, it's such a dark place for someone to be in," said freshman kinesiology major Hector Lopez-Garcia.

He said he once tried to help a friend who was depressed by hanging out with her, but he didn't exactly know how to talk about it.

But after attending the workshop, he said he felt more confident that he'd be able to recognize suicidal behavior in a friend and now he knows how to get them help.

"I'm not sure that people want to ignore suicidal people," Lopez-Garcia said. "I think they are more scared that they may say or

do something wrong to push that person over the edge."

In 2008 there was a suicide at a fraternity house near campus, said Detective Sgt. Manuel Aguayo, of the University Police Department.

Before that there were two suicides in the decade leading up to 2008 that involved people who were not students, Aguayo said.

Since 2008, there have been no suicides on campus, he said.

About 93 percent of people who have attempted suicide but survived are grateful to be alive, Le said.

He said that asking someone about how they are feeling or if they are considering suicide does not cause them to commit suicide.

"That is actually a myth," he said. "Most people really want to know that someone cares, so use empathy but ask them if they plan on hurting themselves," Le said.

"Ultimately, you can't control someone's life, but in dark times we can be compassionate," he said. "People reaching out a helping hand is like giving the suicidal person another option and that could change a mind."

While some may not understand the dynamic of suicide Emmert, who works with many students said that people have a lot more to offer than they think.

"Most students I've talked with don't want to die, but they need relief from their pain and they can't see any other options," Emmert said.

He said a lack of hope that things will ever change in the future only increases suicidal thoughts and urges.

"Most people who are considering suicide are ambivalent about it — part of the person wants to die and part wants to live," he said. "Suicide prevention is about building hope and help-

ing people find other options."

Richard Foreman, a freshman mechanical engineering major, said he thought it would be good to know more about how to help others.

"I have had friends who are depressed and I've experienced it myself," Foreman said. "It took some work to begin to tell people about it — I think you get afraid to talk about depression because you don't know how people will react."

He said he thinks in some ways he is able to recognize depression in others because of his own experience and that he would definitely try to help if he knew someone was feeling suicidal.

In one study, Emmert said, 90 percent of college students said they knew a peer with suicidal

See **SUICIDE** Page 3

SJSU staff honored in award ceremony

CALLI PEREZ
Staff Writer

The 43rd annual Staff and Management Luncheon and Service Awards Ceremony was held Tuesday to recognize staff and management employees for their years of service at SJSU.

The Barrett Ballroom in the Student Union was filled with at least 350 SJSU staff, faculty and family members.

Maria Elena De Guevara, the associate vice president of human resources, said she would start the ceremony by welcoming the audience and thanking the staff for years of service.

"It is one of my favorite events at the University and it is always so much fun because of the staff does so much work," Interim President Don Kassing said. "To have them all together to recognize and express appreciation to them is something we need to do and it is a wonderful opportunity to do that. So it is a great event. I love it."

The event was broken up into segments to honor the employees celebrating their 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, and 35-year anniversaries of service.

Each segment held a slideshow to commemorate the year and the events that took place when they started working at SJSU.

"I like my teachers," senior biology major Aryan Pasea said of the faculty at SJSU. "They are really helpful especially when it comes to midterms. I have always been able to go to their office hours and they have been informative."

Guevara introduced the 19 honorees who started working at SJSU in 1995-1996 and had them stand up for a round of applause.

Rose L. Lee, the vice president for administration and finance, introduced the 16 honorees who were being recognized for 20 years of service.

"This event is also my favorite event, it is a very fun event," Lee said. "It is great to see the slideshow and remember what it was like then and for me, to be young."

The 10 honorees celebrating 25 years at SJSU were recognized by Gerry Selter, the provost and vice president for university advancement.

"It is my honor to introduce our staff and managers who have hit the 25-year milestone," Selter said. "It is quite an achievement and we are grateful for their 25 years of service."

The 1985-1986 slideshow recognized that Fourth Street garage was opened, Halley's Comet lit up the sky, and California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was acting in the movie "Commando," which made its debut that school year.

Honoree Jerri Carmo, of the SJSU Foundation said she remembers her first day on the job, how she parked where the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch is now.

Sophomore, Engineering student Karchict Sarinivachru said that he feels the faculty has been helpful throughout his time at SJSU.

"I think it is a mixed bag, sometimes I get really good professors that really help me and they really care, but every once in a while I get a few professors that seem like they like making fun of the students or they are just really busy with their lives," Joseph Papaya said. "The rest of the staff has been really courteous and nice."

The eight staff members celebrating their 30 years of service at SJSU were introduced by Fred Najjar, the vice president for university advancement and were asked what their fondest memory at SJSU was.

Margie Soto, a 30-year honoree who works at the office of the president said her fondest memory would be finding the love of her life.

Rosemary Soto Garcia, her sister and fellow honoree, said she wasn't married when I began her career and she remembers her friends and co-workers throwing me a bridal shower.

"The Sotos kind of run this place," Najjar said. Three honorees were recognized for 35 years of service at SJSU.

The honorees — Colleen Brown of enrollment services, Katie Hill of administrative applications and Lorraine Lance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library — were introduced by Jason Laker, the vice president for student affairs.

When they started working in 1975-1976 the SJSU football team ranked in national polls for the first time and Rod Stewart and Faces, as well as Peter Frampton performed at SJSU at a Hot Fun in the Sun Concert.

Lance said her career at SJSU started in October 1974 in the old Wahlquist North Library.

Lance said it was very exciting as well as a lot of work to move to the new Clark Library in 1982 where she was trained to transition from the physical hard copy catalog to the online version.

Lance said that in 2003 she moved again to the new King Library, which she said continually incorporates innovation and technology, creating a technology without walls.

"I have a number of close friends that were recognized today, that I worked with when I first came here in 1993," Kassing said. "I think that is what makes it so much fun and personal. To have long standing relationships with the people that we know over the years who have done things to make this a better place."

July law mandates textbook publisher transparency

KENNY MARTIN
Staff Writer

Part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act states that all federally funded college campuses need to not only provide the names of all the books each course requires, but also the prices, said the associate vice president of undergraduate studies.

"The goal is to help students have more control over costs," Dennis Jaehne said. "Students are making a price decision as well as a class decision."

With the law going into effect July 1, he said SJSU students can find the textbook information in a link that is located next to the class information displayed by searching for a class.

Kevin Wagner, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said he noticed the textbook information when he was online, and said he was glad it was there.

"It's a good law to have because some people don't have a lot of money," he said. "They can compare prices between classes that fulfill the same requirement."

Junior kinesiology major Jenna Doyle said she does not think that knowing the textbook prices before registering is going to be a major

factor in students' decisions.

She said that if there is a specific teacher or class that a student wants to take, then prices generally won't dissuade him or her unless there is a huge disparity in prices.

Another rule that this law establishes is that, in order for an author to publish a new edition of a textbook, he or she has to outline to the college exactly what has changed from the last edition to the new edition.

According to the law, a publisher who is receiving federal financial assistance "must include, with any such information and in writing the following ... a description of the substantial content revisions made between the current edition of the college textbook or supplemental material and the previous edition, if any."

In addition, the new law mandates that "a publisher that sells a college textbook and any supplemental material accompanying such college textbook as a single bundle shall also make available the college textbook and each supplemental material as separate and unbundled items, each separately priced."

While this new legislation appears to be only beneficial, SJSU philosophy lecturer Dan

Williamson stated in an e-mail that he sees some possible problems with it.

"This might lead to some awkward consequences," he stated. "For one, administration would have to get each department to submit lists of books for courses, but courses are not decided until a little prior to midterm."

This law is also taking more influence away from professors, a trend Williamson stated has been increasingly common with the rise of technology.

"An unintended consequence of this sort of law makes it that much easier for administration to control the department and the professors," he stated. "This might seem pretty slight by itself, but add that to other technologies such as assessment and the like and you get a slow erosion of the authority of departments and professors over their own professional choices and control of the classroom."

Vandan Mehta, a graduate student in software engineering, said he thinks it is a good law, but that it could do more.

"It should list the cheapest price," he said. "It should also provide what the changes between the editions are (on the website)."

Alert-SJSU transmits emergency messages to students in times of crisis

KENNY MARTIN
Staff Writer

Alert-SJSU is a messaging system designed for the University Police to quickly address the campus in the event of a major emergency, such as a natural disaster or an active shooter, said a public information officer for the University Police Department.

Students can sign up for Alert-SJSU through their MySJSU accounts and choose to receive the messages via either phone or e-mail, said Sgt. Manuel Aguayo.

A person can register up to one cell phone number, three personal phone numbers and two e-mail addresses, he said.

This means that a student can sign up to receive these notifications, and register family members, when an emergency situation occurs, Aguayo said.

"I highly recommend signing up with the cell phone you carry around with you all of the time, as well as the e-mail account you use the most," he said.

In addition to these personal forms of contacting individuals, Aguayo said the indoor and outdoor speakers around campus will sound off with the message the police are trying to get out.

Lt. Frank Belcastro of University Police said all of the education buildings on campus are equipped with a speakerphone system.

The Campus Village build-

ings have an intercom system that can act as a speaker system, he said.

Hayley Pickett, a graduate student in sociology who works in Housing Services at SJSU, said she believes the alert system is great to have.

"At housing, we encourage students to sign up for Alert-SJSU," she said. "If there is an active shooter, it is a good way to get the word out across

“It sounds pretty helpful and it gives us tips.”

CRYSTAL URBANO
Freshman health science major

campus. People do not always check MySJSU messages."

Sophomore aviation major Kent Soliday signed up for the Alert-SJSU system when he noticed the link for the messaging system registration.

"Just reading the description, it seemed really helpful," he said. "For safety, it is good. It is convenient because I am always checking my text messages."

Haider Rizvi, a junior elec-

trical engineering major, heard about the Alert-SJSU system, but said he does not feel the incentive to sign up.

"I feel safe on campus," he said. "I have not encountered anything and there are police on campus."

Freshman pre-nursing major Kaileigh Komas said she also does not feel too concerned about signing up for the service.

"I think it is a good service — it just is not something I would need," she said. "I feel that if something is going on, I would hear about it because I am on campus."

Crystal Urbano, a freshman

health science major, said she had not heard of Alert-SJSU, but said it seems like a good idea to sign up.

"It sounds pretty helpful and it gives us tips," she said.

Belcastro said he wanted to stress the importance of not only registering, but signing up for all three methods of receiving the message — by e-mail, phone and text.

He also said a text message can only contain so many characters, so the information and instructions would not be as complete as a voice message or an e-mail, and there could be a time delay in the delivery of the message.

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9:30 AM | \$35 (Res.), \$20 (Student)
Event Center

OCT 14 Michael Moore
7 PM | \$25 (Res.), \$15 (Student)
Morris Dailey Auditorium

OCT 29 Lady Antebellum w/David Nail
7:30 PM | \$34.50 (Gen. Adm. & Res.)
Event Center

Longboarders unite in official student club

JAIMIE COLLINS
Staff Writer

This semester, SJSU is welcoming the LocoMotion Longboarding Club to the list of student organizations, according to the president of the club.

"We've always been doing it," said Priscilla Scott, a junior business management major. "This semester, I really wanted to get our funding going so we can do more events and bring out more people."

Matt Chavez, the club's creator and former president, said LocoMotion was created in Fall 2008 to get as many people as possible excited about longboarding.

"There was a small group of my friends that went out on a regular basis and longboarded for fun in different areas on and around campus," said Chavez, a senior design studies major. "I wanted to create an environment that supported new longboarders as well as advance the skills of experienced ones."

Sophomore sociology major Joey Huong said he has been longboarding since high school and thinks the club is a great way for skaters to come together and enjoy themselves.

"It's a hobby that a lot of people are into and having a group is a great way to have fun," Huong said. "The number of skaters on campus is growing every day and we need a place to come together and hang out."

The current president, Scott, said this is the first semester LocoMotion has been an official club on campus.

Although it has been active on campus for a couple of years, Scott said the necessary steps for the club to be recognized had never been taken.

"Because of a change of offi-

cers nobody really got it done," Scott said. "This semester I went through all the paperwork and applications and now it's an official organization."

Senior nursing major Jillian Moore said having more clubs helps students to have a better college experience.

"Student clubs and organizations are what makes our campus unique," Moore said. "By providing ways for students to express their interests, the campus becomes more diverse."

While size doesn't matter, Chavez said the number of attendees ranges anywhere from eight skaters to over 60.

Although weekly attendance was never mandated, Chavez said that the same people continued to come, bringing along friends.

"We had more and more new longboarders who heard through word of mouth, many of which came back on a regular basis," he said. "Everyone that I know, that has gone out and rode with the club, loves it as much as I do."

Scott said the group is a combination of people and that longboarding is the passion they share.

"We are all different," she said. "I think it's cool that we can all come together through one common interest and get to know more people."

Chavez said LocoMotion meets every Wednesday at 10 p.m. in the Plaza de Cesar Chavez partaking in a range of longboarding activities, from going on a simple ride to setting out on a photo scavenger hunt.

"If someone doesn't have a board or hasn't ridden a longboard before, there are plenty of people who will show anyone how to ride and let them borrow a board," he said.

Scott said the club will be

hosting a skill clinic tonight at 9 p.m. during which they will teach people basic longboarding skills.

"We are just going to try to bring all the beginners out and teach them the style," she said.

Hoping to get involved is freshman business major Martin Schroeden, who said a club like this is a great way to make friends.

"If you can find a way to connect with people who like the same things as you, it will make college more enjoyable," Schroeden said. "It's a fun way to connect with your peers and experience downtown San Jose in a different way."

Scott said one of the reasons the club is important to SJSU is because longboards are becoming increasingly popular on campus.

"A lot of (students) are commuters and we all have our way of transportation," Scott said, "but especially this year, there are more and more longboards."

Junior chemistry major Jennifer Trumble said she often sees people longboarding on her way to class.

"It has become a huge trend for college students," Trumble said. "Whether skating in a group or solo, there are longboarders everywhere nowadays."

Chavez said that even though it is a student organization, LocoMotion is not necessarily important to the school but to the people who contribute their time and energy to the club instead.

"It's important because it's an environment where people can just show up and have a great time," he said. "It's as important as you want it to be and for the people who really believe in it and who are dedicated to what it has come to be, it's simply the most amazing club someone could be a part of."

CAMPUS IMAGE



A squirrel stops for a drink at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch on Tuesday, Sept. 28., a day when temperatures reached 103 degrees Fahrenheit.

PHOTO: DONOVAN FARNHAM | SPARTAN DAILY

SUICIDE

From Page 1

behavior and that most would not inform a student, parent or counselor.

He said that more than 32,000 Americans complete suicide each year, which is equal to about 85 per day and one every 18 minutes.

The best qualities to emanate while helping someone with suicidal thoughts are empathy, genuineness, respect, warmth and non-judgmental listening, Emmert said.

Le concluded the workshop by saying all it takes is a campus full of people who have enough

compassion to show concern and that is what could change the course of someone's life.

Emmert echoed that sentiment and said he and Wei-Chien Lee, have come up with a program called "A Thousand Stars," which is a suicide prevention program that launches on Oct. 8.

The program is a peer training program for SJSU students that will help create a safety net for students in distress, Emmert said.

"We all need some support in our lives at one point," Emmert said. "Those considering suicide -- it's like an index of their pain. It is a measure of their hopelessness about their future. Even if you don't feel it right now, you are not alone and your life is important."

STRESS

From Page 1

Mendoza suggested students eat three balanced meals every day, exercise regularly and get six to eight hours of sleep every night.

Planning weekly and monthly events to look forward to can help students improve their mood and stay calm during the semester she said

Leo Lomibao, a sophomore political science major, said he was ready to use several of the tips in reducing stress.

"I am going to take a lot more rest," he said. "I am definitely going to start on my assignments earlier."

Mendoza said time management is one of the biggest factors that causes students to become stressed.

She said they must practice responsibility when it comes to school, make a list of priorities and stick to them, say no to plans if it cuts into time dedicated to school and limit procrastination

as much as possible.

Both Pham and Lomibao said the time management tips and exercises will definitely help them in the future.

Freshman nursing major Gaby Sauzedo said she is ahead of the game when it comes to keeping track of her schedule.

"I already do time management," Sauzedo said. "I plan out my whole week hour-to-hour, what time I sleep and what time I am supposed to study."

In addition to the stress management workshop, Mendoza said she hosts a class every other week for first generation students that helps them with financial aid, scholarships, time management and how to talk to their parents about college.

The counseling office is located in the administration building and Mendoza encourages anyone who is struggling with school or emotional stress to stop by.

"Come to counseling services if you are feeling stressed or you are not sure what to do, or you don't know who to talk to, because everyone there is really helpful and welcoming," she said.

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Opposing Views: Are eBooks the future?

Nothing like the real thing

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JENNIFER HADLEY
Jennerally Speaking

A hot bath and a good old paperback book is my favorite down-time combination.

Over the weekend I wanted to unwind for a bit, so I started reading Jodi Picoult's book, "Handle with Care."

My relaxation time would come to a grinding halt if all of a sudden the batteries died while I was reading, which would be possible if I was reading an eBook.

There is no denying that eBooks are growing in popularity. According to PCWorld.com, eBook sales of Kindles have increased three times since last year.

Many of my friends have changed with the times and now buy their textbooks and leisure reading material on their Kindles and iPads.

I wouldn't say I'm old fashioned — I have a Facebook account, a smart phone and I check my e-mail close to six

times a day, but I just can't give into the eBook craze.

Not only is it impractical to take an eBook to a sandy beach for example, but there are small things that a paperback book gives me that an eBook cannot.

As nerdy as it may sound, it is exciting when the pages in my left hand grow and the ones in my right hand shrink.

Physically being able to feel the progress I've made when I'm reading a book is a rewarding feeling. I don't get that feeling when I'm reading an eBook that lacks texture.

On Amazon.com, eBooks for Kindles seem to be about \$1-\$2 cheaper than the hardback or paperback version of most books.

I would love to save a few dollars on books, but if I'm reading in the bath, I would rather accidentally drop my \$15 book in the water than my \$100 Kindle.

Some argue that it is easier to read eBooks because you can adjust the brightness and font size, but for me it isn't easier to hold a heavy eBook reader if I am lying down to read. Pages are flexible while iPads and Kindles are heavy blocks.

Sometimes eBooks contain hyperlinks and I know that it would become distracting for me as I'm trying to enjoy a novel or study a textbook.

I will admit that instantly being able to get the definition

for a word might be convenient, but what ever happened to trying to figure out the meaning from the context the word is in? Maybe we just don't want to overwork our brains anymore.

One of the most common argument in favor of eBooks is that they are "greener" than print books. This is likely true, but an eBook simply cannot replace a book that I received from my grandmother who passed away.

An eBook cannot replace my book series from middle school that has worn-out, old-looking paper meant to mimic diaries from different points in history.

Sure eBook readers can store books in one device instead of taking up a few bookshelves in your home, but we all know Kindles and iPads will be out of style in two years just like cell phones evolve every six months.

As soon as everyone gets comfortable with their maxed-out libraries on their Kindles and iPads, the technology will likely change, and they will have to change with it.

Meanwhile I will still have my traditional paperback book in my purse.

"Jennerally Speaking" is a column appearing sporadically throughout the semester.

Jennifer Hadley is the Spartan Daily Features Editor.



HUSAIN SUMRA
Senior Staff Writer

Imagine a world where you could carry your whole library of books in your pocket.

That world is possible, and only because of eBooks.

EBooks have gotten extremely popular lately with the releases of devices such as Apple's iPad and Amazon's Kindle, and rightfully so.

Apple's iBooks application and Amazon's Kindle application are two of the most popular eBook applications out there, and they make the hobby of reading more enjoyable and just plain easier to do.

These applications allow you to take your book library in your pocket.

You can read your eBook on your iPad and Kindle any time you want, but say you're wasting time in between classes and don't have your iPad or Kindle. Then what?

Well, you can pull out your smart phone and read on that too. It just oozes convenience.

Convenience is not only for people on the go who want to be able to read anywhere without carrying books with them, but for people who can't see well.

EBook applications allow the reader to change the font size to their liking, and even change the brightness on the device as well.

The Kindle is a little better on the eyes because it uses E-Ink technology, which makes the screen look eerily similar to a piece of paper.

Speaking of paper, eBooks are a great way to go green.

Why would I want to have more than 100 books laying around the house taking up space

and not being put to good use when I can store them digitally on a small device?

EBooks grant the reader other convenient abilities as well.

Have you ever seen a word in a book that you didn't know and needed to look it up?

EBook applications tend to have built in dictionaries. All it takes is a simple tap of the screen.

Don't worry about messing up the paper when you want to highlight or take notes either, because those functionalities are easy on eBook readers.

It's extremely easy to find things in an eBook as well, because you can search through the entire book.

Looking for a certain quote you enjoyed or need to answer a question for a book report? Stop flipping through pages and risking paper cuts.

Search for it. Don't forget that the world is changing, eBooks are a part of this change.

The way we consume media is changing rapidly, this is just another step. The old forms will slowly give way to newer and more flexible forms.

Like reading news in a newspaper or renting a movie from a video store, reading a normal paper book holds a certain emotional appeal over us. It's the way we've done things for a long time and we're used to doing things that way.

But like reading the news for free on the Internet or renting movies from services such as Netflix, reading an eBook is more convenient and will eventually overtake the old forms of media.

U.S. politics desperately need campaign finance reform

The monstrous tentacles of Meg Whitman's election campaign seem to have no bounds.

She's everywhere. She's on billboards, she's on the radio, she's on TV and she's on the Internet.

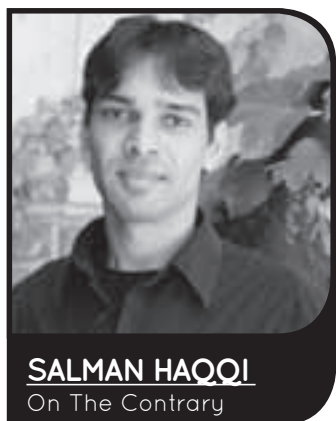
At a \$120 million (and ticking), the former eBay CEO-turned-Republican candidate for the California gubernatorial race recently broke the record for a self-financed campaign.

She's gone so far to as to claim to be willing to spend up to \$150 million in order to have the unenviable job to succeed Arnold Schwarzenegger as the governor of California.

Campaign finance is the black hole of American politics. It's an issue that's rarely talked about or debated with any sincerity, even though it's possibly the single most important issue concerning our democracy.

But is it truly a democracy when candidates can blanket the airwaves with negative advertising and marketing techniques, thereby essentially taking control of political discourse by sheer virtue of their ability to outspend their competition?

Noam Chomsky, a noted critic of American politics and one of the most important intellectuals of the last half century has said, "Campaign funding is a remarkably good



SALMAN HAQQI
On The Contrary

predictor of elections and also of policy. You can pretty well predict policies by looking at where the funding comes from."

According to Opensecrets.org, a website operated by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, in each of the last three presidential elections, the winning candidate has outspent the competition by millions of dollars.

Taking the 2008 election between Barack Obama and John McCain as an example, the disparity in spending was in the hundreds of millions, with the Obama campaign spending \$730 million, while the McCain campaign spent just over \$330 million.

Our campaign finance law is based on the primary assumption that money is speech and thus protected by the First Amendment.

In 1976 the Supreme Court concluded that money spent in campaigns is the equivalent of speech. It is hard to overstate the ramifications of this decision.

The court found that because money is speech, the government cannot limit a candidate's ability to use his or her own funds in a campaign. The court concluded that such a restriction would impermissibly muzzle the speech of a self-financed candidate.

Thirty-four years later, in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court went a step further by ruling that the government may not ban corporations from spending on elections.

It is a decision that profoundly affects government policy, both domestic and international.

Chomsky called it a "dark day in the history of American democracy, and its decline."

The decision heralds an even further corporate takeover of the U.S. political system as The New York Times wrote that the ruling "strikes at the heart of democracy" by having "paved the way for corporations to use their vast treasuries to overwhelm elections and intimidate elected officials into doing their bidding."

As a result of this ruling, corporate managers can now, in effect, buy elections directly, bypassing more complex indirect means.

It is well known that corporate contributions, sometimes packaged in complex ways, can tip the balance in elections, hence driving policy and handing much more power to a small sector of the population that dominates the economy.

Which brings me back to the curious case of Meg Whitman.

Unlike the usual political candidate who acquires his or her financing through a mix of contributions from individuals, political action committees or other interest groups, Whitman's vast war chest is largely a product of her own personal wealth.

Thus, as her argument goes, making her less beholden to any special interests that hijack the legislative agendas of many candidates during the electoral process.

As of right now, just over a month away from the election, polls show that Whitman is in a statistical tie with Democratic candidate Jerry Brown, who's working at a substantial financial disadvantage.

Perhaps this is a sign of her unabashed spending rubbing the voters the wrong way, especially given the recession we are going through?

But Whitman aside, true campaign finance reform has the potential to solve a slew of problems Americans are facing on a national scale — from health care to education, to our outrageous military spending. What is required is an overhaul of how we conduct our elections.

Elections should be about a war of ideas, not of bank accounts.

If we are going to proclaim our supposed democracy to be a shining example for the world, we must first actually have one.

Right now our elections are on sale to the highest bidder and effectually nothing more than an expensive game of charades.

Meg Whitman may be able to afford that, but we as citizens surely cannot.

"On The Contrary" is a biweekly column appearing on Wednesdays.

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Frosh dynamo sparks women's volleyball team

ALEXANDRA RUIZ-HUIDOBRO
Staff Writer

Leading the team with 144 kills this season and averaging 3.01 points per set as of Sept. 25, left-sider Hanah Blume said she loves to play volleyball.

Third on her team with 114 digs, Blume is a freshman adjusting to college life.

"(The transition) was actually really difficult," she said. "It has been really tough because I've been tired after practice and I have to go home and do homework until 12 and if we have a game then it's even harder," but she said it has been worth all the hard work.

As a senior at Sonora High School, Blume was a three-time letter winner and the 2009 Co-Most Valuable Player of the Valley Oak League.

Her senior team made it to the semifinals of the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Championships — Blume had 363 kills and 76 blocks that year.

Oscar Crespo, the head coach for the past four years, said Blume has a solid work ethic and has many strengths.

"She is an extremely competitive individual," he said. "She is taking charge of her future really, on the court ... by being assertive, aggressive and an intense player."

Sophomore setter Caitlin Andrade said she agreed with Crespo.

"She has the drive and the will to win and she'll just lay it all out on the court," Andrade said.

Blume will do anything to help the team, she said.

"I think she is learning a lot every day and I think she wants to learn a lot every day," Andrade said. "We need people like that

to drive our team to win."

Blume said the support of her teammates has made adjusting to the change of pace easier.

"My teammates ... help me a lot with my schoolwork and they talk to me a lot and help me stay focused," she said.

Her junior and sophomore teammates remember many of the courses she is currently taking and offer help when she needs it, she said.

The team really helps each other stay on track so "we don't feel alone going into school or games," Blume said. "We're a really close team."

Blume said she sees the team progress every day.

"I think that since we've been improving we're having high spir-

its going into this season," she said. "We're going to be really successful because of it."

Blume said she wants fellow Spartans to attend the games because they are going to be exciting.

"We're always preparing for the best team in the league," she said. "University of Hawaii, we're coming after them."

The Spartans take on Hawaii Oct. 15 and will host the Warriors Nov. 13.

Off the field, Andrade said Blume is a happy-go-lucky, fun

“She always dances in our locker room. She brings a lot of smiles.”

CAITLIN ANDRADE
Sophomore setter



Hanah Blume is one of three freshmen on the SJSU women's volleyball team.

PHOTO: CLIFFORD GRODIN | SPARTAN DAILY

and nice person to be around. "She always dances in our locker room," Andrade said. "She brings a lot of smiles."

After college, Blume said she would like to play volleyball overseas.

But for now, she said she is going to start with beach volleyball when she has time, and hopes taking up the sport will get her somewhere.

"I've never played beach before," Blume said. "But we'll see where it takes me."

Crespo said Blume is a coachable athlete who always asks questions and is constantly working on improving.

"She has a very high future," he said.

The Spartan football team defeated Stanford, 29-23, on Sept. 29, 1990 at Stanford Stadium — their second straight victory in the series.

In the game, quarterback Ralph Martini (above, left; below, No 9) took to the air for SJSU, racking up 361 yards and four touchdowns.

"He knew where we were today," said touchdown-grabbing wide receiver Walter Brooks Jr.

Running back Sheldon Canley (above, right; below, No. 20) rushed for 47 yards against the Cardinal.

"It showed today that we have the power and talent to play with these guys," he said.

SJSU has since beat Stanford four times in 20 tries, most recently in 2006.

Head coach Terry Shea called Martini a hero.

"There is a sense to this game that adds electricity and we feel it," Shea said. "We played from the heart."

SPARTAN SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



FROM THE SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVES, OCT. 1, 1990
REPORTING: STAFF WRITERS STEVE HELMER AND MARK SMITH,
PHOTOS: KEVIN SQUIRES (ABOVE) AND ANN NELSON (BELOW)



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