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CAL STATE

CSUMB in possible suit for Prop 30 advocacy in classes

By Jonathan Roisman
@jroisman

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association intends to sue California State University Monterey Bay today for allegedly violating state laws prohibiting state employees from promoting ballot measures while using public resources such

as school classrooms.

The group intends to file the lawsuit in California Superior Court in Monterey County, said Tim Bittle, an attorney and the director of legal affairs at the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"We're getting complaints literally on a daily basis of the misuse of classroom time and other physi-

cal facilities," he said, "whether it's buildings or telephone systems that are being utilized for Proposition 30."

The group alleges that Ernest Stromberg, the CSU Monterey Bay director of humanities and communication, illegally sent a message using his school email address Sept. 27 to students in his depart-

ment recommending that they vote for Proposition 30, Gov. Jerry Brown's tax initiative on the Nov. 6 ballot, Bittle said.

He said this violated California Government Code § 8314, which states it is unlawful for elected state officials and state employees from using public resources for campaign activities.

Bittle said the school also violated California Government Code § 89001, which states newsletters and other mass mailings cannot be sent using public money.

Officials at CSU Monterey Bay and the CSU Monterey Bay branch of the California Faculty

SEE **LAWSUIT** ON PAGE 2

ELECTION 2012

The Debates: Round Two



President Barack Obama (right) shakes hands with Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney prior to their second presidential debate at Hofstra University in New York yesterday at 6p.m. **Photo by Wang Lei / MCT**

SEE **NEWS** ON PAGE 5

POLITICS

Ballot propositions delineated for students

By James Simpson
@JimmerSimpson

With the Nov. 6 general election fast approaching, the presidential race isn't the only issue at hand as several California ballot propositions are up for vote.

The non-profit group South Bay First Thursdays (SBFT) is hosting "Know Your propositions," an event aimed toward informing voters young and old about each proposition that potentially could come into law into the state.

The informational-style gathering will be held on campus Thursday Oct. 18 at Washington Square Hall 109, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

According to the organization's website, South Bay First Thursdays is a "volunteer-run organization that holds events on every first Thursday of the month to discuss topics relevant to the Asian-Pacific Islander community" with the focus to "inspire, educate, and mobilize the community by promoting safe and facilitated dialogues."

Kenneth Wong, one of the organizers of the event through SBFT, wants voters to be informed about the ballot propositions, so they can make healthy decisions for the future.

"We don't want to sway anybody toward any particular direction," Wong said. "We think voters are intelligent enough to make their own decisions when armed with enough knowledge."

The non-debate event will be moderated by a representative from the League of Women Voters, with San Jose Councilmember Ash Kalra and Garrick Percival, an SJSU professor of political science, also set to participate.

Will Martinez, a senior communication studies major, admits he is uninformed for all propositions except for Proposition 30, but thinks the event can be beneficial to those who otherwise lean on biased influences.

"Commercials and ads don't always tell the whole story," Martinez said. "To actually sit down, hear (the propositions), deciphering the language and seeing how it's going to affect you, that's going to be big."

Iris Tran is one political science major that said it's time for students and the younger generation to step up and be active in politics, no matter how interesting it is or relevant they seem.

"Today's students are the future. Too many people are making excuses on why elections never matter," Tran said. "It's time people got a backbone. If nothing else, we owe it to ourselves to document what we believe in."

Wong said he believes it is everybody's civic duty to vote and encourages the general public to attend, but he also has a distinct passion to reach out to younger voters.

"I believe that age isn't the only factor that correlates to being an uninformed voter. Many older adults are just as equally uninformed," Wong said. "However, young people exhibit an amazing exuberance for social movements and creating change for the future generations."

Light refreshments will be served, and guests will be allowed to ask questions in between the transitional period of each proposition.

The opportunity to register to vote will also be available to those who attend.

James Simpson is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @JimmerSimpson.

BALLOT

Propositions 30 through 35 Explained

Prop 30: Higher taxes for higher education

By John Linford
Contributing Writer

Proposition 30 is up for vote on the ballot this November, and voters must decide whether they wish to pass or reject the proposition.

According to ag.ca.gov, there have recently been "almost 56 billion dollars of cuts from education, police and fire protection, health care, and other critical state and local services."

Proposition 30 seeks to make up for these cuts by increasing personal tax rates for the wealthy and the sales tax for all California residents.

Proposition 30, or "The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012," is believed to guarantee that the additional funds it will receive will go to schools and local public safety offices.

If Proposition 30 fails, however, schools and local public safety offices will have their budgets cut. As a result, many feel that the only logical solution is to vote "Yes" on Proposition 30. But what will really happen with each outcome?

If Proposition 30 passes, the California state govern-

ment will create new tax brackets for the wealthy, who they will redefine.

Previously, the "wealthy" were considered to have incomes greater than \$48,029 per year.

If Proposition 30 passes, the wealthy would be split into four new tax brackets, and the previous upper tax bracket would be redefined.

Now, the \$48,029 tax bracket would extend to \$250,000 per year.

The next tax brackets would continue from this new definition: \$250,000 to \$300,000, \$300,000 to \$500,000, \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and \$1,000,000 and above.

The residents in each of these new tax brackets would have their personal income taxes increased, and the residents in the \$48,029 - \$250,000 tax bracket would receive no new personal income taxes; thus, they would stay at a tax rate of 9.3 percent.

Each tax bracket above this one would receive an additional 1 percent increase on top of the level beneath it: the first bracket would pay 10.3 percent, the second

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READ MORE INSIDE:

Prop 31, P. 2: State Budget Process Amendment

Prop 32, P. 3: Payroll Political Contribution Protection

Prop 33, P. 3: Auto Insurance Rates Discount

Prop 34, P. 5: Death Penalty Repeal

Prop 35, P. 3: Human Trafficking/Sex Offender Crack Down

Proposition 31: Government accountability, transparency

By Devon Thames
@dtspartan

Proposition 31 aims to create a more transparent government by requiring the legislature to justify financial decisions while giving more financial power to local governments and their ability to either create or further contribute to their programs.

While the state currently collects about \$50 billion in property tax and about \$40 billion in sales tax, this measure proposes an increase of \$200 million to be returned to local government.

Both property and sales tax will still be collected by the state, but a further amount, which is still small in comparison to the state's billion-dollar budget, will simply be distributed out and used at the discretion of the counties

receiving the revenue.

Local governments, in turn, will get to decide where the funding is distributed in their community, while the option will also be open for certain counties to address special community needs, such as local programs, in their region with the funding.

Another provision of Proposition 31 is the establishment of a two-year budget cycle verses the one-year cycle also in place.

The state legislature will have to cap expenditures at \$25 million unless a plan is presented to compensate spending by increasing revenue or making cuts.

The proposal is presented with the assumption that the change will help reduce the stress in the legislature in order to produce a budget on time.

The argument against establishing a two-year budget is the issue of California having one of the largest economies in the country, as well as the unpredictability of the states budget on an annual basis.

Under this constitutional amendment, bills presented for the legislative vote will have a requirement of being posted three days prior to being voted on in the legislature, and the governor will gain the power to make budget cuts if the legislature cannot come to an agreement in a timely manner.

Information was gathered and evaluated with the help of Professor Garrick Percival and the department of political science.

Devon Thames is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @dtspartan.

Lawsuit: CSU system under surveillance for Prop 30

FROM PAGE 1

Association could not be reached for comment.

CFA headquarters in Sacramento declined to comment on the story.

"We have one student who is a plaintiff who contacted us about this, saying 'this offends me' and asked if we could do anything about it," Bittle said.

We have spent more time on the education of Proposition 30 than any other prop.

Mohammad Qayoumi
SJSU president

The lawsuit is asking for unspecified monetary damages, Bittle said.

He also said that the lawsuit might prompt other students to come forward and file.

Erik Fallis, a media relations specialist at the CSU headquarters in Long Beach, did not speak directly on specific allegations brought against the school

system, but said everything has been done to make sure faculty does not endorse any particular proposition.

"What the CSU has done, and what we have been clear on with our faculty is what they can do as individuals when acting in their official capacity," Fallis said

He said faculty was given guidance of what they can and cannot say while in the classroom.

"(Faculty has) been told that when they're in the classroom or using classroom resources that they cannot use it to advocate for any proposition or measure," Fallis said.

He said faculty could discuss it as an educational manner, however.

"The CSU is perfectly within its rights under the law to provide information relevant to Proposition 30," Fallis said, "but express advocacy has been something we have counseled faculty members not do in the classroom."

SJSU President Mohammad Qayoumi said the role of the school was to educate students about the different ballot measures but that SJSU would not advocate any campaign measure.

"To advocate a 'yes' or a 'no' on any proposition is crossing the line and something we've been very careful about," he said.

Qayoumi said it was important, however, for stu-

dents to know what would happen if Proposition 30 failed.

"I think what we've tried to do is to educate and we have spent more time on the education of Proposition 30 than any other prop," he said. "(It's) because of the impact Proposition 30 would have."

The CSU Board of Trustees said in a meeting last month at its Long Beach headquarters that the system would lose \$250 million this school year if Proposition 30 fails.

The board also said students would have to pay an additional \$150 on top of current tuition and school fees for the Spring 2013 semester.

Bittle said the taxpayers association endorses a "no" vote on Proposition 30 and said they helped write the argument against the proposition in the official California Voter Guide.

He said he wondered why the CSU system was using public services to endorse only one side.

"I'm sure that if the opponents of Proposition 30 called up your college and said to your president that 'we want the auditorium to talk to your students,' that they'd tell us to go pound sand," he said.

Jonathan Roisman is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @jroisman.

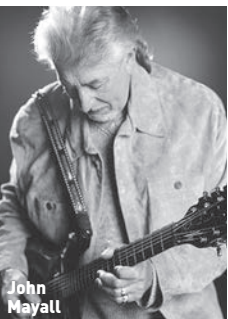
CORRECTION

The Spartan Daily made an error in yesterday's paper. The content of the article "SJSU seeks to revert back to winning ways against UTSA" was incorrectly gathered. The content was courtesy of SJSU Athletics, and it was not properly credited. Spartan Daily regrets the error.

NIGHT LIFE DEAD? GET CREATIVE.



Kayhan Kalhor



John Mayall



J.C. Smith



Reduced Shakespeare Company

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Prop 30: Fund distribution unclear

FROM PAGE 1

would pay 11.3 percent, the third would pay 12.3 percent, and the fourth would pay 13.3 percent.

In addition, each of these new tax brackets would pay fees on top of the tax increases, depending on location in the bracket.

However, all residents in California will feel the sales tax increase, which would increase from 7.25 percent to 7.50 percent and would become one of the highest in the U.S.

Although the personal income taxes only affect 2.73 percent of California tax payers, they have the potential to generate anywhere between \$6 billion and \$9 billion per year in additional revenue.

This revenue would then be placed in a newly-designed Educational Protection Account (EPA).

This account is separate from the California government, and it is supposed to ensure that the funds are used for their designed purposes.

In addition, the account is subject to annual audit by a third party, and it is specified that the funds cannot be used for administrative purposes within the schools they aid.

Proposition 30 does specify how the funds within the account will be distributed: 89 percent will go to Kindergarten through 12th-grade schools, and the remaining 11 percent will go to community colleges.

Once the funds have been distributed, the governing board of each school can decide how to spend the funds; as long as it is not on administrative costs.

One analysis of Proposition 30 states that the proposition will allow the transfer of up to “\$6 billion of state tax revenues to local governments annually” to ensure the protection of local public safety.

This transfer will ensure that local public safety offices will not lose funding and will be able to continue protecting California residents.

In addition, it will ensure that the California government will not need to cut any funding from these programs in the near future.

If Proposition 30 does not pass, the government has written in “trigger cuts.”

Of the \$6 billion in planned cuts, \$5.4 billion will be taken from Kindergarten through 12th-grade schools and the remaining will be taken from local public safety offices.

However, a large number in California support these cuts for several reasons.

Many small-business owners are concerned because the personal tax increases will directly affect them.

This is because these business owners do not make enough money to pay corporation taxes, so their incomes are rooted solely in the revenue their companies can produce.

As a result, the personal income tax increases could cause many small businesses to go bankrupt or move to other states where tax rates are significantly lower.

If this were to occur, the California government would lose the tax revenue from these businesses, and the personal income tax increases would almost be working in reverse.

In addition, the sales tax increase would affect all residents in California; not just the wealthy.

If this were to occur, the effective budgets of California residents would decrease as the prices of products increased.

These residents are even more concerned because the sales tax increase is only supposed to last four years, and

the personal income tax increases are only supposed to last seven years.

They are worried that the government will either need to make the taxes permanent or will need to make even larger cuts when the taxes expire.

Furthermore, these voters are concerned with how Proposition 30 is written.

Although it does specifically state that money will be transferred into the new EPA, it does not specify exactly how much or who will regulate this.

In addition, it does not specify how the funds that can be transferred out of the account will benefit local public safety offices.

Residents that oppose Proposition 30 are concerned about this because one of the stated purposes of the proposition is that funds from the new taxes are available to help balance a budget for a state that is over \$300 billion in debt.

Another argument from these residents is that fact that the California government consistently spends more than it has.

They are particularly concerned about giving an additional \$6 billion to \$9 billion a year to a government that cannot manage the funds it already has.

In addition, these residents are very concerned about the degree that the budget could vary year to year.

They are worried that funding could vary so dramatically that cuts may need to be made as years progress just because the funds can change so much.

These residents are willing to tolerate the cuts the government would make to ensure continued and consistent funding of California businesses, schools and local public safety offices.

Prop 32: Payroll reductions axed

By Camille Nguyen
@camillediem

Proposition 32 intends to eliminate the usage of payroll deductions, such as deductions for Social Security, income taxes and medical plans, for political purposes by unions, corporations and government contractors, according to the voters guide.

Additionally, the measure would permit voluntary employee contributions to an employer-sponsored organization or union if permission is authorized in writing.

The proposition also would allow for other political expenditures to remain unrestricted, including corporate spending from resources not regulated by the payroll deduction prohibition.

Proposition 32 aims to change state campaign finance laws to restrict state and local campaign funding from public and private sector labor unions, corporation and government contractors.

“These restrictions do not affect campaign spending for federal offices such as the President of the United States and members of Congress,” according to the voter guide.

Along with the limitations placed on state and local campaign funding, the measure bans corporations and unions from making contributions directly to candidates or to committees that then donate to candidates.

In regards to the fiscal effect of Proposition 32, the state would experience increased

costs to investigate alleged violations of the law. State and local governments would experience some other increased administrative costs as well.

Combined, these costs would surpass \$1 million annually.

Proponents of Proposition 32 argue that politicians currently take millions from corporations and government unions and in turn vote the way special interest groups want them to, resulting in massive budget deficits and abuses such as grandiose pensions and unqualified teachers in schools.

That being said, groups such as the Democrats for Education Reform, Citizens for California Reform and National Federation of Independent Business — California, have asserted that the passing of Proposition 32 would lead to the end of corporate and government contractor exemptions by the political system.

By eliminating these exemptions, supporters of Proposition 32 have alleged that corporations and government contractors will finally be held accountable to any and all corrupt acts instead of being protected by the politicians and campaigns that they have donated to.

In addition to ending legal exemption to special interest groups and other campaign contributors, Proposition 32 advocates have claimed that the measure will ensure that California employees will no longer be forced into giving parts of their paychecks to politicians or causes of which they may disagree.

However, opponents of Proposition 32 have stated that the measure will not take the money out of politics, as its supporters have said it would.

Organizations such as the League of Women Voters of California, California Common Cause and California Fair Political Practices Commission have said that Proposition 32 does not represent real campaign finance reform and was “intentionally written to exempt thousands of big businesses like Wall Street investment firms, hedge funds, developers and insurance companies.”

Opponents of Proposition 32 have also contended that the measure has a variety of loopholes that benefit campaign contributors such as corporations, maintaining that 99 percent of California corporations do not utilize payroll-deductions for political purposes and would therefore still be able to use their profits to influence elections.

Ultimately, according to the measure’s adversaries, Proposition 32 works to place restrictions on unions and their workers while turning a blind eye to corporate special interests, resulting in a political system that will favor corporate interests over any other interests.

All information was compiled from the California General Election Official Voter Information Guide.

Camille Nguyen is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @camillediem.

Prop 33: Drivers debate over new car insurance discounts

By Dennis Biles
@Denny149

Proposition 33 is a ballot measure that will change current laws to allow insurance companies to set prices on automobile coverage based on whether the driver was previously covered by any insurance company. This will allow for proportional discounts for drivers who have had some prior coverage, according to the California Secretary of State voter information guide.

A “Yes” vote on this proposition means insurance companies can offer discounts on auto insurance premiums to new customers based on the number of years they had coverage in the previous five years. This means that drivers can switch insurance companies and still get a discount for having

long-term coverage.

Those who support this measure say that it will make insurance companies compete for customers, lower rates and increase the number of insured drivers, according to the voter information guide.

A “No” vote means that insurance companies can still offer discounts to drivers who have been insured with the same company for a long period, but they won’t be able to offer those discounts to drivers who switch companies, regardless of how long they’ve had coverage.

Those who are against this measure say that it will allow auto insurers to raise premiums on responsible drivers by up to \$1,000 and unfairly punish people who stopped driving for legitimate reasons by slapping them with higher rates when they begin driving

again, according to the voter information guide.

As it is, California law prohibits insurers from charging a higher rate to drivers who had a lapse in auto coverage. Consumer Watchdog, a California-based, non-profit consumer education and advocacy organization, said that Proposition 33 will allow insurance companies to start surcharging millions of Californians and will raise overall rates.

The main funding contributor to this measure is the founder of Mercury Insurance, George Joseph. He funded a similar measure two years ago, Proposition 17, which was voted down.

Information on Prop. 33 was taken from the California Secretary of State voter information guide

Dennis Biles is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @Denny149.

Prop 35: Trafficking Tackled

By Celeste Lodge
@celestelodge

Proposition 35 is an initiative attempting to place stricter penalties on human sex and labor trafficking under state law.

All information cited is from the California General Election Official Voter Information Guide.

Since it is a state proposition, any trafficking cases tried at the federal level will not change.

The current state law describes human trafficking as violating the freedom of a person with the intention of committing crimes that either requires forced labor or acts such as prostitution.

The proposition will “increase criminal penalties for human trafficking, including prison sentences up to 15-years-to-life and fines up to \$1,500,000,” according to the voter information guide.

The current law enforces a fine for sex trafficking of a minor of up to \$100,000 and the \$1,500,000 fine that Proposition 35 will enforce is for all human trafficking offenses.

Currently the state law for labor trafficking is five years

in prison, if this proposition passes it will be 12 years in prison.

The current law is five years for forced trafficking of an adult, and the proposition will make it twenty years.

The forced sex of a minor, that is now eight years, will be a life term in prison, and sex trafficking of a minor without force will be 12 years.

Seventy percent of the fines will be distributed to public agencies and nonprofit organizations that give direct services to victims, and 30 percent will be given to “law enforcement and prosecution agencies in the jurisdiction where the charges were filed and used for human trafficking prevention, witness protection, and rescue operations,” according to the official voter information guide.

The proposition will require people convicted of human trafficking to register as sex offenders, and they must provide information about what they do online and what identities they use for online services.

The official voter guide states that evidence found in human trafficking situations cannot be used against the vic-

tim in later trails.

The increased cost of the proposition will be directly proportional to the human trafficking cases prosecuted by the state.

The fiscal impacts would probably not surpass a couple million dollars yearly. The cost increase would be on “state and local governments for criminal justice activities related to the prosecution and incarceration of human trafficking offenders,” according to the voter informational guide.

The requirement of human trafficking training for law enforcement would result in a cost on cities and counties on a one-time basis of “up to a few million dollars” and each year the cost would be less to train new staff.

The revenue of the proposition would depend on how many people are convicted of human trafficking, how much they pay of their fines and how much the courts fine the criminals. The increase in money would probably not be any higher than a few million dollars a year.

Celeste Lodge is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @celestelodge.

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Q&A

SJSU alumnus John Carlos still fights for civil rights

By **Nina Tabios**
@SD_NTabios

John Carlos, civil rights activist, Olympic medalist and SJSU alumnus, returns to SJSU for a keynote speech at the Legacy Rally held today at noon at the John Carlos and Tommie Smith statues outside of Clark Hall.

Carlos was a member of SJSU Speed City track and field team alongside teammate Tommie Smith, and together the former Spartans demonstrated a civil rights protest at the medal-awarding ceremony in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

The act was deemed controversial during a time when the civil rights movement in the United States was at all time high after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the stripping of Muhammad Ali's boxing title after he refused to be drafted into the Vietnam War.

Carlos discussed life at SJSU before and after protest, as well as his thoughts on the discontinued track and field program at SJSU and his legacy as an SJSU alumnus, activist and athlete.

What was SJSU like in the '60s?

SJSU was going through a rough era in the United States because, prior to my getting there, young athletes of color had a very difficult time in terms of living quarters. They couldn't get adequate housing and there weren't too many opportunities of employment for them. Some people had a racist persuasion and conversation of it was sparse throughout the city. And then things started to settle down.

People started to take note that maybe other people were making sense that what was going on was not right and they didn't want to tolerate it and wanted to stand up against it. And then SJSU started to make some adjustments to try to make it a little more conducive for all students.

I think that's, you might say, the kick of an era, where racism and bias and prejudice was flaunted throughout the United States, and then that transition was taking place where it was beginning to leave. I think SJSU was probably one of the most progressive student bodies at that time to focus on that start to try and deal with those issues.

What motivated you to do the protest in the Olympics?

I don't think it took a whole lot of motivation. I think it was just the state of life that people of color — blacks in particular — had here in the United States. We needed to be creative in terms of how we can bring attention to the plight of people of color — blacks in particular — and try to have a sense of dialogue and discussion to move

things along for all ethnic groups, even with the times and the situation, we had to work things through.

It was it like standing on the podium? It was running through your mind?

Well the first thing that went through my mind was a vision I had when I was a little kid. In this vision, I was in a stadium, and I did something in which people responded to how brave I was — it was a vision of spectatorship. So I thought about that, thinking, 'Oh my God, this is what this vision is about,' because the vision I had as a little kid 15 years earlier was taking place right before my eyes in that precise moment.

I thought about stories my dad told me about when he was in the first World War about prejudice, bias and segregation in the war. I thought about Dr. King and the meeting I had with him and how he expressed that he supported the boycott in that meeting.

I thought about how I wasn't a free man until that day — that they'll never put shackles on John Carlos again. I felt like I was being emancipated right there on that podium.

What do you think Peter Norman was thinking as he stood with you and Tommie Smith?

I think Peter Norman freed himself the same way. I think Peter Norman felt that people can be emancipated just putting him as a young white individual that said, 'I stand for human rights. I stand for equality and justice for all human beings regardless of what your ethnic background is,' and it made it to a point where it wasn't a black thing. He tried to perpetrate for our society that for the past four years why it wasn't a black militant thing — he wasn't black and he wasn't a militant — it was a matter of right versus wrong. And that completes it right there. It was right versus wrong. All we went there was for the human element.

The right wing press turned it into something else and said that we were black militants, that we were trying to burn down America and blow up the Statue of Liberty, which was so far from the truth. Mr. Norman was subjected merely because he put on a button that said, 'I believe in humanity and I believe humanity can do better.'

Are you satisfied with your legacy?

Well my legacy is growing every day just like that demonstration which to me was like a giant mushroom that keeps getting taller, and the taller it gets, the more it expands. So my legacy is still growing and still in its growing stages. You can't be deal with legacy until it's just about

done. And that's what other people choose to determine what John Carlos' legacy would be.

I just feel great that I'm still on my mission to try to bring some sort of clarity that makes me want to stand that there is strong meaning behind the word 'love,' a strong meaning behind 'passion,' and an even stronger meaning behind 'commitment,' commitment to make things better for all people.

I thought about how I wasn't a free man until that day ... I felt like I was being emancipated right there on that podium.

What have you been doing recently?

I've been doing lectures around the world. I've been involved in various causes around the world. I haven't given up my fight for equality and justice for all people. You have to take into account when you say 'Olympic Project for Human Rights,' you think black people were oppressed, but then when you sit back and look at the human history, all races had oppression in them. So everybody can relate to what I wanted to show to the world at that particular time.

How do you feel about SJSU no longer having a track and field team?

I think the fact that we did something in Mexico City that was so far ahead of itself and so far ahead of its time, with all the negative print and commentary, it was so much negative to tell so many people, SJSU included, felt like we were something that they should be ashamed of. So SJSU felt that the only way they could disassociate themselves with us is to stop the SJSU track program. At the time they were doing this, I don't think they realized that they were

cutting their lifeline. Speed City actually brought all the attention to SJSU. All the recognition, all the students that were coming to SJSU was based off of what the athletes were doing for SJSU.

And now it's very difficult for them to have statues in the middle of campus, and they have no history to relay those statues to. Those aren't statues of two professors. They are statues of student athletes and when you ask what sport they played and you say 'track and field,' but SJSU doesn't have track and field. And they have to continuously answer this question.

I think now they have to wake up the fact that they made this mistake and they need to correct it by slowly trying to bring track and field back into SJSU.

Given that, how does it feel to come back SJSU?

A lot of the athletes were upset because a lot of them went to SJSU for track and field. But that was the choice that SJSU made, and they had to see if that was a good or bad decision for them. I think they're starting to see that it wasn't a good choice.

Relative to myself, the fact that they took it away doesn't change who I am or the history I have with SJSU. It's just something that they abolished on their side. I'll always say that I'm from SJSU and people will always remember me being from SJSU. SJSU was so afraid to be associated with John Carlos then, didn't bother me the least bit.

What can students today take away from what you did 40 years ago?

I want students to realize that everyone should have some kind of

activism in their lives. Everyone has a concern or a passion for something to be better in their lives. A lot of individuals don't pick up this passion.

A lot of individuals don't take up activism, not because they don't have it in them but really because they're not sure who they are. If you don't find out who you are, you'll never find out about the courage that you have within you to make change in society.

My statement to any young individual is to get in touch at the man in the mirror, get in touch with the woman in the mirror. Learn who you are, learn what your concerns are about the environment you live in, be concerned about the city you live in, be concerned about the world in which you live. If I see a polluted society polluting the oxygen I breathe, should I keep my mouth shut because no one else sees what I see?

People were more upset about a black man fighting dogs than a young black man killed for wearing the hood of his sweatshirt up. I just want to see an even playing field.

Nina Tabios is the Spartan Daily sports editor. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_NTabios.

Read the entire interview online at spartandaily.com

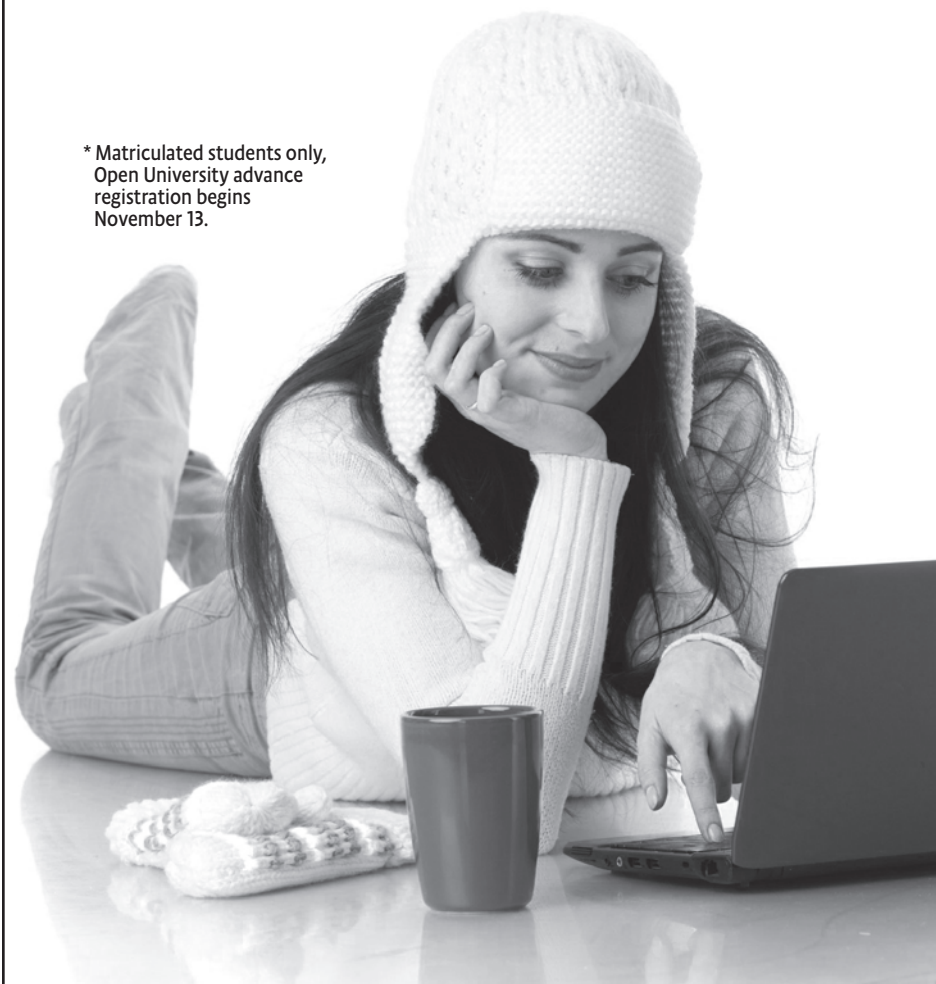
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Congratulations Cynthia Acevedo on winning the Spartan Daily three of three ticket giveaway!



Thank you to all those who participated. Keep reading the Spartan Daily and look out for additional contests and sweepstakes!

SNOW PATROL

DEBATE

Obama jumps back into campaign with feisty debate

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama leaped back into the presidential campaign Tuesday, aggressively challenging rival Mitt Romney in a tense debate likely to reset the contest as it heads into the final weeks.

Obama was all the things he was not in his first faceoff with Romney — energetic, engaged, quick to defend his record and even quicker to tear into Romney. At points, he even jumped off his seat to challenge Romney.

Eager to score points from the opening minutes to the last, he cast Romney as an elitist who would help the rich, a chameleon who is all but lying to conceal his real agenda, a man whose scorn for the poor and working classes was revealed only in the secretly taped remarks in which Romney derided 47 percent of the country as freeloaders.

Romney gave as good as he got through most of the debate, reminding voters at every opportunity of the weak economy under four years of Obama's leadership. He stumbled, however, at a turn over the attacks on U.S. diplomats in Libya, an unforced error that allowed Obama to score at what otherwise might have been a moment of vulnerability.

The 90-minute debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., likely helped Obama re-energize Demo-

crats who were discouraged at his lackluster performance in the first debate, and sends the two rivals into their final clash Monday in Florida grappling for a breakout.

Most eyes were on Obama from the onset as he looked for ways stylistic and substantive to show voters he eagerly wants the job, and that Romney should not have it. In that first debate, he was passive at times, looking down at notes rather than making eye contact, and failing to raise such topics as Romney's remarks about the 47 percent.

Obama worked throughout to tar Romney as a friend to the rich and powerful.

"His plan is to let the oil companies write the energy policies," he said of Romney's push for more energy production.

He lambasted Romney's plan to cut taxes, saying they would necessarily force tax increases on the middle class.

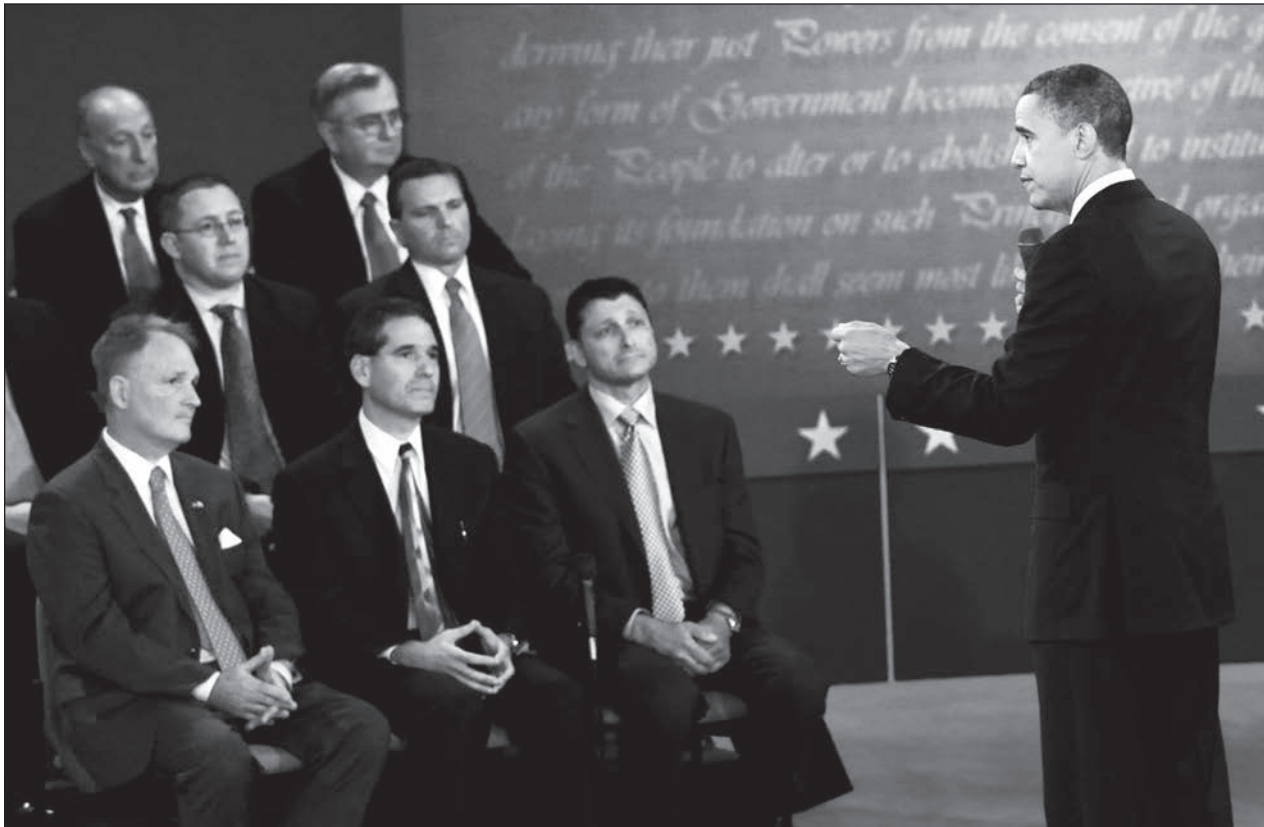
"You're going to be paying for it," Obama said. "You can't buy the sales pitch."

Obama all but called Romney a liar.

"What Gov. Romney said just isn't true," he said of Romney's comments on the auto industry.

"Very little of what Gov. Romney just said is true," he said of Romney's comments on energy.

Obama at times sat at the edge of his stool, rising quickly to physically challenge Romney face to face rather than waiting for Romney to finish and be seated.



President Barack Obama (right) and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney (not pictured) squared off during their second presidential debate yesterday at 6 p.m. Photo by John Paraskevas / MCT

Challenged by Romney the first time, Obama then walked away and faced the audience to answer a question. The second time Obama stood to confront him, Romney waved him back, "You'll get your chance in a moment."

When he wasn't jumping out of his seat, Obama watched Romney intently.

He wasn't Joe Biden, laughing or making hand gestures when the other guy was talking, as the vice president did in his debate last week with Republican Paul Ryan.

But Obama kept his eyes on his adversary, a noteworthy change from the first

debate when he was often caught on camera looking down at his notes or away, giving voters the impression he was disinterested.

Romney refused to cede the stage, however, standing forward rather than returning to his seat while Obama spoke to the live audience in the town hall-style meeting.

Romney stayed on message most of the evening, hammering away at economic anxiety about lost jobs, rising poverty and shrinking paychecks.

"The president's policies... haven't put people to work," he said.

"Middle-income families have been crushed," he added.

Romney made a misstep, however, on the Obama administration's response to the attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya.

Obama stated that he called the attack a terrorist act the next day, brushing aside suggestions that his administration spent weeks giving misleading accounts that instead blamed the attacks on a riotous response to anti-Muslim video.

Romney challenged Obama's assertion.

"Check the transcript," Obama interrupted, and moderator Candy Crowley noted

that Obama did use the word in his day-after comment. "Say that a little louder, Candy," a confident Obama said.

She went on to note that it did take two weeks for the whole story to emerge that there was never an anti-American protest outside the consulate as the administration had said.

But by then Obama had appeared to score, rather than being forced to defend the weeks of statements by him and others in his administration that pointed not at a deliberate terrorist attack but instead at an inflamed, spontaneous anti-American riot.

Prop 34: Life imprisonment preferred over of the death penalty

By Kimberley Diaz
@SD_KDiaz

Proposition 34 attempts to eliminate the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

The proposition would also apply to those already sentenced to death.

If passed, it will require those found guilty of murder to work while in prison with the money going to victim's families.

A second major provision would create a \$100 million fund that would be taken from the state General Fund for law enforcement agencies toward solving more homicide and rape cases, according to the California Voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

The Death penalty in California was authorized by the Criminal Practices Act of 1851, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The state court threw out the death penalty in the 1970s and then it was brought back when Proposition 7 passed in 1978 that increased penalties for first and second degree murder, as well as provided special circumstances to require either the death penalty or life imprisonment without parole, according to Ballotpedia.

Currently 720 inmates are waiting on death row, according to CBS.

California is one of 33 states that offer the death penalty.

Those in favor of Proposition 34 include the California Democratic Party, California Nurses Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Arguments in favor of Proposition 34 are that California can save up to one billion dollars in five years due to the savings in fewer lawyer fees and special housing for those in death row, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

Shorter court proceedings will be had which will lead to less time spent in county jail for people facing a trial, lowering county jail costs, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

However, this may increase state jail costs, as those who are convicted to life will be immediately sent to a state prison, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

Proposition 34 will also ensure that no innocent person wrongfully convicted of murder will be executed, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

"The death penalty doesn't make us safer— better crime solving does," said Former Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

"I am troubled by cases like Willingham's — of innocent people who may have been executed," said Bishop Flores

of the Diocese of San Diego. "I support 34 because it guarantees we will never execute an innocent person in California."

Editorials in favor of Proposition 34 include the Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle and San Jose Mercury News.

Opponents of the proposition include Criminal Justice Legal Foundation and the California Republican Party.

Arguments against Proposition 34 say that isn't about saving money but that passing this law will only allow murderers free housing and health care, according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

In addition, the Department of Corrections says that costs for healthcare and housing will increase and taxpayers will spend \$50,000 every year "to care for each convicted killer who didn't think twice about killing innocent children, cops, mothers and fathers," according to the California voter guide put

together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

Opponents also argue that the proposition allows murders and rapists escape justice and that the reason why the death penalty was reinstated in 1978 was because "voters had to restore capital punishment to restore justice," according to the California voter guide put together by the office of the California Secretary of State.

"As we know, the citizens of California have voted for and approved the death penalty," said Michael Ramos, the San Bernardino County district attorney. "I think the SAFE California Act is a slap in the face to the victims and their family members. Not only is the title of this initiative misleading but its proponents are simply using

California's tough economic times to further their cause."

"Whether or not to seek the death penalty is probably one of the most serious decisions I have to make as a district attorney," Ramos said. "I have nothing but respect for the entire process, and just as much respect for our victims and their families who didn't have a choice. They didn't get to say goodbye to family members."

Editorials against Proposition 34 include the Orange County Register and the Press-Enterprise.

Information gathered from the California Voter Guide, Ballotpedia, CBS and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Kimberley Diaz is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_KDiaz.

Have a campus event that needs publicity?

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BY LELAND YOSHITSU
ISBN 9780985262280

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTING FEDERAL CRIMES (FOR 29 YEARS)?

Including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland (page 2)

"Dear Leland...we hope that the issue you brought to the President's attention has been resolved. However, if you still need help with a Federal agency, we are pleased to assist you."

African American Faculty and Staff Association (AAFSA)
San Jose State University

Important words for Action

There are some words that we have heard for many decades which hold true for the USA. Recently, we were reminded of them in the USA. "I would argue that-- of all the freedoms we enjoy today - none is more important, or more sacred, than the right to vote." - USA Attorney General Eric Holder, May 30, 2012; The Crisis Magazine, Summer 2012.

VOTE

We encourage all San Jose State University individuals to be active voters. Make sure to voice your opinions as well as vote, regardless of who you support. The upcoming national election, Tuesday, November 6, 2012, is very important. Therefore, let your voice be heard before, during, and after the election.

- Voices of AAFSA members

SpartaGuide

Legacy Rally and John Carlos Keynote Speaker

Associated Students
Today, Oct. 17
12 to 1:15 p.m.
Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statues lawn

Spartan Success and Support Groups and Workshops: Communicating with Loved Ones

Counseling Services
Today, Oct. 17
1 to 2 p.m.
Student Services Center, Room 603

SJSU All Community Photo with John Carlos

Associated Students
Today, Oct. 17
1:15 p.m.
Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statues lawn

John Carlos Book Signing: The John Carlos Story

Associated Students
Today, Oct. 17
1:30 to 2:45 p.m.
Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statues lawn

Poverty Under the Stars

Associated Students
Thursday, Oct. 18
6 to 8 p.m.
Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statues lawn

Sax-O-Mania

The Listening Hour Concert Series
Thursday, Oct. 18
12:30 to 1:15 p.m.
Music building Concert Hall
Free admission, doors open at 12:15 p.m

South Asian Classical Dance Concert

College of Humanities and the Arts, College of Social Science, humanities department, World Languages and Literatures, Humanities Honors Program
Friday, Oct. 19
7:30 p.m.
University Theatre

Spartan Success and Support Groups and Workshops: Food, Addiction and Counseling

Counseling Services
Monday, Oct. 22
3 to 4 p.m.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 255 and 257

Spartan Success and Support Groups and Workshops: Goal Setting

Counseling Services
Tuesday, Oct. 23
1 to 2 p.m.
Student Success Center, Room 603

SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to spartandaily@gmail.com titled "SpartaGuide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

6	3	2		4				1
		1						3
8				3	6			
					2	9		
2	4							6 5
		8	7					
			3	1				9
		7					8	
8			7			2	4	1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

How To Play

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3 by 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

Previous Sudoku Solution:

6	9	1	4	3	2	8	5	7
3	2	8	7	5	9	1	6	4
7	4	5	6	1	8	3	2	9
9	7	4	1	2	5	6	8	3
1	8	6	3	9	7	5	4	2
2	5	3	8	6	4	7	9	1
8	1	9	5	4	3	2	7	6
5	6	2	9	7	1	4	3	8
4	3	7	2	8	6	9	1	5

Today's Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			23
24	25		26		27		28			29		
30			31		32	33				34		
35				36				37	38			
39							40				41	
42						43					44	45
46	47	48			49	50				51		
52				53				54	55		56	
57				58			59	60		61		
62			63			64		65			66	67
68						69				70		
71						72					73	

Previous Puzzle Answer:

P	O	P	P	T	A	S	S	E	F	B	I				
A	T	R	I	A	A	S	P	E	R	I	O	N			
S	T	O	P	W	O	R	K	I	N	G	L	O	C		
M	E	N	U	E	R	O	S	B	R	A					
E	M	I	R	A	T	I	D	O	R	F	L	E	I	S	
M	A	S	S	F	I	S	A	H	O	R	S	E			
S	S	E	M	I	E	N	D	O	A	T	H				
P	O	P	T	S	O	F	I	O	F						
H	E	A	D	E	A	T	R	I	P	P	E	R	E	T	
C	U	P	O	L	A	G	E	S	T	U	R	E			
I	G	O	R	S	L	E	P	E	L	S	E				
P	A	G	S	H	I	A	T	M	A	S					
P	A	L	E	S	P	O	T	S	A	N	D	P	A	N	S
N	O	E	L	E	R	E	D	C	O	R	A	L			
S	O	S	T	H	E	E	D	I	S						

ACROSS

- 1 Water container before plumbing
- 5 Capital of Italy, to Italians
- 9 More than want
- 14 Record
- 15 Burden or responsibility
- 16 Bow application
- 17 Stadium snacks
- 19 Vaulted church recesses
- 20A Little flunky
- 21 Feudal funny
- 23 Vocalist DiFranco
- 24 Night before
- 26 One in a stroller
- 28 Jewel mounting
- 30 Bess' follower in the White House
- 32 Kick out
- 34 ___ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
- 35 Bees' weapons
- 37 Little handful
- 39 Stadium snacks
- 42 Be on the side of caution?
- 43 White wine grape
- 46 Not fully closed
- 49 "Meet Me ___ Louis"
- 51 Bashful buddy
- 52 Sour cherry
- 54 Pay a visit to
- 56 Stitcher's edge
- 57 Tire gauge reading (Abbr.)
- 58 Redgrave or Swann
- 60 Kind of tropical palm
- 62 Helmsley who had hotels
- 64 Stadium snacks
- 68 ___ salts (bath water additive)
- 69 Shivering fit
- 70 Far from fictitious

- 38 Improper distribution of cards
- 40 Goes on like a glove
- 41 Drew from a tank, as gas
- 44 Maiden-name word
- 45 Place for barbells and treadmills
- 46 More spacious
- 47 Mary's husband
- 48 Melodious composition
- 50 Dieter's request
- 53 Guanaco's kin
- 55 Chlorophyll or oil of wintergreen
- 59 Cape Canaveral cancellation
- 61 "An Inconvenient Truth" creator
- 63 Bobblehead movement
- 65 "... ___ flag was still ..."
- 66 Go aimlessly
- 67 Like some grins
- 71 Sitcom starring Valerie Harper
- 72 Pressure unit
- 73 Stream swirl
- DOWN
- 1 List abbr.
- 2 Crybaby's sound
- 3 Widespread outbreak
- 4 Depend (on)
- 5 Event with ropers and riders
- 6 Inspiration for Lennon's "Woman"
- 7 Makes faces
- 8 Determine the value of property
- 9 Carpentry or bookbinding, e.g.
- 10 Sales ___ (company agent)
- 11 Verbally assault
- 12 Capital on the Danube
- 13 Naval rank
- 18 Prime candidate?
- 22 Hang it up, so to speak
- 24 Modern ends?
- 25 Huge wine container
- 27 High, rocky hills
- 29 Elvis' birthplace
- 31 "Psst!" follower, sometimes
- 33 Selfish folks
- 36 Mysteriously

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Visit us in DBH 209

Real love is actually more than sex

I'm pretty much an alien to this whole relationship business, but, from my outsider's perch, I've seen quite a bit.

I've seen some joy, some honest affection and loyalty, but, as much as these things, I've seen sadness, disappointment, bitterness, betrayal and lies.

I despise the word "relationship," it's a failure of language. "Relationship" could mean anything and nothing. It could stand for something solid and timeless, or it could stand for something as hollow and meaningless as a fake saloon façade off the set of a cheap western.

I've known plenty of people over the years who considered themselves experts on relationships who wouldn't know actual love of it jumped up and bit them in the ass, and certainly wouldn't value it if they did.

Why? What the hell is love anyway?

According to the popular culture of relationships, love is one thing above all others: Sex.

I believe that our popular obsession with the sexual aspect of relationships has a poisonous influence on young people's ability to find and keep good mates.

If there is one great lesson I've learned from the good relationships I've seen, it's this: Real love ain't sexy.

In years past, if someone told me they were in a relationship, I would be liable to ask: "Are you in love, or are you just banging someone on a regular basis?"

I like to think that I'm a more sensitive person these days, however, the less obvious reason I don't ask this question any more is that, for many, it's a surprisingly hard one to answer.

Let me be clear right now, I'm not against sex. I'm not advocating chaste relationships by any means.

I think of sex, in its healthiest form, as an intimate gesture of affection and not the be-all-end-all feature of a good relationship.

I don't blame people for getting all hot-and-bothered. Hell, I appreciate the booty as much as anyone else.

It wouldn't be fair to blame people for letting



Illustration by Michelle Kumata / MCT



Follow Chris Marian on Twitter at @ChrisMarian1.

their hormones run their lives, much as disappoints me. I know, better than most, how much life can be a losing argument with your own brain chemistry.

What I do blame people for is excuses, whether that means hiding behind cheap male bravado or empty faux feminism.

Sex is not love.

It is neither love unto itself nor does it engender love where it didn't exist before.

Mere sexuality, on its own, is a rotten, stupid, tragic core to a pathetic, short-lived sham of a "relationship" that can twist even good people into hypocrites, liars and cowards.

I've seen it happen.

Too many times I've seen too many people I care about burn themselves and those around them in an ill-advised fit of sex-addled stupidity, sacrificing real love,

friendship, happiness and more on the alter of glamorous sex.

It's all the more tragic a situation if one of the victims of these relationships made that most cardinal of relationship mistakes: Mistaking lust for love.

Our cultural obsession with sex in relationships causes us to select potential mates on superficialities, primarily appearance, a habit that can be as stupid as it is sad.

The next time you're thinking of approaching a "hottie," it might be healthy to ask yourself what your real motivations are. Do you like her? Or do you just want to bang her?

You might not be anything to her but a disposable accessory, just like the last man.

Pretty-boys have their downsides too. Many of them tend to be quite experienced at feigning sensitivity and commitment, when the real agenda is to get you drunk and screw you, just like the last woman. But hey, women seem to find that attractive.

My bottom line here is this: Pursuing a relationship with another human being simply to fulfill as sexual fantasy or scratch a hormonal itch is a real fast way

to end up in a nasty breakup where someone was used, lied to and never respected in the first place.

Like I said, I've seen it happen.

So if sexuality isn't the real core to a genuine, loving relationship, what is?

Friendship.

I've seen some real love, some real lasting relationships — my best friend is happily married, and I can tell you that the secret to real love is not sex, its friendship.

Love is an evolved, more intense version of friendship, but that basic core of simple affection and companionship is critical.

Friendship is stronger than sex.

How many people have you known who have been through multiple sex partners but have kept the same friends for years or even decades?

Friendship is strong because it is a natural, organic thing where people who genuinely enjoy one another's company naturally gravitate together without ulterior motive.

It is the great lie of the popular culture of relationships that friends and lovers are two distinct and mutually exclusive things.

Those people I know who

"I choose to believe that there is more to this whole relationship business."

have had genuinely successful relationships, and not just cynical hook-ups, know that a real boyfriend or girlfriend as also a best friend.

I'm not talking about "friends with benefits" here. That concept is about convenient sex without emotional commitment — it should really be called "casual acquaintance I use as a sex toy."

I see there being two basic categories of "relationships." One is something artificial — a disposable sex contract draped in a thin veil of feigned affection and date-culture ceremony.

The other is a natural bond between two people who genuinely like one another.

Real love ain't sexy.

My inner anthropologist cries out in protest against this. Those who know me

know what a ruthless rationalist I am.

Not here. Not about this. This is the one thing where I choose to be starry-eyed idealist.

I choose to believe that there is more to this whole relationship business than a system designed to get the prettiest boys into the pants of the prettiest girls in sweaty bars reeking of hormones and intoxication induced stupidity.

Maybe that makes me a hopeless romantic, a sad, ignorant sap who still believes in fairy tales.

Maybe I am.

Maybe I've been through the kind of wringer that teaches one to want more from life than a disposable good time.

I cannot, in good conscience, recommend my version of love. It's deeply incompatible with the fantasies that so many young people seem to have when they grow up and go to college.

If you can, however, in good fortune, find this kind of love — real, un-sexy love — don't ignore it. Don't let it die. Don't throw it away, because it's one of the rarest things in life worth keeping.

Chris Marian is a Spartan Daily copy editor. Follow him on Twitter at @ChrisMarian1.

Myhre's Mind will return to print next week. Read it this week online at spartandaily.com

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FASHION SNAPSHOTS

Spartan Street Style : A look at student wardrobes on campus

By Celeste Lodge, Camille Nguyen, Thyra Phan and Julie Tran



Tierney Yates
senior, political science

Personal style: "Very modern with a splash of '80s."

Favorite shops: "Thrift stores for the '80s and H&M and Urban Outfitters for the modern."

One item you can't live without: "A denim jacket."

Accessories: "I wear my 'I Love Boobies!' bracelet in honor of my aunt who died of breast cancer three years ago. I never take it off."

Cody Scott
sophomore, graphic design

Personal style: "Preppy."

Favorite shops: "I like H&M, Forever 21, Urban Outfitters and American Apparel."

One item you can't live without: "Bow ties."

Accessories: "I like to color-coordinate my watches with my ensembles."

Photos by Camille Nguyen and Thyra Phan

Jessy Corsello
freshman, child and adolescent development

Personal style: "Beachy."

Favorite shops: "I like to shop everywhere, but I do like Foreign Exchange or Urban Outfitters."

One item you can't live without: "A bathing suit."

Accessories: "I always have to wear jewelry such as bracelets, rings or necklaces."

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Phonomenal Noodle House provides great Vietnamese cuisine

By Kimberley Diaz
@SD_KDiaz



Phonomenal Noodle House, a new Vietnamese restaurant, is a great place to hang out with friends and enjoy amazing pho and other treats.

Located in the San Pedro Square Market, Phonomenal has only been open less than a month and has already received positive feedback from San Pedro visitors.

I had only tried pho for the first time this past summer and I was excited to try a new place that was closer to campus.

Entering the San Pedro Square Market, the store's location immediately looks and feels like a mall food court, only with better food options.

At Phonomenal, you order the food and then pick a table to sit at and wait for the employees to bring your food.

The entire staff was kind and helpful. Their quick and friendly service really contributed to my great experience.

The restaurant offers different types of pho as

well as rice plates, spring and summer rolls and many other treats.

Vegetarian and seafood pho are also available upon request.

One of the first things I always order at a Vietnamese restaurant is fresh spring rolls, which were at about \$5 for a plate.

It seemed a little pricey, considering I am used to paying about \$3 for a plate of tiny spring rolls.

I was extremely surprised to see that the plate included five rolls that were the size of mini burritos.

I had decided to try their fresh spring rolls that included barbecue pork, something I have never seen before.

The spring rolls were incredible and the barbecue pork was so tender and moist, which complemented the roll.

The roll itself was tasty as well and included the right amount of veggies.

One of my biggest problems with some spring rolls is that some restaurants put too much mint into it. This roll had just the right amount.

Next, I ordered the pho with steak, which was about \$7.25. Within minutes of placing an order, it came out fresh and ready with a plate of bean sprouts, basil, cilantro, peppers, mint and lime.



Vegetables, mint, shrimp and barbecue pork fill fresh spring rolls (\$5) at Phonomenal Noodle House. Photo by Kimberley Diaz | Spartan Daily

The broth in the pho was savory and full of flavor. My biggest pet peeve is when pho restaurants have lots of noodles and meat with watery broth, so it was nice to have a pho with the perfect amount of everything along with a great tasting broth.

The steak was extremely tender and well seasoned. The noodles were also well cooked and each bite was a treasure to behold.

The next thing I ordered was Vietnamese coffee at about \$3, one of the strongest

and tastiest ways to get your daily dose of energy.

It took a couple of minutes to make the coffee because they began making it right after I ordered.

I took one sip, and I was hooked. It had the perfect blend of espresso and condensed milk, and it tasted almost like a very rich chocolate milk with a very small coffee aftertaste.

The food, overall, was tasty and at a great price. The service was fast and friendly with a great ambiance to hang

out with friends, family or someone you love.

Another plus is that they accept credit cards, which is great considering many Vietnamese restaurants only accept cash.

My only complaint would be that there was no bottles of Sriracha or hoisin sauce at the tables. However, there were just two small containers of the sauce given when you get your pho.

The staff was happy to give as many containers of those sauces as you needed.

Phonomenal Noodle House is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. All you need to do is go up and order and the food will be brought out to you in minutes.

Phonomenal also does catering for when you want to have some Vietnamese food at home.

Kimberley Diaz is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_KDiaz.