

DAILY SUNDIAL

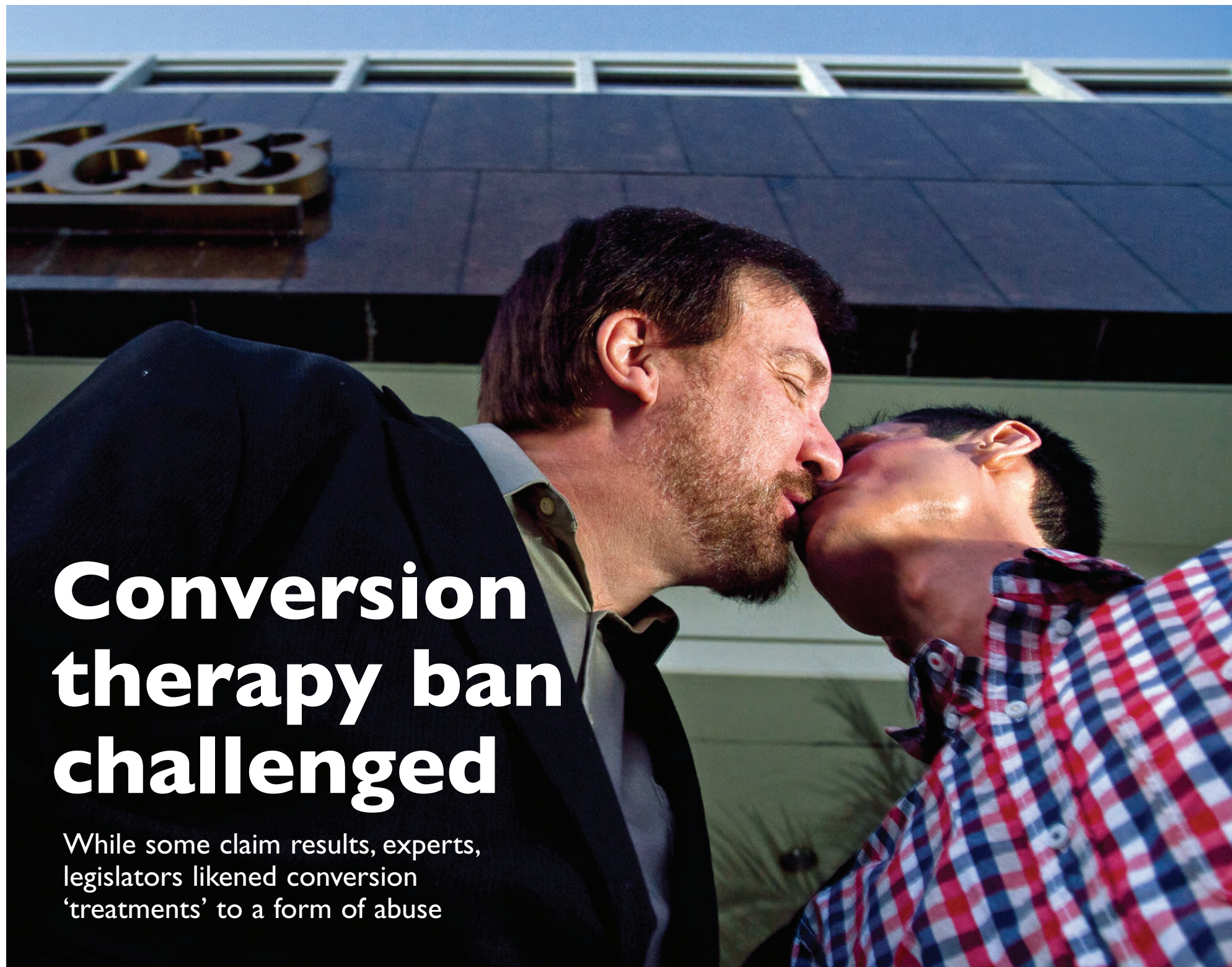
California State University, Northridge | October 17, 2012 | Volume 54, Issue 31 | www.dailysundial.com | FREE



+ OPINION: Any god is just as good as no god p. 6

+ NEWS: Obama and Romney meet again p. 2

+SPORTS: Floppers of NBA beware p. 8



Conversion therapy ban challenged

While some claim results, experts, legislators likened conversion 'treatments' to a form of abuse

CHARLIE KAIJO / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Jerome "Jerry" Reiter leans in to kiss his fiance, Ruben Valasquez, in front of the St. Thomas Aquinas Center for "gay curing" in Encino. Reiter spent more than 20 years in various conversion therapies since age 16. He said he entered the therapy in fear his parents would disapprove of his same-sex attraction. They are currently engaged and awaiting the Supreme Court's decision to see the Proposition 8 case.

CHRISTINA COCCA
DAILY SUNDIAL

California will be the first state to outlaw a controversial form of psychotherapy that aims to convert minors from homosexuals to heterosexuals on Jan. 1, 2013.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed a ban on gay conversion therapy Sept. 30, making the alleged psychotherapy that aims to convert minors from gay or lesbian to straight illegal.

The law, Senate Bill 1172, prohibits mental health providers from "engaging in sexual ori-

entation-change efforts (SOCE) with a patient under 18 years of age." SB 1172 states the "change efforts" pose over 23 critical health risks including thoughts of suicide, self-hatred, depression, emotional intimacy problems and sexual dysfunction, and adds that being lesbian, gay or bisexual is not a disease.

"Even professionals agree that this quackery needs to stop," said state Sen. Ted W. Lieu (D-Torrance) in a news release. Lieu proposed the bill to ban these practices.

"It's heartening to see the majority of the Assembly agrees that this kind of so-called 'treatment' essentially is psychologi-

cal abuse of children," Lieu said about SB 1172.

Experiencing the therapy

Jerome Reiter, 55, spent more than 20 years in various conversion therapies since age 16. He said he entered the therapy in fear his parents would disapprove of his same-sex attraction during the time of the Stonewall riots.

"This conservative Christian psychologist told me to watch heterosexual porn, date more women, use more will-power to turn away from looking at men, and one priest told me if I married a woman, those feelings would go away," said

Reiter, a voice-over artist, writer and part-time minister in Los Angeles.

He was married for 26 years to a woman with whom he had two sons, but divorced after he realized he needed emotional intimacy with another man.

"My wife was OK with it at first, but when our son who had epilepsy suddenly died at 26, she blamed me — as if my being there would have saved him," Reiter said. "The funeral was at a homophobic evangelical church that wouldn't let me in to my own son's funeral."

He was destroyed by anger and sorrow until he had a dream in which his

late son told him to "let go," he said.

"Reparative therapy teaches young people to be ashamed, deny actual feelings and holds a person who falls and repents after having anonymous same-sex sexual encounters as being more moral and godly than a person who marries and is monogamous for their entire life to one person who is of the same gender," Reiter said. "I lost a friend who committed suicide because he couldn't succeed in the therapy, and I don't want to see other young people live in such pain."

Equality California, or EQCA, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization, asked CSUN stu-

dents to sign postcards in support SB 1172 during the campus' opening of its new Pride Center.

EQCA sent over 8,000 postcards to Gov. Brown's office to bring the issue to his attention, according to Nayeli Pelayo, an administrative associate for EQCA.

"We're the first state in the nation to ban the therapy for minors, and the goal is to have it banned permanently for everybody," said Pelayo, 24. "It's a huge step in the right direction, and with this piece of legislation, banning it for everyone may be considered in the future."

See **CONVERSION**, page 4

Candidates duke it out town hall meeting style

CHRISTINA COCCA
DAILY SUNDIAL

President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney met for their second debate Tuesday at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., to answer directly to voters.

Candy Crowley, CNN's chief political correspondent, moderated the town hall debate, which featured 82 undecided voters chosen by Gallup, a polling organization.

After Obama admitted Romney's performance outshined his own at their first debate, he said he was determined to win this debate and the 2012 election.

The candidates discussed jobs, gas prices and energy, taxes, immigration, attacks in Libya, gun laws, outsourcing and misconceptions.

College graduates getting jobs

The first audience member, college student Jeremy Epstein, asked what each candidate would do to improve the labor market for college graduates.

Romney said he wants to make college more affordable, grow the Pell grant program, and repeated several times that he wants and knows how to create more jobs.

"When you come out in 2014,

I presume I'm going to be president," Romney said to Epstein. "I'm going to make sure you get a job."

Obama said he wanted to create five million new jobs, make loans available and "control our own energy" by investing in clean energy. He later said that low-wage, low-skill outsourced jobs are not best for Americans.

"There are some jobs that are not going to come back, because they are low wage, low skill jobs," Obama said, referring to outsourcing of jobs to countries like China. "I want high wage, high skill jobs."

Romney referred to the "23 million people struggling to find a job" six times, but the unemployment rate is around 12 million, according to the latest figure reported in September from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Obama did not make references to either number.

Gas price avoidance

When the candidates were asked if the current gas price average of \$4 per gallon would become "the new normal," Romney cited the gas price of \$1.86 when Obama took office in 2008.

"Oil production is down 14 percent this year on federal land, and gas production was down 9 percent," Romney said.

Romney accused Obama of cut-

ting drilling permits, leading to a center stage confrontation.

The two men began to bicker, and Obama, Romney and Crowley spoke simultaneously in attempts to gain control of the floor.

Obama reminded the audience that gas prices were so low then because "the economy was on the verge of collapse."

Romney accused Obama numerous times of doubling the deficit, while the deficit when Obama took office was \$1.2 trillion and is currently \$1.17 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Romney was correct when he said Obama did not keep his promise to cut the national deficit in half by the end of his first term during his 2009 State of the Union address.

Women in the workplace

Candidates were asked what they would do equalize women's income regarding females' 72 cents to the male's dollar.

Neither gave specifics as to how to achieve pay equality but referenced college affordability, employer flexibility and enforcing laws prohibiting discrimination.

"I went to a number of women's groups and said, 'Can you help us find folks?' and they brought



Clery Act violated

CSUN one of six campuses that are facing higher fines

MELISSA SIMON
LIVE NEWS EDITOR
TERESE TORGENSEN
DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN was one of six colleges that failed to fully comply with the policies of the Clery Act in a 2010 report, the L.A. Times reported.

In a statement by the Clery Center for Security on Campus, the Department of Education announced an increase of per-violation fine of the Clery Act. Prior to Oct. 2, the fine stood at \$27,500 and is now \$35,000.

The Clery Act is a federal law requiring all campuses to give timely warnings of crimes that represent a threat to the safety of students or employees.

The act was signed in 1990 and named after 19-year-old Jeanne Clery who was raped and murdered in her Lehigh University residence hall in 1986.

By following the act, CSUN will ensure their students are safe by reporting and effectively messaging in the case of crimes that are a threat to the CSUN community according to Joe DiPasquale, CEO of Regroup.

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FUN SIZE

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Matador Reporter

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Friday, October 26th, 2012
Chicano/a House
2:00-5:00pm
- DACA PRE-SCREENING:** Get your application reviewed before you mail it.
Friday, November 2nd, 2012 (1st session)
Friday, November 9th, 2012 (2nd session)
Location: TBA at orientation.
Starting at 12:30pm
- LAWYERS APPROVAL:** Get your application reviewed by a lawyer and ask any questions you may have before you mail it.
Friday, November 16th, 2012
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Starting at 12:30pm

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CONVERSION

Continued from page 1

Sarina Loeb, Pride Center and LGBTQ Initiatives coordinator, said she thinks this kind of therapy is a reason for suicides in the LGBTQ community.

“By having reparative therapy, it gives the message that being gay is wrong and needs to be changed,” Loeb said. “It’s that mentality and discrimination that leads to such a high suicide rate among LGBTQs, so I am happy that the ban passed.”

Doug Riechel, a senior creative writing major, said the existence of therapy offends him as a member of the LGBTQ community.

“These therapists basically take advantage of any latent bisexuality someone might have and say, ‘You can be cured!’ which I find incredibly offensive as a bisexual man, because people are still pretending there is only gay and straight,” said Riechel, 22. “(Supporters think) if there’s a little bit of homosexuality, that must be cast out, and the heterosexuality must be harvested and saved like it’s gold out of a mountain.”

Controversy continues: undoing the ban

Although many people support Brown’s ban on conversion therapy, groups who promote rights to the therapy aim to prevent the ban from going into effect in January.

The Pacific Justice Institute, a legal group from Sacramento who defends “religious freedom, parental rights and other civil liberties,” already filed suit against SB 1172.

According to a press release by PJI, they plan to seek an injunction to prevent Brown’s ban on what they call “reparative therapy” from going into effect next year.

Brad Dacus, president of PJI, said the ban was an “egregious violation of fundamental rights” of minors who are “struggling with same-sex attraction.”

“The Legislature is the epitome of psychiatric ignorance coupled with legislative negligence, and the reason is because it presupposes that everyone who has same-sex attraction is 100 percent because of DNA and genetics, which couldn’t be farther from the truth,” Dacus said.

He added that the reparative therapy violates the freedoms of those who have a religious background and will be forced to choose a counselor that may challenge their religious beliefs.

“This ban also risks children being taken wrongfully by parents who have beliefs in traditional heterosexual relationships, and if parents aren’t embracing of same-sex attraction, that may be grounds for state intervention and potential of permanent removal of the child from the family,” Dacus said. “This is outside the boundaries of what PJI believes is constitutional, and would allow for government involvement of issues of family life.”

Therapy as child abuse

James Guay, 41, testified in the assembly hearing on the bill to Brown and heard PJI’s testimony.

“People who don’t want this ban to come to fruition use parental rights and religious freedom as their argument,” said Guay, who tried conversion therapy when he was a teenager. “The state has an interest in making sure parents don’t abuse their children; this isn’t about legislature and psychotherapy, it’s about preventing child abuse.”

He internalized a tremendous amount of religious,

pray it away, which obviously didn’t work,” Guay said.

Now a psychotherapist with a private practice in Beverly Hills, Guay said the results of undergoing conversion therapy are similar to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“People who have done this have physical, emotional and psychological shame-based trauma, and all legitimate medical and mental health professionals say it’s incredibly harmful and ineffective,” Guay said. “The message (conversion therapy) gives you is that if it’s not working, you’re not motivated enough, you’re not giving it enough time, and there is always something problematic about you.”

Jane Wishon, a Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) board member, said even as a practicing Christian and parent of children who identify as straight, she would never subject her children to undergo conversion therapy.

MEUSA is an all-volunteer grassroots-based national organization with the mission to gain marriage equality for all people “without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.”

“I cannot comprehend a universe where I would send my child to the conversion program,” said Wishon, 57. “That’s not the way I read the Bible, and I believe God makes people the way they are.”

Conversion therapy in the valley

Even with hopeful outlooks like Wishon’s and the potential for a statewide ban, organizations that offer the therapy are still permitted to operate until the new year.

The National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) is an Encino-based nonprofit organization that offers conversion therapy, and will fight to overturn the ban on SB 1172.

“Anecdotal stories of harm are no basis from

“The Legislature is the epitome of psychiatric ignorance coupled with legislative negligence, and the reason is because it presupposes that everyone who has same-sex attraction is 100 percent because of DNA and genetics, which couldn’t be farther from the truth”

— Brad Dacus

President of the Pacific Justice Institute

people or make them change if they say they are happy being gay and do not want to change.”

Pickup said NARTH clients experience lowered depression and anxiety and dissipation of homosexual feelings. He could not provide a success rate for NARTH’s therapy and said very few therapists can ever give accurate percentages of success rates.

“This bill is so generalized, it will actually cause furtherance of child abuse for this specific population,” Pickup said, regarding the bill’s attempt to prevent child abuse.

“Every good therapist knows that homosexual feelings frequently arise out of sexual molestation and rape, just look at the Sandusky case,” Pickup said. “This law says that if I am a boy under 18 who gets sexually abused, I can’t seek help anywhere and I am stranded because the therapy will be outlawed.”

Pickup could not provide data regarding how many people who are sexually abused become homosexuals.

Studies done by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggest sexual differentiation is developed in the brain during fetal and neonatal development, which programs gender identity.

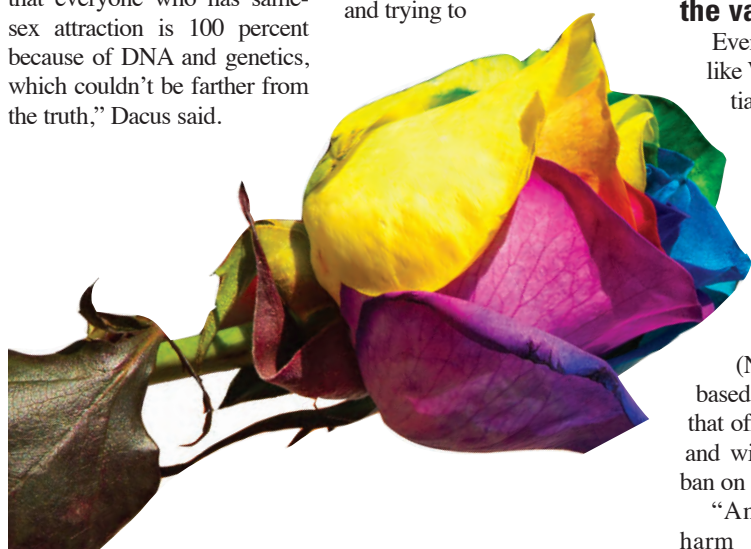
One study indicated “sex-differentiated activation of the anterior hypothalamus

in heterosexual men and women,” and a reversed pattern of activation in homosexual men and women.

Another study done by PNAS indicated gay men and heterosexual women shared brain matter similarities, as well as lesbian women to heterosexual men.

Reiter, who underwent the controversial therapy, quoted some of the “gay brain studies” as evidence for those who try to explain homosexuality as an outcome of sexual abuse. He offered a statement to anyone who is considering reparative therapy.

“The ‘gay-curing’ reparative therapists can teach you to be ashamed of yourself and convince you that you are broken, but they can’t make you heterosexual,” Reiter said. “I would tell parents it’s not reparative, because they aren’t broken. Being homosexual is just part of who they are.”



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY BROWN/ CONTRIBUTOR

Speakers for the opening ceremony of the Pride Center clutch multicolored, symbolic roses that were handed out Sept. 27.



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Associated Students

October 17, 2012

Opinions

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BEYOND BELIEF

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Hammer

I'll believe it when I see it:
For now, god is up in the air

RON ROKHY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

I live to worship. I believe all humans were created to serve the true son of god, who sacrificed himself to save humanity, as told by a divinely-inspired book left behind to tell the tale of his life.

Of course, I'm talking about Thor, the son of the creator and allfather, Odin. Thor – who sacrificed himself to save all of humanity in a battle with a sea snake – is worthy of our eternal praise, as worshipping him and his family is the only way to true salvation. Those who do not believe in Thor as their personal savior will be damned to a hell where you will be shocked with electricity forever.

The overwhelming majority of people don't believe this, and actually, neither do I. As a matter of fact, I lack belief in any sort of deity. I consider myself both an agnostic and an atheist, meaning I reject claims for or against the existence of a creator due to lack of evidence for each assertion.

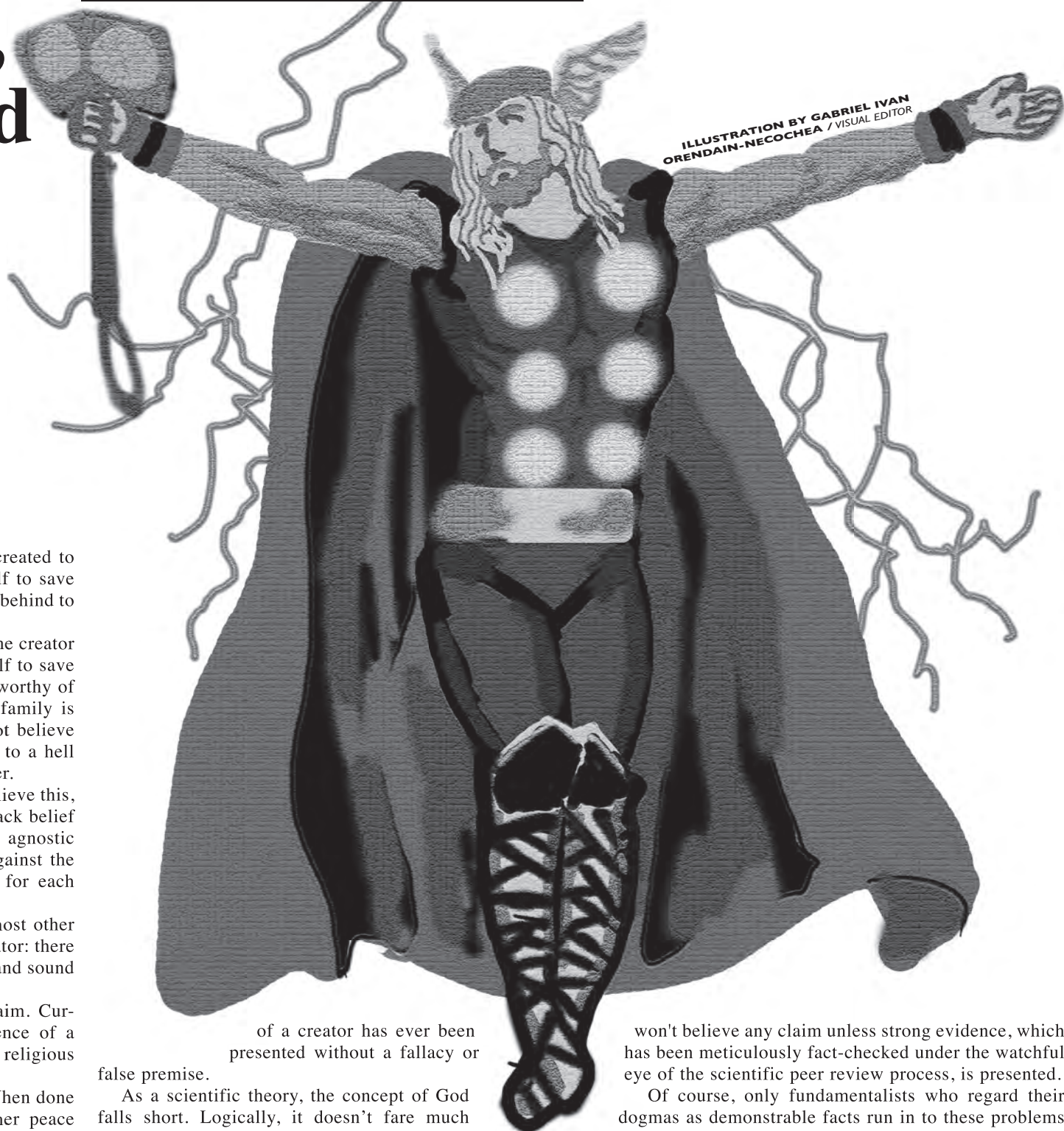
The reason I lack belief is the same reason most other people reject the idea of Thor's father as their creator: there isn't a single shred of physical evidence or valid and sound logic backing it up.

This applies to any supernatural religious claim. Currently, there is no theory supporting the existence of a creator accepted by the scientific community. All religious texts are anecdotes written by man.

That's not to say having faith is a bad thing. When done right, religion can provide moral guidance, inner peace (and possibly even world peace) and hopes of an afterlife. It can give people true happiness and give them a reason to live, or maybe even connect them with a like-minded community where they feel comfortable. I'm not at all against religion or people who have faith.

That being said, it's important to note faith, by definition, is a position of accepting an assertion (whether it be the existence of an all-powerful being or claims as to how old the Earth is) as true without any sort of evidence, or even when there is clear evidence refuting it (in the case of the age of the planet).

To counter this, many religious groups and people – such as the Discovery Institute, best known for promoting intelligent design – try to pass personal anecdotes, fundamentally flawed logic, and pseudoscience that has not passed the careful scrutiny of the academic scientific community as "evidence" for God or creationism, to the same degree as the soundness of theories such as evolution or relativity. No logical proof arguing for the existence



of a creator has ever been presented without a fallacy or false premise.

As a scientific theory, the concept of God falls short. Logically, it doesn't fare much better, as the most well-known proofs given for the existence of a creator contain the ad ignorantiam fallacy – meaning they replace the unknown with any solution they see fit without checking every possible outcome (for example, attributing the creation of the universe to Zeus or Elohim instead of pleading ignorance).

Countering by attempting to shift the burden of proof ("you can't disprove god") not only shows a black-or-white thinking, which posits that there are only two options: "there is a God" or "there is no God" and completely ignores agnosticism.

This is the reason I consider myself both an agnostic and an atheist (or 'weak' atheist). I propose this is the most logical position pertaining to the existence of unknown deities because agnostic atheists lack belief in god(s) rather than make positive assertions that they aren't real. The term "atheist," however, colloquially means someone who actually makes the claim that no God exists.

Agnostic atheists are unsure of the existence of God and

won't believe any claim unless strong evidence, which has been meticulously fact-checked under the watchful eye of the scientific peer review process, is presented.

Of course, only fundamentalists who regard their dogmas as demonstrable facts run in to these problems – those religious folk who know and understand God can't be proved through science have found a way to hold on to their core beliefs without trying to foolishly disprove known scientific facts. Creating new forms of "science" to disseminate propaganda is counterproductive to society. Balancing faith and science is doable (the Vatican fully endorses evolution and the big bang theory) because it keeps people in touch with reality while allowing them to keep their personal convictions to whatever religion they may adhere to.

The reasons for my lack of belief are simple: there is no evidence or proof, so there is no reason to believe. Is God a possibility? Absolutely, but just one of many, as there are tons of creation myths throughout history. What can prove the Judeo-Christian account of human origin is more valid than the Zoroastrian version? Nothing so far.

– Ron Rokhy is a former Muslim who at a young age learned that no one rode to a horse to Heaven.

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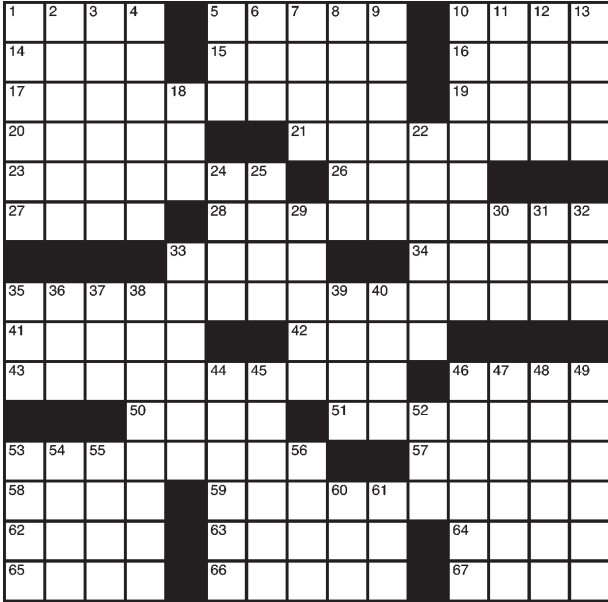
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ACROSS

- 1 Hip-hop fan
- 5 Les ___-Unis
- 10 Olympian's goal
- 14 Smidgen
- 15 Chevy Blazer, now
- 16 Orchestral wind
- 17 *One to four inches per day, for bamboo
- 19 Endorse, in a way
- 20 Rice-__
- 21 Toga party costume
- 23 Take part in a 1920s fad
- 26 Like a prof. emeritus
- 27 Big pitcher
- 28 *Noted scythe bearer
- 33 Lowly laborer
- 34 Goody two shoes
- 35 *1973 Thomas Pynchon novel
- 41 Concerning the ears
- 42 Japanese noodle
- 43 *Wrestling style that forbids holds below the waist
- 46 First responders, briefly
- 50 Cyclotron input
- 51 Meeting
- 53 Eleanor Rigby, for one
- 57 Snorer's problem, perhaps
- 58 Hops drier
- 59 *Pearl Jam genre
- 62 Attend to, as a job opening
- 63 Come out with
- 64 Wrath, in a hymn title
- 65 "South Park" co-creator Parker
- 66 Nonlethal weapon
- 67 Recipe amts.

DOWN

- 1 Oaf
- 2 Take for a time
- 3 "Becket" star
- 4 No page-turner
- 5 Ordinal suffix
- 6 Roofer's goo



By Steve Blais

10/17/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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- 7 Obsessed fictional captain
- 8 For the full nine months
- 9 Garden apparatus
- 10 Dad-blasted
- 11 Drama award
- 12 Theater section
- 13 It might be pounded out
- 18 "True dat," quaintly
- 22 Do more than listen
- 24 "___ Around": Beach Boys hit
- 25 "Iliad" setting
- 29 "Recapping ..."
- 30 Pint seller
- 31 Old Japanese capital
- 32 Remote button
- 33 Test showings
- 35 Silence
- 36 Robot play
- 37 "Now We ___ Six": Milne
- 38 Thoughtless way to stare
- 39 Nutritional figs.
- 40 First-class
- 44 Lousy liquor
- 45 Mobster's code of silence
- 46 Lively wit
- 47 They may have fake IDs
- 48 Work boot feature
- 49 Treacherous types
- 52 Freelancer's encl.
- 53 Like fuzzy slippers
- 54 Poker holding
- 55 Cruise destination
- 56 Wearing routines
- 60 Once known as
- 61 Canine warning that the answers to starred clues have in common, initially

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Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

sudoku

How to play:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Solution above.

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NBA to stop the flop

AMMONS SMITH
DAILY SUNDIAL

Stu Jackson, NBA VP of basketball operations, announced recently the league will adopt an anti-flopping rule beginning in the 2012-13 season. Players flopping during the last decade has negatively impacted the NBA because it has wiped away the tone of toughness set by players in the 1980s and 90s.

Flopping is an excuse for not being able to handle their opponent on the court despite some viewers having it confused with taking a charge, when a defensive player has established his position and gets bowled over by the forward-moving offensive player. Flopping is a player, both offensive and defensive, intentionally falling after barely making contact with an opposing player.

This is certainly the wrong way to play the game.

It is childish to fall down intentionally without actual physical contact and look for the referees to make a call. Referees are just as much at fault for this trend when they choose to blow the whistle instead of ignoring it.

Old school players would be offended by a rule like this in the modern era.

It is time players are held accountable for the chances they take on the court by flopping and not playing the game properly. Players receiving a fine will make them think twice about taking a risk that could hurt their financial income. Some players will continue to do it but the numbers

will drop considerably from previous seasons.

Some fans say flopping is a part of the game but if that is true, it is a glaring problem in the structure of basketball today. It's hard to see how anyone could appreciate flopping because it has no absolute way of increasing fan support.

A great defensive player doesn't need to flop to handle their opponent. Take a look at the Detroit Pistons in the late 1980s.

They were known as The Bad Boys because they played aggressive, physical basketball and were relentless at stopping their opponents from scoring points. They caused Hall of Fame athletes like Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan problems on the court causing offensive frustration.

Players such as San Antonio Spurs' shooting guard Manu Ginobili and Los Angeles Clippers' power forward Blake Griffin will not be able to perform any more Oscar-worthy flops to help their team win.

Griffin should be ashamed of himself for flopping because he is a power forward and there shouldn't be any big men flopping in the NBA.

Former center Vlade Divac is one of the most prolific floppers in the history of basketball. Unfortunately, his success in flopping influenced big men to perform actions like this.

If players like Los Angeles Lakers' center Dwight Howard or Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant were known as floppers instead of great players, it would hurt the league's reputation.

Upcoming players should want to have a repu-



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tation as a solid all around player rather than a flopper.

This new rule can bring back some of the toughness players used to show

in the NBA. New rules have changed the game of basketball giving a view of softness instead of tough, intense play. It cannot

necessarily bring back the essence of the 80s or 90s but it can influence upcoming players and fans to think different about how the

game should be played.

The NBA is a professional league full of grown men and its time the players play like grown men once again.

MEN'S SOCCER

Get to know...Rene Anguiano

REPORTING BY LOREN TOWNSLEY / PHOTO EDITOR

FAVORITES

Food: Mexican food (Tacos)

Music: Hip hop, Mexican music, R&B

One of my favorite movies: The Notebook

Athlete: Zidane

LIFE

Greatest difficulty: Coming to the United States and adapting to US culture

Greatest goal accomplished: Being close to finishing college

Most embarrassing moment: I didn't know the formation of the team after two years of playing for them

Hobbies: Reading, drawing, volleyball, basketball, running

SOCCER

Best part of my game: Working hard for my team

Part of my game that needs improvement:

Defense and headers

Best player I've played against so far: Luis Silva

Players I pattern my game after: Zidane

Pre-game rituals: Listen to music and pray

Superstitions: None

GOALS

Team: Win the Big West and qualify for the NCAA tournament

Individual: Be healthy, do good for the team, and win the ring

EXTRAS

Others sports I played while growing up: Volleyball, baseball, basketball

When I started playing soccer: Eight years old

What I do to stay in shape during the off-season: Run 3-4 miles a day

Person I would like to meet: Zidane

