

DAILY SUNDIAL

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- + OPINION: Two students' vagina monologues p. 6
- + NEWS: Religion's role in the election p. 2
- + SPORTS: Armstrong stripped of victories p. 8

Lettuce meat Prop 37

Voters to make choice to label genetically altered foods

CHRISTina BenneTT
DAILY SUNDIAL

Californians are often stereotyped as health-nuts, but not all are going nuts for Proposition 37.

When voters hit the polls in November, a "yes" vote on Proposition 37 would usher in a new wave of food labeling regulation by mandating that genetically engineered foods or foods produced with genetically engineered ingredients carry a labeling identifying them as such.

However, many have come out in opposition to the initiative including many major newspaper, farmer and grocer's associations.

Formally titled "The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act," Proposition 37 amends the Health and Safety Code and asserts that genetically engineered foods "often (have) unintended consequences...such genetic engineering can increase the levels of known toxicants in foods and introduce new toxicants and health concerns."

On the opposite end, the No on 37 campaign claims in their fact sheet that the law is a hidden food tax, which will raise food prices for consumers by as much as \$400 a year, according to analysis prepared by Northridge Environmental Management Consultants.

The No on 37 campaign

asserts in one fact sheet on their site that Proposition 37 will hurt California family farmers and food companies. One goal of the initiative is to "...ban' foods that have any GE ingredients. They (funders of the initiative) see labeling and aggressive litigation as a means of accomplishing this goal," according to information found on the page.

Those who oppose Proposition 37 frequently point out the health and medical opinion that genetically engineered foods pose no real health risk for consumers.

Opponents also cite a June statement by the American Medical Association, which said, "There is no scientific justification for special labeling of bioengineered foods."

The arguments go back and forth with each side pointing fingers at each other, making it difficult for voters to distinguish between truth and opinion in the two campaigns.

The Yes on 37 campaign reiterates that the law would not increase food costs based on independent economic analysis prepared by Joanna M. Shepherd-Bailey from Emory University School of Law.

The report maintains there would be "little or no change in food costs" and cites the costs as a "trivial expense" for manufacturers to re-label packages or the anticipated litigation costs.

They also question the credibility of the No on

37's economic analysis group, Northridge, by noting that the report was discredited.

Supporters of the initiative also say that genetically modified foods are linked to environmental problems including increased pesticide use and "super weeds" resistant to herbicides subsequently requiring increased chemical intervention.

In an Oct. 18 press release, the Yes on 37 campaign manager Gary Ruskin accused the No on 37 campaign of violating the law regarding the use of the official seal of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in a mailer.

"The Justice Department should investigate this fraudulent dirty trick perpetrated by the No on 37 campaign," Ruskin said. "They are running a campaign of lies, deceit and trickery, and some of it may be criminal."

The Legislative Analyst's Office is a nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisor to the Cali-

See **gmo**, page 4

"one important point to note is in terms of (the safety) of genetically engineered foods (that) they are regulated in the same way that other foods are regulated. They meet the same standards as non-genetically engineered foods."

—Anton Favorini
Legislative Analyst's Office

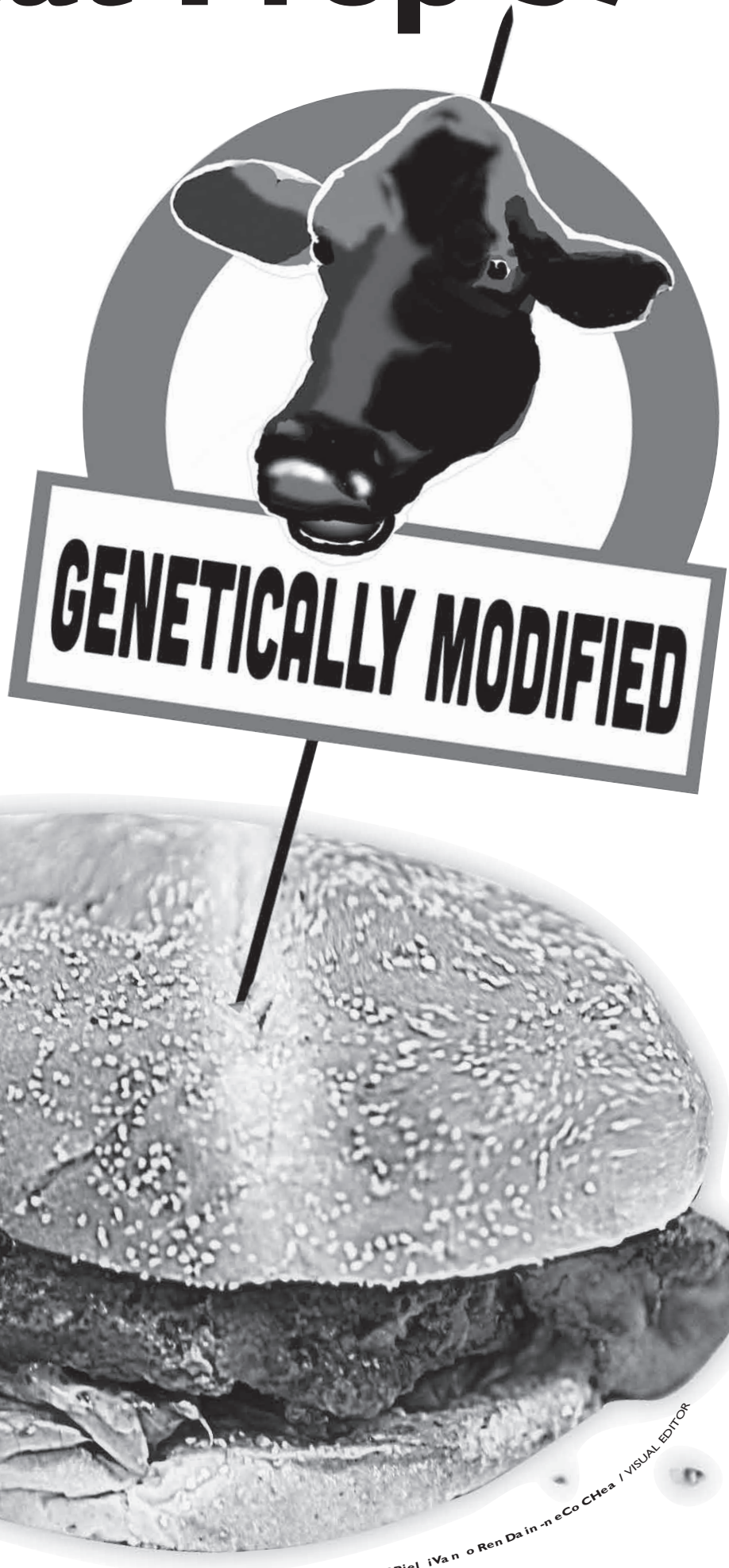


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Mormonism and evangelicalism in the election

Two religious studies professors discuss the role of each candidates' faith and their effects on voters

Taylor Villegas
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

The religious studies department sponsored a lecture about the role of religion in this upcoming election, Tuesday.

Amanda Baugh and Mary Jane O'Donnell, both religious studies professors at CSUN, lectured about Mormonism and Evangelicalism, respectively.

While introducing the two speakers to the crowded lecture hall, Rick Talbott, chair of the religious studies department, talked about how people might wonder what role, if any, religion serves in this election.

"There is a separation of church and state, but no separation of religion and politics," he said.

Baugh started the discussion with Mormonism. She described the basic history of the religion, which is one of the fastest growing in the nation. Founded in the 1820s in upstate New York by Joseph Smith, Mormonism has been described as being an all-American religion. However, a survey of voters in 2011 revealed that 22 percent of Americans would be unwilling to vote for a Mormon.

Baugh talked about how while Americans "celebrate



CARLA ADELMANN / DAILY SUNDIAL

Dr. Amanda Baugh speaks at the North Valley room at the Northridge center. She said Mitt Romney's Biblical principles have been accepted by Christians to be a good thing to look at when considering who to vote for in this year's election.

religious freedom in the abstract," they often find it harder to follow through with. She described the scope of American religious tolerance as something that is always "in flux."

She then cited a survey of 2,000 Mormons, in which 68 percent said they were not considered part of America's mainstream culture and 50

percent said they often faced discrimination.

However, she pointed out that she did not believe Romney's faith as a Mormon would play a role in the voting booth this November. According to Baugh, discussion regarding Romney's religion has dropped sharply since he received the nomination of the Republican party.

It was worth noting that this ballot is historical, she pointed out, as this year is the first presidential election to not have a protestant candidate on either party's ticket.

The next speaker, O'Donnell agreed, stating that this presidential race is historic in terms of religion in this country. However, the role that religion itself has and will play

is "a subtle one."

She went on to describe the evangelical faith, which is a branch of Christianity that believes in a religious rebirth and spreading the word about their faith. O'Donnell discussed how the evangelical base was invigorated to vote and get involved in politics during the late 1970s, as a response to the political and

social unrest of the 1960s.

Following the lead of famous evangelical pastor Jerry Falwell, this sect of the Christian faith became the base for the Republican party and wielded a huge amount of voting power.

Despite their power, there has been a drop in evangelicals and other Christian voters recently, O'Donnell pointed out. Along with this, there has been a 5 percent increase in the past five years in adults who do not consider themselves to be religiously affiliated.

O'Donnell said this shift in voting demographics could mean that the evangelical base's voting power could potentially be cancelled out by non-affiliated voters, or as she referred to them "nons."

She concluded that only time will tell if this will really happen, or if the evangelical voters, who she described as typically being more zealous and dedicated to their causes, will come out on top.

The event concluded with a short Q&A session with the audience.

"I didn't realize that politics and religion influence each other so much," said Carolina Garcia-Melo, sophomore sociology major. "They leak out onto pop culture and influence so much."

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CSUN celebrated women in music

Sheila E., Qiana Conley and Cheryl Pawelski share their musical experiences

Casey Deli Ch
DAILY SUNDIAL

Female music executives and recording artists advised students on entering the music industry at CSUN Tuesday during the “Women in Music” event.

“Women in Music” was held in collaboration between Grammy U and the CSUN-based Music and Entertainment Industry Student Association, or MEISA.

The main focus of the event was to try to get rid of adversity within the music industry and promote successful women and show that women can be successful in a male dominated field, said Misty Gambino, executive secretary of MEISA.

Forming a panel with an eclectic range of jobs within the music industry, the audience was given information on different aspects and how they got their starts.

“They happened to be the perfect balance of people, a producer and a musician just an eclectic mix, they all do different things in the industry,” said Kristen Grey, Grammy U’s CSUN campus representative.

Consisting of Sheila E., a top percussionist, Qiana Conley, the

founder of a creative development company, and Cheryl Pawelski, a three-time Grammy-nominated producer, they held a moderated discussion on relevant music industry topics for interested students.

Covering a broad range of topics from how they broke into the field, their hardships and the difficulty of being in a male-dominated field.

The hardships suffered by all of them throughout their careers seemed to coincide on one topic, that the music industry is ever-evolving and those that are entering the field must understand it is a “series of starting over.”

Each of the women had been laid off from multi-year jobs at record labels and needed to start over at a new place, which led to Conley and Pawelski starting their own businesses.

For women, starting over is tougher in a male-dominated industry. Sheila E. felt as if though with men it was always a competition with her to prove who the better drummer was, but she did it because of her love of playing.

Sheila E., with her background in music and as one of the top drummers in the world, seemed to be the main draw for many of the students that attended, making up an even mixture of both male and female.



JACQUELINE KALISCH / DAILY SUNDIAL

CSUN Meisa and Grammy U presented “Women in Music” with special guests Cheryl Pawelski (three-time Grammy nominated producer), Qiana Conley (founder of Cue the Creatives entertainment) and Sheila E. (recording artist) on Oct. 23 at Cypress Hall. Pawelski discussed her belief on a changing industry regarding gender.

“I have always loved Sheila E., because I’m a drummer too, but to see women in business that are independent and forward thinking, they seem like great role models,” said Sarah Mori, a senior music therapy major.

The main message that all of the panelists could agree on was something that not just applied to the music industry, but transcends into everyday life. To succeed you must work harder than everyone else and maintain or establish new relationships that will be important for them both career

and life wise.

“Not taking no for an answer and if you are really hungry for it it’s there if you want it really stuck out for me,” said Michael

Ray Clark, a junior music industries studies major. “None of their advice was really exclusive to just women, it was really general for anyone.”

CORRECTION

In the article “Candidates sit down for final stand-off” published Oct. 23, it read, “And we’re not in a position where we can transition out, Obama said” and should have read, “And we’re now in a position where we can transition out.”

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gmo

Continued from page 1

fornia Legislature overseen by a 16-member committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC).

Anton Favorini a staff member in the Legislative Analyst's Office, assigned to Water, Coastal Development, Fish and Wildlife and Agriculture, said the analysis considers the cost of implementation in the state.

Favorini commented that the Legislative Analyst's Office does not take into account partisan positions on the proposition, but strictly adheres to non-biased analysis of the proposed law.

"When we estimate these (cost analyses of proposed laws), we just estimate what it would cost to implement the measure. So those costs (for Proposition 37) are what we estimate the Department of Public Health would end up incurring," Favorini said.

Favorini offered two take-aways from Proposition 37 analysis he helped draft.

"One important point to note is in terms of (the safety) of genetically engineered foods, they are regulated in the same way that other foods are regulated. They meet the same standards as non-genetically engineered foods," Favorini said. "But on the other hand in our view, the costs, at least of the state and other local governments, are not particularly large."

Activist shared advice on how to DREAM

Ellen Bravo spoke on injustices women may face during elections

Donna Ro DRiguez
DAILY SUNDIAL

Twelve things at stake when voting, according to Bravo

1. Who controls the supreme court
2. Roe v. Wade could be overturned
3. Who is in charge of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
4. Who runs the Department of Labor
5. Immigration
6. Who will control the army
7. Have an administration that will support paid sick days
8. Who will support or not support paid equity
9. Who controls the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
10. Jobs
11. Social security and Medicare
12. Choosing a president that makes derogatory remarks about the "47 percent"

Fighting against the injustices that are affecting people and making sure students know what is at stake during this year's election was Ellen Bravo's point during her presentation Tuesday. "Best way to get what you need for yourself is to work with others," said Bravo, activist for working women and author of "Taking on the Big Boys." "Stick together and work for change to make a difference."

Bravo is the director of Family Values at Work Consortium, which helps the movement to change the workplace policies to help the needs of families.

Bravo works with women and families to get them what they want, said Marta Lopez, professor in gender women studies.

Lopez said Bravo shed light on some things that students may not know about because the media does not talk about them, like women who have lost their jobs for leaving to take care of a sick family member or women who are getting paid less



Ca Ria aD elmann / DAILY SUNDIAL

ellen Bravo, a long-time women's activist spoke to a full class room in Jerome Richfield Tuesday about women's issues in this election. "Women have to be strong and speak up for themselves against people who want to silence them, like malala Yousafzai," Bravo said of the Pakistani girl shot over activism in Swat Valley.

than men.

"Many of the things she talked about (is what) women and men are doing across the country," Lopez said.

These men and women are trying to create an environment where people can work and take care of their families, said Lopez.

"These women are getting at the heart of gender injustices," said Bravo. "They are exposing the way the system works."

Stephanie Tran, freshman business management major,

took away that women's rights are important.

"There is a lot more we can do than what a normal person knows," Tran said.

Bravo also talked about the domestic workers who have not been protected by labor laws. She said that even if a person is undocumented it is still illegal to harass them and not pay minimum wage.

"People have rights even if they are not documented," she said.

Bravo gave this advice to students who want to take on

the big boys: DREAM.

DREAM stands for: Dare to imagine the world you deserve, Reach out and find people, Educate yourself and others, Act either by educating or signing your name on a petition and Multiply to become powerful.

Raveena Martin, junior child adolescent development major, learned to take on the big boys and to keep going.

"They are not more powerful but they try to push you down," Martin said.

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Friday, November 2nd, 2012 (1st session)
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October 24, 2012

Opinions

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The TaLK

Pulling out the V-Card

Two women discuss their points of view on virginity and the freedom to make their own sexual choices

Why I Value VirGInITy

SerIneh Verdeana
CONTRIBUTOR

In my senior year of high school, one of my main concerns about college was the pressure to have sex. I had heard that casual sex was a part of the “college experience”.

I'm a sophomore in college and I'm still a virgin. I chose to wait to have sex because these days, you never know what a person's true intentions are. For example, I dated a guy for over two years – we were best friends – the ideal couple. When I refused to “put out” he started to distance himself and eventually ended up breaking up with me. I can say now, that being so young, we would have broken up anyway. I would have been more hurt if I had compromised my morals, by choosing to have sex with him, only for him to have left me a couple of months later.

I'm not alone in waiting to have sex at this age. In a study by the National Center for Health Statistics, the percentage of people 18-24 years old, who are still virgins, is increasing.

I don't want to “throw away” my first sexual experience for someone who it wouldn't mean anything to. It is easy to get someone to want to have sex with you, but it's not easy to find someone who will truly love you even if you aren't ready for the physical aspect yet. This goes for whoever you choose to love, if sex is all they are looking for and you want more than that, then reconsider who you want to be with. I want something more than a casual one night stand with someone I'll never see again. I would not trade any five minute fling in the backseat of a car for the cost of my integrity. I would be cutting myself short on how I truly deserve my first time to be.

The double standard on women's sexuality causes confusion and makes the choice of abstaining from sex much harder for women. If you don't have sex you are considered a “prude,” but if you do, you're considered “used” or “trashy.”

Sex is a natural thing and the only way that this world can continue. There is nothing wrong with it, unless you are doing it for the wrong reasons; such as because your friends are or you just want to “get it over with” already. I don't ever want to be wishing I could have my virginity back like some of my female friends on campus feel. In a survey done by the National Campaign

to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 72 percent of women and 55 percent of men said they wish they would have waited to have sex.

Having sex shouldn't be a decision you make because everyone else is telling

See **Verdeana**, page 7

VirGInITy IS a CONStr uCT

Brandl Murphy
CONTRIBUTOR

From a very early age, girls are taught that it is in their best interest to remain virgins for as long

as possible. It can be as innocent as, “wait until you find the right person,” or as eyebrow raising as “wait until you're married so you can have something to give your husband” as if love and devotion isn't enough. But, no matter how it's phrased, the message is loud and clear; don't have sex.

Of course, this is almost always referring to abstaining from heterosexual vaginal sex. This concept turns a blind eye to oral and anal sex, and completely disregards women who have sex with women, as if these activities don't even happen.

However, once these same girls are in high school, they're being bombarded with various representations of sexuality: their peers are having sex, the characters of their favorite TV shows are having sex, and the media is equating sexuality with femininity. This message that “Sex is awesome!” is rather clear as well. Naturally, with all of the mixed messages, these girls are going to do what they want, and for some, that means having sex.

When I used to be able to tell people I was a virgin, I received everything but a standing ovation. Guys, whom I had no intention on sleeping with, would get excited, as if I told them that they'd won the lottery. Girls would tell me how much of a good girl I was, one even went so far as if to say she was “proud” of me, and for what? My virginal status didn't make me a better person. I wasn't any less rude, awkward, smart or caring.

Being a virgin didn't make me a special person; it just meant that I had yet to have sex. But, people treated me as if I was a unicorn in some mystical forest.

What's wrong with staying a virgin, until marriage or otherwise? Nothing is wrong with it, at all. There's nothing wrong with having sex either, but there's no denying that young women who are sexually active are thought of as different than girls who aren't. Even girls who aren't having sex, but embrace aspects of their sexuality are treated differently.

Dr. Sheena Malhotra, professor and chair of CSUN's gender and women's Studies Department said that women receive a double message – one that encourages women to stay chaste while telling them that their value is solely as a sexual object. The promotion of both aspects is somehow always related to what men want, and tend to ignore the wants of women.

“In general, men are taught that virgins are what you marry, but expect women to be sexually experienced as well,” said Malhotra.

How can anyone expect someone to be well-versed in a subject she was never introduced to? By the time a guy is out of high school, it is generally expected that he has already lost his virginity to a girl. But if girls are expected not to have sex,

See **Murphy**, page 7



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL IVAN ORENDAIN-NECOCHEA / VISUAL EDITOR

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Verdeana

Continued from page 6

you to, because you can't get it back once it is lost. However, people can choose to be "reborn virgins" by choosing to be celibate – abstaining from having sex – even though one has had sex already. Just because you have done it once, doesn't mean you don't have a choice to stop. It's a lot easier to give into the pressure that "everyone is doing it," than to stand up and choose not to, but it's an option everyone has.

At 19 years old, I don't feel as if I even know my body well enough to give it to someone else. I would only be disrespecting myself by not listening to my body telling me it's not the right time yet. The first time is meant to be saved until that one person comes along that is worth being vulnerable for. The person that's worth being in pain over.

I may sound like a "prude," but I would be lying if I said the temptation wasn't there, because it is. I consider myself a pretty decent looking woman, blessed with the body to match, and I have no trouble attracting guys. I'm a sexually driven human being like most people and it is hard for myself to say no in the moment. But I know that the one moment could possibly define the rest of my life. I want more for myself and know that the wait will be worth it.

In a sense, it is me guarding my heart from the hurt that may come from feeling "left" by a potential partner after I give them this big part of me.

Whoever the lucky guy that makes me feel comfortable enough to make me want to give up my "V-card" is, he will appreciate that even though I didn't know who he was going to be, it was for him.

– Serineh Verdeana is a second year psychology major, an aspiring anesthesiologist and a self-proclaimed relationship expert.

Murphy

Continued from page 6

how exactly can anyone expect boys to be having sex with them?

It's not just the guys who aren't making sense, either – women also aid in upholding this sexual hierarchy that offers no benefit to them.

A great example of this is the special attention the media gave to 30-year-old Lori "Lolo" Jones – a U.S. olympic hurdler who competed in 2008 and 2012 – for "coming out" as a virgin. Jones was asked if she'd seen any "hook-ups" in the Olympic Village, and her response was incredibly problematic.

"I'm in a suite with seven girls, and I guess we don't have any sluts on the team," Jones told USA Today.

Now while there's nothing wrong with remaining a virgin for as long as she has, it is not right to imply that women who have sex are sluts. What justification could there be in telling the world whether or not the women Olympians were having sex? As if they hadn't spent the last year in a hardcore training schedule and didn't have the right to "de-stress" in any manner they saw fit.

Lolo is helping to further the mindset that insists a woman will be less desirable to men once she "loses" her virginity. This is damaging to women's sexual identities.

"While sexuality is a powerful part of being human, reducing them to just that aspect makes them lose sight of who they are, and their full selves," said Malhotra.

Being a virgin doesn't automatically make anyone some ethereal being that is a prize to be won, just as having sex doesn't instantly make someone a whore who is two steps away from turning tricks in a sleazy motel.

– Brandi Murphy is a third year Journalism student. She spends her free time sleeping, watching crime dramas and reality TV, and baking various desserts from recipes she found on Tumblr.

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Please call Linda to describe (818) 642-5916

Solution to today's sudoku

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

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

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.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Brains
- 7 Like many a reply env.
- 10 Low-tech missile
- 13 New Age physician
- 14 Zeno's home
- 15 Namibia neighbor: Abbr.
- 16 Florida export
- 17 "Ditto!"
- 19 *1955 Communist defense treaty
- 21 Old Russian dynast
- 22 Pulitzer playwright Rice
- 23 The tiniest bit
- 25 ___ Moines
- 26 Sink, as a snooker ball
- 28 Flattering deception
- 31 Daddy-o
- 33 Marsupial sometimes called a bear

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	

By Gareth Bain

10/24/12

DOWN

- 1 Made an appearance
- 2 Team captain's concern
- 3 Morning janglers
- 4 Teeth-cleaning step
- 5 Title writer in a John Irving novel
- 6 Hasenpfeffer, for one
- 7 Director's cry
- 8 Jam thickener
- 9 Black Hills terr.
- 10 "Wheel of Fortune" host
- 11 "A Day Without Rain" New Ager
- 12 Culture medium
- 14 Israeli diplomat Abba
- 18 When one might have a late lunch
- 20 "The Chosen" novelist Chaim
- 24 "The Addams Family" adjective
- 27 Special ___: military force
- 29 Flamenco shout
- 30 Shoreline indentation
- 32 Print maker

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	R	A	C	O		A	J	A	X		A	Q	U	A
R	E	L	A	X		L	U	G	E		T	U	T	S
A	N	D	R	O	M	E	D	A	S	T	R	A	I	N
W	O	O	D		A	X	I	S		S	I	D	L	E
J					G	E	N	E		N	A	S	S	E
J	U	R	A	S	S	I	C	P	A	R	K			
A	N	I	M	E		O	U	T	S		F	E	B	
V	I	L	E		C	O	N	G	O		W	E	A	R
A	X	E			L	O	R	D			O	H	A	R
					T	H	E	L	O	S	T	W	O	R
A	B	R	O	A	D					C	A	N	S	
D	R	I	P	S		F	A	U	X		T	I	M	E
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	C	R	I	C	H	T	O	N
I	D	E	A		V	E	E	R		D	A	Z	E	D
T	E	S	T		E	A	S	Y		S	T	A	T	S

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10/24/12

- 34 Wine barrel wood
- 35 Dictator Amin
- 36 "Space cadet's home?"
- 37 Inland Asian sea
- 38 Lehár operetta "The Merry ___"
- 39 Breathable gases
- 42 Car at a long light, say
- 45 Herbal brew
- 46 Everglades birds
- 48 Cheerful
- 49 Painter Monet
- 50 Had an inkling
- 51 Small gifts
- 53 Extremists, for short
- 55 2004 remake starring Jude Law
- 56 Fabricate
- 57 Rested
- 59 Venus de Milo's lack
- 61 Egyptian snake

SUNDIAL UNDERGROUND WEEK 6

YOUR MISSION:

- 1: GO TO THE USU COMPUTER LAB
- 2: ASK THE FRONT DESK FOR THIS WEEK'S SUN SYMBOL AND TAKE A PICTURE WITH IT.
- 3: POST IT TO THE DAILY SUNDIAL FACEBOOK PAGE, TWITTER OR INSTAGRAM WITH #DAILYSUNDIAL, OR EMAIL TO SUNDIALMARKETING@CSUN.EDU

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COLUMN

UCI justly strips Armstrong

Casey Del Ich
DAILY SUNDIAL

America holds its sports heroes in such regard that not only should they be elite, unrivaled athletes compared to that of the general population, they should also be role models seen as good people. Over the years we have seen multitudes of athletes suffer through personal, alcohol and a recent rash of steroid-related problems.

The one person who inspired a nation, if not a world, with his comeback from testicular cancer and won seven Tour de France titles just completed his fall from grace.

Monday morning, the International Cycling Union stripped Lance Armstrong of his seven wins and banned him from cycling for life. This is the end result of what the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency called "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen."

Does Armstrong deserve a lifetime ban, the abandonment of his sponsors and the stripping of his titles for these actions?

His actions and lack of remorse towards his fellow competitors and the sport he loved is deserving of a lifetime ban. Even if he admitted that he took steroids at a later point, how can anyone ever trust that he would not do it again. He



COURTESY OF MCT

seems almost aloof to his situation and blaming everyone else around him for his problems, including an organization that wants to see his fall from grace when he is the one who injected himself and others.

Unfortunately, we in the United States can't relate much to Armstrong's predicament. In American major league sports, while there are accusations of doping, and in many cases proof of it, players are not stripped of

records or titles; Alex Rodriguez will not be stripped of his place in the all-time home run list after admitting he used steroids, so why should Lance Armstrong?

Because the International Cycling Union isn't an American sport, it is a global organization that holds itself to strict Olympic standards.

Since the 2000 Summer Olympics, there has been dozens of athletes, including Mar-

ion Jones and Tyler Hamilton of the United States, who were stripped of their medals and banned from their respective sports.

The competitive advantage that steroids give to athletes is something that varies from person to person, some never attaining what they hoped for while others go above and beyond it. Lance Armstrong knowingly cheated and injected his body with a substance that gave him

a competitive edge over the athletes he competed against.

The integrity of sports is something that is no longer upheld in many professional ranks today. The admission or evidence of an act trying to gain an illegal advantage should be dealt with swiftly and harshly.

Thousands of kids and teenagers around the country see the actions of these adults and the adoration and money they receive, so what kind of message

would America be sending to them if cheaters could prosper?

The USADA completed an extensive investigation into Armstrong, including confessions from 15 fellow riders, that left no governing body, and even Armstrong himself, with any counter-argument.

In late August, Armstrong dropped his appeal of the doping allegations centered at him.

Was this an admission of guilt, knowing he would be unable to overturn damning evidence?

His lack of fight to these charges seem to be his admission, throwing in the towel on what his attorney, Tim Herman, called "an unconditional witch hunt" and was "one-sided and unfair."

Armstrong has done many things for cancer patients and the human spirit through his charity, Livestrong, but these acts for the good of humanity can't erase the mistakes he has made in cycling. Armstrong's name didn't help Livestrong become what it is today. The message that it spreads made it ever-so-popular.

Our heroes need to no longer be sports stars because they are human and make mistakes, whether in their personal or professional lives. Too many times they show the bad side of humanity in their actions. Lance Armstrong is just the latest in the long line that preceded him, and he will not be the last.

COLUMN

Preseason of no concern to Lakers



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Ammons smth
DAILY SUNDIAL

There is no reason to panic about the Lakers' winless preseason, and any negative reaction is an overreaction.

Judging a team by its preseason record is naive because there is no way to know if a team will excel or fall under pressure based on exhibition games. The Miami Heat had slow starts for two seasons back-to-back and went to the Finals both years, winning the title this past year. If fans could actually foresee what happens to each team based on exhibitions, there wouldn't be any point in watching the games.

The preseason is about getting in great condition and learning each teammate's strengths and weaknesses to prepare for the official season. A team of the Lakers' caliber needs to focus on bringing a championship to Los Angeles, instead of winning meaningless preseason games. If this team were young and inexperienced, it would make sense to be concerned about a winless record, but they're not -- they're aging veterans (except Howard) that need to rest and

more importantly, become comfortable with each other's game.

The Lakers have not been able to get past the second round for two consecutive seasons, which is unacceptable since they have high expectations. Their struggles resulted from not having a solid point guard and a consistent, dominant center.

New Sixers' center Andrew Bynum performed well at times when he played for the Lakers but also acted immaturely, which prompted management to finally act and fix their problems.

The acquisition of former Phoenix point guard Steve Nash and Orlando center Dwight Howard make the Lakers contenders despite an 0-6 preseason. Starters hardly play in the preseason and gameplay isn't taken as seriously, so their record doesn't dictate how this upcoming season will go for LA.

Howard made his preseason debut Sunday vs. the Sacramento Kings, putting up a solid performance (19 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks), coming off a back injury that ended his previous season before the 2012 playoffs.

Howard's purpose is to help

bring the Lakers their 17th world title and carry the torch that Bryant will have to pass once he retires. Nash's role is to provide the team with efficient scoring opportunities for the team and attack the basket when needed. Both players will fill the voids that have plagued the team.

The Lakers need to get in rhythm through the preseason and first half of the season to gear up for a solid run going into the playoffs. Bryant will not let this team become underachievers; he's at the end of his career and wants to go out on top. In addition to his leadership, new acquisitions of Nash and Howard will motivate the team to perform well under any circumstances they go through.

If fans expect the Lakers to win every game, that's a ridiculous expectation. No team has gone undefeated in basketball and the Lakers don't need to go undefeated to prove they're the best team in the NBA. The Lakers aren't worried about the preseason nor should the fans be. The Lakers' have a championship or bust mentality and they will deliver when its time to shine.