

# THE LUMBERJACK

Serving the Humboldt State campus and community since 1929

Vol. 104 No. 13

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Wednesday, April 30, 2014

## Steve Watts suffers serious spinal cord injury

*Family and friends hold out hope for recovery*

Community

by John Ferrara

Local musician and active community member Steve Watts is recovering from surgery after sustaining a serious spinal cord injury during a mixed martial arts bout at Cher-Ae Heights Casino in Trinidad on Saturday night.

The 40-year-old Jiu-Jitsu specialist was immobilized from the neck down after landing awkwardly on his head during an attempted wrestling move in his second match of the So You Wanna Fight tournament.

Watts' friend Bryan Raskin, who was in attendance that night, said doctors have not ruled out the possibility of a recovery and will look for signs of improvement in the following weeks.

"He has a long road of recovery ahead of him," Raskin said. Watts attempted a takedown



Michael Hebenstriet (red shorts) reverses a takedown resulting in Steve Watts' (black shorts) injury. | Sebastian Hedberg

in the beginning of the first round, when opponent Michael Hebenstriet wrapped him in a headlock before the brawlers hit the canvas.

"He tried to slam me on my back and I reversed him," He-

benstriet said. "I didn't mean to compact his neck."

Hebenstriet delivered one final punch before realizing Watts was unable to defend himself.

Watts repeatedly shouted that he was unable to move as

the fight was stopped and medical staff rushed into the ring.

He was carried out of the arena on a stretcher and did not regain feeling in his extremities before he was taken to Mad River Community Hospital.

"I was just trying to be there for Steve," Raskin said. "He was scared and we were all just trying to be positive."

The fighter was airlifted to

Continued on page 7



A gray wolf sports his chompers in the Wildlife building. | Henry Faust

## Life after death

*HSU houses vast collection of bird and mammal specimens*

Campus

by Justin Bell

On display throughout Humboldt State's Wildlife and Fisheries building are 1,000 birds and mammals from HSU's nearly 15,000 specimen collection.

HSU built the collection over the past 60 years. Most of the species are from northwest California but HSU has been able

to acquire species from all over the world. There are specimens from 47 U.S. states and 48 countries. The collection emphasizes birds — there are more than 11,400 specimens, but also includes 2,700 mammals.

Tamar Danufsky has been the curator of this collection for the past 14 years.

"We are very fortunate to have this collection at HSU,"

Danufsky said. "I am able to teach students how to prepare new additions to the collection"

Danufsky negotiated trades with other museums for specimens not found in this area. She traded some California birds with a New York museum for some of their birds.

Continued on page 10

## The gravity of the situation

*Cutting edge research into how gravity works being done at HSU*

Campus

by Sebastian Hedberg

Nestled in the basement of the Science A building at Humboldt State is a lab no bigger than a bathroom, where quantum gravity research is being conducted with the possibility of a huge outcome.

The gravitational research laboratory started at HSU in 2008 and is one of five labs in the world looking into the mystery of the quantum world and how gravity works. The other four labs are located in Stanford, University of Washington, China and University of California, Irvine.

Ever since Newton saw the apple fall and Einstein thought up relativity, gravity was thought to have been understood. Then along came quantum mechanics and everything fell apart; because on an atomic scale their theories don't work as expected.

Einstein's theory of relativity uses singularities or infinite points of density such as at the heart of a black hole. These singularities do not work with the rules of quantum mechanics and the results end up mathematically inconsistent.

Out of the four fundamental forces that governs the world of physics, the electromagnetic, the weak nuclear and the strong nuclear force are the best understood. Gravity is the most elusive of the fundamental forces yet most noticed by people.

The head of research at HSU is associate professor C.D. Hoyle. Hoyle has been working on the project since graduate school and got his Ph.D in the field from the University of Washington.

As part of the National Science Foundation grant for this research, one student is sent to the University of Washington which has access to more funding and a larger lab.

One student sent to Washington last summer was Holly Leopardi. She has been working on this project since 2011 and has taken up a leadership role running it when Hoyle is busy with classes.

"I had fun designing some of the optics and electronics we use in the torsion pendulum," Leopardi said. "It was a challenge because of how precise it needs to be."

Continued on page 5

WEATHER

THURSDAY 68°

FRIDAY 60°

SATURDAY 59°

SUNDAY 59°

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

### INSIDE STORIES

• Diseased sea stars  
pg. 4

• Surviving lectures  
pg. 10

• Bouldering  
pgs. 8 & 9





## Russia

The European Union levied sanctions against 15 high-ranking Russians for their countries involvement in the Ukraine conflict. The sanctions will put a hold on all assets and bank accounts as well as bans on travel. Some of those targeted by the sanctions are industry and military leaders.

## Taiwan

People gathered in the capital of Taiwan, Taipei, to protest the potential building of a nuclear power plant near the city. The ruling party said that without an additional plant the country will run out of power. President Ma Ying-jeou said the public would be able to vote and decide what the fate of the power plant will be.

## India

An Indian man identified as Durgesh Kumar Singh set himself on fire while on stage at a televised political debate then hugged politician Kamruzzama Fauji which set them both up in flames. Singh was hospitalized with burns on 95 percent of his body which most likely will be fatal, Fauji had burns on 75 percent of his body and is in critical condition. Singh's motives are unknown.

## South Sudan

The United Nations released reports about the hundreds of civilians who were killed in conflicts in the city of Bentiu in South Sudan on April 15 and 16. The massacre is being blamed on Nuer rebels led by Riek Machar. Thousands have gathered at a U.N. peacekeeping base, but water and sanitation shortage could cause further casualties.

Compiled and written by Israel LeFrak

Sources: Al Jazeera, CNN and BBC

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# UPD BYTES

Compiled by Israel LeFrak – Written by Diover Duario, Ian Bradley and Zachary Lathouris

April 23

13:18

Reporting person is concerned with what a class-mate has in his backpack in the Behavioral and Social Sciences building.  
*I'd be more concerned if it was empty.*

April 25

13:18

Male subject with a German Shepherd puppy on a leash is yelling obscenities at the University Quad.  
*What did the quad do to you?*

13:55

Plastic gas can containing an unknown substance locked to a bike rack.  
*Come on man, use the unknown substance rack.*

22:03

A male subject who was climbing on a stage prop fell off and landed on a female below him.  
*The prop was unharmed.*

22:08


An intoxicated and belligerent acting male trying to force his way onto the stage during a special event was warned and escorted out of the building.  
*On campus? In a college? You don't say.*

April 26

23:39

Multiple Arcata residents reporting there is a large drum circle playing the area of the Behavioral and Social Sciences building.  
*Humboldt: redefining acceptable social behavior.*

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# A well of knowledge

Local man John Waters envisions new program

## Community

by Robin March

John Waters has been illuminating the minds of students and faculty members alike at Humboldt State since the 1980s. Living with autism and asperger's syndrome, his trip through the education system and life in general has been nothing short of a journey.

Over those years he has taken many classes at HSU and has developed papers to turn into a program syllabus as well as his three-step communication chart in order to combine the practices he has seen taking place since his childhood.

"I call them physical, provincial and mathematical exponential programs or EXP's," Waters said. "In order to reach all three I combined them and made EXP 4, I use EXP 4 when presenting."

He was not fully aware of the condition he has lived with since childhood until he reached adulthood. His inability to constantly perform in the three-point model often resulted in misunderstanding and perpetuated stigma.

Humans possess three fundamental ways of communicating with each other, and if one of the three elements is uncentered, disruption may ripple from the source. Waters explained how the arrangement illustrates these three languages humans use with one another and how an imbalance in the equilibrium affects human experience. This is the basis for the potential new HSU program he has been developing for more than three years.

The project Waters has been working on starting is called the Peace Center and he hopes to use the Peace Center in order to introduce the Human Integration Peace Program. Waters also hopes the Peace Center will be a model for starting similar peace centers at other educational facilities.

The optimal idea for the center would be to employ students to help Waters organize his writings and other works while also helping spread

the word about the program in general. Because of the condition he lives with, Waters believes he needs the help of the student community in order to get his message out.

Students who would be working with the Peace Center would be able to make money while having the freedom to explore and express their individual talents. Students would be able to apply all relevant educational materials online for others to see, not only Waters' works but potentially their own as well.

The Peace Center would also reach out to people to introduce them to the HSU FAST Trust, which would pay for workers.

The challenges Waters

alone in his efforts. He has received help from multiple professors since he first arrived at HSU. Mike Thomas, a business professor, who been meeting and discussing the program syllabus with Waters.

"I think John has gone through a different educational and social background due to his disease," Thomas said. "That's given him an opportunity to have a different perspective."

Waters also has the support of fellow students such as Alan Evangelist, a graduate student who is studying environmental systems.

"I began meeting with him in person to be able to help him make his papers more understandable," Evangelist said. "He has a lot to say and it's always nice to hear him talk."

Evangelist has been working with Waters since the middle of last semester. He agrees with Waters' ideas for the program, however it still lacks a solid curriculum.

The potential for students while in school expands far beyond the book-centered curriculum classrooms often consist of. However the capability of a student is weighed by what they retain from lectures and are able to reproduce upon test-taking. This need for constant replication of scholarly information frequently results in a surplus of academic concentration and a lack of personal reflection, expression and connection.

Waters yearns to help enlighten the education system and break down the barriers barring student success with his program of mind and body integration within the classroom.

"I focus on different modes of expression," Waters said. "Humans have immense potential,"

"I think John has gone through a different educational and social background due to his 'disease'. That's given him an opportunity to have a different perspective."

— Mike Thomas  
Business professor

has dealt with since youth has granted him an understanding that he believes is repeatedly overlooked in society and the education system. Waters wants to use his experiences to reach out to students in a way he feels standard schooling cannot.

"How much time in school is given to paying attention to the physical [nature]?" Waters said.

Waters believes there is an absence of memory in schools and over many decades schools have paid attention only to the mathematical and provincial elements of producing classwork and communicating. Waters sees the result as a depression of creative problem solving and a lack of support- ed personal creativity.

"I'm not advocating that memory in school has stopped," Waters said. "However something has to change."

He believes the syllabus he has been writing for the program will reach students in a way others have failed to do.

Waters has not been

Robin March may be contacted at  
thejack@humboldt.edu




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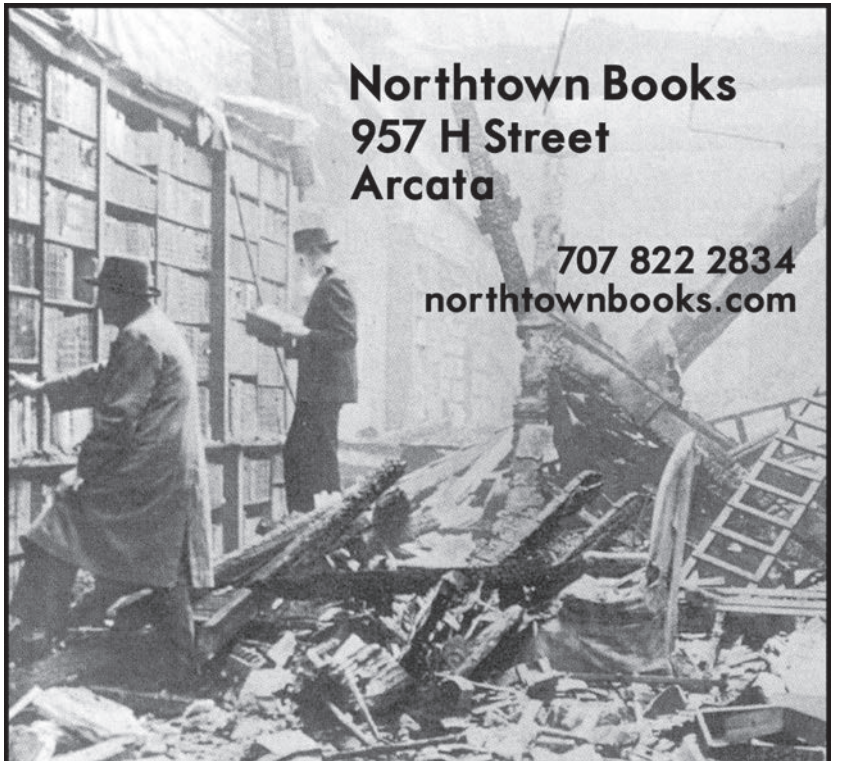
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*Friday May 2*  
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*Saturday May 3*  
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*Sunday May 4*  
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*Wednesday May 7*  
Sci Fi Night ft. Phantom from Space (1953)  
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*Thursday May 8*  
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*Saturday May 10*  
The Headhunters w/ The Getdown  
Doors at 9 p.m. | \$22/\$18 | 21+

*Sunday May 11*  
Tangled (2010)  
Doors at 5:30 p.m. | \$5 | All ages

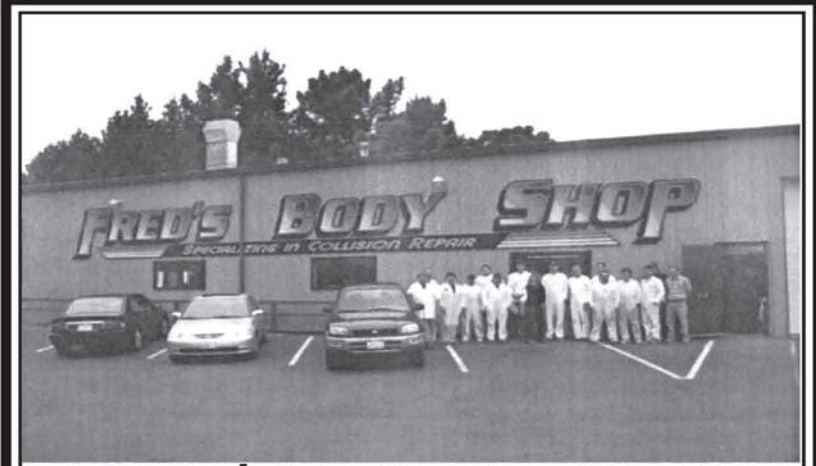


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# Look, but don't touch

## Starfish disease being researched



HSU marine laboratory technician Grant Eberle, points to a starfish suffering with the “wasting syndrome.” | Nicole Willared

Campus  
by Nicole Willared

In the shelter of Trinidad Head, Grant Eberle, a marine technician for Humboldt State held a white bucket and walked the slippery rugged rocks under the pier searching for starfish.

All the starfish from HSU’s marine lab invertebrate touch tank were removed last Wednesday because they have a fatal disease, according to Yvonne Kugies, the office manager at the HSU’s marine laboratory.

“All the starfish were taken out of the touch tank,” Kugies said. “The loss was so significant, they were disintegrating in the tank and Grant had to take measures.”

Eberle, who has been the equipment technician at HSU’s marine laboratory in Trinidad since 1996, said whatever is affecting the starfish is in the water tanks at the marine laboratory.

“I was pulling four or five starfish out of the tank every day,” Eberle said. “First we noticed it with the ochre stars, then the leather stars and over the last two weeks we’ve lost every single sunflower star.”

The marine lab has groups come to visit, but when people interacted with the starfish in the touch tanks it caused problems.

“It’s not a good idea to have a tank full of diseased stars,” Eberle said. “One of the guests pulled a leg off the starfish. It was disturbing for the tourists.”

Sean Craig, a marine biology professor at HSU, said the starfish disease is being researched by faculty members and HSU students.

Craig said there is a correlation between increased water temperatures in the ocean and higher levels of starfish wasting syndrome.

He said it is related to El Niño which brings warm water with poor nutrients along the Pacific Coast.

“It’s called sea star wasting disease,” Craig said. “They get these lesions on their skin, and if it gets worse, the arms fall off and the sea star dies. It’s happening more on the West Coast.”

HSU faculty teacher and marine biologist Katie McDonald is investigating the cause of the disease and agreed with Craig.

“Increasing water and air temperatures stresses the animals and render them more susceptible to the disease,” McDonald said.

She said it is not just here on our Humboldt Coast that starfish are suffering. Sea star wasting disease is being seen in different geographic areas which makes it unlikely that there is a single cause responsible for the disease.

“The syndrome is widespread up and down the coast. The Northern-Eastern Pacific, where we are, but also the Western Atlantic, even in the Mediterranean Sea,” McDonald said. “There might be more than one disease agent that animals are coping with.”

Mary Colleen Hannon, a third-year marine biology student, and biology graduate student Jana Hennessy have spent the last two semesters doing research on sea star wasting with McDonald at the Telonicher Marine Lab. The team of HSU undergraduate and post-bachelor students studying the ecology of wasting disease presented their research last Friday at HSU’s IdeaFest.

“Sea star wasting syndrome is something we’ve seen and noticed a pattern,” Hannon said. “Our coast alone has a great eco-system for this kind of research.”

The research consisted of testing, specifically ochre stars’ response to elevated air and water temperatures.

Hannon said their research was performed specifically on ochre stars (Pisaster ochraceous) because they are common and ecologically important.

“Ochre sea stars are abundant on our sea shores, it’s recognizable, bright orange and you can see them,” Hannon said. “Also, it was this population at the beginning of our study that was most affected.”

Hannon said their research findings did not produce the results she was expecting to see and said the starfish may have already been acclimated to warmer temperatures because of the time of year when the experiments were conducted.

“We were expecting to see more instances of mortality but we didn’t,” Hannon said. “Our stars were taken in the fall; so that means the starfish spent a whole summer in warm water and air when the tide was low.”

Hannon said the team of students has already begun the second phase of their research. They will use the same method of research, repeating the experiments they conducted in the fall: the current round of research started in March. The two have reason to believe the starfish could be seasonally affected.

In the meantime, Eberle is keeping starfish out of the touch tanks at the marine laboratory until health conditions improve. He posted a sign on the glass door opening to the patio observation area which described the phenomenon and apologized for the inconvenience.

“Whatever it is, we have it in our marine lab system,” Eberle said. “It’s not getting filtered out by our sand filters. Starfish are one of the easiest creatures to keep alive, they’re practically indestructible.”

Nicole Willared may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



# Taking gravity for granted

Continued from page 1

The torsion pendulum is a specialized piece of equipment used to measure gravity at a quantum scale.

Many of the parts had to be designed and built by the students here on campus. They would design a part on a computer and give it to equipment technician Marty Reed who has worked at HSU for 37 years.

“Some [students] have never built anything before, so it is fun to help,” Reed said. “I feel like I am making toys for big kids.”

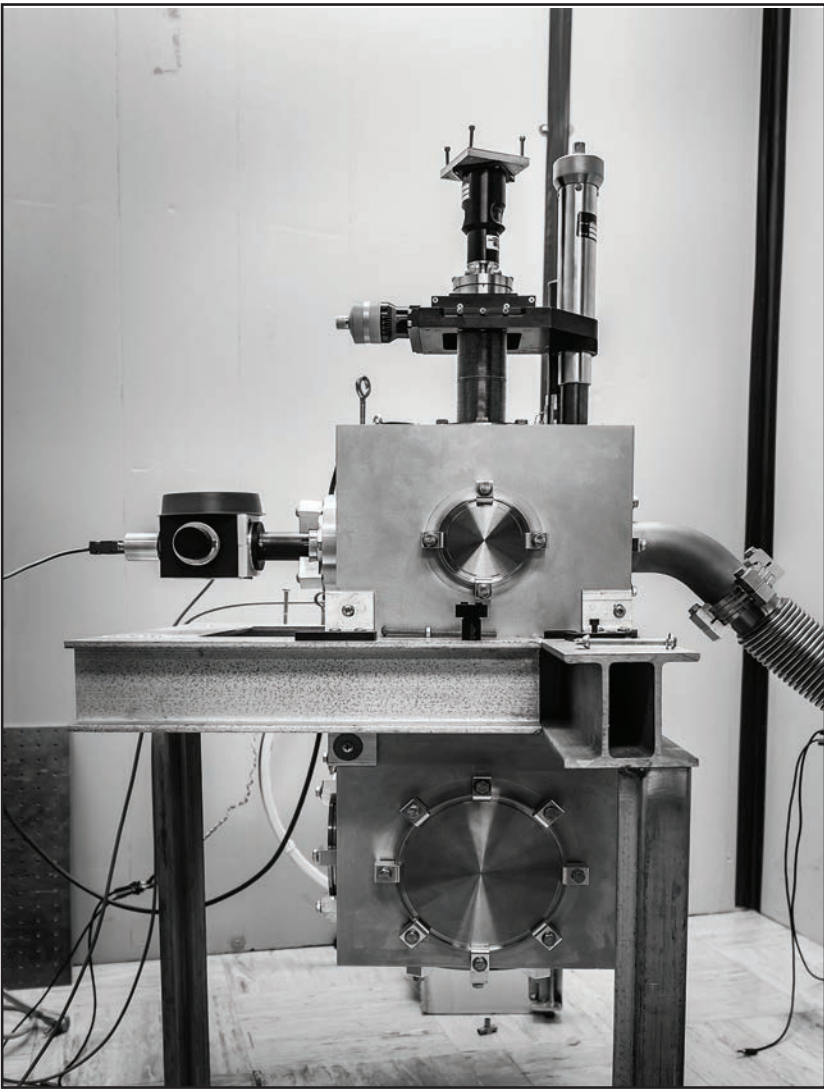
The pendulum which is made of titanium and aluminum, hangs from a fiber one quarter the thickness of average human hair. A mass is moved closer to the device until it is about half a hair away, and they measure how much the pendulum twists in response and if it lines up with current theories that objects of different masses are affected by gravity equally.

What makes it difficult is measuring the tiny shift in the pendulum. They have to use lasers which need to be pointed precisely or the data is useless. Much of the work was simply designing the parts used to measure this shift.

Once the torsion pendulum is finished, research into gravity can begin. It will not be simple though due to the sensitivity of the equipment.

“Measurements can change simply because a student wanders outside the lab door, or a car driving by,” Hoyle said.

Making sure the measurements are accurate is going to be almost as big of a challenge as the actual experiment itself.



Torsion pendulum under vacuum. | Sebastian Hedberg

Leopardi is graduating in the spring, and new students are picking up where she left off. Michael Ross, a physics major, is taking over some of Leopardi’s responsibilities. He is one of three students chosen to work as research assistants during the summer.

“I am excited to be able to help out on this project, it’s doing things nobody else has done,” Ross said. “It was a lot at first, I had to figure out things by myself. It let me think about what I was doing more without someone telling me what to do.”

With the experiment still in its infancy new students will be able to be drawn in and experience the future of gravity research, following the footsteps of Einstein and Newton.

“If we discover gravity works differently at the atomic scale we have opened a big can of worms,” Hoyle said. “We would then have to design tests to figure out what is causing this.”

Sebastian Hedberg may be contacted at [thejack@humboldt.edu](mailto:thejack@humboldt.edu)

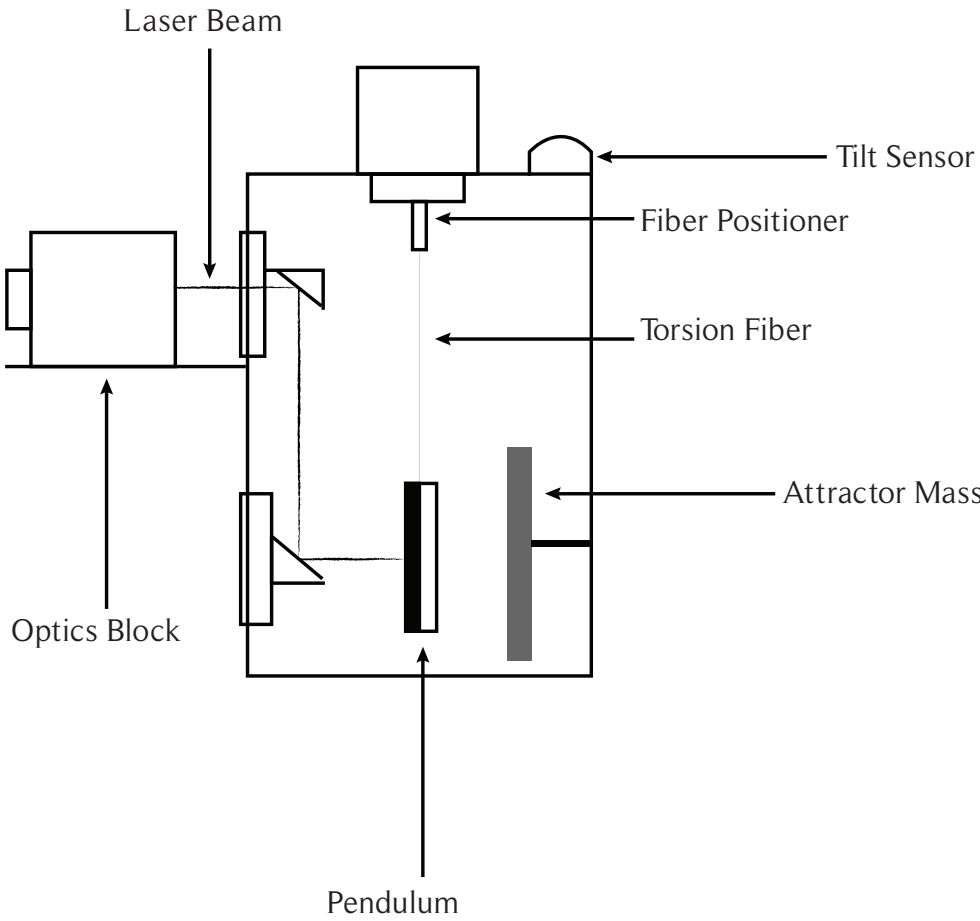


Diagram of torsion pendulum. | Sebastian Hedberg

# Everyone needs a study break.

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# ASSOCIATED STUDENTS 2014-15 ELECTION RESULTS



## President

	Round 1	Final
<b>Jerry Garcia Dinzes</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>458</b>
Rashod A.S. Berkeley	389	432
Tsolak “Mike” Kirakosyan	237	0

## Administrative Vice President

**Ana L. Cortes 886**

## Student Affairs Vice President

**T.J. Singh 521**

Erin Anderson 435

## College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Representative

**Devante L. Smith 263**

## College of Natural Resources and Sciences Representative

**Nicholas Colbrunn 190**

**Nathaniel A. McGuigan 107**

**Thomas H. Kupelian 106**

## College of Professional Studies Representative

**Taylor J. Mitchell 206**

**Brenda Hernandez 6**

**Terreivia Shirley 2**

## At-Large Representative

**Aracely Curiel 811**

**Akira Brathwaite 6**

## Graduate Representative

**Patric Esh 6**

\*CANDIDATES IN BOLD HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO 2014-15 AS COUNCIL

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### RANKED CHOICE VOTING

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ELECTIONS 2014

Associated Students (AS) Fee Ballot Question Do you favor increasing the Associated Students (AS) Fee from the current \$101 (\$51 Fall semester, \$50 Spring semester) per year fee to \$113 (\$57 Fall semester, \$56 Spring semester) per year in 2014-15 and \$117 (\$59 Fall semester, \$58 Spring semester) per year in 2015-16? The fee would remain at \$117 thereafter until adjusted by a future referendum. A majority approval is required.

**1 Yes - A yes vote indicates you are in favor of the proposed fee increase. 612**

2 No - A no vote indicates you are not in favor of the proposed fee increase. 439



For more information visit: [www.humboldt.edu/associatedstudents](http://www.humboldt.edu/associatedstudents)



# HSU alumnus undergoes extensive spine surgery



The move that resulted in Steve Watts' injury. | Sebastian Hedberg

Continued from page 1

Mercy Medical Center in Redding around midnight and was conscious until he underwent surgery around 9 a.m. on Sunday which Raskin said lasted about seven hours.

Watts remains hospitalized and is surrounded by family members who traveled across the country to be at his bedside.

"They flew out from Florida and they're with him right now," Raskin said. "They're coping the best they can."

Fighters who compete in the So You Wanna Fight tournament are not required to have medical coverage and are not compensated for injuries sustained in the ring. However, about \$750 was donated by those in attendance to cover medical expenses like ambulance costs.

Local fight promoter Don Arnott said he had never witnessed an injury this serious in the event's 24-year history.

"It's recommended they have their own medical coverage," Arnott said. "It's up to the individual competitor when they sign up."

Participants are required to pass a medical screening and sign a waiver stating they do not suffer from a pre-determined list of health problems before competing.

However, the system is not set up to catch fighters who choose not to disclose certain aspects of their medical history.

One fighter on Saturday night's card was unable to continue after suffering seizures backstage following his second match. After looking into his condition, event staff learned that the fighter has suffered from seizures since childhood.

"We try to make sure the fighters are safe and we have a doctor at ringside for all the fights," Arnott said. "Our heart goes out to [Watts] and his family."

Watts' friend and former girlfriend Jenny Keenan said there has been a massive outpour of love and prayers for the Arcata local and described him as strong, enthusiastic and loving.

The Humboldt State alumnus earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science, a master's in globalization and also started a wrestling club on campus.

Watts is an active community member known for his jam band Steve Watts & The Humboldt All-Stars and owns Passion Presents, a local music promotions company created in 2004.

Throughout the years, Watts has participated in Arcata Chamber of Commerce, Arcata Main Street meetings and is a member of the environmentalist group, Californians for Alternatives to Toxins.

Watts recently dedicated himself to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a martial art that emphasises takedowns and grappling. According to Keenan, Watts recently won a national Jiu-Jitsu championship and has many MMA medals.

Funds for Steve Watts' medical expenses can be donated online at <https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/08k4/steve-watts-fund> or in person at Mirador Glass LLC in McKinleyville.

Friends and family have not released Watt's official prognosis and are reserving hope that he may still recover from the injury.

"He's the most determined and strongest person I know," Raskin said. "If anyone can get through this, he can."

John Ferrara may be contacted at [thejack@humboldt.edu](mailto:thejack@humboldt.edu)

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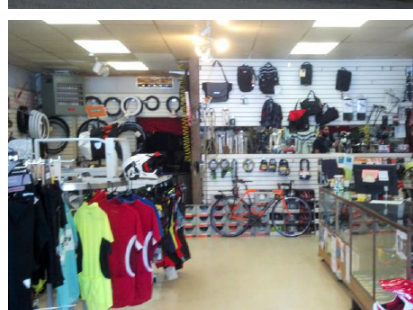
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# Conquering the boulder

*HSU hosts ninth annual bouldering competition*

## Bouldering

by Justin Bell

With music playing and clouds of chalk in the air, the ninth annual bouldering competition was in full swing Saturday night at Humboldt State.

Competitors gathered to tackle custom-built routes made specifically for the competition.

The competition took place mainly at the rock wall in the Student Recreation Center. There were additional bouldering routes at the West Gym as well.

SRC supervisor Ruth Sturtevant has been working for the center since the first competition and has helped organize the event since the third competition.

"I love providing this opportunity for students to partake in," Sturtevant said. "It's an atmosphere with the music going and everybody is having a good time bouldering."

The competition was divided up into men's and women's divisions as well as four categories: beginner, intermediate, advanced and mutant.

In each category competitors have 10 bouldering routes to complete. Each route is marked by colored tape on the holds of the route. A competitor is only allowed to touch the holds that coincide with the route to receive credit.

At the top of each route there is a U-shape using the colored tape to mark the end of the course. A competitor must reach this and be able to put their hand across it to complete the route.

HSU alumnus Matt Deshazo, 31, competes in the mutant category and has attended the bouldering competition since its inception eight years ago.

"Bouldering has very gymnast-oriented movements," Deshazo said. "It com-

bines all forms of climbing: power, technique and finesse."

The competition had an open format to complete the routes. About three and a half hours was given for the competitors to complete as many of the routes as they could. The routes get harder as competitors progress from the first to tenth course.

Competitors who completed the route on the first try received 10 additional points. The competitor must also record the number of falls or failed attempts at the route receiving deductions each time.

When a competitor completes one of the routes they need to have a witness sign off on it to authenticate its completion.

Once the open bouldering time ended, points were added up to determine the climber's score.

Carlton Wei and Michelle Succow took first in the beginners category. Edward Tyler and Kristy Dunne took first in the intermediate category. Alek Aker and Charlie Beck took the top spot in the advanced category. For the the mutant category Andrew Lyons-Gould and Lydia Zowada placed in first.

Although it was a competition, the atmosphere was friendly. Fellow competitors would cheer each other on to give climbers the emotional support needed to complete each route.

Amelia Litz, a 22-year-old botany major, is part of the HSU bouldering team and has competed in other bouldering competitions in Northern California. Litz competed in the intermediate category.

"My favorite part about bouldering is surprising myself," Litz said. "Like doing a move you didn't think you could do or have never done before."

Justin Bell may be contacted at [thejack@humboldt.edu](mailto:thejack@humboldt.edu)



Andrea Bruhnke has been climbing for five years. | Rebekah Staub



Kristy Dunne ascends on advanced route. | Rebekah Staub



The competition took place in two different gyms. | Rebekah Staub

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Despite his torn up hands, Max Kittel continues to climb. "I usually think about competitions as a climbing party," Kittel said.  
I Rebekah Staub



Andrew Lyons-Gould ascends an advanced climb. He won first place. I Rebekah Staub

# BOULDERING FINALISTS

## Men

### Beginner

1. Carlton Wei
2. Cody Liles
3. John Andre

### Intermediate

1. Edward Tyler
2. Austin Maguire
3. David Clarke

### Advanced

1. Alek Aker
2. Max Kittel
3. Bo Hellams

### Mutant

1. Andrew Lyons-Gould
2. Taylor Knott
3. Max Jacobs

## Women

### Beginner

1. Michelle Succow
2. Cecily Chavira
3. Kasey Macrae

### Intermediate

1. Kristy Dunne
2. Mia Litz
3. Nicola Walters

### Advanced

1. Charlie Beck

### Mutant

1. Lydia Zowada

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## Student survival: making it through class

### Campus

by Javier Rojas

It's Monday morning and your biology teacher has decided to treat the classroom to a two-hour-long slideshow about chlorophyll. You're sitting next to some kid who has no shoes on. We've all been there before.

Students have different ways of surviving long lecture classes. Whether it be a general education or major course, getting through them is a task in its own right.

Victor Feyling is a studio art major who gets through lectures by drawing in his sketchbook and working on various projects for his other classes.

"Lectures, at times, can get really boring and most of the stuff I already know," Feyling said. "I usually work on whatever I'm assigned to in my art classes and try to get some work in."

Feyling said professors never notice him at work during classes and students don't bother him while he draws in class.

"I think its a perfect time to get out my sketchbook when lectures get dull after an hour or so," Feyling said. "I get a lot more done than I would if I just sat down in class and took notes."

Students use unique strategies to help keep themselves on task. Critical race, gender and sexuality major Marissa Lopez chews gum during classes as a way to stay focused

when things get tedious.

"The burst of cold mint really does keep me awake during boring classes and I usually chew through-out class," Lopez said. "Mint gum is a refresher to me and I always carry gum with me just in case."

Environmental protection major Claire Stephenson also carries gum with her just in case she has a dull lecture that day.

"I recently started using 5 Gum and this stuff keeps you awake during anything," Stephenson said. "I always try to use the strongest mint possible and it usually keeps me focused in class."

Alex Jara is an undeclared major and spends time in class watching soccer games on his laptop when he gets bored.

"I'm a huge Barcelona fan and I try to keep up with my team as much as possible and if that means watching games during class so be it," Jara said. "Nobody really ever says anything to me but one time I got really excited because of a goal and cheered and I got some stares after that."

Jara said that during his time at Humboldt State he has seen other students watch soccer games during class.

"We all need something to help us get through boring-ass classes and soccer is my escape from that at times," Jara said.

Some students would rather be bored in classes with friends instead of suffering alone. Chemistry major

Jessica Ramirez invites her friends to some of her chemistry classes when she knows its going to be dull.

"It's usually two or three of them that come along. My professors never really say anything. It's a big class so nobody ever really notices them there," Ramirez said. "I just really like the company that they bring and for some reason it helps me concentrate more easily with them around."

Ronniesha Spears is a kinesiology major, and she listens to different genres of music during class to keep her focused.

"I usually put headphones in one ear and sit in the middle of the class so I wont be seen. I always hear new music on iTunes radio and so far I've noticed that Japanese music is really effective. I don't know why but it does the trick," Spears said. "Professors never say anything and I always try to keep my music low so I don't disturb anyone."

Azariah Coblentz is a biochemistry major that spends his time during long classes on his phone.

"I don't really pay attention to those classes, especially the ones that I don't care about. All you're there for is a letter grade and most of the stuff I already know," Coblentz said. "I sit down and mind my own business. It's the best way to get through any class."

Javier Rojas may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

Illustration by Ian Bradley



The Rock Ptarmigan, colloquially known as the Snow Chicken in the United States, perches in the Wildlife building. | Henry Faust



The perpetually motionless Grizzly bear inhabits the wildlife building. | Henry Faust

## Get stuffed Humboldt State's taxidermied animals

Continued from page 1

Some of the birds are posed to look alive. Skins and eggs in nests are also on display.

The collection is on display throughout the building for students, faculty and anyone walking through to look at. Specimens are used in lab classes for students to handle and study anatomy. Working with a taxidermied animal provides more learning opportunities than a photo in a textbook. The collection is also open to the research community so scientists can study actual specimens to aid their research.

The oldest specimen in the collection is a passenger pigeon from 1875. It is also one of the two extinct species HSU holds in its collection. The other is the Carolina parakeet. The collection also contains numerous endangered species such as the northern spotted owl, which can be found locally.

Danufsky is not the only person contributing work to the collection. Students frequently volunteer to help in the preparation of new specimens. She trains them in the proper techniques needed to prepare them.

HSU wildlife major Cynthia Robbiola, 30, is a student volunteer and has always wanted to prepare wildlife specimens.

"I like to be able to test myself," Robbiola said. "Preparing

specimens allows me to improve my anatomy skills for species that I would not be able to receive in lab."

Before new specimens can be used for research or education they need to be prepared. Generally the deceased animal given to the collection is the result of roadkill, window strikes or it did not survive at a local wildlife rehabilitation center.

Danufsky or one of her student volunteers goes to work transforming it into a specimen. First the skin is removed from the body. Then the entrails are taken out. Certain parts that can be used as a specimen are saved — the skull in mammals or the beak and skeleton in birds. If a live mount — a life-like display — is being prepared, a fake body is created to put the skin on. Wires are used to help keep the legs and body in certain positions. Measurements are taken and recorded to be used for studies in the future.

HSU wildlife major Emily Thorne, 21, has been a volunteer for the collection since fall 2011.

"Our goal is for the specimens we create to be around for 300 years," Thorne said. "We can turn the death of the animal into a positive thing."

Justin Bell may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



# HSU Centennial time capsule burial



A community member shovels sand on top of the time capsule buried in front of the HSU library. I Henry Faust

Campus & Community  
by Henry Faust

A crowd converged on the concrete stairs of Humboldt State’s library to witness history being made — and buried.

On Friday at 11 a.m., a time capsule containing historically-relevant items from the campus was buried under

the library’s steps commemorating Humboldt State’s year-long centennial celebration as it came to a close on Founder’s Day on April 25.

The styrofoam capsule contained an assortment of items that were close to current students, faculty and staff members. Some of the items included were native plant seeds, student artwork,

and an issue of The Lumberjack.

President Rollin Richmond addressed the crowd at the start of the event. For 50 years, the time capsule will lay under the steps of the HSU library. It will finally be dug up in 2064.

Henry Faust may be contacted at [thejack@humboldt.edu](mailto:thejack@humboldt.edu)

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<b>MATH 120 - Intermediate Algebra</b> May 27 - July 31   MTWTH   11 - 12:30 pm	Harry Griffith Hall 226	4.0	B. Morin
<b>MATH 5 - Contemporary Mathematics</b> May 27 - June 26   MTWTH   8 - 10:30 am	Harry Griffith Hall 226	3.0	B. Morin
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The cast and crew of Playhouse Creatures. | Ashley Villavicencio

Campus

by Ian Bradley

It used to be common for men to dress up and act like women. It was called theater.

Playhouse Creatures is a play about the changing gender dynamics of theater in the 17th century. Set in England in 1663, it is a fictionalized account of stories of the first women allowed to act onstage. The characters were real people, and their stories are based on historical accounts of what actually happened to them.

Adrienne Ralsten, who plays one of the first women on stage Elizabeth Farley, said that it took her some time to understand the weight of the story, and appreciate that her character was a pioneer.

“My character is the designated bitch,” Ralsten said. “But she has her reasons. She’s not a monster, she’s doing what she thinks is important.”

Ralsten said the story addresses issues that are still relevant today, namely sexism.

“It’s a feminist story, but it doesn’t hit you over the head with it,” Ralsten said. “It shows how things really were, and I appreciate that. It’s a very human play.”

Queena Isadora De Lany plays Mrs. Betterton, the oldest character in the story. She said researching the time period and the struggles the characters went through opened her eyes to the issues such as sexism and ageism that were and still are prevalent in society.

“Her age affects whether she can be on stage or not. That’s still the case today,” De Lany said. “The roles for

women were sexualized ones, they weren’t intelligent characters, mistresses and wives mostly.”

There is not much information about Mrs. Betterton available, so De Lany prepared for her role by researching other actresses of the time period. She said that she was inspired by their dedication to the theater.

Of the eight characters in the play, two are men. Geo Alva plays the Earl of Rochester, whom he describes as the male oppressor character.

“He wrote poetry and plays. He was real and he did crazy things,” Alva said. “But he was still a sexist pig. He was all about women and alcohol.”

Initially he had trouble pinning down the character and embodying his misogynistic personality.

“A week before opening, the director told me to translate all my lines into Spanish and the evil started creeping in,” Alva said. “It brought out that attitude, and reminded me of how men treat women in Mexico. I translated them back and [that attitude] stayed.”

Alva said he relates to the issues of prejudice presented in the play. As the only male Latino in the theater program he related to the characters’ desire to be seen just as an actor, rather than a Latino actor. This is similar to the female characters, who didn’t want to be defined by their gender.

“It’s a story about people just trying to live their lives, and overcome the issues facing them,” Alva said.

*Playhouse Creatures will be performed May 1-3 at 7:30 in the Gist Hall Theater. There will also be a matinee May 4, at 2 p.m.*

Ian Bradley may be contacted at  
thejack@humboldt.edu

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## EDITORIAL

# Is it all worth it?

## *The future of The Lumberjack writers*

There is a couch in “The Lumberjack” office. It’s not comfortable. Actually, it is probably the least comfortable couch ever made. Almost every single member of the newspaper staff has slept on it at some point in time while working late hours for the paper. Few of us get paid, those who do get very little, and most of us have let our other classes fall by the wayside for the sake of the paper.

Every year Career Cast reports on the top rated jobs and lowest rated jobs of that year. The two worst careers for the past two years were lumberjacks and newspaper reporters. That gave us all a hearty little chuckle.

But we are college students. We have time to change our minds, pick another path, maybe look for a career that would pay decently. So what are we all doing?

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau found that only 27 percent of college graduates find a job in their field of study. That means that more than 70 percent of graduates gave up on what they received a degree in to do something completely different. On top of that only 62 percent of graduates ended up with jobs that required a college degree. So almost 40 percent of col-

lege graduates end up with jobs that they could have received without the cost of a college degree.

These statistics and a dire rating of our field point to a stressful career and a lifetime of paying back student loans with a measly salary. A feeling I’m sure plenty of students from different fields are familiar with.

But journalism is not just a career for those looking for stability.

So far, being a journalist means drinking too much coffee, staying up too late, eating too little and stressing too much. We don’t deprive ourselves of basic necessities because we want to, we do it because these stories are important to us. There aren’t many of us, so sometimes that means we have to go without. When something happens at Humboldt State, the faculty gets to tell their side of the story, and we attempt to gain as much of the students’ perspective as we can.

Being students has helped us realize why we want to be reporters. We strive to tell stories with honesty. When we cover a story, whether it be a tragedy or a profile on bronies, we want to make sure we are giving voice to the people whose stories we are telling. We don’t do it for ratings,

or for the big money, we do it because we care.

When the founding fathers wrote the First Amendment it was not just to allow the public to speak freely. It created an ability for the people to question what happens around them. Freedom of the press was created to allow reporters to act as a watchdog of those in power. To speak up to corruption and infringement to personal freedoms. To provide a voice to the governed.

Journalism is not a career. It is a calling.

Everyone of us has a desire to speak out and to use our voices to better society. This is not a career for those looking for a comfortable life, a 9-to-5, or for weekends off. This is a job for real-time historians, purveyors of truth, travellers and whistleblowers. We are writers who are still too insecure to write novels.

We may be romantics and masochists, but we chose our fate for a reason.

# Reverse racism

by Ryan Nakano

*I write from the experience of a privileged, Japanese-American, male college student.*

There’s been a lot of talk about racism over the past couple of weeks, what with Clippers’ owner Donald Sterling, and the Supreme Court’s upheaval of affirmative action in Michigan’s public universities. No matter where I turn in the news media it’s been increasingly difficult to scroll down lists of article comments without running into quips over racism.

To be clear, there’s nothing wrong with conducting social dialogue over the Internet just as long as it becomes a means to educate rather than humiliate.

But I digress, as I continue to lurk through comments it doesn’t take too long before someone throws out a phrase that desperately needs to be addressed. I am talking about “reverse racism.”

First off, there’s no such thing.

Racism exists as a systemic problem. It is a distinct kind of oppression that hails from the power and privilege of a certain class on both an institutional and individual level. The problem with the term is one of definition.

Many understand racism on an individual level, whether it be racist jokes, remarks or acts of violence but there are those who continue to forget that racism is a social construction that can only be carried out by those born into the class of both power and privilege. In the case of the United States, this would be the white class.

Enter: reverse racism.

The term is problematic. Reverse racism is a phrase often used to describe prejudice and discrimination felt amongst the privileged white class. However, by using the term reverse racism in this manner we effectively diminish the reality

of a countrywide system of oppression that operates against people of color.

Racism and individual discrimination are not the same.

I continue to see social dialogue saturated in arguments of reverse racism, but the term misrepresents a much larger and ongoing struggle for those affected in this country. Spouting reverse racism can only hold us back, especially when it comes to finding change in a white, male-dominated culture.

Whether intentionally or not, using terms like reverse racism perpetuates society’s attempt to minimize the racism prominent in our society today.

But let’s not fool ourselves, it exists.

As a male who has benefitted from white privilege since birth, it has been easy to take it for granted. Even now it is hard for me to write an article about racism knowing my experience is limited to the beneficiary perspective and has the potential to come across as “just another white male writing on something he does not fully understand.”

In simplified terms, I recognize my own ignorance.

I recognize, the only reason I have come to understand racism as a social construct of the dominant white class comes out of a lower division college class, the tuition of which was paid for by my parents, no doubt a product of white privilege.

Lastly, I understand a less-than-500-word article on the topic of racism and the inherent problems of reverse racism does not do the issue justice. However, it’s a start to a much larger discussion, hopefully one without reverse racism.

Ryan Nakano may be contacted at [thejack@humboldt.edu](mailto:thejack@humboldt.edu)



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This is your newspaper.  
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WHAT A GIRL WANTS  
WHAT A WOMAN DESERVES  
WHAT A GIRL DESERVES

Free to be feminist

by Tabitha Soden

Why do we need feminism?

It is a question this column has tried to answer throughout the semester by highlighting continuing issues of inequality between men and women. The topics have ranged from women in politics to gender-marketed toys. Some topics were serious and some were light-hearted but they all pointed out one thing: we still have a ways to go.

We need feminism because many people still do not understand what feminism means. Feminism fights for baby-changing tables in men’s bathrooms and it fights for equal pay when women still make 77 cents to every dollar made by men, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report. Feminism fights for both sides and does not mean those who identify as feminists think women are superior.

The 250-pound man sitting next to you on the bus could be a feminist. An 80-year-old woman in Fortuna could be a feminist. I am a feminist.

We need feminism because women and girls are still complimented for being “pretty” more often than they are for being intelligent. We need feminism because women are still expected to want to be mothers. We need feminism because it is still unconventional for a mom to go to work while the dad stays home with the kids.

This column was not meant to say that women are smarter or that women can do everything that men can do and better, but that male and female roles are not set in stone. Not all men have to be leaders and not all single parents are female. We wanted to create a column that exposes people to topics that they may not have otherwise been exposed to.

The other day I was talking to my dad about some of the issues we have written about. Instead of listening to my opinions he asked, “You aren’t a feminist are you?” and he said the word feminist with a hint of disgust. But feminism is not the outdated, bra-burning stereotype it was in the 70s.

Feminism means equality and I will not feel bad for standing up for equality. Instead of perpetuating the misconception surrounding the word feminism, we need to stand up and look people in the eyes and say “Yes, I am.”

Singer Kate Nash said it well, “Feminism is not a dirty word. It does not mean you hate men, it does not mean you hate girls that have nice legs and a tan, and it does not mean you are a ‘bitch’ or ‘dyke;’ it means you believe in equality.”

The first column was tagged with the word feminism; we were told to take the tag away because it would turn people away. The old man reading “The Lumberjack” while drinking his morning coffee would be turned away by the word. But now, as the semester is coming to a close, and now that we have touched on so many important issues we want to make it clear that this column was about feminism. And feminism is about equality.

Tabitha Soden may be contacted at  
thejack@humboldt.edu



Don't toy with me

by Eduardo Barragan

For many of us masturbation is a taboo topic, especially with the mention of sex toys. Since their creation, sex toys were purchased shamefully at sex shops or phone ordered from late-night commercials.

Recently, vibrators have shown an increase in popularity. They are now sold by stores like CVS and Walmart. This popularity boost has MTV broadcasting vibrator advertisements during Teen Mom commercial breaks. We see vibrator talk in popular TV shows like “How I Met Your Mother” and even in movies like “Easy A.”

Women are now owning their sexuality and talking about their sex toys.

But when it comes to men owning sex toys, it is deemed shameful. A level of acceptance and in some cases pride, comes with a woman owning a vibrator but the idea of a man owning a fake vagina is seen sad and unnatural. The moment men show interest in products like “fleshlights” or “pocket-pussies” they are instantly seen as creepy.

Fake rubber vaginas have a record of causing fights between couples and can often lead to a breakup. Usually, a woman who finds a fake vagina in her boyfriend’s closet has her insecurities rattled.

She might think, *Why would he have such a toy and keep it in his closet? Aren't I enough for him? Is this a form of cheating?*

Three years ago, I went to a sex shop with my girlfriend at the time to buy her a vibrator. As we walked out, I joked about buying a fleshlight. Her reaction was less than understanding. She yelled, “What is wrong with you? That’s disgusting!”

But it’s just a sex toy.

It doesn’t change the state of a relationship. It is just something that a man uses to sexually gratify himself. It’s no different than women having a dildo except a guy won’t tell his buddies how great his fake vagina is.

Some people argue that vibrators have more attractive designs and they serve more functional purposes than fake vaginas. This is ridiculous, both serve the same exact purpose — to get the user to achieve an orgasm.

Even single men get dirty looks for talking about or owning a toy. But masturbation is a natural activity for both sexes. There shouldn’t be shame, guilt and fear overcoming men who think about purchasing a fake vagina. Whether you are in a relationship or single, masturbation happens.

If there is no shame for women to want a sex toy, then there shouldn’t be for men.

Eduardo Barragan may be contacted at  
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The Lumberjack Submission Policy

Send submissions to Opinion Editor Lauren Voigtlander at  
lvj67@humboldt.edu

Include “Attn: Opinion” in the subject line for email submissions.

Guest columns may not exceed 750 words.

New contributors may be given preference over returning contributors.

Include your name, telephone number, city of residence and affiliation with relevant campus or community organizations.

HSU students: please provide major and class standing.

We also welcome cartoons, spoof articles and other items.

Send letters to the editor to  
thejack@humboldt.edu

Include “Attn: Letter” in the subject line for e-mail submissions.

Letters to the editor may not exceed 350 words.

All submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Friday preceding publication.

All letters and columns may be edited for grammar, spelling and clarity.

We reserve the right to edit pieces that contain libel, slander, hate or discriminatory speech and pieces that may incite violence.

CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections for the week of April 23, 2014.



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- 2nd Place Best Infographic
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# CALENDAR

## May 1 - May 5

### THURSDAY, MAY 1 - SATURDAY, MAY 3

“Playhouse Creatures”  
A fictionalized account of true events “Playhouse Creatures” tells the story of six women who were among the first to act on stage  
Gist Hall Theatre  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
\$10 / Free for HSU students (limited seating) / \$8 students & seniors 18+

### FRIDAY, MAY 2

Spring Drag Show  
The Second annual Spring Drag Spectacular will showcase a range of gender-bending performances.  
Kate Buchanan Room  
8 p.m.  
Free

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

Zumbathon for FANN  
Two hours of Zumba and \$1 raffle tickets to raise money for Families Advocating Autism Now!. Hosted by the Humboldt State Business and Economics Club.  
Bayside Grange  
Noon - 2 p.m.  
\$10

### MONDAY, MAY 5

Nicotine-Anonymous  
Nicotine Addiction Recovery Meetings  
7-8 p.m.  
American Cancer Society Conference Room,  
2942 F Street, Eureka



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