Black History Month Lecture - From 'Good Negroes' To Martin Lawrence

By Nicole Frediani
Staff Writer

About a half dozen students gathered Monday for a presentation on the portrayal of blacks in the media, from "good Negroes" to Martin Lawrence.

The journey through celluloid history, presented by Cal State Hayward communications Professor Jim Forsher, dealt with blacks' portrayal in the media from the days of first feature films to the present.

"Today we examined everything from comic portrayals that are racist to comic portrayals that are based on race," Forsher said.

The presentation began with an examination of one of the most watched films in history, "The Birth of a Nation." The 1915 D.W. Griffith film, based on a book about the start of the Ku Klux Klan, was met with both protest and praise in its time.

Many, including the NAACP, protested the film for its portrayal of blacks and for its exaltation of the KKK. Others, including President Woodrow Wilson, praised it. The NAACP sued the makers of the film, taking the case all the way to the Supreme Court, where the film found great support.

"The Supreme Court argued that since the movie was not protected under the First Amendment, because it was entertainment, it could not be viewed as unconstitutional," Forsher said.

All this commotion did nothing but fuel the flames of interest, causing more people to view the film. Griffith, the son of a Civil War veteran, was perplexed by the controversy.

"The Negroes depicted in the film are good Negroes," Griffith wrote in a letter to the New York Times, one of the film's biggest critics. "They listened to their masters."

This kind of blind racism lasted well up to the mid 1950s and even later, according to Forsher, though much of the racism was not blatant.

Many films in this time period chose to ignore blacks and the social issues surrounding race and racism. Forsher showed a clip from 1945's "Meet Me In St. Louis," a film that portrays a wide-eyed Judy Garland in a "white world."

"What was that last clip missing?" Forsher asked the audience. "Anyone of color. The films of this time showed non-controversial, white, fun-loving, upper middle class people."

This racist view wasn't limited to film. Forsher also presented an example of the Jack Benny Show, a popular comedy sketch show from the 1950s.

The scene depicted an African tribe dancing and chanting, first in a commercial for Lucky Strike Cigarettes, then as part of a scene featuring Benny and comedian Bob Hope. The clip included Hope saying, upon arriving in the jungle, "I told you we would get in trouble if we got off the freeway."

The comment insinuated what could happen to a white man if he were to enter the "wrong" part of town.

Also popular in the '50s was the show "Amos and Andy." Forsher draws some comparisons between this show, now deemed as racist, and later programs like "The Jeffersons."

"I can't draw a line between "Amos and Andy" and a show like "The Jeffersons,'" said Forsher. "They are both self-deprecating humor."

This trend continued up to 1967 with the Stanley Kramer film, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." The film depicts the challenges of an inter-racial couple in the 1960s.

The film does more than just explore racism from whites towards blacks; it explores black on black and black on white racism as well.

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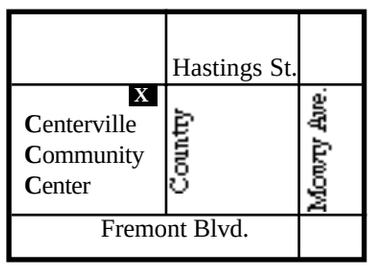


Anti-War Readings Of Anti-War Classic

By Jessica Ledbetter
Staff Writer

As President George W. Bush comes closer to a decision about war on Iraq, citizens worldwide have protested with peace rallies and Internet petitions, and Monday, March 3, many cities around the world will see performances of the classical Greek anti-war, sex-strike comedy, "Lysistrata."

Theater Professor Regina Cate will hold a reading of the work by Aristophanes at the CSUH Costa campus at 7 p.m. in the Oak Room. The performance will be by students in Cate's class on "Women in Dramatic Literature."

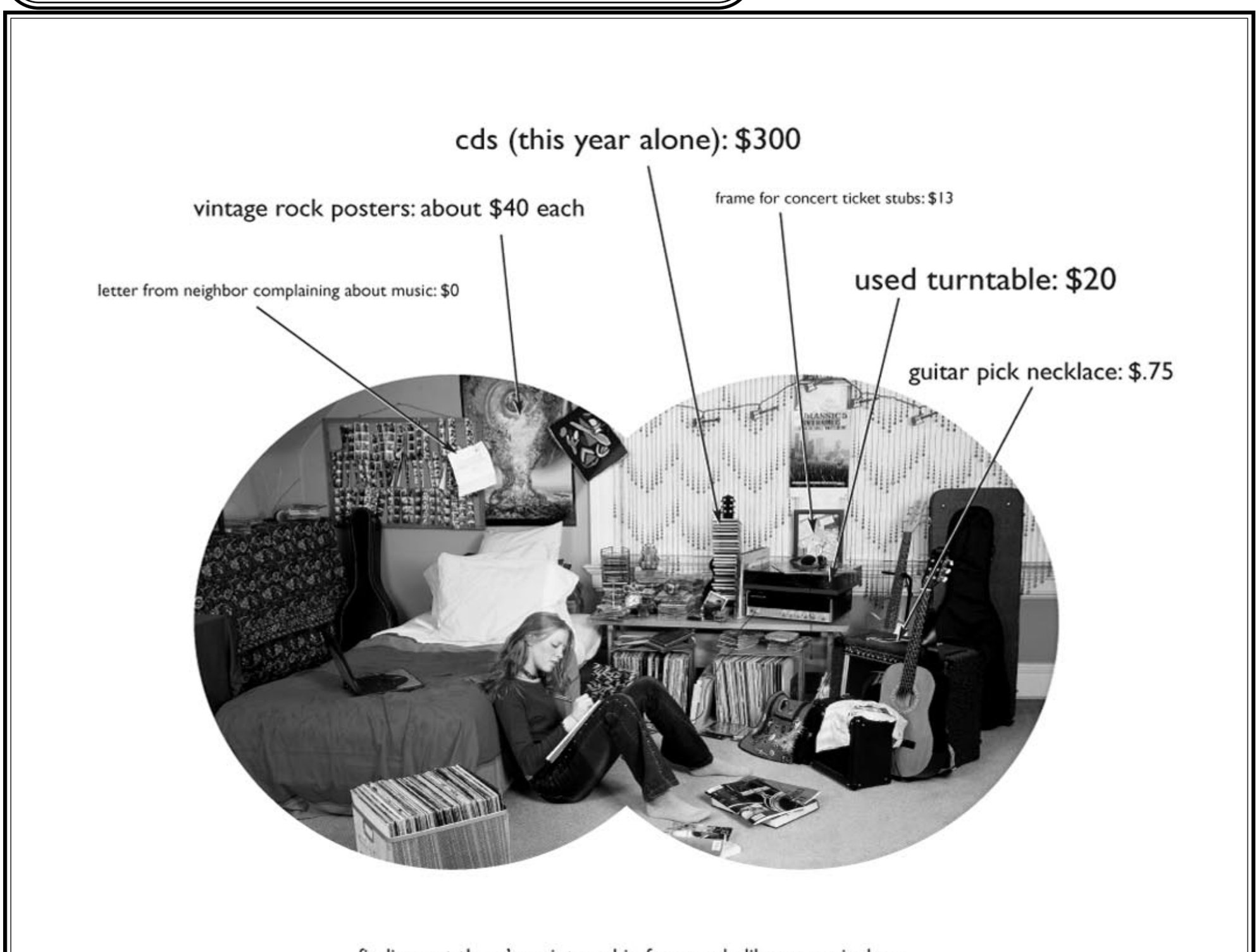
According to the Lysistrata Project Web site (www.lysistrataproject.com) the idea for the worldwide readings was conceived six weeks ago by New York actors Kathryn Blume and Sharron Bower.

"Before we started Lysistrata Project we could do nothing but sit and watch in horror as the Bush administration drove us toward a unilateral attack on Iraq," said Blume.. "So we emailed all our friends and put up a Web site. The response has been enormous."

In "Lysistrata," a group of women unite and refuse to sleep with their husbands until they can find a way to end a war. After the men agonize, they give in to the sex strike and the conflict is resolved without bloodshed.

Bower said, "Many people have e-mailed us to say they now feel empowered to do something and foster dialogue in their own communities about the dangers of this war."

More than 780 readings of the play are scheduled in 43 countries and all 50 of the United States. Celebrities like John Densmore of the Doors, actors Kevin Bacon, and Kyra Sedgwick will participate.



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To access the application form for your selected course of study, click on the "Apply Now" button or register for one of on-line course of study specific MasterCard Priceless Edge™ online distance-learning seminars developed by NEXTMOVE and running live the selected seminar. Participating distance learning seminars are approximately thirty minutes in duration and academic prerequisites are not required for participation; 4.) Submit an essay of no more than (250) words answering the question for your selected course of study. Essay questions for each course of study are as follows: (Sports Management) If you could start a new professional sports business, what would it be, and why? Music & Entertainment: If you could start your own music or entertainment company, what would it do and how would it be different? The entry must be your original creation, in English and cannot have been previously published or submitted in any prior competition. Modification of an existing work does not qualify as original; 5.) Fully complete the online entry form; and 6.) Click the "Submit" button. **Limit one entry per person and per e-mail address for each selected course of study for the duration of the Promotion Period (i.e. a maximum of one Sports Management and one Music & Entertainment essay). Additional entries received from such person and/or e-mail address thereafter will be void.** Your submission of an online entry constitutes your consent to participate in this Contest and your consent for Sponsor to obtain and deliver your name, address and other information to PST for the purpose of administering this Contest and for other uses by Sponsor as permitted by applicable law. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, incomplete, late, stolen, or misdirected entries or submissions; theft, destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries; failures or malfunctions of phones, phonelines or telephone systems; interrupted or unavailable network, server or other connections; any error, omission, interruption, defect or delay in any transmission or communication; traffic congestion on the Internet or for any technical problem, including but not limited to any injury or damage to entrant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Contest; errors in these Official Rules, in any Contest-related advertisements or other materials; the selection or announcement of winners or the awarding of prizes; the cancellation, suspension or modification of online distance-learning seminars, or other problems or errors of any kind whether mechanical, human, electronic or otherwise. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to void any and all entries of an entrant who Sponsor believes has attempted to tamper with or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play of this Contest. The use of automated entry devices is prohibited. All entries will become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned. **Judging:** A total of (50) winners [(25) Sports Management Winners and (48) Music & Entertainment Winners] will be selected for the duration of the Promotion Period based on the date and time entry is received in accordance with the Entry Periods outlined below beginning at 9:00:01AM CT and ending at 8:59:59AM CT respectively: Entry Period #1: 1/28/03-2/20/03, (16) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners; Entry Period #2 : 2/21/03-3/17/03, (17) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners; Entry Period #3 : 3/18/03-4/11/03, (17) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners. Entries received for each respective course of study during one Entry Period will not carry forward to subsequent Entry Periods. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges supervised by PST (an independent judging organization whose decisions will be final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest) based on the following criteria: 1.) Originality: 0-40 points; 2.) Creativity/Written Expression: 0-30 points; and 3.) Relevance to the theme: 0-30 points. The likelihood of winning a prize will depend on the quality of each entrant's submission as compared to the quality of all other entrants' submissions as judged in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. In the event of a tie, all such tied entries will be readjudged based on Originality: 0-100 points. If a tie still exists, the remaining tied entries will be readjudged based on Relevance to theme: 0-100 points. Winners will be notified by telephone and/or mail on or about 5/2/03. Neither Sponsor nor anyone acting on its behalf, will enter into any communications with any entrant regarding any aspect of this Contest other than to notify potential winners. Limit one prize per person, family, or household. **Prizes:** (25) Sports Management Winners & (48) Music & Entertainment Winners: Attend the MasterCard Priceless Edge™ Summer Study Program (hereinafter "summer study program") at a participating university to be designated by Sponsor between 6/2/03 and 7/3/03 featuring an introduction to each winner's selected course of study (either the Sports Management or Music & Entertainment industry) with access to select industry experts designated by Sponsor, open-ended curricula, classroom sessions four days/week (Monday - Thursday) and off-campus excursions one day/week (Friday). Prize includes round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest each winner's residence in the U.S., standard double-occupancy room/board on participating university's campus, on-campus meal plan designated by Sponsor, ground transportation to/from off-campus excursions, $1,000 which may be used toward spending money, and the opportunity to compete for one of twelve MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ post-summer study internship invitations for each respective course of study (Approximate Summer Study Program Retail Value "ARV" =$6,706). Total ARV of all prizes=$656,800. The MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Sports Management internship experience consists of (but is not limited to) the opportunity to join a MLB™ Club designated solely by Sponsor and participate in a two-week internship at said MLB™ Club's administrative offices to support the development and implementation of an in-stadium promotion. The MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Music & Entertainment internship experience consists of (but is not limited to) the opportunity to join Interscope Records and participate in a two-week internship at their administrative offices in Santa Monica, CA to manage and promote the release and media support of an artist/group to be determined solely by Sponsor. Both the Sports Management and Music & Entertainment internship experiences will also include a 5-day/4-night trip for intern to the 2003 MLB™ All-Star Game® in Chicago, IL between 7/12/03 and 7/16/03 consisting of round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest intern's residence in the U.S., standard double-occupancy hotel accommodations, a total of $1,000 spending money, a ticket to the 2003 CENTURY 21® Home Run Derby™ event and the 2003 MLB™ All-Star Game® exhibition, ground transportation to/from select promotion-related events, and other on-site activities to be determined by Sponsor. Prize and internship details not specifically set forth herein are at Sponsor's sole discretion. Exact dates of internship experience (tentatively early August 2003) to be designated by Sponsor. Internship selections will be conducted by the Dean of the summer study program and judged by a participating university faculty representative designated by Sponsor whose decisions are final and binding in all matters relating to the production internship tours and selection thereof. Internship selection process will be based upon numerical scores awarded as outlined below per each student's participation in summer study program activities, including but not limited to, performance during study group activities and case study analysis, teamwork, attendance and overall participation, and compliance with summer study programs and University codes of conduct as follows: issue identification and skill performance: 20%, Case study performance and study group interplay and cooperation: 30%, class and field study attendance/participation: 15%, and compliance with summer study programs and university codes of conduct: 15%. Summer study program classroom/off-campus excursion attendance is mandatory and winners must comply with all MasterCard rules and regulations relating to their participation in the summer study program. Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, impose disciplinary sanctions as winners'/interns, ranging from a warning to expulsion to referral for state or federal prosecution, for violation of federal, state or local laws, summer study program and participating university student codes of conduct. Content of summer study program to be determined solely by Sponsor and overseen are not for credit. Travel restrictions may apply and travel must take place on dates specified by Sponsor or prize will be forfeited and awarded to the runner-up. MLB™ Club(s), artist(s)/group(s), university(s) and/or other organization(s) or personality(s) featured in MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Contest promotional advertising are subject to availability. If any named MLB™ Club(s), artist(s)/group(s), university(s) and/or other organization(s) or personality(s) is unavailable to participate in the capacity specified for any reason, an entity/individual of similar stature as determined by Sponsor will participate in lieu of the applicable named entity and/or individual. **Miscellaneous:** No transfer, assignment, cash redemption, or substitution of prizes except by Sponsor due to prize unavailability, and then for a prize of equal or greater value. Federal, state and local taxes and all other costs and expenses not specified herein are winners' sole responsibility. Winners will be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release and (where legal) Publicity Release within (3) days of issuance of notification along with a copy of their current college/university transcript and must be in good academic standing as defined by their respective college/university at time of prize award. If any prize notification letter is returned as undeliverable, a runner-up will be awarded the prize. By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and 1.) Attest that their entry is an original creation that has not been previously published or submitted in any other competition; and 2.) Agree that Released Parties and their designees and assigns: a.) shall own the entry (and all material embedded therein) and shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to edit, publish, exploit and use the entry (or any portion thereof) in any way and in any media for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification from/to entrant or any third party; b.) shall have the right and permission (unless prohibited by law) to use entrant's name, voice, city/state of residence, photograph and/or other likeness for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for the purpose of displaying their name as a winner and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification; c.) are entry shall not violate the right of any third parties and shall not violate any applicable federal, state or local laws or ordinances; d.) shall have the right, in their sole discretion, to disqualify any entries that they deem to be obscene or otherwise not in good taste; e.) shall have no liability, and entrant will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Sponsor and the other entities named herein from and against any liability, loss, injury or damage of any kind (including attorney's fees) to any person or entity, including, without limitation, personal injury, death or damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of a prize or participation in this Contest and any travel related thereto including, but not limited to, any claims that entrant's submission infringes or violates the rights of any person or entity. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, terminate or suspend this Contest should virus, bugs, nonauthorized human intervention or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor, including but not limited to unauthorized intervention, security, fairness or proper play of this Contest and, if the Contest is terminated or suspended, at its discretion award prizes in a judging from among all non-suspect entries received prior to event requiring such modification, termination or suspension. **Winners List:** For the winners' names, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 6/2/03 to: MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Winners, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3106.

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AS Gives Help To PASA

No Decision on Pin Money

By Kristen Daniels
Staff Writer

The Associated Students Board has approved a request from the Pilipino American Student Association, (PASA) for $3000 to help pay for the cost of the organization's annual Pilipino Cultural Night, planned for May 24 and 25.

The total budget for the event is $11,515. PASA, a CSUH club, is expecting $1125 from various sponsors and $7000 from ticket revenues for the event. The request for funding from AS was to fill the gap.

The club performs community services such as food and clothing drives, cultural awareness programs, parent appreciation and bone-marrow drives.

The issue of what to do with the Sept. 11 memorial pins remains undecided. The pins originally were purchased with the intention of using them to raise money to benefit the children whose parent or parents died in the terrorist attack.

The board had researched the option of collecting a $5 donation for each pin.Each donation would also include an entry in a drawing for a laptop computer and miscellaneous gift certificates.

Since time and money have already been invested in the purchase of the pins, the expected time it would take to collect donations and organize a drawing, along with the possibility of incurring additional expenses because of the drawing, AS board member Jami Goldman suggested using the pins to promote AS and to encourage students to seek office.

"I personally believe that we need to cut our losses and just give away the pins," said Goldman. "I know that wasn't the goal initially . . . but sometimes goals need to be revised."

That suggestion raised the ire of Vice Chair Miguel Castaneda, who had spent time researching printing costs of the tickets and prices of the prizes.

Because of the high emotion surrounding the issue of what to do with the pins and the money that has already been collected for the cause, the issue was tabled.