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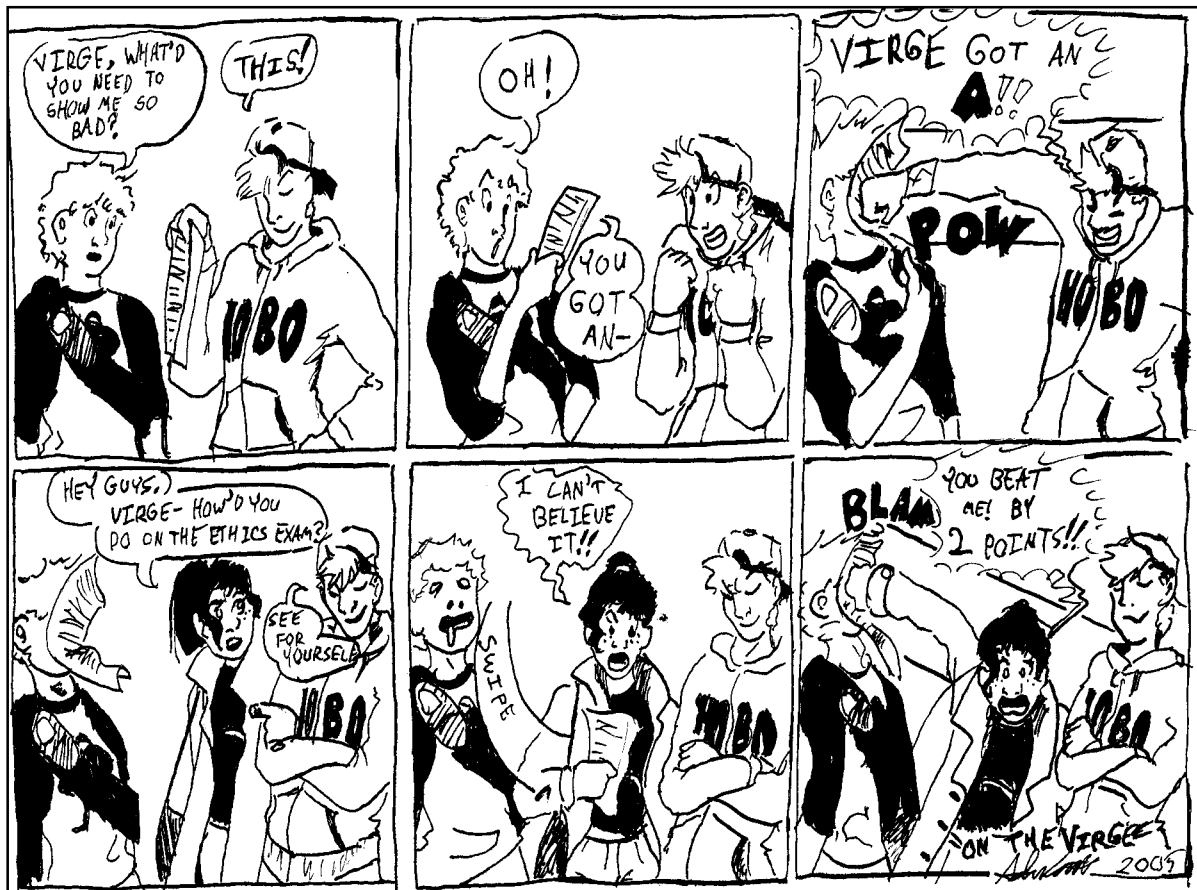


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OPINION

Purses have become a global threat: This is my warning

By JESSICA LOSEE  
Staff writer

You don't know it, but they're coming to get her. Whether she is your girlfriend, your friend, your sister, or your mom...even you, my female friend, are in danger of being held against your will by an entity far stronger than any of us.

Sneakily they slip into stores everywhere, looking cute and adorable, just begging to be bought. There are very few girls who don't have a lot of them hanging around their room.

What is this global threat? Purses. These evil little bags are slowly

taking over womankind, and there's absolutely NOTHING you can do about it.

Not only do they come in all shapes and sizes, but also all colors, patterns and brand names too. Of course, this purse fad has been going strong since their creation, always the perfect accessory to any outfit. And you can even put stuff in them!

Women spend millions of dollars on purses every year, filling closets with them, having a different one for every day of the month and then some. There has also been a huge boom in the demand for high-priced name

brands such as Prada, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci, Dior, and many more.

Cheap copies of the expensive name brands are being sold every day, leaving customers thinking that they bought the real thing, paying upwards of \$100 for a purse that is just a cheap rip-off that anyone could get at a flea market. Sometimes one must wonder if the designers can tell their bags apart from the fakes. Yet some women prefer to have the rip-offs, knowing they're getting the look for a lot cheaper.

Purses are even being sold at private parties where retailers sell

the real (or possibly fake) bags within small parties at a host's house for half of the real rate. Look out Tupperware, there's a new popular item taking over town.

I have even attended one of these "parties" where women gather to socialize and ogle the Prada and Louis Vuitton bags, even fight over them, to get the most popular, the cutest, the most stylish for themselves, and paying hundreds of dollars for these fashionable bags. I'll let them fight over the expensive cow hides covered with embellishments and cute doo-hickies. I'll go to Target and buy some purse that I

know 20 other girls will have and make it into something that I define. It is not the brand clothes that make the woman it's the woman that pays hundreds to have someone else's name plastered on her cotton, denim and leather.

Women are stereotyped as shopping fiends, which fits very few, but there are less and less women who can say "No!" to this leather threat stamped with the names of others who swim in our cash. Even I have succumbed to the temptation, looking to find the perfect purses for every occasion, every outfit, and every mood. Thankfully, I know I am far from alone.

LETTERS

Be aware of Scientology link to 'stress test'

EDITOR:

As I walked down to the Unity Week tent in Parking Lot "A" Wednesday afternoon, I noticed a young woman in the Free Speech Area who had a table set up with numerous signs that read "Free Stress Test."

Since I approached her table from behind, however, I could see that several boxes on it were clearly marked "Dianetics," but these were

turned away from the view of anyone approaching her table from the front. All those individuals would see is an odd looking machine, numerous books and handouts, and those large signs representing the booth as a "Free Stress Test."

I would like everyone to be aware, however, that this "test" is not a valid measure of any aspect of one's psychological well-being, and that these recruiters are sent to college campuses to tout the philoso-

phy of "Scientology," a pseudo-religion based upon the writings of science-fiction-author-turned-cult-leader, L. Ron Hubbard. The instrument being used appeared to be a so-called "E-meter," a device that Scientologists claim will report your emotional well being in equally mysterious "ohms," information that is then used to cure any and all psychological and emotional problems.

Although they currently enjoy

non-profit status as a "religion" in the U.S., Scientology is an organization that has long been deemed a cult in numerous European nations, including Germany, where the government noted a striking similarity between the group's practices and those of fascist groups from their own history.

The Free Speech Area is open to the general public, and certain legitimate religious and political representatives often utilize it to share

their information with our students, but I am concerned that such a tactic as the one I saw today might confuse our students, leading them to believe that the methods being employed are supported by science, by the Psychology Department, and/or the organizers of Unity Week. None of those conclusions would be true, and I think our students deserve that clarification.

Thank you in advance for help-

Continued on Page 3

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What is the largest age difference that you would want between you and your significant other?



JOCELYN KOO  
Liberal studies

"Ten years older. It's not that big of an age difference."



LYDIA LEONARD  
Art history

"Twelve years older. Because I see myself being as mature."



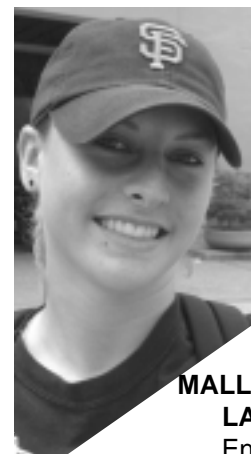
FRED TAMMO  
Industrial engineering

"Ten years older. It depends on what your objectives are."



ANNA MAY SNEED  
Sociology

"I don't discriminate. I love all people."



MALLORY LANTZ  
English

"No one over thirty. I'm not looking for a daddy."