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OPINION

Call them love birds please, not love addicts

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Staff writer

Last time I checked I was not a drug addict. So why is it then that the article, "Brain Studies Prove It: We're addicted to Amore," by Seth Borenstein claims that people who are hopelessly in love are to be compared to drug addicts? Why are they saying that the brokenhearted "show more evidence of...a craving, similar to craving the drug cocaine?"

The article, published in the *San Jose Mercury News*, states that, "in humans, there are four tiny areas of the brain that some researchers say form a circuit of love," called the ventral tegmental area (VTA). The VTA lit up when people in

love were shown pictures of their "beloved."

I understand that love doesn't entirely come from the heart—there is a chemical connection, as well as hormones and genetics. Of course love is addicting; anyone can tell you that. However, comparing love to drug addiction and people who are heartbroken to cocaine addicts is going too far.

I've seen countless people pull themselves out of heartache. People bring themselves "back to normal" after falling out of love, no matter how heartbroken they were; although there are people who do kill and die for love.

Drug addicts need serious attention; they need to go through rehabilitation and years of counseling,

not to mention serious withdrawal symptoms that they would never be able to handle on their own.

The heartbroken and those in love do not need to take those serious steps to get better.

When you are on drugs, you can have the biggest support system in the world, that doesn't mean you're going to get better. You can have all the support from your family and friends who offer to take you in after living on the streets, but you spurn home and family because of your altered frame of mind.

Lovebirds and drug addicts think about drugs all the time. The thought and the want of drugs completely devours them, it makes them do things they would never do, had they been sober.

There are instances where people have murdered others and done terrible things in the name of love, but they are generally more levelheaded than drug addicts.

There are people who will rob over drugs and those that will kill over drugs. People will snitch to the police to get closer to what they want. Drugs turn people into monstrous beings.

When a person is on drugs it deteriorates their brain. Drugs eat away at the very person they were meant to be.

More often than not, I've heard people who were in love say that they have found themselves. People in love are constantly thinking about the person they are in love with, where as drug addicts are selfish,

always serving their own needs. So when love is working its magic people will notice. Those in love are going to want everybody else to know it. And when their lovey-dovey feelings come crashing down because their partner cheated, a few tears and helpful hands later, those who were broken hearted are back on their feet. More people have died from drugs than from love.

Both love and drugs distort reality. You can crave both, and there are psychological side effects from both as well. However, only one is a hard-to-cure illness, and the other is an easy addiction to deal with. Love is addicting, but nowhere near as addicting as drugs. Love and drugs do not even belong in the same category.

Small luxuries feel economic crunch as well

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Ten years ago I could go into a corner store and buy a small bag of Cool Ranch Doritos, 20 oz. Pepsi, a Homerun apple pie and a Snickers candy bar for lunch and it would cost me a little more than \$2. Nowadays that same \$2 barely covers the soda and pie. A worsening economy has caused prices to inflate at alarming rates and is one of the main reasons I have cut back

on buying my usual lunch.

I now have to sacrifice the things I enjoy eating for the things I can afford. Instead of that nice bottle of Tropicana OJ I used to buy I now make due with a can of Arizona Orangeade which saves me around 25-30 cents but tastes a lot worse.

Some stores have even begun adding sales tax to items labeled with a specific price in order to turn a bigger profit. I've been told that in the '70s \$10 would provide dinner for a seven member family; in today's economy, \$10 barely feeds

a single person.

Inflation is not limited to just food; the entertainment industry is feeling the crunch as well. The cost of a weekend movie ticket is set at \$10.25 compared to \$7.08 ten years ago, this means no popcorn or arcade for me, instead I eat at home and take my Sony PSP gaming system to tide me over until the movie starts. To save money on movies I sometimes wait around six months for the movie to come out on DVD and go rent it. Rising movie prices have led to a very drastic increase

in bootlegging. I have turned down numerous movie day proposals due to the cost of going out which has caused my friends to label me a cheapskate.

Another thing that gets me about the inflation is the fact that companies are shrinking and minimizing items as their prices as growing. For instance, I noticed that Burger King recently introduced mini burgers to their menu. You get two of the burgers for \$1.39, which is a bad deal considering you can get two of their large counterparts for \$2.

The cost of school supplies has gone up as well, from the price of textbooks to the cost of pens and paper. Softer toilet with a thicker ply is more expensive, as are other seemingly simple amenities. The price of entertainment remains higher for longer periods of time.

It is things like this that cause me to sit back and reminisce on the good old days, when fun could be had for a small charge. I hope one day to be able to go into the store, grab some stuff and not feel cheated when I leave.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

How long until Obama's stimulus kicks in?



Angel Russell
BROADCAST JOURNALISM
"Knowing politics, probably not until next year."



Brian Helt
EDUCATION
"As long as the stupid Republicans take to shut up about it."



Matt Wittbrodt
BUSINESS
"Those who get the money directly will get immediate help."



Nayyara Shaik
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
"It will take a while, because Obama is new."



Quynh Pham
MARINE BIOLOGY
"At least a year — and it is Obama."