



# spartan

S C R O L L

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## OPINIONS



Investigate the controversy and ramifications surrounding Arizona's SB1070 bill.

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'Draw' attention to the history of tattoos and its significance to different cultures.

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Brace yourself for "Toy Story 3" with a new director and several new characters.

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## SPORTS



Join the softball team as they celebrate an undefeated league season championship.

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## EYEWITNESSACCOUNT

BY PASINEE AUNGSAKULCHAI  
TRANSLATED BY PORNCHANIT  
SANTAMONKUNROT  
THAILAND RESIDENT

The situation in Thailand is not very pleasant. It had been two months since the chaos started, and it doesn't seem to be ending soon. The police have already caught most of the leaders of the Red Shirts (protesters). Those leaders gave in because they didn't want to be called "terrorists."

However, after they were caught, the protesters got even angrier because they didn't want to admit that they had lost to the government. So, they started burning down Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. They've burned down Central World, which is our biggest and most popular mall. Every New Year, hundreds of Thai people and foreigners would go there to count

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# Contraband searches begin

BY SHANI CHOI  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Contraband detection canines will be used on campus from now until the end of the school year in an attempt to reduce drug-related incidences and discourage students from bringing illegal substances to school.

Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) contracted with Interquest Detection Canines to provide random detection searches. All visits by the canines will occur periodically and unannounced. In addition to Schurr, canine visits will be held at Bell Gardens and Montebello High.

When a visit is conducted, the canines are taken to visit classrooms, lockers, parking lots and other campus areas. Once a canine detects the presence of an illegal substance, it will sit by it to notify its handler. A search will then be conducted by Interquest handlers, and if a substance is found, the responsible student(s) will be reported to administrators.

"The [detection] searches are meant to be a deterrent," said Principal Stacey Honda. "We don't want to find anyone in possession of these [illegal] substances, but if we do, there will be serious consequences."

Depending on the situation and the substance found, students can face detention, Saturday school, citation, suspension, expulsion and/or arrest. By law, administrators and security require only reasonable suspicion to search a student's locker, vehicle, backpack and other possessions.

"Out of every 10 students I search, I find about one of them carrying an illegal substance," said School Resource Officer Tracy Alatorre.

Canines trained by Interquest, typically Labrador and Golden Retrievers, are of a non-aggressive, hunting breed. They are trained only to identify the presence of illegal substances and not to hunt or attack individuals carrying them.

"We're not here to hurt or get anyone in trouble," said Joe Austin, Interquest



LINDSEY MAEDA

**ALL WORK AND PLAY:** Interquest handler Al Hradecky and canine Mia show how a contraband detection search works at the May 24 assembly.

canine handler. "Our job is to promote a safe and drug-free environment."

Most of the contraband detection canines begin training six to nine months of training at age 1 to 1.5 years and then work for approximately 10 years. They are trained to detect over 20 substances, including open and sealed alcoholic beverages, drugs, gunpowder and residual odors. Even if a student throws away or gets rid of the illegal substance, canines can still detect the residual odors.

The school board made the decision to conduct illegal substance detection

searches approximately two months ago. The program is funded by a combination of various state and federal grants. Depending on the availability of funds next year, the school board will decide whether or not to continue the detection program.

"I believe these [detection] searches will impact schools in a positive way," said Michael Cobarrubias, MUSD Director of Pupil & Community Services. "Our goal is to reduce and eventually eliminate the incidences of students bringing alcohol and other illegal substances to our schools."

# Burt wins first place at tournament, ends speech career on high point

BY BARBARA CHU  
NEWS EDITOR

Senior Jacquelyn Burt placed first in Impromptu at the Extemporaneous Tournament of Championships (TOC) May 14-17 at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Approximately 40 people competed in the Impromptu category, in which the competitor has seven minutes to prepare and give a speech on the topic.

"After my final round at TOC, I felt that no matter what happened, I would be proud of whatever the result was, because I knew I had done my best," said Burt. "However, after putting so much into it [the competition], I really wanted to win and, thankfully, I did."

In order to compete at TOC, competitors need to garner two bids. This year, only four tournaments in California offered bids. Bids are offered based on high caliber placing in tournaments.

Burt is a four-year member of Speech and Debate and has competed in many events over the years: International Extemporaneous Speaking, National Extemporaneous, Impromptu, Original Advocacy and Congress.

Throughout her high school speech career, she has received many awards, including placing first at State Qualifiers at California State University, Long Beach in International Extemporaneous, ninth at State Championships in Bakersfield, second at the Arizona State University Invitational in National Extemporaneous and seventh at the Stanford University Invitational in International and National Extemporaneous. Her placing at Arizona State University and Stanford University garnered her bids.

"Her successes are truly representative of her abilities and talents. All I really did as her coach was just open the doors so she could have a place to practice," said Tony Ugalde, head coach of the team.

Throughout the years, Burt has collected many points in the National Forensics League (NFL). Points are given for each speech and depend on the scores received. She currently has about 1,500 points, achieving a quint-ruby, the highest level of distinction, labeled as "premier," which will be awarded to her at the speech banquet June 6.

"After all the successes and failures over the past four years, nothing will ever amount to the memories and friendships that have been created through speech," said Burt.