



SCOTUS DEBUTS MULTI-COLORED ROBES DURING PROP 8 HEARINGS

By Benjamin Broadmeadow
Editor-In-Chief

In a surprise break from tradition, and in attempt to bring the Court in line with a more modern look, several Supreme Court justices decided to don colorful robes while hearing *Hollingsworth v. Perry*.

The justices who believe they might find for the respondent, including Chief Justice Roberts, felt it necessary to show their "true colors" for the Prop 8 case. Says Roberts, "I'm all about making this Court hip and cool. If I'm going to make my mark, I need to show America that I can be edgy. Not to mention fashionable!"

Justice Breyer believes the colorful robes have breathed much needed life into the Court's seemingly out-dated fashion.

"I feel like a wizard!" Breyer comments. "I want counsel thinking 'Gee, I wonder if Justice Breyer will turn me into a newt.' I certainly want to turn some lawyers into newts. They'll get better though."

Unsurprisingly, staunch conservatives on the bench have declined to wear the new robes.

"The Constitution mentions nothing about us wearing colored robes," says



Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Sotomayor, Breyer, Kennedy, Kagan, and Ginsberg pose with their rainbow robes moments before hearing oral argument in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. Justices Thomas, Scalia, and Alito were not impressed.

Justice Scalia. "I'm not going to create an entire to fashion set for us if the Constitution does not specifically afford us the authority to do so."

Justice Thomas is more disgruntled than anything else. "I really wanted to wear the yellow robe, but Kennedy called

dibs."

Justice Alito, when asked about the change, seemed confused. "What? We changed robes?"

Justice Sotomayor, who launched the campaign for colored robes, thinks this is a positive change.

"There's going to be a completely new feel to the Supreme Court. New colors, new attitude. It's like when the G.A.P. rebranded their identity. We're even thinking about starting our own line. It will be called 'Justice... and Fabulousness for All!'"

HMCI debuts March Moot Madness

By Amanda Demetrus
Associate Editor

Honors Moot Court Internal is a long-standing tradition at Santa Clara Law. The competition affords students the opportunity to practice their oratory skills while appealing to their competitive nature. The program is highly selective and requires hours of preparation. Each team submits a brief and argues their position on an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. After two preliminary rounds, the top eight teams advance. Four teams advance from the second round and the remaining two teams compete in the finals.

While a large portion of the 2L class participates in the competition, the school is looking to promote the program and increase awareness by involving the entire student body in the process. Clarence Stephens, Dean of Oration and Drivel said, "We are looking for a way for the entire law school to participate in the event. The competitors put a lot of work into their arguments and briefs and they should receive recognition for their achievements. We want to promote HMCI as an exciting and rewarding event by offering a way for non-competitors to attain a vested interest in the outcome of the competition."

As a result, the faculty voted to initiate a Moot Madness bracket pool that allows non-competitors to predict who will advance from each round. Similar to a college basketball bracket, each student will select the team he or she predicts to advance, receiving a point for each correct selection. The student will also have the opportunity to select best oralist.

The students with the most correct predictions will win an all expenses paid trip to sunny Modesto. The trip includes three days and two nights at the Best Western Inn, a trip to a local strawberry field, and a commemorative cow patty. If the student who submitted the winning bracket is present at the final round arguments, in addition to the trip to Modesto, the student will win a lifetime supply of floppy disks.

The administration will coordinate the program next year at the beginning of the process so students have the opportunity to select their choices for the elite eight, final four, finalists, and winners. This year however, due to the belated commencement of this program, the school will accept submissions predicting the finalists and champions. Pick up your bracket from Faculty Support Services and fill out your selections. Submissions are due to the Dean of Oration and Drivel by Monday.

In All Seriousness:

The Final Round of the *Honors Moot Court - Internal Competition* at Santa Clara Law will be held on **Thursday, April 4**, from **6:15- 7:15 p.m.** at the **Music Recital Hall** on campus.

There will be a reception immediately following with food and drinks, located at Arts and Sciences Atrium open to the public

Students and friends are encouraged to attend to mingle with the competitors, the Honors Moot Court Board, and our noteworthy judges who will also be present.

Five judges will be present, including three judges from the Ninth Circuit: Judge Milan Smith Jr., Judge Susan Graber, and Judge Richard Tallman. Also judging are Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of UC Irvine and Dean Donald Polden of Santa Clara University.

Campus Beat and Other News

By Jake McGowan
Associate Editor

SANTA CLARA, CA— According to sources, resident 2L Bryan Mitchell is utterly disappointed with the palette of Internet humor displayed by the people who sit in front of him during class this semester.

"Normally I sit back row-center because you get more to work with" says Mitchell. "Now I'm languishing second row in the corner, and for what? So I can sit next to my friend? It's not like we can talk in class anyway, except the whole time on Gchat."

"It's a disaster," he added.

The insufferable future attorney later clarified that he is not only disappointed with his limited options, but the "quality" of the substantive material:

"Newsflash people: /r/funny doesn't cut it anymore--that is, unless you think reposts and karmawhorng is funny." Mitchell continued, "Today's

Continued on Page 3
See "CAMPUS BEAT"

North Korea Announces Plans to Construct Death Star Space Station

By Michael Bedolla
Staff Writer

In the wake of another round of sanctions levied against the isolated regime and the commencement of the annual U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises,

Kim Jong-Un announced today that North Korea would begin immediate construction of a massive armored space station possessing enough firepower to destroy an entire planet. Capitalizing on his nation's

recent successful long-range missile test that placed a satellite in orbit, the Glorious Leader dubbed the station the "Death Star," and proudly proclaimed that "the time is now for the Korean people to rise up to the stars and destroy American imperialism once and for all."

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) opined that "it is the sovereign right of all nations, including Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to construct weapons of planetary destruction for collective defense and safeguarding of People's Revolution." Once constructed,

KCNA reported the station "will remain in orbit to defeat all imperialist aggressors, before engaging powerful hyperspace engines to spread Juche idea [North Korea's official ideology] throughout the cosmos."



Artist's Conception of Proposed North Korean Space Station

KCNA provided pictures and technical information of the station's awesome destructive potential. In addition to its planet-destroying superlaser array, the station will boast an impressive array of secondary weapons and function as a launch platform for hundreds of squadrons of Korean People's Starfleet attack vessels. Once completed, the Death

Star would be more than a match for the combined armed forces of the entire planet.

"This station will be the ultimate power in the universe!" declared North Korean Chief of Staff, Vice Marshal Hyon Yong-chol.

The South Korean military admits it is unprepared for this form of North Korean aggression. General Jeong Seung-jo of the Republic of Korea Army confessed that "[South Korean] forces have been preparing for decades for a 'Zerg Rush' across the demilitarized

zone, or perhaps even a wave of Terran Siege Tanks supported by a squadron of Wraiths. This Death Star flies in the face of accepted Starcraft military doctrine." The Republic of Korea Army has called on reservists to begin stockpiling minerals and Vespene gas in the event of war.

South Korean political leaders expressed immediate concern. "We do

apparent overture to Kim Jong-un, she then waved her hand and calmly stated, "[t]hese aren't the droids you're looking for."

At the White House, President Obama steadfastly declared that the United States would not stand for North Korean aggression and urged Congress to immediately pass his military spending bill, calling for the construction of a new



North Korean officials repeatedly assure members of the media that the station is no moon.

not believe that the construction of a world-destroying military platform is in the best interests of regional security and ultimate unification of the Korean peninsula," said President Park Geun-hye in an emergency press conference. In an

series of Galaxy-class starships to counter the threat. "The United States has always been more of a Star Trek-type nation. The Death Star's inferior shielding and armor plating will be no match for a full spread of photon torpedoes."

State, Nation, and World

STATE

San Jose - The Winchester Mystery House will now be closed for tours on all Fridays to protest recent gun control proposals in California. A recent press release on the attraction's website announced that the end of the week would now be dedicated to "AR-15 Fridays." Instead of guided tours, gun advocates can come to the mansion to play a "Battle Royale-style" game using rifles and shotguns loaded with rubber bullets and pellets. A spokesperson said, "What better location could be used to illustrate the importance of gun ownership?"

Mountain View - On Easter, Google accidentally revealed what many had been suspecting for several years: Cesar Chavez is the Easter Bunny. On its home page, Google featured the labor and civil rights activist in a Google Doodle, but upon clicking the image, web surfers were taken to a page revealing that Mr. Chavez is alive and well, delivering candy-filled eggs to children all over the world. Google later apologized to parents for depriving children of the mystery.

NATION

Washington D.C. - Over the weekend, Hillary Clinton announced that she would indeed run for President in 2016. Immediately after the announcement, the electoral college convened a special session to preemptively elect Ms. Clinton, who received every vote. In 2016, democratic primaries will be held to determine who will serve as Hillary Clinton's Vice President from among Ms. Clinton's five selections.

Saint Paul, Minnesota - Recent legislation in Minnesota bans all state residents from owning dogs. State Representative Jerry Lundegaard said in a prepared statement, "We Minnesotans have unequivocally announced that we are cat people. The new law reflects our profound respect for cats and provides the protection our feline friends need." Under the new law, any dog found within the state will immediately be shipped to Wisconsin and any owner traced to the dog will be imprisoned for a maximum sentence of two years. In light of the law, the Minnesota Twins have changed their name to the Siamese while the Timberwolves are now known as the Forest Cats.

WORLD

Jerusalem, Israel - While on his landmark trip to Israel, President Obama announced to a throng of young Israeli students his intent to convert to Judaism. The President said that while he has been "evolving" on the issue for several years, his recent trip to the Western Wall solidified his conviction.

Fox News was in uproar, and accused the President of using the conversion as a false means of strengthening the complicated relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Sean Hannity asked political pundits, "How can the President be Jewish, Christian, and Muslim all at the same time?"

Paris, France - French President Francois Hollande invited New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to to a weekend in Versailles to discuss new ideas for "taxes for a new era." Hollande, who previously announced a 75% tax on salaries over one million euros, and Bloomberg, who tried to push through a soda tax, have been considering filtered air taxes, urban walking taxes, and birdwatching taxes.

Pope Francis to Relocate to Santa Clara University

By Michael Branson
Managing Editor

In an unprecedented move, Pope Francis announced on Easter that he would relocate the Holy See to Santa Clara University. The new pope, already known for his humility, said he was inspired to make the move to remain connected with his Jesuit roots. Additionally, he hoped the relocation would provide him more opportunity to travel back to his home country of Argentina.

The campus was shocked but honored by the announcement. A committee was immediately formed to discuss a multi-million dollar expansion of the Santa Clara Mission Church and to build an adjacent apartment for the pope to reside. The Vatican contacted the University to say that such improvements would be unnecessary.

Continued on Page 3
See "POPE"

Law Students to Share Facilities with the Pope

"POPE"
From Page 2

Pope Francis instead plans to convert Heafey Library into His Holiness' apartment while converting Bannon and Bergin Halls into the Roman Curia.

Law students and faculty had mixed views about the dramatic news. Many were concerned about the availability of parking. One student said, "If we don't have enough parking for an Earthquakes game, we certainly don't have enough for the Eucharist." But others saw the relocation as an opportunity. The Center for Social Justice hopes to expand its presence by connecting with the Church. The Center for Global Law and Policy was especially excited to add a massive new summer program in the Vatican.

The IP community was also supportive of the move and sees it as an opportunity to bring the Catholic Church into the 21st Century. Twitter has agreed to work closely with Pope Francis to enhance his 140 character communications and Oracle will work closely with the Papacy to provide integrated business software to remain connected with the Vatican.

The ABA has raised several concerns to the Dean about the Pope's role in the law school, and has threatened to revoke the Law School's accreditation. The Pope and the Dean have reassured the Bar that the two enterprises would remain separate.

Rumor Mill with Dean Erwin

By Susan Erwin
Senior Assistant Dean



Dear Rumor Mill,
I sent you and Dean Mertens about 10 emails, asking you to add "Legal Rights of Left Handers" to the schedule. To date, you have not. What gives?

Sincerely,
Izquierda Montoya

Dear Izzy,
We do not plan to offer this course. Other proposed courses that we don't plan to offer include:

Righteous Indignation and the Law. 3 units
Course will consider many possible sources for the problems facing law students. Students will practice raising their voices, looking stern, and storming out of the room. Final project will involve drafting a complaint blaming your school/your professors/the administration/the University/ the legal profession/ law schools in general for some slight or harm that has been inflicted upon students while in law school. Extra points for papers reprinted by Above the Law or National Jurist.

Managing your Law Practice from the Back Table at Starbucks. 1 unit
Students will learn how to manage all aspects of legal practice – from advertising through billing and collections – using the free Wi-Fi at the local coffee shop. Special emphasis on creative business cards, mocha latté tax write offs, and iPad eDiscovery.

The Class with the Easy A that isn't too Much Work and the Professor doesn't Take Attendance that Only Meets Once a Month. 4 units
You all ask me for this specific class every semester but we still aren't offering it.

Dear Rumor Mill,
I haven't made it to a single dean candidate interview yet. But I plan to be fully informed and watch all the videos by the time we get the exam final survey. Can you remind me of the qualifications that were advertised?
Thanks,
Sigfried Zaudern

Dear Ziggy,
It's too long to print the whole thing, but here are the highlights:

The Dean is expected to be an entrepreneurial leader who excels in the following areas:

Curriculum Management: Must be able to schedule 200 courses, all on Tuesdays and Thursdays no earlier than 10:30 am and no later than 2:00 pm, in such a way that no two classes conflict with each other and all are scheduled into the "best" rooms.

Valet Parking: Must ensure that all students, staff, and faculty have available parking at all times for themselves and their guests within 500 yards of the classroom building.

Job Placement: Must take full responsibility for the U.S. economy and the impact that it has had on legal jobs. Must personally find each and every graduate a job that is (a) high paying, (b) close to their home, (c) is fun and (d) not

too hard.

Scholarship: Must be able to see the value in paying a faculty member to take the year off and research the complex legal issues of minority chardonnay producers in the coastal regions of southern France.

Knowledge of Legal Education: Must be fluent in the latest ABA/LSAC/NALP/AALS/US News/Legal blog acronyms and jargon and be able to drop names and buzzwords at will.

Dear Rumor Mill,
We haven't heard any news about the new building for a while. While we don't mind sharing our pizza with the mice in Bannan and are getting used to the arctic temps in the classroom, it sure would be nice to have a new space. What are the plans right now?

Sincerely,
Jacques Froid Polaire

Dear Jack,
The committee is reviewing a new set of proposals for the revised building plan. On the second floor of the new student space, the architects have added a new Jacuzzi Room with an adjoining Jazz Bar. Even though it will be primarily for faculty use, students will be allowed in on alternate Tuesday afternoons. (Staff will be allowed in immediately afterwards -- to disinfect the Jacuzzis and pick up towels.) The first floor of the new Bannan will feature a new Doggie Day Care, Barista station, Concierge Desk and a Valet Parking Booth. The highlight of the new building will be the 2 gleaming ivory towers that will house the faculty offices. Discussions continue on the Bocce Ball court.

California Bans Heterosexual Marriage

By Brandi Hines
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court recently heard arguments on two gay marriage cases: California's ban on same sex marriage via Proposition 8, and the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or "DOMA." What they didn't discuss in oral arguments is California's newest plan to abolish marriage altogether.

Well, not entirely. Lawmakers have no intention of abolishing de facto civil unions, but they are currently proposing a bill that would converge all legal marriages and domestic partnerships into a single, indistinguishable "legal unity."

Many lawmakers believe the Legal Unity is a fair, albeit aggressive solution for the gay marriage debate:

"By honoring the institution of 'marriage,' the government has been making a mockery of our supposed principle of the separation of church and state," says California Senator Dianne Feinstein. "Given the current sociological and political climate, this is the most appropriate measure to respect religious beliefs across the spectrum,

while maintaining equal and just administration of the law." Lawmakers across party lines have pledged to move this bill forward regardless of the Supreme Court's upcoming decisions.

What effect will this have on currently married couples? As far as the state is concerned, couples who were married before the passage of the bill will have their licenses re-titled "License for Legal Unity," maintaining all the same legal rights. Similarly, domestic partnerships need only file an application for Legal Unity in order to obtain a valid license. The bill effectively allows gay and heterosexual couples the same title and legal rights under California law.

The LGBT community is relatively pleased with the proposed legislation. "While we're not ecstatic that no new rights are being granted to our community, this certainly levels the field. As far as 'equal protection under the law' goes, I think it satisfies that [sic]," says GLAAD's vice president of communications, Rich Ferraro.

While some advocates in religious communities have voiced their staunch disapproval of this new measure, Feinstein reassures that "Marriage will never be dissolved. Churches and religious communities will continue using and recognizing the term as a symbolic institution, and this bill in no way prohibits that right." But as far as the state is concerned, "marriage" will be nonexistent upon the passage of this revolutionary bill.

1L Student Critically Injured Entering Library

"CAMPUS BEAT"
From Front Page

memes are so played out. It's just a bunch of faux-manliness, puns, and novelty for the sake of novelty. What happened to Insanity Wolf? What happened to Tech-Impaired Duck? Hell, at least some reaction gifs. But no, this semester it's Gmail, Huffington Post, and shoe-shopping."

When asked why he doesn't just use his own computer to surf the web, he explained smugly that he had to "take notes," and then proceeded to mindlessly copy every single word on the professor's PowerPoint slide.

In other news, a key-card activated barred gate in the entryway of Heafey Law library reportedly malfunctioned and maimed an unidentified first year law student on Monday night, puncturing the student's shins, upper-thigh and groin area.

Sources confirm that when he attempted to leave the library, the student stood too long on the "little mat thing," causing the substantially-fortified metal bars to engage and

collapse on his legs with the force of an industrial-grade vise.

In the lifeless grayscale light, the student writhed in agony. But according to sources, the suffering 1L waited nearly twenty minutes before anyone offered assistance. When asked why none of the numerous people present at least called an ambulance, an anonymous onlooker told The Advocate that he was afraid of becoming personally liable.

"We literally just learned that," said the onlooker. "If you try to help someone out, you give yourself a duty to save their life. If they die, their family is probably going to sue you." When asked to comment, torts professor Nancy Wright lowered her forehead into her palm, and let out a distressed sigh.

This is just the latest example of what has become an annual epidemic of serious Heafey-related injuries. In 2009, an exhausted 2L fell down the unusually narrow staircase near the restrooms.

In 2010, a student contracted a rare respiratory disease by inhaling dust from a late-1800s statute during a LARAW exercise. Of course, there was also the infamous and horrific "120-page staple incident" of 2011.

Sources say that the student is now threatening to sue Santa Clara Law. The settlement costs are expected to be passed on to future students, who will have to purchase licenses to use SofTest.

Dean Position Draws Diverse Candidates

SCU Law Students have the exciting opportunity to participate in the school's history and play an instrumental role in the new law school dean selection. The Advocate is closely watching the process and would like to provide students a look into the nuanced backgrounds of the candidates by profiling each contender.

Although you may not recognize some of the people on our list, The Advocate considered the following factors in weighing in on each candidate: professional reputation, street cred, fundraising skills, craftiness, and breakdancing proficiency.



ELLEN DEGENERES

B.A. Communications Studies University of New Orleans
J.D. Tulane University

Ms. DeGeneres is a stand-up comedian, television host, actress, activist, reality show judge, skilled dancer, and all around awesome human being. Her impressive and diverse resume uniquely situates Ms. DeGeneres to bring her array of talents to SCU Law. As the funny but fair judge on season nine of American Idol, Ms. DeGeneres would catapult Santa Clara's already stellar moot court program to new heights. In addition, Ms. DeGeneres is a known animal activist and could strengthen SCU Law's animal rights program. Meaningfully, she once said "I ask people why they have deer heads on their walls. They always say because it's such a beautiful animal. There you go. I think my mother is attractive, but I have photographs of her."

Here at The Advocate, we also prefer photographs to taxidermy. With experience as an arbiter of the talented (or occasionally talentless) and passion for four-legged friends, Ms. DeGeneres is a formidable candidate for law school dean.



THE MOST INTERESTING MAN IN THE WORLD

B.S. Alchemy, Vancouver University
M.A. Blacksmithing, University of New Delhi
LL.M. Harvard, Honorary

As his name suggests, the Most Interesting Man in the World has a wide variety of strengths to offer to the Santa Clara Law community.

His ability to speak every language, including three that only he speaks, would greatly strengthen our international law program. The Most Interesting Man in the World spoke of his interest to use his substantial legal connections to expand internship opportunities to Palau, Mongolia, Mozambique, Moldova, and Oman.

His connection with the school would cause SCU Law to skyrocket in the U.S. News & World Report Rankings. In fact, Santa Clara has already risen thirty spots just based on his interest.

One negative with the Most Interesting Man in the World is that he gave the impression during his interview that he is seeking the position simply to add a line to his resume, which was already quite extensive.



YODA

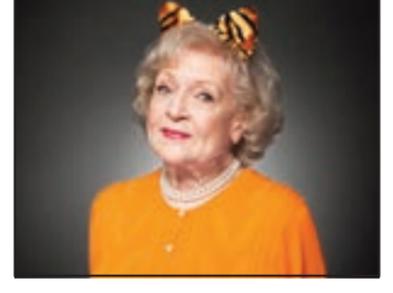
Master of the Force (M.F.), Jedi Academy

Mr. Yoda would bring a warm personality to Santa Clara University and could potentially bring in some heavy-weight donors, but we have to disqualify him based on his poor accreditations and sparse resume.

While Mr. Yoda has previously served on the Jedi High Council for several centuries, his accomplishments are few and far between in the last several centuries. Further, he has no legal experience and seems to be quite baffled by the American legal system.

Mr. Yoda's interview on campus was equally disappointing. While a candidate should not be disqualified based on age, Mr. Yoda came across as frail and aloof. He discussed his love for teaching "young padawans," but seemed uninterested in answering students' questions directly. The LARAW faculty also expressed concern about the effect Mr. Yoda's creative use of grammar may have on student writing.

Finally, His promises to endow the university with midichlorians offers little tangible benefit and concerns staff at the Cowell Student Health Center.



BETTY WHITE

B.A. English, UCLA
J.D. Southwestern Law School

Of all the candidates for SCU Law Dean, Betty White is a tour de force. At ninety one, she laughs in the face of age stereotypes and shows no sign of slowing down. Ms. White's experience and versatility makes her an ideal candidate for law school dean to boost interest for the school's niche programs. As an honorary forest ranger appointed by Smokey the Bear, Ms. White would raise the school's profile in environmental law and spread awareness that "Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires." Similarly, Ms. White's acumen for Native American culture and tradition (evidenced in her role in The Proposal) would encourage further expansion in the field of federal Indian law.

Betty White's passion for the environment and cultural diversity are qualities that fit the profile for a great dean of SCU Law. Throw in the fact that she is a Golden Girl, and you had us at hello.

Democrats, Republicans Working Together Again

By Samuel Levine
Staff Writer

Yesterday, Congressional Democrats and Republicans came together in an unprecedented level of bipartisanship and passed a budget. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law tomorrow. The final version of bill, which passed nearly unanimously through both houses of Congress, came as a shock to political insiders and pundits alike.

The last time Congress passed a budget was in 2009, before the last census. That budget, which allowed for the passage of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), was passed with almost no Republican support. Since Republicans gained a majority in the House in 2010, the two parties have failed to reach a consensus- until now.

Last Saturday evening, the Democrat controlled Senate narrowly passed its first budget by a 50-49 vote. Not a

single Republican voted for the bill, and they were joined in their opposition by four democrats facing reelection in tight races next year (with a single abstention). The Senate bill came on the heels of its House counterpart, sponsored by Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), which also passed largely along party lines.

Initially, the prospects of the Senate Democrats and House Republicans coming to a compromise on their respective bills looked dim. The Ryan Plan aimed to balance the budget and erase the \$1.2 trillion deficit in a mere decade, all without raising taxes. It would have accomplished this largely by gutting social services and abolishing Obamacare. However, the cuts were necessary because, according to Congressman Ryan, "we have a moral obligation to balance the budget."

Conversely, the Senate plan would have added nearly a \$1 trillion in new taxes and did little to balance the

budget. The bill's sponsor, Senator Murray (D-WA), when referring to the House plan, notes that the Senate Democrats have "very different visions for how our country should work and who it should work for." It looked as though no solution could be reached.

Then, the improbable happened: the congressional Democrats and Republicans got together and passed a budget plan. The first sign of movement from either party's extreme stance came from President Obama, when he invited Congressman Ryan out to lunch to discuss the budget. Ryan responded that he was thankful that he could have a "frank discussion about Washington's budget Challenges." Following this, Senator McCain (R-AZ) praised President Obama for trying to negotiate with Republicans over lunch and was "more than willing to give the President of the United States the opportunity to sit down and work with us." Obama quickly took him up on his

offer and they did what no one expected - compromised and passed a budget.

Among the budget plan's most substantial aspects, it will add nearly 250 billion in new taxes, about a quarter of what Democrats were initially hoping for, and will make mild across-the-board cuts to both social services and defense by eliminating wasteful spending. Finally, the plan aims to balance the budget in fifteen years, which is something Republicans have made clear is one of their top priorities.

The most surprising part of this whole process is the haste at which the bill was passed. After Democrats and Republicans agreed to compromise, it turned out that passing a budget took almost no time at all. Many believe that the passage of the budget will mark a new era in bipartisanship between Democrats and Republicans who will now work to do the job they were sent to Washington to do - govern.