



News

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Cal Poly Provocative Perspectives Series Brings Leonard Pitts to Campus April 21

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Leonard Pitts will come to Cal Poly April 21 for a talk on “The Water In the Glass: The Discord On the Way White Americans and African-Americans View Racial Progress.”

The event, part of Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspectives series, is free and open to the public. It will begin at 7:30 a.m. in Spanos Theatre on campus.

Pitts joined The Miami Herald in 1991 as a music critic. Since 1994, he has penned a nationally syndicated column on pop culture, social issues and family life. His book, “Becoming Dad: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood,” was released in May 1999.

Pitts has written professionally since 1976, his work appearing in such publications as Musician, Spin, TV Guide, Readers’ Digest and Parenting. He wrote, produced and syndicated “Who We Are,” an award-winning 1988 radio documentary on the history of Black America and has written and produced numerous other radio programs on subjects as diverse as Madonna and Martin Luther King, Jr. Pitts was also a writer for “Casey’s Top 40 with Casey Kasem.”

Pitts has won numerous journalism and writing awards, including the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and the 1997 American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors award for commentary. He is a five-time recipient of the National Headliners Award. And he has been honored by The Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, and GLAAD Media.

As a visiting professor, Pitts has taught journalism at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and Hampton University and Virginia Commonwealth University, both in Virginia. He was born and raised in Southern California and has lived in Bowie, Maryland (a suburb of Washington, D.C.) with his wife and five children since 1995.

Reservations are not required for the April 21 talk. For more information call 805-756-0327 or e-mail Liz Cofer at lcofer@calpoly.edu. People with disabilities may request accommodations in advance by contacting the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 805-756-1521.

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