



COMMUNITY REBUILDS

Coyote Creek flood: one year later



WILLIAM YAP | SPARTAN DAILY (FILE IMAGE)

A San Jose resident surveys the contaminated water behind his car on the flooded streets of the Nordale neighborhood in San Jose on Feb. 21, 2017.



WILLIAM YAP | SPARTAN DAILY

A fence covers parts of Nordale Avenue on Feb. 19 in the same area that was flooded the previous year. The San Jose Public Works Department put the fence up while it works to improve the sewer system in the area.

Thousands of San Jose residents were displaced, and for many recovery efforts are still underway.

On Feb. 21, 2017, San Jose experienced the worst flooding it's seen in a century. Heavy rains pushed water levels in the Anderson Reservoir over capacity, and it spilled into Coyote Creek. The flood affected more than 14,000 San Jose residents, some of whom were San Jose State students. Many residents impacted by the flood said they did not receive any warning and had to evacuate extremely quickly. Some were forced to leave behind irreplaceable personal belongings as emergency workers knocked on doors to evacuate people. The Spartan Daily took a look back at what happened and how students, the community and the city have dealt with the recovery efforts over the last year.

MORE STORIES ABOUT THE FLOOD ON PAGES 2 AND 3

STICKERS

Dorms easy to enter despite new policies

BY LOVETTA JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

An attempted sexual assault that happened last October led San Jose State housing to update its policy for all dorms.

According to an SJSU alert on Oct. 9, 2017, "About 8:00 a.m., an attempted sexual assault occurred on the 5th floor in Campus Village II. The victim was not physically injured."

Now, anyone who enters the dorms must show their Tower Card or employee nametag to prove that they are allowed to be in the building.

People on campus previously had the ability to walk into any building without question. This led to some incidents of people not

affiliated with SJSU going into freshman dorms. The updated housing policy aims at keeping strangers out.

"If you go in through the main entrance and take the door opposite of the housing office, you can essentially get past the front desk because they can't see you," history junior Shaquille Manley said. "I see people sneak up into [Campus Village B] going that way all the time."

But some students say any person can get into the dorms by avoiding the front desk or following other students. Some of them go unnoticed by blending in with students to get into a building.

"I'm in a building with professors and

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CRIME

Local jogger robbed on 10th Street near North Garage

BY GABRIEL MUNGARAY
STAFF WRITER

At approximately 9:35 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred near the exit of the North Garage on 10th Street.

University Police Department Captain Alan Cavallo described the crime that took place Tuesday morning via email.

"The victim was jogging around Elizabeth eastbound from 9th Street near the North Garage when he was approached by the suspect. The suspect demanded the victim's phone, the victim refused and was struck by the suspect," Cavallo said. "The victim fought back and the suspect fled North toward Santa Clara Street."

According to Cavallo, the male victim is not an SJSU student, but lives in the area.

The alert from AlertSJSU was not sent out until 11:58 a.m. even though the crime occurred at 9:35 a.m. Cavallo had an explanation for the timeliness of the alert sent out to students.

"Originally the victim did not want to report the incident but his

roommates convinced him to contact police. The original incident occurred at 0935 hours and the victim reported to us at 1100 hours hence the delay in our alert," Cavallo said.

Business administration junior Jesus Amador was not surprised when he received the alert.

"There's a lot of sketch people that hang around these garages," Amador said. "So it's bound to happen every so often; just need to watch my back more often now."

Cavallo preached awareness for students while parking in the garages.

"As always please be aware of your surroundings and take time to know where you are and who is around you," Cavallo said. "If you feel uncomfortable or something is out of place call us for assistance and please report crimes in a timely manner so we have an opportunity to stop additional attacks."

At time of press, the suspect was not yet identified.

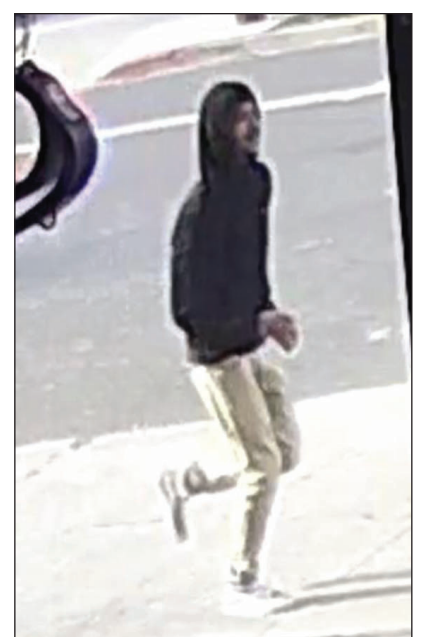


IMAGE FROM UPD

UPD describes the suspect as a male, in his mid-20s, with a medium brown complexion, 5 feet, 1 inch tall, 150 pounds, short brown hair, brown eyes, possibly with a thin goatee or mustache. He headed northbound on South 9th Street toward East Santa Clara Street.

Follow Gabriel on Twitter
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WILLIAM YAP | SPARTAN DAILY (FILE IMAGE)

A resident vacated his flooded home on Senter Road with his family's belongings on Feb. 21, 2017. His family evacuated hours after water filled the streets near Kelley Park.



WILLIAM YAP | SPARTAN DAILY (FILE IMAGES)

(Left) Cars were submerged in contaminated water on Nordale Avenue on Feb. 21, 2017. Most of the cars would become nonoperational because of the flood. (Right) San Jose resident Carmen Dávalos and San Jose resident Jessica García-Kohl clean Dávalos' muddied apartment on Feb. 25, 2017. Dávalos looks at her son's kindergarten graduation cap before tossing it out.

Students still affected by flood one year later

BY DOMINOE IBARRA
STAFF WRITER

It has been a year since San Jose dealt with one of the worst floods in the city's history.

Residents were given little to no warning about the extent of the flooding and 14,000 people were forced to quickly evacuate their homes.

Some of those residents that evacuated were San Jose State students.

Last year, nutrition senior Xavier Robledo was forced from his home on 19th Street and was homeless for a week.

He got in contact with Episcopal Chaplain at SJSU and director of the Canterbury Bridge Foundation Kathleen Crowe, who took him in along with other students to live in the art room at Grace Baptist Church.

Crowe said the church gave her chaplaincy two rooms upstairs she converted into a men and women's residence for students who have

housing difficulties.

They now have eight students in residence, and Robledo is one of them.

"The most convenient thing that had ever happened to me in my life was that I had spoken to Kathy Crowe a few days before the flood because I wanted to see what I could do to help out students," Robledo said. "And lo and behold, I was a student that needed help."

While living at the church, Robledo realized he was not the only student affected by the flood.

Some students were able to get back on their feet quickly.

However, others, including Robledo, were not.

In the week after the flood, Robledo went through his belongings, salvaging all he could and throwing away everything that was contaminated by the flood water.

There were many back-and-forth trips between his old home and the church.

Once Robledo was settled at the church, he got

in touch with SJSU Cares.

It's a program that offers resources to help students deal with situations and issues outside of the classroom that may take away from their academic success.

It focuses on emergency outreach, fiscal assistance, food insecurities and

“
And lo and behold, I was a student that needed help.”

Xavier Robledo

SJSU student affected by the flood

housing insecurities.

The program allowed Robledo to get a temporary meal plan and offered temporary housing in an empty room at the dorms.

He declined because he already had a place to stay at the church and didn't want to take a spot away from another student who was affected by the floods.

Ben Falter is a SJSU Student Affairs Case

Manager. His job is to reach out to students who are dealing with an emergency, like last year's floods.

"The emergency outreach is clearly what we were doing in the flood situation," Falter said. "Anytime there's a major situation that we're aware of

the flood zone areas the city of San Jose was saying were evacuation areas or will soon be under evacuation. In Robledo's situation, his address on MySJSU had his address listed as his home in Porterville, California. SJSU Cares was unable to contact him during the flood because he hadn't updated the address to 19th Street. "We knew fully that we were not going to reach everyone," Falter said. "We also knew that we were probably going to reach people who claimed that it was an apartment they were at last year. There's not harm in reaching out to someone who may say that they don't live there anymore." Word of mouth did help in the situations where there was students without updated addresses that were located near the flood evacuation zone. While contacting those who were located there, case managers also asked if there were other SJSU students so they could

contact them as well. Updating current addresses on MySJSU will allow SJSU Cares to contact a student in need during an emergency situation and help prevent any financial crisis. Students can also submit an online web form to get in contact with SJSU Cares if they need more help understanding the resources. In the meantime, Robledo is still residing in the same art room in Grace Baptist Church and plans on staying there until he graduates. "I understand what it's like to be afraid and have that heavy burden put on you," Robledo said. "So, I decided to stay with the church and work with them to help any other homeless." Crowe said Robledo described the church to her as his lifeline as he continues to pursue his academic goals.

Follow Dominoe on Twitter
@dominoeibarra

The first 72 hours of the flood

12 p.m., Feb. 20, 2017

The city of San Jose activated its Emergency Operations Center and sent city crews out in response to the floods. Coyote Creek was monitored throughout the day and preparation began for evacuation and shelter locations.

11 a.m., Feb. 21, 2017

Residents were advised by the city to prepare for voluntary evacuations because of expected flooding.

6:30 p.m., Feb. 21, 2017

Road closures were identified due to flooding. Closures included parts of Rock Springs Drive, William Street at 16th Street, Keyes Street to Senter Road and parts of Needle Drive.

9:30 p.m., Feb. 21, 2017

An evacuation advisory notice was issued to the entire area along Coyote Creek that was north of I-280 and south of CA-237.

6:35 p.m., Feb. 22, 2017

Some evacuations were lifted and residents were allowed to survey the damage.

4 p.m., Feb. 20, 2017

Two evacuation centers and one overnight shelter were opened to residents who voluntarily evacuated their homes in low-lying areas along Coyote Creek.

5 p.m., Feb. 21, 2017

An emergency notice was issued, aimed at areas along Coyote Creek from Capitol Expressway to CA-237 that were in high risk of flooding. More than 90 city staff and community service officers urged residents in affected neighborhoods to prepare for evacuation.

8:45 p.m., Feb. 21, 2017

A mandatory evacuation notice was issued for areas on the creekside near South 17th Street and South 19th Street.

2 a.m., Feb. 22, 2017

Although the rain stopped, flooding continued along Coyote Creek as the reservoir continued to spill over. Mandatory evacuations expanded to approximately 14,000 residents.

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE CITY OF SAN JOSE
INFOGRAPHIC BY MARCI SUELA | SPARTAN DAILY

City government responds to flood aftermath concerns

BY MEI SUZUKI
STAFF WRITER

A year ago today, thousands of San Jose residents were displaced by a historic flood when the Anderson Dam overflowed, spilling into Coyote Creek.

The flood caused an estimated \$73 million in damages, according to a 2017 flood report by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. About \$50 million were damages to private properties and \$23 million to public property.

Approximately 14,000 people were forced to evacuate their neighborhood and many took refuge in emergency shelters.

"We learned and improved from the flood of a year ago," Kip Harkness, deputy city manager for the City of San Jose, said.

As previously reported by the Spartan Daily on Nov. 7, 2017, representatives from the city of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District revealed a Joint Emergency Action Plan.

The plan included a four stage color-coded system that will help residents understand potential flooding conditions.

Harkness said that the city realized how much it had to improve the emergency system for any kind of situations through tragic events.

The city has worked to improve its effort and capabilities in notifying residents.

"We now have both high-tech and high-touch ways of reaching out to people," Harkness said. "We now can use the wireless emergency alert system. Whether or not you subscribe, we can send the alert to your phone."

He added that the city

can now use speakers that can project messages in English, Spanish and Vietnamese in a 1.4 mile radius.

These speakers will be driven on trucks through affected areas if another emergency occurs.

Harkness said the flood damaged around 500 houses and apartment buildings.

The city assisted 235 households by helping them secure temporary housing and giving them cash and food. The city classifies households as a family unit.

He added that 214 of the households displaced are back in long-term housing, and 21 of them are still in apartments and motels that the city is paying for.

The city plans to pay the housing fees for those 21 households until they can find permanent homes.

Over 4,000 volunteers from all over the country came to San Jose to help and support residents affected by the flooding.

According to Harkness, a total of \$14.7 million was channeled to the people who were impacted by the flood.

"What we can continue to improve is supporting our partner in the water district and make improvements to the area around the creek to increase its safety from flooding," Harkness said.

The communication between the city and the water district was another aspect considered to improve after the flood.

"I believe that the city, knowing everything that they knew about the eminence of a flood that would come through Coyote Creek, had the responsibility to share what they knew as

people, who were in harm's way," attorney Amanda Hawes said.

Hawes is representing about 150 families that were impacted by the flood are suing the city, county and the water district for damage.

"It's better to have information than find it afterwards," she said. "Not giving people any advanced notice, that's a very difficult failure for people to forgive because of what they have lost."

The lawsuit, worth over \$6 million, is seeking damages for two reasons. The first is cost to make the necessary repairs to the places that can be fixed and for what the people who are affected by the flood called "non-monetary losses" or "consequential damages."

These include things that cannot be replaced or bought again with money.

For example, many people lost their precious pictures and a lot of them had to take unpaid breaks from work because of the flood.

"The city's requirement is to do our very best to notify people and to do our very best to respond to the initial emergency," Harkness said. "And I say we have done our very best in our response and notification to the people."

Harkness added that he believes the city is not legally responsible for the flood and the aftermath.

"Being displaced, losing your home and being on the move, which is essentially homeless, it's very stressful," Hawes said. "They went through stress and sadness that they cannot describe with a word."

Follow Mei on Twitter
@mei09280328

Residents continue working to rebuild communities

BY JACKIE CONTRERAS
COPY EDITOR

Sociology junior Jennifer Rascon returned home from school one day to find the pavement submerged in water.

On Feb. 21, 2017, water surged through San Jose neighborhoods, leaving destruction in its path and forcing people out of their homes. Rascon was a resident in the Rock Springs neighborhood, an area hit by the Coyote Creek flood.

"My reaction was not to leave right away, I was not aware of the seriousness of it," Rascon said. "Next thing you know, we had somebody come and bang on the door super loud and start telling us to start evacuating and pack our things."

Like many residents, Rascon's apartment, car and personal belongings were damaged by the contaminated water.

The water that engulfed several neighborhoods was contaminated with sewage, chemicals and other wastes, which later led to the infestation of mold in cars and apartments.

In the midst of evacuations and chaos, members of the

community came together to help those affected by the flood.

"I think it's heartwarming knowing that the community cares and that they were there for me," Rascon said regarding the help she received from the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

Through Goodwill's car donation program, Rascon was able to replace her damaged car. Rascon received food and cleaning supply donations from the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Councilman Tam Nguyen of San Jose's District 7 said that while several areas of the city were severely affected, such as the mobile homes in District 3, the residents of Rock Springs were hit the hardest.

"The people who are actually most severe were in Rock Springs where the land is really low and very close to the creek where they reached the water," Nguyen said. "It is so true that a lot of people — most people are in my District 7 — in the Rock Springs area were affected the most."

As a leader for District 7, Nguyen said residents turned to him feeling confused, scared and upset. Nguyen

said he personally related to the situation and sympathized with members of the affected community. He compared it to floods and other natural disasters he faced while living in Vietnam.

Nguyen said the city raised \$7 million from private funding and was involved in the distribution. Last year, Vietnamese-American billionaire Kieu Hoang donated \$5 million to flood victims.

The councilman said he was not sure how the money donated by Hoang was divided. From his understanding, \$3,000 was distributed to some families and \$5,000 to others who lived in mobile homes.

Nguyen is pushing for a city and county-wide alert and exercise system in case of future emergencies, something he believes is necessary especially after the flood.

His two goals for the system are to support and rebuild the community as well as provide resources for a region-wide emergency preparation effort.

"I'm seeing some effort [from the city]," Nguyen said. "But for me, I'm not satisfied." Aside from Nguyen,

“Next thing you know, we had somebody come...telling us to start evacuating and pack our things.”

Jennifer Rascon
sociology junior

residents of the flooded areas have not found satisfaction in the way the situation was handled and the lack of warning prior to the flood.

A year after the flood, over 150 affected families have filed a joint lawsuit against the city of San Jose, Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD).

Attorney Amanda Hawes, who is representing the families, originally filed government claims against the city, county and SCVWD, but later decided to file the \$6 million lawsuit.

The amount the families are demanding is based on the cost

of repairs, damaged property, non-monetary losses and emotional distress damages.

"The factual contingents are that this was preventable, but those who were in a position to prevent it failed to do that," Hawes said.

Hawes and her clients are holding the defendants responsible for negligence to warn residents of Anderson Reservoir, located in Morgan Hill, overtopping and for not securing the water level of the dam did not surpass the known quantity on Feb. 18, which later resulted in the flood.

Hawes offers the defendants one piece of advice, "Fix the damn dam."

In addition to the dam, the defendants are being held accountable for illnesses that came after contact with the contaminated water.

"It's shit," Hawes said. "It's literally coming out of the sewers. Nobody should be exposed to it and if you happen to be confronted with a flood of shitty water, what do you think might happen? You might get sick and what were these agencies doing to prevent that, alert people, protect them? They weren't

doing anything"

Nguyen said he heard of the lawsuit recently and that he wasn't surprised by it.

He believes that the city is not at fault for the flood.

"The city, from my understanding, is that they were given wrong information from the water district," Nguyen said.

Nguyen said that SCVWD is responsible for issuing flood warnings and have jurisdiction of Coyote Creek.

Because the lawsuit is still in its early stages, there is no set trial date.

Since the flood, Rascon said her neighbors became more involved in local politics and are seeking resources to help them overcome the struggles they have been dealing with for a year.

"We're doing fine, maybe other families are not as well," Rascon said. "I'm sure there's families that are still not content, they're still not settling for the small little stipend we got from some organizations and wish they would get justice."

Follow Jackie on Twitter
@C96Jackie



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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL

PHONE:
(408) 924-5577

EMAIL:
SPARTANDAILY@GMAIL.COM

ADVERTISING

PHONE:
(408) 924-3270

EMAIL:
SPARTANDAILYADVERTISING@GMAIL.COM

New resource center opens to students

BY JASMINE STRACHAN
STAFF WRITER

The African-American/Black Student Success Center is now open and available for San Jose State students after three years of delay.

Sociology sophomore Lauryn Crawford is excited that it is finally open.

“I didn’t necessarily appreciate how long it took to open, especially because black students have lacked for that resource for this whole year,” Crawford said.

“Not being able to have events where all the different black students can come together, besides like the [Black Student Union], but I am glad that it is open. I think it is going to be great once it gets running.”

SJSU welcomed Paula Powell as the center’s program director on Jan. 31.

Powell brings 22 years of experience and expertise from the University of California, Santa Cruz to the program.

Students at UCSC protested about having a center dedicated to combating graduation rates and advocacy issues.

As the assistant dean of African-American student life at UCSC, she quickly developed a unit

for black students and eventually became the director of the African-American resource and cultural center, now known as the Ethnic Resource Center. Powell is eager to establish the same at SJSU.

“The primary goal of this center is being relevant,” Powell said. “I want the center to be relevant to the needs of the students. So a way we can begin that process through organizing this center and making sure you have all of the resources that we need to be successful.”

Powell said she played an intricate role in increasing UCSC’s African-American student graduation rate from 21 percent to 60 percent over the course of five years.

African-American students make up about 3.5 percent of SJSU’s population.

In 2015, the graduation rate for underrepresented students was 44 percent over the course of six years.

However, it was 17 percent lower than non-underrepresented students.

Skylar Caesar, political director of BSU, is enthusiastic about the new resources available to students.



JASMINE STRACHAN | SPARTAN DAILY

Paula Powell (right), program director of African-American/Black Student Success Center, speaks with LaKenda Hardwick (left), health educator with the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and a liaison (middle) from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

“I think it is a long-awaited arrival for the center,” Caesar said. “I think it will fill the void that we have here with programming and resources for black students. I definitely want there to be tutoring and advising that we can go to, and it’s easily accessible.”

Powell’s goal is to create avenues for African-American and black students through more academic support and pre-professional groups.

Powell wants to begin these groups through asking students, “What does

success look like to you?” Based on the provided answers, she then wants to implement resources that cater to all kinds of majors and years to better help them succeed.

“If you are linked up to something greater than yourself, that’s when we begin to see that transformation.

Students begin to matriculate successfully, graduate successfully, because they are getting the support,” Powell said.

The African-American/Black Student Success Center is located in the

Student Union, room 1360. It’s currently operating on “soft hours” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Powell is looking to expand those hours after March 1.

The center will host an open house today. A barbeque will be hosted on the Associated Students lawn from noon to 2 p.m. and the center will be open again later in the day from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Follow Jasmine on Twitter
@jaassyjay

Wells Fargo continues to face controversy

BY CHIOMA LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

Wells Fargo has been in the news a lot recently. From millions of fake accounts to unauthorized charging of fees, the banking company seems to be involved in back-to-back controversy.

In 2016, Wells Fargo came into bad light when its employees were exposed for creating over 1.5 million bank and credit card accounts without the permission or knowledge of customers, which had been occurring since 2011.

According to CNN Money, Wells Fargo fired over 5,300 employees because of fraudulent behavior. The employees took money from a customer’s existing account and put it in a new unauthorized account.

“I think it’s ridiculous that this had been going on for years on end and no one noticed,” African-American studies sophomore Morgan Lewis said. “Money is already rough enough for many people. Now a company

that has been around for decades looks shady and untrustworthy because of the selfish acts of its own employees.

In 2017, CNN Money reported that in addition to finding out there were more accounts than previously thought, thousands of customers were also signed up for online bill pay without their knowledge.

“Employees went so far as to create phony PIN numbers and fake email addresses to enroll customers in online banking services,” CNN Money reported.

In 2016 the bank was fined by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and agreed to pay over \$185 million in fines because of this.

This might have deterred some people from considering banking with Wells Fargo in the future.

“I wouldn’t bank with them because who knows if it could be my account next. And just like this situation, it could take years of me paying extra before I even notice,” Lewis said.

While the controversies might have scared some people away, Wells Fargo may still have some loyal customers who don’t plan to leave the bank any time soon.

“I trust my bank to handle situations like that. Fortunately I wasn’t affected, but I’d be more concerned if they did nothing,” political science junior and Wells Fargo customer Angelique Rivas said. “Wells Fargo still makes accommodations for their customers that can’t be found elsewhere.”

Wells Fargo CEO Tim Sloan said in a statement, “We apologize to everyone

who was harmed by unacceptable sales practices that occurred in our retail bank.”

Wells Fargo stated it will refund \$6.1 million to customers for the damage caused by the fake accounts and unauthorized account activity.

The apology did not stop the bank from receiving backlash. Last week, Sen. Elizabeth Warren said, “Wells Fargo has stolen money from its customers.

It has caused thousands of people to spend valuable time and money trying to deal with a problem Wells Fargo created.”

Warren stated the bank was making it complicated for customers to get their stolen money back.

The bank has also been recently accused of charging customers inappropriately for auto insurance and mortgage fees.

Follow Chioma on Twitter
@clevermindlewis

SECURITY

Continued from page 1

upperclassmen,” psychology junior Jahlaina Williams said. “People here are mature and it’s just not that useful showing a pink sticker.”

Williams said she finds the new policy to be inconvenient at times. Somebody could just ask for a sticker if the person had lost it.

“It makes me irritated because I don’t always have my [Tower] ID card out, but I understand the safety reasons behind it,”

Williams said.

She wants the ability to get to her dorm without having to be questioned for her Tower Card.

“It’s just an added layer of security and another set of eyes around the clock, as opposed to, you know anybody being able to cruise in behind you,” Kevina Brown, community relations coordinator for SJSU housing, said.

“In the past, people may be trying to blend in with students. As of now, if you don’t have ID, then you know, you can’t come in.”

Brown said that it is necessary to have this security in freshman dorms and non-freshman dorms, even though most incidents

“ I see people sneak up into (Campus Village B) going that way all the time.”

Shaquille Manley
history junior

happen in freshman dorms. “There are so many different ways that people can enter your building,” Brown said.

Brown said there are many barriers and doors for protection

in CVB because students are a lot more independent.

However, this doesn’t apply to the freshman dorms because freshmen need to socialize and interact with others during their first year at SJSU.

“It’s trying to minimize walls, but also trying to increase security, basically,” Brown added.

Brown said she wants people to feel more at home and safe, and hopes that students understand that this is mainly for their safety and it’s not being done to inconvenience them.

Follow Lovetta on Twitter
@Lovettaajackson

Correction

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the Spartan Daily published an article titled “State senator proposes free Plan B for CSUs.” The headline inaccurately named the medication that is proposed in the legislation. The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

EVENT RECAP



IMAGES COURTESY OF KRISTEN FLATEN

(Left) J'ana Page, Kristen Flaten, Christina Dunbar, Vivian Ho and Julia Mathew were the main contributors to this year's performance of the "Vagina Monologues." (Right) A few of the "Vagina Monologues" cast members pose for a picture on stage in the Student Union Theater.



V-Day cast raises awareness at SJSU

BY KAEL BENITEZ-AUSTRIA
STAFF WRITER

Last week, San Jose State's V-Day put on three performances of the "Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness about violence against female identifying individuals and transgender folks.

This year, the performances were directed by communicative disorders and sciences senior Christina Dunbar and accounting senior Kristen Flaten.

There was a definite change in mood with this year's group of

performers. With 18 performers, the cast of the "Vagina Monologues" told the stories of women and femme folks who have experienced discrimination, violence and shame because of their gender.

When it comes to the "Vagina Monologues," I have always had one specific criticism. Why do cisgender women read a monologue that should be read by transgender women?

And for a long time, I felt it was transphobic. Why does the cast include a monologue by and for transgender women, but not have

any transgender folks in the cast?

This year however, the performance seemed different.

"We made an extra effort to try and get more trans folks to audition," said Dunbar. "We had a non-binary individual participate."

Not many transgender individuals auditioned to be a part of the "Vagina Monologues," however, it's nice to see there was one person who could represent the transgender and gender-nonconforming community this year.

When the lights went dim inside the Student Union Theater, the word "resist" was

spelled out in big block letters across the stage. The word reminded the audience that while there are women and transgender individuals that experience hate and violence, there is also strength and hope.

The cast was passionate and energetic and they all put so much emotion into their performances. The audience could feel the pain, loneliness and fear embedded in the monologues being recited, such as "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy" and "My Vagina Was My Village."

But as always, there were monologues

that had the audience laughing throughout the whole performance, such as "The Flood" and "My Angry Vagina."

For the first of the monologues, the entire cast came on stage draped in fluffy pink feather boas, and the performers seemed to be glowing with excitement.

Despite the fact these monologues were the same from prior productions, because of the new cast, it felt like I was hearing them for the first time.

Raising awareness about violence against women and feminine individuals is a struggle, but the three

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productions that took place last week shed some light on a lot of relevant social issues, such as the practice known as female genital mutilation.

The money raised from ticket sales and chocolate vaginas and "pussy pops" sales was donated to the YWCA of Silicon Valley and to the Asian Americans for Community Involvement's Asian Women's Home.

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GAME REVIEW

'Final Fantasy XV' brings portable happiness

BY WILLIAM DELA CRUZ
STAFF WRITER

A simple and engaging mobile game, "Final Fantasy XV: Pocket Edition" is one that fans of the series, as well as people who have never played any of the "Final Fantasy" games before, would enjoy.

To be completely honest, I have not played any of the "Final Fantasy" games prior to this one but even without that knowledge, the game allows you to understand the story from the start.

The story of the game follows Noctis. He is the heir of the throne to the kingdom of Lucis. While he is away from home peace negotiations between his kingdom and the empire of Niflheim end up terribly.

Being away from home on a journey allows Noctis and his three companions to do all they can to save their kingdom.

The game is about Noctis' journey, which takes on different quests and fighting different types of enemies.

The pocket edition of "Final Fantasy" is specifically for phones so the graphics are super deformed, blocky and low quality. However, it does not take away from the gameplay experience.

The voices of the characters are done well and are high quality.

The voices of the characters really stand out in comparison to the graphics.

Even though you are playing on an iPhone and not on a 50-inch flat screen, the world is very open and not 2-D at all.

The gameplay is also really simple. To move from point A to point B, you just drag your finger across the scene.

However, you are not just moving around randomly. There are things you have to look out for, such as helpful items lying on the ground that lead you to specific characters that you need to talk to in order to further advance in the story.

The fighting in the game is very simple and surprisingly fun. To attack an enemy, you just drag Noctis up to the enemy and he and his three companions all automatically attack. But that does not mean you just beat all the enemies easily.

You still have to be engaged since the enemies can hit back and won't just stand still while you strike them. When the enemy attacks, you have to tap the screen at the exact time to hit it with a powerful counter attack, to dodge their attack, as well as use special attacks such as a warp strike.

It also helps a lot that you have three other companions with you since there are some

enemies that you fight in packs.

The game is also played from an overhead position which allows you to get an open view of everything the game provides from all the characters, the enemies and the area that surrounds you.

The music, as well as the sound effects, are really good. You can hear everything from the slash of the sword to the sounds of the sword hitting an enemy's body.

The game is free to download but after you finish the first chapter, you have to pay to continue to play.

Overall, the game was very fun and I enjoyed it for what it was but I did not like it enough to pay \$20.

Follow William on Twitter | @liamotsd

DOWNLOAD NOW

"Final Fantasy XV"

Studio: Luminous Studio
Genre: Action RPG
MSRP: \$20.00
Rating:

★★★★★

MOVIE REVIEW

'Black Panther' is by far the best Marvel film

BY BRIANNA SHEATS
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Coogler, the director of "Black Panther," made history by creating one of the best Marvel superhero movies of all time.

Not only was he able to get an outstanding cast of actors together, but also enriched the culture of African tribes. The actors did a phenomenal job of representing the African culture. For example, the actor Chadwick Boseman who plays T'Challa, is from the U.S. but his development of the character with the accent makes you believe he is from Africa.

Most of the storyline takes place in the fictional African nation of Wakanda. It was hit by a vibranium meteorite which, if you did not know, is the metal used to make Captain America's shield. The vibranium is what makes Wakanda the most advanced

technological nation in the world. Because of fear of outsiders, the Wakandians put themselves in isolation.

Never have I had such a connection with an antagonist in a story. Michael B. Jordan plays Erik Killmonger, who is not necessarily a villain but is against the ways of Wakanda. He disagrees with how Wakanda has all this technology but does not want to help other nations. He trained himself to be strong enough to take over Wakanda to help the whole world. This brought humanity into his character, making him not the basic villain.

Women were also a powerful asset in this movie, with Lupita Nyong'o as Nakia and Danai Gurira as Okoye. Okoye is the general of the Dora Milaje, which is the army in Wakanda.

These women are strong warriors training for combat and they totally kicked ass.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARCI SUELA

T'Challa's sister Princess Shuri, who is played by Letitia Wright, demonstrates so much intelligence and maturity in the movie. She is the innovative one who creates the Black Panther's suit and the weapons for the people. I was such a fan and admirer of her showing such excellence as a black young woman.

The beginning of the

movie starts in 1992 Oakland where we see a young T'Chaka, T'Challa's father, as Black Panther. With vibranium so sacred to the Wakandians, we find out T'Chaka's brother has been plotting to sell it to outsiders. The movie then jumps ahead in time to after the death of T'Challa's father in "Captain America: Civil War," where we see the

Black Panther make its first chameo.

T'Challa returns home where he takes the throne as the next ruler. This is where we get our first look at Wakanda. The visuals are outstanding in this movie because it made such a high-tech futuristic city come to life. The scenery was so colorful with not only the buildings but the people themselves. The costumes bring actual African tribe culture in each different tribe that lives in Wakanda.

What makes this film so great is it vividly portrays Wakandan culture with rituals and traditions mixed with the technology it has to offer. The movie also delves into current issues we have today. Wakanda keeps its technology a secret from the world to protect itself while millions of people are suffering in other nations. This reminds me of the U.S.

and how as a nation we are split between morals of rejecting globalism or leading on the world stage.

Overall, this movie was worth the wait and I am glad as a black woman to have been able to experience this moment in movie history.

Follow Brianna on Twitter | @briiiiiiii

IN THEATERS

"Black Panther"

Directed by:
Ryan Coogler

Starring:
Chadwick Boseman,
Michael B. Jordan

Genre:
Superhero/Action

Rating:
★★★★★

EVENT RECAP

sjDANCEco keeps SJSU students "On the Edge"

BY JASMINE STRACHAN
STAFF WRITER

sjDANCEco hosted "On the Edge" this past weekend, a concert which showcased several unique performances of different types of contemporary dance styles.

sjDANCEco has been in residence at San Jose State for the last 15 years.

It was held on campus at the Spartan Complex, and consisted of sjDANCEco members, outside dance troupes and San Jose State dance students performing classical, contemporary, or ballet dance pieces.

sjDANCEco is a professional classic and contemporary modern dance company. It is

its own entity, but adds to the existing dance program at SJSU.

Many of the dancers are alumni of the university and auditioned to join SJDC. sjDanceco also holds open auditions to all experienced dancers in order to put this concert together.

That is exactly what "On the Edge" means.

It is an opportunity for SJSU dance students and other experienced dancers to choreograph or perform their preferred style of contemporary dance.

It allows for a special kind of versatility because choreographers can be performers and vice versa.

"It's a chance for our dancers to choreograph

their own works on our dancers as well as other dancers in the community that they see fit to do their work," co-artistic director of sjDANCEco Maria Basile said. "It's a way of nurturing the creative edge of our dancers."

Maria Basile has over 20 years of dance experience. She is a part-time faculty member in the dance department at SJSU and the faculty advisor of the Spartan Swing Dance club in addition to her position with sjDANCEco.

As one of the founders and artistic directors of sjDANCEco, she explains the significance of "On the Edge."

"It's a way of sharing ourselves and giving

other artists in the area some more exposure, and another venue to do their own work," Basile said.

Mario Barron, was able to take in the performer role during this year's spring recital.

"I got to sit back and just perform for this one which is very relieving and also awesome to get to live in someone else's brain essentially," Barron said.

He often choreographs pieces and performed "Agape: a Love Letter," choreographed by David Le. Barron and Le are in a committed relationship and this piece was symbolic of the love they share.

"It's different every single time," Barron

said. "[It's] always great. I always feel good because you just go out there and you let it all out. It's really cool just to be out there and be so vulnerable by yourself and take charge of the space."

Le is a fifth year dance and kinesiology major and an apprentice with the sjDANCEco.

Le explains that this concert has been completely invigorating for him and his craft. He said he expresses the freedom that comes with being apart of "On the Edge."

Especially being that his partner performed it, it created a greater connection to the whole piece.

"It's been a great experience seeing how

people react to it. I feel like this whole concert, the 'On the Edge,' was mainly for young artists to discover their artistry, and their voice and how to articulate that," Le said.

"On the Edge" is the second performance of the season, and it continues to be a concert that brings a lot of excitement because students have the opportunity to become the teacher.

sjDANCEco often hosts "On the Edge" in the spring, and it will be embarking on its 16th anniversary next year.

Follow Jasmine on Twitter | @jaassyjay

MOVIE REVIEW

'Early Man' is a children's film that's worth the watch

BY WILLIAM DELA CRUZ
STAFF WRITER

The fun and light hearted children's comedy "Early Man" is a classic story about an underdog but with an unexpected mash-up between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age.

The Stone Age was a prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make implements with an edge of a stone and the Bronze Age was a period of human culture characterized by the use of weapons and implements made of cast bronze.

Released on Friday, it's a 90-minute movie that's fun for the whole family.

Even though the film is targeted toward children, I found myself chuckling throughout the film. I guess it shows that I am not as mature as I would like to believe I am.

The movie starts when the meteor that killed the dinosaurs hits Earth and leaves behind a big open crater. A volcano outside the crater then shoots out a molten rock the size of a soccer ball which lands in the center of the crater. The surviving cavemen notice the rock and slowly approach it.

Intrigued, they touch the molten rock and realize it's really hot, then begin to pass it to one another like a game of hot potato. While passing it around, they begin to kick it, which then creates the game we know now as soccer.

Fast-forward to the Stone Age. The movie follows the main protagonist, a caveman named Dug, and his tribe of fellow cavemen.

The original crater caused by the meteor grows into a beautiful forest-like habitat which

they call The Valley, where the cavemen live peacefully secluded from the outside world.

However, the cavemen's peace is destroyed when they are driven out of The Valley by the greedy leader of the Bronze Age, Lord Nooth. He claims the Stone Age is over and wants to destroy it for the bronze hidden deep in the caves.

Dug then manages to sneak into the Bronze city when he is accidentally knocked into one of Nooth's trucks. In the truck, he ends up donning the mask of a soccer player and plays goalie for Nooth's soccer team.

But the mask gets taken off Dug and the match stops. Then he realizes his ancestors invented soccer, which then provokes him to challenge the bronze age team to a match. The bet is that if the

cavemen win they get their valley back, and if they lose they have to work in the mines.

The movie then turns into a classic David versus Goliath story as the cavemen face the impossible task of overcoming the odds and defeating Nooth's bronze team.

Through different training, teamwork and the help of an unlikely ally, the movie depicts the classic type of training montages seen in other sports films that appeal to all who have played sports.

Along with the sports, the humor shown throughout the film is what one expects out of a caveman comedy.

The cavemen are airheaded but lovable neanderthals, somewhat like what Patrick is in Spongebob.

They use a giant dung

beetle as a razor to shave and are incapable of hunting a tiny rabbit who is too fast and too smart for them, and even have a fellow member named Mr. Rock, who is literally a giant rock, that goes hunting with them.

One of the scenes that made me laugh was when they finally caught the rabbit because it ran into Mr. Rock and they all celebrated him during dinner.

Down 3 to 1 at halftime, the movie culminates in a dramatic comeback by the cavemen who are not discouraged because of their belief in one another.

Filled with funny jokes, a variety cast of characters, and a good message for all, the movie reminds the audience to never give up and to always believe in themselves no matter

what obstacles are in front of them.

A good movie for kids and soccer enthusiasts alike, "Early Man" really scores a goal.

Follow William on Twitter | @liamotsd

IN THEATERS

"Early Man"

Directed by:
Nick Park

Starring:
Eddie Redmayne,
Tom Hiddleston

Genre:
Animation/Humor

Rating:
★★★★★

Being labeled news doesn't make it news



Kris Rodriguez
STAFF WRITER

Fake news is just “telephone” on speed.

Fake news began trending when President Donald Trump accused mainstream news outlets of reporting inaccurate stories about him, catapulting the popular saying to cultural pun.

But it isn't funny and actually reminds me of a game I used to play in grade school called telephone.

The teacher would start the game by whispering into the ear of the student closest to her. That student would then whisper to the next student, so on and so forth. The goal was to finish the game with the original message whispered by the teacher.

The first time we played, everyone passed along the message

accurately. However, as the year progressed, students found it more fun to add or take away details. This is a trend that has since escaped my childhood classroom and found shelter with the talking heads of every mainstream news outlet in the developed world.

Take, for example, this recent Washington Post headline, “Trump takes ‘shackles’ off ICE, which is slapping them on immigrants who thought they were safe.”

Ever since Trump began rescinding protections for dreamers last year, the media has accused him of anti-immigrant sentiments.

This is odd when you consider that former President Barack Obama was once labeled “deporter

in chief” for the record number of undocumented immigrants he displaced during his term; more than any president before him.

It's telephone all over again.

Changing details in the game was fun until my teacher started whispering important stuff like, “The last person out of the class who turns off the light will be line leader to lunch tomorrow.”

Back then, being line leader was everything and my classmate Andrew, knew this.

So when it was his turn to whisper in my ear, he said, “The last person out of class needs to leave the light on for Henry, the class rat, in order to be line leader.” I left the light on and the next day Andrew was leading the line. I was furious, not because I wasn't line leader, but because I didn't bother to question what he said.

This is kind of like how I didn't bother to question why mainstream media

feels so attacked by the Trump administration when Obama was known for implementing a heavy surveillance state in order to manage his public persona. Seriously, Google it.

Jose Gerstein writes for Politico and went on the record with the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) to admit, “The Obama people will spend an hour with you, off the record, arguing about the premise of the story. If the story is basically one that they don't want to come out, they won't even give you basic detail.”

Can you believe it? I thought there was no way this could be true, but it was. And it only got worse.

Turns out, according to the CPJ, Obama also prosecuted more journalists than any other president before him.

It was Andrew all over again. It had to be because I've never seen a headline like, “Barack blocks basic details.” It was

always, “Obama opens opportunities.”

That's not to shame the former president. I strongly believe it takes a special person to serve the public so publically.

But, this is just like when Andrew hijacked the line leader spot.

You see, the entire time up to the point when he whispered the lie, the teacher had been explicit in “saving energy.” There was even a sticker on the lightswitch that read, “Turn Me Off!”

Oh, and the kicker. Remember Henry the rat? He's nocturnal and used our lunchtime to take an extra dark nap while we were away.

I swear, that day I kicked myself all the way through the serving line. Never again.

Being informed doesn't mean picking a side, it just means maintaining a balance with the constant flow of available information.

So for the sake of your sanity and your critical

thinking skills, please don't be passive recipients of information by believing every headline you read.

More often than not, many of the popular stories you're reading have been repackaged and redistributed in order to compete with rival networks and reporters. In most cases the information is exactly the same.

If you want proof, toggle back and forth between the mainstream news networks next time something serious happens.

It's telephone at the grandest scale possible.

So, instead of just clicking, actually try critically processing what you're consuming, because there is always an Andrew waiting to get ahead, in this case, it's to get ahead in ratings.

But, that's a whole other conversation.

Follow Kris on Twitter | @KO_352

Spoons are by far the least useful utensil



William dela Cruz
STAFF WRITER

Spoons are the most useless utensil.

Now, I know what you might be thinking, “What are you talking about? We need spoons for all kinds of stuff.”

Well, when you think about it, we do not really need spoons at all.

Every other utensil has a specific purpose that is needed while a spoon does not.

To make my point, let's go through all the utensils.

First off, the knife. A

knife is something we need. When we need to cut something edible that is too tough to cut with another utensil, like a steak, we use a knife.

Also, when we eat something like bagels, sandwiches or toast, we need a knife. First we need it to cut it in half, and then to apply our spread of choice, such as butter, cream cheese, jelly, etc.

The knife is a necessity. Next, the fork is something we need. The fork is used

to pierce through a solid food to pick it up and eat it. You obviously can use a knife to pick up something, but to avoid serious injury, I would not use a knife for this purpose.

The fork is irreplaceable and allows us to eat our favorite foods such as pasta, salad, steak, etc. They can all be eaten easily with a fork but not with a spoon. Try eating spaghetti with just a spoon, yeah right.

Another example is fruit. Whenever we eat fruit such as watermelon or oranges, you either use a fork or your hands.

Now to the main event, the spoon. The spoon is the most useless utensil because everything you eat using a spoon can be

eaten either with a fork, your hands, chopsticks or by drinking it.

You might be thinking, “What about foods like ice cream, soup or rice?”

Ice cream is a solid food and can be eaten with a fork, no problem. Soup is a liquid you can drink straight from the bowl, and rice can be eaten with a fork or chopsticks.

For example, if you go to any Japanese restaurant, you would typically get an appetizer of miso soup and salad. They never give you a spoon with the soup because you can drink it from the bowl and you eat the salad with chopsticks.

There are 10 reasons why spoons are better than forks according to the

food publication Spoon University.

However, the reasons provided just prove that spoons are not better than forks.

Some of the reasons provided are, “Saying the word is way more fun” and “Stir it up,” meaning that spoons allow you to stir up the sugar in your coffee like forks are incapable of doing that.

To further prove my point, Buzzfeed did a poll titled “How Do You Eat These Things?”

According to the poll, 77 percent of people polled use a fork when eating macaroni and cheese, 58 percent when eating rice, 71 percent when eating ramen, 82 percent when

eating pie, 93 percent when eating scrambled eggs, 69 percent when eating mashed potatoes and 82 percent ate watermelon with their hands.

A poll by debate.org stated 55 percent of individuals believe that spoons are useless.

You might have been thinking that I was in the minority when talking about spoons, but I beg to differ.

In conclusion, if you need to cut something, you use a knife. If you need to pick up something, use a fork. If you are eating soup, just pick up the bowl.

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Men should not catcall women



Chioma Lewis
STAFF WRITER

If you are a man and you see a woman on the street who is attractive, leave her alone. Do not call out to her, ask for her name or try to hit on her. Let her walk by in peace. I am very tired of men catcalling women on the street.

Catcalling can turn into harassment when the catcaller follows the woman or keeps bothering her after she has ignored them. It makes women feel self-conscious and the need to always be on guard. Many women carry tasers or pepper spray with them due to fear of being bothered on the street. This is not directed at all men, just the ones who do this. This is also not meant to bash men in anyway, it just needs to be said.

According to a Huffington Post article, “Street harassment is defined as any unwanted gawking, whistling, commenting and/or physical contact of a sexual nature — something that up to 99 percent of women report experiencing in their lifetimes.”

I've been yelled at, followed and even proposed to by random men on the street. Sometimes the experience can be amusing because of how ridiculous it is,

but many times it can be very scary. I've even had a stranger ask me to go outside with him when I was standing in line at Jack in the Box. Being approached by a random man on the street is not fun. I know there are other women who have experienced similar things.

“I've observed countless incidents of women being degraded and disempowered. It's disgusting,” music education senior Desiree Miguel said. “I walk three blocks to San Jose State everyday, and at least twice a week I get catcalled.”

One of the major reasons I think men need to stop doing this is because they never know if the person they are hitting on is under age. I remember being eleven years old and being catcalled by men in cars. That is a scary experience, and those men could have ended up in jail.

I know some men might think that catcalling is harmless and nothing to be sensitive about, but for most women it is not harmless at all. We are strangers to you. There is no reason you should be randomly hitting on, or yelling things to a woman that you don't know.

According to the

Washington Post, “While many people, even women, describe street harassment as flattering, it is a negative and costly phenomenon and part of a broader tolerance for a spectrum of gender-based violence.”

If a woman is obviously headed somewhere and in a hurry, leave her alone. If she's wearing earphones, don't try to get her attention so that she has to take them off. While some men might find catcalling acceptable, some clearly do not.

“I feel like its very offensive and demeaning towards women,” business junior Paul Fox said. “I think that catcalling either highlights insecurity among those that do it or shows a general lack of respect towards women. Either way it's unnecessary and unflattering.”

I am still talking about catcalling out on the street, not in places where it's appropriate to try and get to know the people around you like a bar, club or social event. There is nothing wrong with approaching women in an appropriate environment at the right time and place.

Follow Chioma on Twitter | @clevermindlewis

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Lottery winners should be anonymous



Chioma Lewis
STAFF WRITER

Lottery winners in California should be allowed to be anonymous with no strings attached. It's too dangerous for the names of lottery winners to be released to the public because of the harassment they tend to receive after being announced. In California, the identities of lottery winners have to be public.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, "In the California lottery handbook for winners, officials offer a few suggestions to newly minted millionaires. Change your number. Stop answering your phone. And find a reputable financial adviser. That's because along with the money comes 15 minutes of fame as the names of winners are required to be made public in California and many other states."

Lottery officials believe making the winners' information public creates more transparency and discourages cheating. I think it creates a privacy issue for the winners.

When a person wins a lottery they suddenly have people calling them and asking them for money. People they haven't seen or talked to in years and sometimes even strangers start

calling them or sending them letters. Lottery winners even receive death threats from complete strangers.

A report by NBC News gave examples of lottery winners who faced challenges after their identities were made public.

The article referred to a man, Mike Wittkowski, who took home \$40 million in winnings from the Illinois lottery in 1984. "State law forced him to come forward in a news conference, although he was reluctant," the article reported. "But with his name and picture plastered on the news, he was a target. Someone called in a bomb threat to his home. At bars, people would expect him to buy a round of drinks. More than 1,000 letters from strangers trying to tug at his heartstrings were mailed to his home."

It's unacceptable that people have to fear for their lives just because strangers and criminals decide to harass them for the winner's good fortune. No one should think they have any right or claim to someone else's money.

"I think lottery winners should stay anonymous if they want," marine biology junior Daisy Zuno said. "The bare minimum

Lucky Winner Advice:

- 1) Change your telephone number
- 2) Change your home address



1 in 41,416,353 chance to win the CA Super Lotto \$1 tickets for a \$38 million jackpot

INFORMATION FROM SMARTLUCK
INFOGRAPHIC BY CHIOMA LEWIS | SPARTAN DAILY

should be state and gender just for us curious folk. Safety would be the number one reason why people would want to stay anonymous which is understandable."

According to Forbes, there are a few things you can do to help protect your identity if you are fortunate enough to win the lottery.

One of the ways to get around the risks of your identity being released when you win the lottery is a blind trust.

"Recently, the term blind trust has grown to include a trust or entity that attempts to hide the true ownership from the public and

asset searches. In this case, 'blind' refers not to the owner of the trust but to everyone else," the Forbes article said.

A blind trust could be an option but no one should have to go through that trouble. Lottery winners should not be forced or coerced into having their identity made public. If I win the lottery, I would not want to be harassed for my money. There is no reason a person should be subjected to death threats and hundreds of phone calls just because they had some good luck.

Follow Chioma on Twitter
@clevermindlewis

RETAILERS PROFIT OFF OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION



Kael Benitez-Austria
STAFF WRITER

The fashion world can be a culturally-insensitive, money-hungry place. While there are plenty of really good brands out there who try to be mindful of what they are selling, there are also retailers that take cultural clothing and sell it for more than \$50 per article of clothing. And the sad part is these retailers will make money off of cultural appropriation.

Just last week, clothing brand Zara was under fire by Twitter users after it began selling skirts that shared a striking resemblance to a lungi, a South East Asian garment worn by men.

Not only was the Spain-based retailer selling something that has cultural significance, but it was charging more than \$100 for a sarong that can be purchased for anywhere between \$3 to \$15 on websites such as Ebay and even Amazon.

Unfortunately, this was not the first time this year a fashion retailer was disgustingly ignorant about what kind of garments it were producing.

In mid January, Twitter users were outraged when photos were released of a young African-American boy wearing an H&M sweatshirt that read "Coolest Monkey in the Jungle."

Needless to say, this offended many people and damaged the reputation of the international retailer.

These brands, who play a huge part in our society as influencers, should not be profiting off the culture of black and brown communities.

The sad fact of the matter is, cultural insensitivity has infected the fashion industry for years.

Prior to 2018, countless runway shows have been critiqued for using models sporting dreadlocks, headdresses, and beaded dresses and other garments. Victoria's Secret is infamous for having at least one form of cultural appropriation in its annual lingerie shows.

Some may argue the intention of some designers, however, is not to appropriate culture, but show cultural appreciation. And while appreciating art and other elements of a different culture can be problematic, it is controversial when high-end brands profit off cultural garments, especially when they do not make an effort to establish where this clothing comes from.

Cultural appropriation, as defined by law professor

Olufunmilayo Arewa from University of California, Irvine, is when cultural borrowing becomes exploitive. Because these retailers are profiting off the clothing they sell, there is no doubt they are being appropriative.

The question remains: is it acceptable for fashion retailers to take cultural garments and resell them for an outrageous price?

The question remains: is it acceptable for fashion retailers to take cultural garments and resell them for an outrageous price?

"When people know of us as only a 'costume,' or something you dress up for a music video, then you stop thinking of us as people," said Jessica Metcalfe, a writer for Beyond Buckskin. "And this is incredibly dangerous because every day we fight for the basic human right to live our lives without outsiders determining our fate or defining our identities."

Metcalfe brings up good points because we habitually discredit other cultures and claim their fashion as our own. "I don't like it," political science sophomore Austin Nguyen said. "To charge so heinously for that clothing is where the line should be drawn. It becomes unattainable for many and pointless in my opinion."

The fashion industry has always been a place of self expression and art, despite more recently art has been rather offensive and undeniably racist. While these retailers won't change their designs and garments any time soon, buyers can direct their attention to other brands who are more mindful of what they are selling.

"People should at least want to buy traditional brands as much as high-end brands for the sake of how intricate and difficult the skill is to create that article of fashion," Nguyen said.

There is no place for racism in the fashion industry, regardless of how much profit it generates and how many people agree with cultural insensitivity.

Follow Kael on Twitter
@cutcreaseprince

Taxpayers shouldn't fund 'Trump Parade'



Alex Martinet
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump has reportedly asked for a military parade to showcase troops, tanks and other military hardware down Pennsylvania Avenue. The parade would be modeled after the Bastille Day parade that Trump witnessed last year in France. "The marching orders were: I want a parade like the one in France," one military official told The Washington Post. At this point, it isn't surprising to see Trump acting the way he does, as he already has a massive, fragile ego, but this crosses a line.

If this was truly about celebrating those in the military, then I would be all for it, but all of this is an ego trip. In his first year, Trump's job approval is below 40 percent in 18 states, according to Vox. Only 12 states gave Trump majority approval in 2017. This is a man who has lost much of his support base and is falling back

on a taxpayer-funded military parade to start his 2020 campaign.

Even if Trump had the most sincere intentions, which I doubt, his most recent track record tells a different story. At the 2016 Democratic National Convention, he criticised the parents of a Muslim soldier who strongly disapproved of him.

In an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News, Trump returned the favor saying Khizr Khan intentionally didn't let his wife speak, stating she, "is devoid of feeling the pain of a mother who has sacrificed her son."

Trump isn't afraid of politicizing if it tarnishes the image of his opponent. In 2015, he criticized John McCain, a prisoner of war who was captured in North Vietnam, based on his experience. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured,"

Trump said during an interview at the Family Leadership Summit in July 2015.

Trump received five deferments during the Vietnam War. Four while he was attending college and one after a doctor diagnosed him with bone spurs in his heels after he graduated. "I had a doctor that gave me a letter - a very strong letter on the heels," he told the New York Times in 2016.

This wouldn't be the first military parade to take place in Washington, D.C. According to Politico, in 1865, 1919 and 1945, mass military parades celebrated returning troops to mark their return to civilian life. The 1945 parade marked the end of World War II.

On June 19, 1945, Dwight D. Eisenhower, the last Army general to occupy the White House, gave a speech where 4 million New Yorkers lined Fifth Avenue and Broadway to welcome the troops home.

In the speech, Eisenhower said, "There is no greater pacifist than the regular officer. Any man who is forced to turn his attention

to the horrors of the battlefield, to the grotesque shapes that are left there for the burying squad - he doesn't want war. He never wants it."

Today, The United States is involved in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, but on a global scale similar to World War II, nobody is ready to reset. Some people are still not ready to move on the result from 2016 election, further entrenching themselves in a political party.

I personally don't trust the Trump administration since it stepped into the White House. When James Comey was fired it kickstarted the Robert Mueller investigation, making us all wait for the true story to be told.

A military parade will cost millions. Let's focus on fixing military housing, hire more VA doctors, daycare for families or give more flight training time. We have to return the favor when service members return home. A political parade is an empty gesture.

Follow Alex on Twitter
@almartinet

It is harder to stop bullying than you think



Mei Suzuki
STAFF WRITER

Bullying has been a severe social issue for a long time, but it never gets better. No one thinks bullying is a good idea, but somehow it still happens. What is worse is that sometimes participants are not even aware what they're doing is considered bullying.

"It's a huge issue that no one wants to properly handle, and it's a multicultural issue," Japanese and linguistics senior Kayci Harris said. "[Bullies] are trying to find social acceptances, and yet they are socially competing by knocking each other down."

There tends to be a hierarchy between students at a school, and they are fighting with each other not to fall to the bottom. The main method is bullying.

I think it is how students socialize in the closed-off world of a school. You can have significant social experiences while in middle school or high school. You express yourself, communicate and have relationships with important people,


such as friends and significant others.

I had experiences of being bullied in middle school. I liked going to class, learning things I didn't know, eating lunch with my friends and talking with them. But once the bullying started, my school life changed drastically. I refused to go to school. Someone made up and spread a rumor about me without evidence, and everyone talked about it.

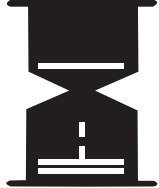
No one wanted to talk to me, because if they did, they would be the next targets. I could not even say a word in a classroom. If someone heard my voice, they yelled, "Shut up, ugly bitch!"

After a while, it got better, but they still talked about me behind my back. It did not end completely until I graduated from high school.

"Because it's fun, everyone else is doing it. It was more likely to fit in," radio, television and film senior Nathan Ho said. "Because if you don't bully, you seemed weak."




60% OF TEENAGERS HAVE WITNESSED BULLYING




BULLYING HAPPENS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY SEVEN MINUTES

BULLYING HAS CAUSED 10% OF STUDENTS TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL



17% OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCE CYBERBULLYING



INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, BUSINESS INSIDER, GRAPHIC BY MEI SUZUKI | SPARTAN DAILY

He was once bullied because he had an interesting last name that could mesh with another word that was not favorable. "My best friend joined in and started to make fun of me, and I got upset. I ended up punching the guy who started it," Ho said.

"I think it is possible to reduce bullying, but I don't think people want to," Harris said. "Because it is too much work. And today, it has become so much easier to bully because of the internet."

Not always, but sometimes, bullies themselves have issues they don't know how

better if they make someone else feel bad about him or herself," mechanical engineering freshman Brandon Quan said.

If students have problems at home and take it out on other students, or if members of the faculty realize something wrong is happening, they should help them and show students they care about them. But one of the reasons why bullying issues don't get better is because faculty is not actively involved in this.

"My teacher was also bullying me in front of the class, too. But the school did nothing about it," Harris said. "The school district I was in at that time was known for caring to the rich, and is still known for that. So they wouldn't care unless you bribe them."

When Harris was in a choir at school, her

teacher stepped in and stopped bullying when other members were picking on her. When I was in junior high school, my homeclass teacher helped me and prevented the bullying from getting worse. This shows there are some teachers who act on what they believe. More teachers should act this way. Too many of today's school faculty don't care about their students or how their attitudes possibly affect them in a really bad way.

The more I consider this issue, the stronger I think adults – school faculty and parents – are part of the issue not being solved. The way teachers face their students impacts how the students see the social world. How parents discipline their children and what they

Someone made up and spread a rumor about me without evidence, and everyone talked about it.

Ho said that he was a bully once before he became bullied. "I remembered it, and I still really regret it."

Because people are starting to use the internet at younger ages, more and more youths have engaged in virtual bullying.

to deal with properly. This could cause them to take out their anger and stress on innocent friends at school.

"If something happened [to the bullies] and they feel bad about themselves, then they think that maybe they might feel

Follow Mei on Twitter @meis0000

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Exhibits
- 6. Where two pieces meet
- 10. Check
- 14. Lawful
- 15. Anagram of "Sees"
- 16. Impish
- 17. Turf
- 18. Awestruck
- 19. Broth (Scottish)
- 20. Indoor garden
- 22. Solitary
- 23. Morning moisture
- 24. Blatant
- 26. Crown
- 30. A gold coin of ancient Persia
- 32. Lazybones
- 33. Acrobat
- 37. Swerve
- 38. Caper
- 39. Savvy about
- 40. Attacked
- 42. Fragrant oil
- 43. Weeper
- 44. On the beach
- 45. French for "Queen"
- 47. Venomous snake
- 48. Groan
- 49. An open letter
- 56. Tropical American

DOWN

- 1. Smelting waste
- 2. German for "Mister"
- 3. Curved molding
- 4. Diminish
- 5. Defamation
- 6. Goat antelope
- 7. Brother of Jacob
- 8. Vipers
- 9. Fast
- 10. Table linen
- 11. Mistake
- 12. Smell
- 13. You (archaic)
- 21. Skirt's edge
- 25. By means of
- 26. Opera star
- 27. Midmonth date
- 28. Beers
- 29. Displace
- 30. Discourage
- 31. Desiccated

- 33. Kitty (poker)
- 34. Within
- 35. Celebrity
- 36. Ripped
- 38. Wean
- 41. A large vase
- 42. Distinct features
- 44. American Sign Language
- 45. Imperial
- 46. Deservedly receives
- 47. Donkeys
- 48. No more than
- 50. Distinctive flair
- 51. A division of a hospital
- 52. Novice
- 53. Russian emperor
- 54. Behold, in old Rome
- 55. Decays

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

1	6			2				
	5	2			1	7	9	
								8
7			5				3	
9								2
	8				6			7
2								
	4	7	1			9	2	
			4				8	1

SOLUTIONS 02/20/2018

8	9	4	1	7	5	3	2	6
5	7	2	6	4	3	1	8	9
3	1	6	9	2	8	4	7	5
2	5	7	8	9	4	6	1	3
4	6	1	3	5	2	7	9	8
9	3	8	7	1	6	5	4	2
7	8	9	5	6	1	2	3	4
6	4	3	2	8	7	9	5	1
1	2	5	4	3	9	8	6	7

A	G	O	G	F	L	O	A	T	A	S	P	S		
M	A	D	E	R	O	U	G	E	F	A	I	L		
I	R	O	N	O	S	T	E	N	S	I	B	L	E	
A	B	R	I	D	G	E	S	T	I	R	R	E	D	
				T	U	G				N	E	E	D	S
A	N	T	I	P	Y	R	E	T	I	C				
L	E	A	V	E	A	P	A	C	E	D	E	N		
G	A	L	E	S	T	O	K	E	H	E	R	O		
A	P	E	S	U	E	D	E	D	O	L	O	R		
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B	O	W	E	L				H	A	D				
A	G	E	L	O	N	G	S	I	R	O	C	C	O	
D	E	L	I	N	E	A	T	O	R	S	W	O	O	
G	E	L	D	A	T	O	M	S	N	O	D	E		
E	S	S	E	T	E	N	E	T	S	P	A	S		

JOKIN' AROUND

Can February March?

(-: but April May -:)

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BASEBALL



JOE ROIAS | SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose State junior shortstop Aaron Pleschner sprints toward third base to get himself into scoring position against the Santa Clara Broncos on Tuesday night.

Spartans' offense comes up short

BY JOE ROIAS
STAFF WRITER

Lack of offensive consistency cost the Spartans in a tough loss against rival Santa Clara. The Spartans left a total of 10 runners on base and the inability to come up with clutch RBIs led to a 4-1 defeat. Spartan pitcher Brandon Ross got his

first career start last night, but struggled early on when he walked the opening batter and then followed that by hitting the next batter. Allowing free base runners led to the Broncos taking an early 1-0 lead. "Mistakes happen. We gave them a lot tonight in terms of free runners," interim head coach Brad Sanfilippo said. Mistakes are a part of the game, but the mistakes early on in this one swung momentum in Santa Clara's direction and they never surrendered it. In the top of the second,

Spartan right fielder Chris Williams made an error by overrunning a deep fly ball down the line and cost the Spartans two runs to extend the Bronco lead to 3-0. The rough start did not shake Ross's confidence and was able to adjust to the early adversity. "I picked up my tempo and actually tried to throw the ball a little bit harder. Just went back to what made me successful in the past," starting pitcher Brandon Ross said. "Wish I could've done that in the beginning." Ross was able to settle down after his rocky start

with three consecutive shutout innings to keep the deficit at three. The Spartans had a chance to put up some runs of their own in the third. The offense gained some momentum with a couple of back-to-back singles, but the three, four, and five hitters failed to knock them in. "The fact that we had the opportunities was great. We just got to do better with those opportunities," Sanfilippo said. The Spartan's offense came out flat and failed to string consistent hits against a solid Bronco pitching squad.

The Broncos were able to keep the Spartans at bay with a collective pitching performance led by Junior starting pitcher Luke Martin-Resnick. Santa Clara's bullpen continued what Martin-Resnick started by pounding the strike zone and keeping the Spartan offense on their heels. The Broncos were able to extend their lead in the sixth with a solo home-run by sophomore shortstop Jason Dicochea. His homer to left field made Sanfilippo turn to the bullpen where Freshmen Walker Brinkman came in

and provided three strong shutout innings. The lone run for the Spartans came off of a sacrifice by junior Michael Bowes in the bottom half of the sixth, but the scoring ended there. With a 4-1 lead, Bronco Senior pitcher Penn Murfee closed out the final two innings and silenced the Spartans' bats. SJSU looks to bounce back when they go on the road to take on the University of San Francisco this Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Follow Joe on Twitter | @joe_roias

Birdman Bats flying to MLB this season

BY BEN STEIN
STAFF WRITER

The CEO of a San Francisco startup has made his way into Major League Baseball (MLB) without playing in one game. "I finally made the MLB, I just had to find a different way to get there," Gary Malec, CEO of Birdman Bats said. Malec started making baseball bats as a hobby for his brother Mark who, at the time, was playing college baseball. From there the company, Birdman Bats, grew. "It was great, it had a funny knob on it that I liked," Mark Malec said. "I had some teammates at the time that would use it as well, they all liked the bat too." Gary Malec made that bat and stuck a drawing, a car-

toon-like bird with a human head, he found in one of his brother's notebooks on it, inadvertently creating the company logo. The bats are used around the world in independent leagues in Japan, Taiwan, Australia and Puerto Rico. After two years, they were finally ready to move into the big leagues. In an email, David Hochman, a specialist with the MLB, said, "We require various steps to be completed before approving a bat supplier, of which there were 33 in the 2017 regular season." The company is based out

of a warehouse in South San Francisco where it cuts the wood and turns it into bats. From there, the bats must be ink dot-tested to ensure they meet the standards of the MLB. "We needed a letter of recommendation from a big league club like a manager or a front office," Malec said. "We got Gabe Kapler, the manager of the Phillies. He wrote us a nice letter. Then we had to pay a licensing fee. Then you have to mail in bats that they cut up and check for all the standards... And we passed." With orders coming in quick, Birdman Bats sped up

its process in order to make as many bats as possible. "We can make over 100 bats in a day. We had one guy who made 60 in one day by himself," Malec said. Malec uses a machine to make his bats. He inserts a cylindrical piece of wood and lets the machine chip away until a bat is created. "I used to hand make them myself with a chisel," Malec said. "It used to take a couple hours using the chisels, and it was very taxing on the body. Now it takes around five minutes and it's easy." The company's bats look nothing like any regular bat you may see at an MLB game. These bats come in all different colors, from orange to blue to green. They will definitely stand out. "At first I wanted to keep it simple, black,



PHOTOS BY BEN STEIN | SPARTAN DAILY

A group of freshly made bats wait to be sanded and painted at the Birdman Bats facility.

brown or maple," Malec said. "However, people like their bats to be different now, so we jumped at that opportunity." It is an exciting time to be part of Birdman Bats as it prepares for the 2018 MLB season. However, you will

not have to wait until April to see these bats in action. "We will be at spring training, we are excited to start the season," Malec said.

Follow Ben on Twitter | @thereelstein

SPORTS COLUMN

Making the case for Barry Bonds to be elected into the Hall of Fame

BY GABRIEL MUNGARAY
STAFF WRITER

One of the most polarizing players in Major League Baseball history and of his generation, Barry Bonds, has spent six years on the ballot and has yet to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Some of the criteria each player must meet to be eligible for the MLB Hall of Fame are playing in the league for at least 10 seasons, being retired for at least five seasons and not being banned from the MLB at any point in their career. Bonds meets all those requirements. Once on the Hall of Fame ballot, there are additional

requirements a player must meet to stay on the ballot. The player is given 10 years to be elected. The player must receive at least 5 percent of the votes each year to stay on the ballot and if not met, the player is taken off the ballot and won't be eligible to return until 16 years after retirement. The critical requirement for players to be elected into the Hall of Fame is receiving at least 75 percent of the votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. This has been the part that has kept Bonds out of the Hall of Fame. As far as speculation as to what may be keeping voters from electing Bonds into the Hall of Fame, his connection to steroids is the

most common reason to come to mind. When asked about whether Bonds should be elected into the Hall of Fame, criminal justice junior Syed Razzaque didn't hesitate to explain his answer. "Probably not, because of all the positive evidence that there has been of him using steroids and that is one type of cheating," Razzaque said. Business freshman Christopher Monckton had a different take on whether he thought Bonds should be elected to the Hall of Fame. "I think he should be elected to the Hall of Fame because he had a great career and baseball is more than taking one PED," Monckton

said. "He worked at it. You still have to have great vision, you have to have good direction on your backswing and all that and he is just one of the best players to ever live." Bonds's reputation as not being the nicest person to the media and his teammates was another reason as to why he has yet to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Bonds himself admitted in a 2016 in an interview with Sporting News magazine he regretted working so hard to seem like a jerk to the media and his teammates throughout his career. Besides being criticized for using steroids during his career, Bonds' accolades and

career numbers are bar none Hall of Fame-worthy. His career included 762 career home runs, 73 home runs in 2001, and 232 walks in 2004. There is a very slim chance any of these records will ever be broken. Computer engineering junior Hugo Granados believes Bonds should be in based on his resume. "He had the home run record and he won MVPs already; he already had a Hall of Fame resume in my eyes," Granados said. Monckton also named a couple of significant accolades Bonds achieved during his MLB career that are deemed Hall of Fame-type numbers. "The fact that he was the

first (and only) person ever to be in the 500/500 club in which he had 500 career steals and 500 career home runs was pretty cool and he had the home run record and he also won MVPs so he had a great career overall," Monckton said. Bonds changed MLB forever with his moonshot home runs and the fear he instilled in opposing pitchers that have been lucky enough to pitch to one of the all-time great baseball players. Now it's in the hands of the voters for the next four years to decide if they deem Bonds worthy to be elected.

Follow Gabriel on Twitter | @SJSneakerhead