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# SPARTAN DAILY



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### AFFORDABILITY

## No more room in the middle (class)

BY JASMINE STRACHAN  
STAFF WRITER

The decline of the middle class is happening quicker than we know, according to the study of social and demographic trends by the Pew Research Center (PRC).

From 1971 to 2015, the middle class served as the United States' economic majority.

The PRC defines the middle class as having incomes that range from \$42,000 to \$125,000 before taxes.

However, Brian Hurst, a San Jose State economics professor, said the phrase "middle-class decline" is often taken out of context.

"In some ways, yes it is [declining]. In others ways, it is not," Hurst said. "The location, the metric and the periods of time that we are comparing are all important factors to consider. The decline of the middle class is something too broad and dynamic to concisely summarize."

When speaking about class, this determination is based on range.

The PRC also defined middle class as a household of three with an income that falls between two-thirds and double the median income. An income of \$59,000 is the median of America's standard middle class income, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Washington Post defined the middle class as American households with incomes between the 30th percentile mark and the 80th percentile mark.

That includes half of U.S.

households, but the range is exceptionally high that in order to qualify, these households have to be above the poverty line and make a minimum of \$16 an hour at a full-time job.

The middle class income gap grows based on persons per household. The average income for one person is nearly \$31,000. An income for a two person household is around \$65,000.

An income for a three person household is almost \$77,000 and a household of four people has an estimated income of almost \$92,000. This patterns often continues at this rate.

The PRC discovered 120.8 million people constituted a middle-class income household. This was compared to the 121.3 million people that make up the lower and upper-income households.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, California's Legislature Nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisor, the high prices of mortgages and rent is causing Californians to move to neighboring states. The gap between the price of California's homes and other cities started to expand in 1970. The prices went up 50 percent between 1970 and 1980.

This trend has continued since then with California homes starting at \$440,000, which is over double the national average. Rent has grown with these numbers to

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### REMEMBRANCE

## Event honors lives lost

Wednesday was Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Memorial Day. The day honors the lives of those who were killed by the Nazis.



ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Holocaust survivor Henry Stone lights a match under the Cesar Chavez Arch. It was part of a candlelight vigil for Yom Hashoah on Wednesday afternoon by Spartans for Israel.

BY WILLIAM DELA CRUZ AND ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spartans for Israel, in collaboration with the Jewish Student Union, held two candlelight vigils under the Cesar Chavez arch Wednesday morning and afternoon for Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day.

During the morning vigil, six candles were lit

in honor of the day.

"This day is important for us to commemorate and bring awareness to the 6 million Jewish people who were killed because of their religious beliefs during the Holocaust," Spartans for Israel President Rebecca Wahba said.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany

and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Jews were the primary victims, but other groups were also targeted by Nazis.

These groups included the Romani, or Gypsies, the disabled and the Polish. They were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons.

Other victims included gay people, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents. Along with the

lighting of six candles, members read the names of 500 children who were killed during the Holocaust. The ages of the children ranged from 18 years old and younger.

Later in the afternoon, the second candlelight vigil included Henry Stone, a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor. Candles were placed in the shape of the Star of David, commonly used as a Jewish or Israeli symbol.

SURVIVOR | Page 2

## 'Black Lives Still Matter'



CHIOMA LEWIS | SPARTAN DAILY

Members of SJSU's Black Student Union lead the "Black Lives Still Matter" march around campus on Wednesday. About 40 students participated in the march.

### UBER

## Ride-sharing can be dangerous

BY DOMINOE IBARRA  
STAFF WRITER

Serving as an alternative to taxis, many ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft have gained a lot of popularity in the last few years, because ride-sharing has become one of the cheapest and easiest ways to travel in a city.

"John Wayne Airport was one of the first big Southern California airports that approved the use of Uber, Lyft and other ride-sharing services side by side

traditional taxicabs, town cars and shuttle buses," according to Stiff, a law firm in Carlsbad, California. "Now, many major airports have designated pick-up locations for ride sharing companies."

According to the online statistic website Statista, in 2017 about 50.2 million people in the United States used a ride-sharing app. Of those users, 64.3 percent were male and 35.7 percent were female.

While there are some pros to ride-sharing, users are not guaranteed

complete safety while using ride-sharing. There have been reports of passengers getting drugged, raped or kidnapped.

"I got kidnapped by my Lyft driver on Aug. 24, 2016," dance senior Yamato Nishino said. "I was able to escape after spending two hours locked in a moving car. After months of being in denial of my deteriorating mental health, my lawyer, who worked closely with me, forced me to get evaluated by a psychologist.

I got diagnosed with [post-traumatic stress disorder], and this broke me completely."

Some ride-sharing companies have had incidents with not properly screening drivers prior to hiring them.

One incident in particular happened in San Francisco where a driver was accused of verbally and physically assaulting a passenger, James Alva.

According to Pando, a web publication focusing

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# Economist discusses solutions to the U.S. economy

BY ANDREW GLENN  
STAFF WRITER

Economist John Cochrane gave a lecture on the current United States' economy in the Student Union Theater Wednesday night.

About 65 people attended the event, which was part of the 2018 Provocative Lecture Series held by San Jose State's economics department.

Cochrane, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, discussed various topics such as taxes, regulation and social program reform with elaborate detail of how they are flawed. He then offered some solutions to these issues.

"What I love about economics is all the social problems we see," Cochrane said. "It is not the good guys and the bad guys, it is just a cause and effect thing that went wrong."

Cochrane alluded to an old children's rhyme about an old lady that swallowed a fly.

In that story, an old lady swallows a fly and then swallows a spider to catch the fly. The story progresses with her swallowing large animals until she dies.

Cochrane described the U.S. economy in a similar fashion.

"You can see a way to fix that cause and affect thing to make it right," Cochrane said. "It breaks out of the partisan thing and apolitical way to fix these problems and make everyone better off. That is what economics can be when done right."

He then suggested that instead of adding a solution that would become a problem later on, Americans should address the fly before attempting to make any other changes.

"This is about the disincentives of welfare

and how people got stuck on them," Cochrane said. "What got me to be an economist was starting to think about public policy questions that everyone was complaining about at the time. Then I saw an objective analysis of it and I understood that is how I would behave if I were stuck that way. There you have an analysis that actually diagnoses the problem, shows you how to fix it and is in some sense value free."

During the lecture, Cochrane talked about several areas of the U.S. economy he described as broken.

He said business and regulation laws are holding the economy back primarily because of the current social programs in place. Cochrane also described the current tax code as being "a mess."

"This has probably had to have been one of the more provocative

lectures I've attended," economics senior Amar Pal said. "One of the most interesting facts I think Cochrane brought up was how China, which is more of a restrictive country, has way more economic growth than India, which was more democratic. When he was talking about deregulation, I agreed with a lot of the arguments that he made."

While Cochrane did admit the U.S. economy is growing at a rate of 2 percent, he said there are still some unknown factors that could come into play.

He offered several solutions to the current issues that include the introduction of competition into the healthcare issue, changes made to the land tax system and the removal of the income tax and to instead tax as money is being spent.

"What I found very

“  
What I love about economics is all the social problems we see.

John Cochrane  
economist

interesting was the healthcare argument," economics senior Joshua Smith said. "He started off by saying that we need more industries to be competitive and by having them be competitive that leads to innovation. In the healthcare industry, there is a lack of innovation because there is a lack of competition. Overall it was a good, provocative lecture and it was a pretty good experience."

Follow Andrew on Twitter  
@SaviorElite10



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## SURVIVOR

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As the candles were lit, attendees read a prayer.

They later read the names of friends and family members who died in the Holocaust.

After the vigil, attendees moved to the Alpha Epsilon Pi house where Stone spoke about his experience during the Holocaust.

He explained how he made his journey to the U.S. during a time when immigrating was difficult.

"Imagine coming to the United States, not knowing the language, you don't know the culture, you don't have friends and you don't have a job," Stone said.

After he spoke, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, most of which

revolved around President Donald Trump's policies.

Stone answered by saying that history will always repeat itself, but he asked audience members if they had learned anything from it.

"I truly believe that meeting people in person is much more meaningful than reading something off Wikipedia," Daniel, who wished to be identified only by his first name, said. "We are here to have a discussion, to educate. This is what we're trying to bring to San Jose State, an education to learn from each other."

Despite the evidence provided by survivors and pictures documenting the suffering, some people deny the Holocaust ever happened, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Deemed the "Holocaust Denial," these deniers

## WAGES

Continued from page 1

being 50 percent higher than the rest of the country. The average rent in California is roughly \$1,240 and the nation's average is \$840.

Psychology junior Lauren Lewis said she's considering other areas to move where she will have more profitable living conditions.

"I never pictured myself not being in California, like, ever,"

Lewis said. "And it seems weird to have to move to Nevada, Arizona or Atlanta or something like that. I never figured it as a possibility, but you know, it might have to be."

Lewis said this makes her future more unpredictable.

Aside from trying to discover what she wants to major in, she will have to consider where she wants to continue to live her life. She said this makes everything more hazy and difficult.

C o m m u n i c a t i o n

## LYFT

Continued from page 1

on Silicon Valley, the driver called Alva a "dirty Mexican faggot" and then struck him several times when Alva tried to take a photo of him and his license plate to send to Uber.

"However, Pando has since learned that the driver - 28-year-old San Francisco resident Daveea Whitmire - has a criminal record, including felony and misdemeanor charges, and at least one felony conviction involving prison time," Pando reporter Carmel DeAmicis wrote. "How, or why, Uber missed - or ignored - this criminal history is unclear."

A passenger will only be given the information a ride-sharing app provides about the driver such as the

car, license plate, photo and star rating.

Psychology sophomore Diana Vallelunga said she had an uncomfortable ride when her Uber driver failed to make a turn toward her house. She noticed the driver got onto the freeway, although the route to get to her house didn't require getting on a freeway.

"I was like 'Where are we going?' and he didn't really speak English, but kept driving," Vallelunga said. "That was when I told him to just stop at the nearest store and leave me there."

Advertising sophomore Sam Richardson, who was previously an Uber representative, said the company was aware of these incidents with drivers.

"We had meetings mostly about covering up about all



ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The SJSU community held a vigil Wednesday afternoon under Cesar Chavez arch.

claim that the figure of six million Jewish deaths is an exaggeration.

Some have said that the deaths in concentration camps were the result of disease or starvation, but not policy and that Anne Frank's diary is forged.

Wahba said these claims

make her angry and she does not understand how people can dismiss the Holocaust.

"It's hard to just speak away over 14 million deaths," Wahba said. "It's hard to explain why all the countries went to war, it's hard to explain all of that

if it didn't happen. I think what it comes down to is ignorance and also a bit of anti-Semitism."

Follow William and Elizabeth on Twitter  
@liamotsd and @elizabwithlove

“  
In some ways, yes it is [declining]. In others ways, it is not.

Brian Hurst  
SJSU economics professor

studies senior Kiara Pitcher is saddened at the economic climate.

"Affordable housing is

nonexistent," Pitcher said. "As a college student, I have to move back home and save for eight to 12 months before I plan on moving out on my own due to the high expenses of living on my own."

Pitcher said that if she did move out, a roommate will be necessary for her to sustain a comfortable life as she begins her career.

Hurst shared advice to students who may be affected by the decline or uneasiness about its effects.

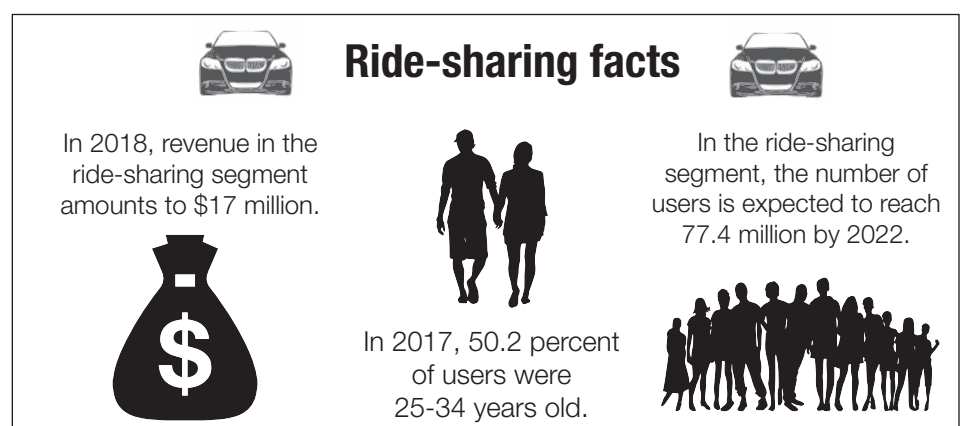
"Vote with your feet. If

California is not giving you the life and results you desire, move somewhere that does," Hurst said. "But first, write your governor to share why you are leaving."

Hurst suggested that every year the American dream is becoming more difficult to obtain, but it is still possible.

"We are still a very strong country, with much opportunity," Hurst said.

Follow Jasmine on Twitter  
@jaasssyjay



the horror stories that were causing Uber to hit the fan," Richardson said. "Uber had a terrible 2017."

Not only do passengers have to worry about safety, but drivers for ride-sharing companies have to worry as well.

"Uber does background check for drivers," Richardson said. "However,

anyone with a credit card can become a passenger."

There have yet to be any safety improvements with any ride sharing app, aside from simply rating the driver.

Lyft will never match a rider and driver each other if they rated each other three stars or less.

For safety precautions when traveling via ride-

sharing, it is best for users to avoid riding alone and always share your location with someone by phone or word of mouth. Also, a user should never share any personal information the driver doesn't need to complete the ride.

Follow Dominoe on Twitter  
@dominoebarra

EXHIBIT FEATURE

# Local gallery features SJSU professor's art

BY ANDREW GLENN  
STAFF WRITER

San Jose held the South FIRST FRIDAYS Art Walk event Friday night. Many artists displayed their work at local galleries for art lovers to see.

It was held in San Jose's SoFA District.

There, artists like Barron Storey, a teacher at San Jose State University since 1994 with the animation and illustration department, displayed their work at galleries like Anno Domini.

Storey has created a ward-winning artwork for the covers and pages of the Time and National Geographic magazines.

His work is held in the National Air and Space Museum, the American Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

"I've been doing this about 45 years," Storey said. "I started when I was teaching. I had a student that was keeping a personal journal. I started doing little drawings on note pads and after, I got a few drawings I didn't want to throw away, I started sticking them in little books. That went on and on and now I'm up to about 230 books of these kinds of paintings and drawings."

The Art Walk happened to coincide with Storey's 78th birthday.

So not only did people come to admire his artwork, they also wished him a happy birthday.

Those attending had the pleasure of watching Storey blow out the candles on a cake with one of his works decorating the surface.

"I heard about this on Facebook, but Barron is the coolest teacher I've ever had," animation illustration alumna Jasmine Ho said.

"I decided to come out and actually see his more recent work. It's not very often that you would see it at a show, so it's nice that he comes down and does one in San Jose."

The Anno Domini art gallery is a small establishment run by Cherri Lakey and her partner Brian Eder.

It is located at 366 South First St. in downtown San Jose.

It was established in July 2000 with the intention of providing a place for artists to display their work free of judgement.

"We really wanted to help street art," Lakey said. "When we started, street art was an amazing activist movement of artists that were brilliant but tired of the gallery hierarchy and people telling them



ANDREW GLENN | SPARTAN DAILY

Attendees observe Barron Storey's personal drawings on display at the Anno Domini Art Gallery in downtown San Jose last Friday. The gallery is located on First Street in the SoFA District.

“I heard about this on Facebook, but Barron is the coolest teacher I've ever had.”

Jasmine Ho  
animation and illustration alumna

that what they were doing wasn't art. So they would do their work on the street."

The state of California has a series of laws regarding graffiti on public property.

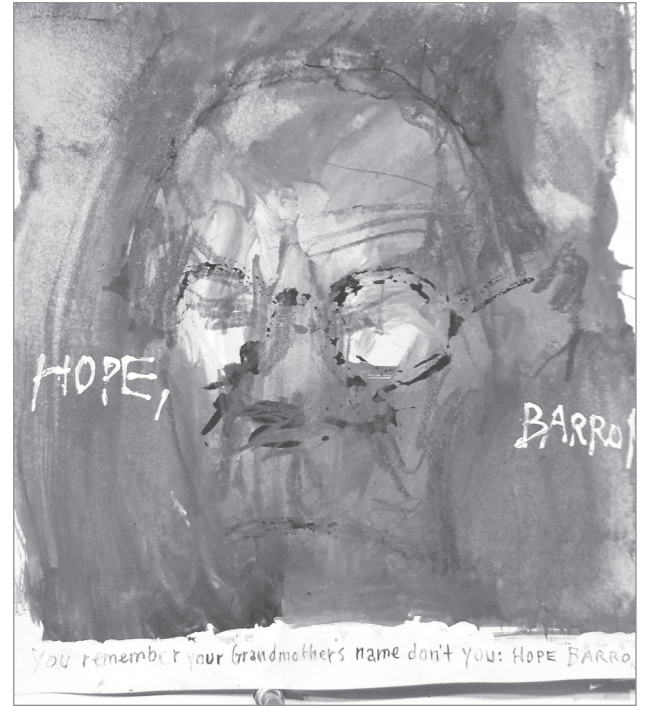
If the damage is less than \$400, it is considered a misdemeanor and is

punishable by up to a year in prison or a fine of up to \$1,000.

If the damage is more than \$400, it could be charged as a felony.

This requires a punishment of up to a year in prison or a fine of up to \$10,000.

"We wanted to start a gallery where they could have a safe haven and come show their work," Lakey said. "People can actually purchase their work and support what they do out on the street for free."



ANDREW GLENN | SPARTAN DAILY

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Storey's piece titled "Hope Barron" is a drawing that is inspired by his grandmother's name.

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COMEDY REVIEW

## Nicole Byer gets real at the San Jose Improv

BY JASMINE STRACHAN  
STAFF WRITER

The consistent sounds of laughter and clapping throughout Nicole Byer's comedy set proved that her comedic abilities will stand the test of time. San Jose Improv welcomed the emerging comedian to the stage Friday night.

Byer is known for her hilarious commentary on MTV's "Girl Code" and her show on YouTube called "Loosely Exactly Nicole."

Improv is an interactive experience for comedians and audience members. It is a completely unique type of entertainment because of its live-action responses.

The energy and laughter makes or breaks the entire environment and it's such a fascinating sight to see a comedian juggle that.

Byer touched on several controversial topics in her bit that kept the audience kicking their feet and slapping their knees.

Issues like President Donald Trump, the Women's March, Santa Claus, the film "Daddy's Home 2" and being a plus-size woman were all open game.

Some of her best jokes were the ones centered around Santa, feminism and her personal appearance.

Byer explained how last holiday season people were exceptionally upset

with the Mall of America because it debuted a black Santa Claus.

Santa Claus is a fictional commercialized character yet people argued about the actor's ethnicity. Byer raises a solid point. Given everything going on in our country, a black Santa Claus should not be on the list of our concerns.

Her intellect and personality definitely shine through with her exuberant and witty delivery. Byer is in tune with the world and herself. The comedian took shots at herself which spoke to her heightened sense of comfortability in front of a packed crowd.

Being a plus-size woman, Byer has experienced her fair share of derogatory comments and corny fat jokes.

She spared no expense with the jokes about herself. Size and weight are common societal shackles for women, but Byer broke hers by making jokes about her size and laughing alongside the crowd when speaking about her life as a woman of size.

Byer was once a sales associate for Lane Bryant, a prominent plus-size women's clothing store. She reminisced on customer encounters and the hilarious interactions she had.

In some ways these

jokes helped her reclaim power from the often offensive encounters she experience.

As a plus-size woman, her jokes definitely did that for me. I was able to relate to her and her energy about these encounters which kept my stomach hurting from the laughter.

Byer's ability to speak about her passions and raise awareness to them made her show worth it.

Through laughter, the audience was able to recognize injustices while having a good time. She used her platform to discuss societal and personal issues while keeping comedy in tact which makes her a star to watch.

Follow Jasmine on Twitter | @jaasssyjay

STAND UP COMEDY

"Nicole Byer"

Venue:  
San Jose Improv  
Location:  
62 South 2nd St., San Jose, Calif. 95113  
Price:  
\$21.00  
Rating:  
★★★★★

EVENT RECAP

# New sushi restaurant rolls into Eastridge Center

BY ALEX MARTINET  
STAFF WRITER

Crowds gathered at Eastridge Center Friday to enjoy food from local food trucks and hear more about the new restaurants that will soon call the East San Jose shopping center home.

The event was part of the mall's grand re-opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Pacific Retail Capital Partners (PRCP) purchased the shopping center last year and have since spent \$15 million on renovations, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

Updates to the mall include a new play area for kids, upgraded interiors and more seating for guests.

The surrounding parking garages now feature a series of murals by artist Lila Gemellos that give them a more modern look.

"Our redevelopment of the center this year focuses on local San Jose stories and experiences," Najla Kayyem, senior vice president of marketing for PRCP said.

Last May, a contest called "Taste for the Space" was held by PRCP to have more local food at the mall.

Fourteen businesses were invited to show

the crowd why their particular taste was deserving of winning the space contest that was held.

The winner receives a spot at the eatery space at Eastridge Center with six months of free rent and a \$50,000 investment, worth a total of \$140,000, according to Content Magazine.

In August, it was announced that Trifecta Cooks, a San Jose food truck, won the contest and would open its first brick-and-mortar spot.

At the event, the restaurant served kimchi tacos, with yellowtail that was cured in-house and a truffle vinaigrette.

Artajos was thrilled and surprised that they won the contest.

"There was a lot of great competition to get this spot, it could of been anyone," Artajos said.

The name "Trifecta" describes the work relationship between the chefs Lai Chao, Ryan Gallego and Jason Artajos.

Gallego and Artajos are from the Philippines and Chao is from San Jose.

The three of them combined create a new twist on traditional Japanese cuisine.

The three met when they were working at Morimoto Napa, a Japanese restaurant in



ALEX MARTINET | SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose resident Jennifer Huang learns how to make sushi at the Eastridge Center's grand-reopening Friday.

Fairfax.

The trio focuses on using local ingredients to make their food to ensure it tastes the best.

Currently, the food truck business does the majority of their business through private catering in San Jose, while serving to local residents at festivals in San Francisco.

After the ceremony,

Trifecta Cooks taught basic Japanese cuisine next to the food court.

Ten people sat down at a table and were given a brief one hour lesson on how to make a California roll.

Most of the ingredients were already prepared before the event, but Gallego showed how to slice, peel and cut a

cucumber into eatable pieces. Cucumbers help create the foundation for a sushi roll.

San Jose resident Jennifer Huang walked around the mall and jumped at the chance to learn how to make Japanese cuisine.

"I love eating sushi and I've wanted to learn how to make it for a long time," Huang said. "I

hope the mall has more food cooking classes. I would definitely sign up for more"

Trifecta Cooks is expected to open its first brick-and-mortar location this August. The exact spot of the restaurant in the mall has yet to be announced.

Follow Alex on Twitter | @almartinet

## Where to find best National Grilled Cheese Day deals



National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day is observed annually on April 12. Grilled cheese sandwiches became popular after sliced bread started to be sold in 1928. The sandwich is known for its cheesy stretchability and is classically paired with tomato soup. Here are some events honoring grilled cheese sandwiches.

### Soma Street Food Park

**Where:** 428 11th Street, San Francisco

**What:** Food trucks will be serving grilled cheese and craft beer.

**When:** April 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** \$5 general admission, \$35 for unlimited beer

### The Melt

**Where:** 1410 El Paseo de Saratoga, San Jose

**What:** Contestants must purchase one of its melted classics from the restaurant, post pictures of a grilled cheese stretch on Instagram, include the hashtag #TheMeltStretch and tag @themelt in the photo. The winner will have free melts for a year.

**When:** Entries can be submitted by April 30.

**Cost:** Varies

### New Leaf Community Markets

**Where:** 150 San Mateo Road, Half Moon Bay

**What:** Attendees can vote on their favorite grilled cheese recipes as store employees will compete in a grilled cheese showdown.

**When:** April 25, 4 to 6 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM NBC BAY AREA, INFOGRAPHIC BY BEN STEIN AND MARCI SUELA | SPARTAN DAILY

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# NCAA should change transfer rule for athletes



**Gabriel Mungaray**  
STAFF WRITER

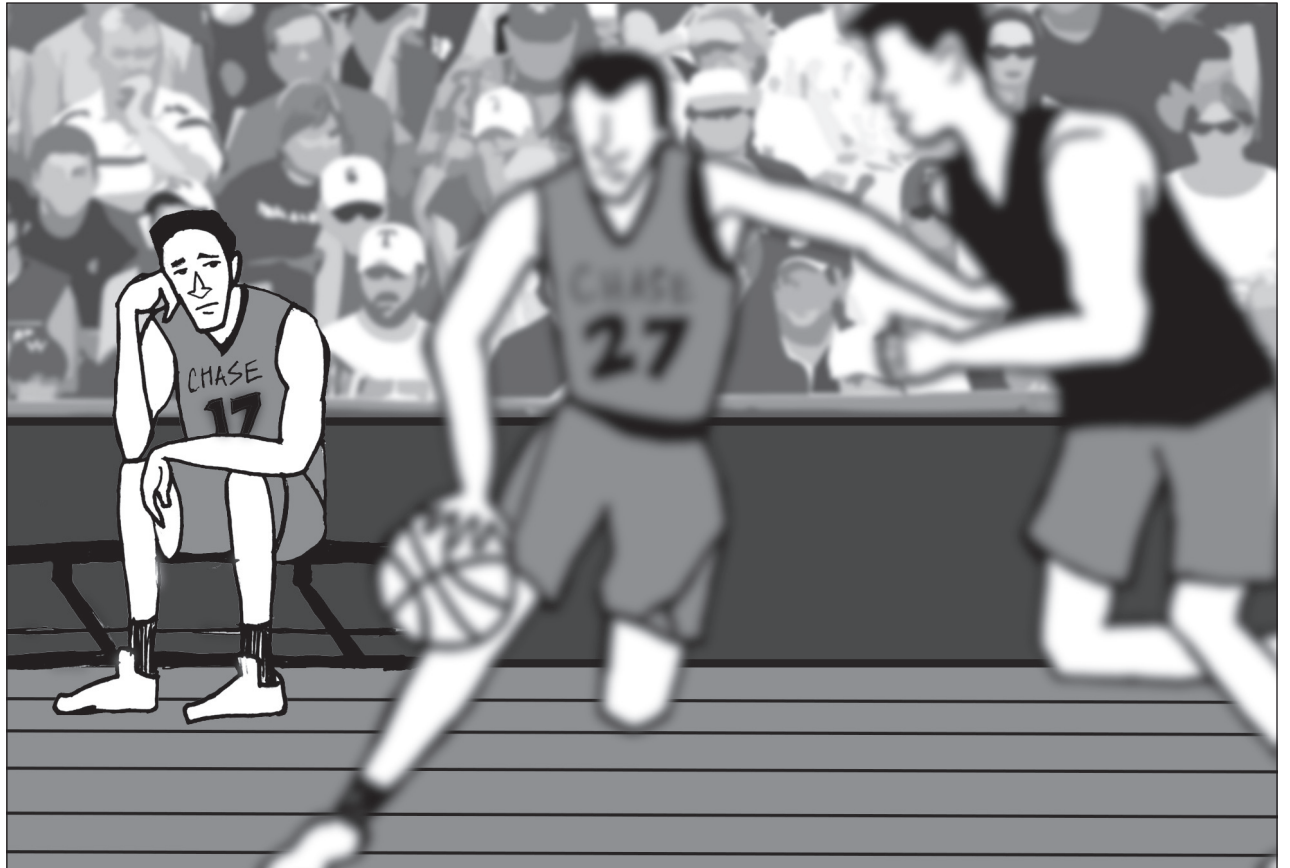


ILLUSTRATION BY MARCI SUELA | SPARTAN DAILY

Collegiate athletes looking to transfer to another Division I university to play a college sport should not have to wait a full academic year before being eligible to play again.

According to the NCAA, if playing at a Division I school, a collegiate athlete has five calendar years to play four seasons of competition.

The five-year clock starts when the athlete enrolls as a full-time student at any Division I university.

The clock continues even if the collegiate athlete chooses to transfer and has to wait one full academic year to play again, decides to red shirt one year or chooses not to attend school or only go part time for their college career.

By having to sit out one full academic year before being able to play on a team, the athlete loses one full year of his or her eligibility to play college sports.

The official name of sitting one year out after transferring is called "a year-in residence."

The reason why

college athletes sit this one year out is to help the student-athletes adjust to their new school and ensure that their transfer was motivated by academics as well as athletics, according to the NCAA.

Though the NCAA is only trying to make sure student athletes settle in to their new colleges without any problems and that the transfers are motivated by both academics and athletics, athletes are better served if they can begin playing with their sports teams right away.

Playing a sport has no effect on the athlete becoming acclimated to his or her new university. If anything, it helps them become more comfortable and makes it much easier to adapt to their new college atmospheres.

Collegiate coaches don't have to abide by the same transfer rules as college athletes. Coaches are able to move on to a new job as they please, no matter how long they have been at their old one.

Florida Atlantic University's head football coach Lane Kiffin is

an example of one of these coaches.

In 2009, Kiffin signed a six-year, \$14.25 million contract to be the head football coach at the University of Tennessee, according to ESPN.

Then, 14 months later, after only coaching the football team for one season, Kiffin decided to leave the University of Tennessee on his own to be the new head football coach at the University of Southern California.

According to ESPN, Kiffin just had to pay the \$800,000 buyout to get out of his

previous contract at the University of Tennessee and then begin coaching the Trojans' football team that same year.

As part of a collegiate athlete under the NCAA, there is a one-time transfer exception that allows student-athletes to immediately be eligible at their new school.

Collegiate athletes must meet certain conditions under this exception.

According to the NCAA, the student athlete may be granted the one-time transfer exception if they were

not recruited by their original school and not given any athletic scholarship at anytime, were academically and athletically eligible at their previous four year college and received a transfer-release agreement from their previous four-year college.

Though this one-time transfer exception is offered, the NCAA should just give this exception to all student athletes all of the time as not all student athletes meet the conditions and many may just want a fresh start at a new university

while continuing their athletic careers as soon as possible without losing a year of playing eligibility.

It's not fair that student athletes have to abide by the rule of the NCAA of sitting out one full academic year after transferring to a new university when NCAA coaches themselves can up and leave their head coaching job without any repercussions.

Follow Gabriel on Twitter | @SJSneakerhead

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## U.S. should ban child marriage



**Chioma Lewis**  
STAFF WRITER

In 2018 there should be no way a child could get married.

Unfortunately, there are still laws in the United States that allow child marriage and none that actually ban it.

The minimum age to get married in most states is 18, but every state has exceptions that allow children under 18 years old to get married, usually with judicial approval and parental consent.

"The U.S. needs stricter child marriage laws because it is simply unacceptable for children to be forced to marry in 2018," business junior Bianca Rideout said.

Child marriage should be a thing of the past. No one under the age of 18 should be allowed to get married.

According to Unchained At Last, a nonprofit organization that works to end child marriage in the U.S., more than 248,000 children were wed in the United States between 2000 and 2010.

The organization also helps women and girls escape their forced or arranged marriages.

Unchained At Last keeps a timeline of all

legislation regarding child marriage in the U.S. since 2015.

The most recent addition to the timeline on April 2 states, "The Arizona legislature passes House Bill 2006 to limit child marriage: It would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to marry with parental consent or if they are emancipated, if there is no more than a three-year age difference between spousal pairs. The bill heads to the governor's desk."

In 2016, the U.S. State Department, in partnership with USAID, the Peace Corps and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, adopted the Global Strategy To Empower Adolescent Girls.

The strategy works to end child, early and forced marriages in the U.S. as well as confronting the needs of young girls who are married around the globe. Each agency created its own implementation plan to address the issue.

More states should be taking action to examine their own laws so that child marriage is not possible.

In February 2018, two

democratic senators in Tennessee introduced a bill that would prevent marriages for anyone under the age of 18.

They claimed a loophole in Tennessee state law allows a judge to waive the age requirement for marriage and does not clearly state a minimum age for marriage.

The bill was later killed by Tennessee state house republicans because they claimed it would mean the state also acknowledged same-sex marriages by modifying the states marriage law.

California also has loopholes that allow minors to get married. Loopholes like these allow sexual predators to marry minors, which violates statutory rape laws.

In 2017, California Senator Jerry Hill proposed Senate Bill 273. The bill would eliminate those loopholes in state law. The bill has yet to be signed into law, though it did pass in the state Senate.

While it's good lawmakers are attempting to take action on getting rid of child marriage, I think more should make it a priority. I have a sister who is almost 12 and the idea that she could possibly get married before 18 is troubling to me.

Follow Chioma on Twitter | @clevermindlewis

COUNTERPOINTS

# Does meditation really benefit people?

## It's a solution to stress



**Jasmine Strachan**  
STAFF WRITER

Life is an expert at the game of stress.

Everyone has their own methods of dealing with stress. For myself, I am sure my methods of juggling my stressors can use some improvement.

Between being a full-time student, resident advisor, president of a student organization and a having a part-time job, I have learned to just deal – and cry my eyes out every once in a while.

I think most college students can relate. We are all consumed with many responsibilities and it often feels there is no escaping the game of life.

Meditation is a healthy and useful coping mechanism.

Meditation is described as the engagement in mental exercise like concentration of one's breathing or repetition of a mantra in order to reach an increased level of spiritual awareness or reflection, according to Merriam-Webster.

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health conducted the National Health Interview Survey where it discovered eight percent of adults in the United States engage in meditation.

That eight percent is roughly 18 million people.

According to Sara Lazar, a neuroscientist at Harvard University, meditation helps with relaxation because of its effects on the brain.

The frontal lobe is an area of the brain that is most evolved. It is responsible for reasoning, planning, emotions and self-conscious awareness. It goes offline

during mediation.

The parietal lobe processes sensory information about your surroundings. It is where your brain calculates space and time. Activity in the parietal lobe slows down because of mediation.

The thalamus is known as the gatekeeper. It focuses your attention through funneling sensory data into the brain and stopping other signals before they begin. Meditation lessens the amount of information that funnels through it.

The reticular formation is where many different cells produce neurotransmitters. These neurotransmitters have connections throughout the central nervous system. Meditation causes the arousal signals to slow down.

After 20 minutes of meditation, scans have shown that brain activity decreases.

Dr. Elizabeth Hoge, a psychiatrist at the Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders at Massachusetts General Hospital and an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, believes meditation is the perfect treatment for anxiety.

“People with anxiety have a problem dealing with distracting thoughts that have too much power,” Hoge said in a Harvard Health Publishing article. “They can't distinguish between a problem-solving thought and a nagging worry that has no benefit.”

Hoge said we can train ourselves to experience unproductive worries differently. The stress of

being late to work registers as fear of losing your job.

She also said mindful meditation can translate that thought into something productive.

“Oh, there's that thought again. I've been here before. But it's just that—a thought, and not a part of my core self,” Hoge said.

Meditation can aid in shifting the thought process so that juggling stressful thoughts and situations will result with copasetic ideals.

The Journal of the American Medical Association suggests mindful meditation can help relieve psychological stresses like anxiety, depression and pain.

Psychology senior Armani Donahue said she rarely practices meditation but does believe it has freeing capabilities.

“I like to focus on me breathing and really try to clear my mind,” Donahue said.

Donahue does yoga often and enjoys the mild exercise and meditation it offers.

“I enjoy being able to actively push my body and engage in my own process. It helps me set small goals that are fun to meet,” Donahue said. “Once I finish, I am able to be appreciative of the time I spent on myself for myself.”

There is clear evidence of meditation's powerful effects, and it is easily accessible.

With a short mantra and 20 minutes, meditation can drastically reduce your brain activity ultimately decreasing stress and anxiety.

For college students, that could make all the difference for the busy lives we lead and assist in managing our high stress levels.

Follow Jasmine on Twitter | @jaassyjay

## It doesn't really do anything



**Joe Roias**  
STAFF WRITER

Meditation is an overrated practice that has been a part of society for thousands of years.

Who is to say people who meditate live happier or more fulfilling lives than those who don't?

I don't see meditation as a process that helps people see the world more clearly.

Instead it's a simple self-esteem booster that

on could better lives. The act of meditation itself is where I fail to buy in.

There are a lot of research and studies that indicate the benefits of meditation, but a lot of their results are subject to interpretation.

Miguel Farias and Catherine Wikholm are psychologists who wrote the book “The Buddha Pill.”

### Working on one's well-being is no easy process, but I don't see meditation as the best way to find peace of mind.

leads to people thinking they'll make the right decisions in life because they close their eyes, sit criss-cross applesauce and take deep breaths for an extended period of time.

Meditation attempts to benefit people's self-enlightenment and contribute to a deepened insight on the world around them.

Setting aside time to think calmly about personal problems and the world around you is something I can relate to, but I would not call it meditation.

People should realize that the calm and peaceful mindset that meditation channels can be applied to everyday situations without having to actually meditate.

Making the conscious effort to go into stressful or volatile situations with that calm mindset that meditation focuses

The book discusses how in today's society, everyone is looking for a shortcut to having the best well-being, and meditation seems to be the latest thing people are getting hooked on.

“Unlike physics, the research fields of psychology and physiology very, very rarely yield clear, black-and-white results,” Dr. Miguel Farias and Catherine Wikholm wrote in their novel.

The studies end up being inconclusive more often than not, and they do not prove that the effects of meditation are stronger than other psychological procedures such as relaxation techniques or therapy.

Meditation has risen in popularity and has made it into mainstream media. But the exposure has people believing some misconceptions

that mindfulness and meditation is a solution to all of your problems.

Farias and Wikholm actually support practicing meditation and even teach it at prisons.

However, even they are skeptical about the true benefits of meditation. People need to realize that there are no easy fixes or shortcuts when it comes to your well-being and outlook on the world.

Working on one's well-being is no easy process, but I don't see meditation as the best way to find peace of mind.

Meditation does not benefit every practitioner, and sometimes has adverse effects on people.

For example, in “The Buddha Pill,” the authors tell the story of Aaron Alexis.

He was learning how to meditate in a Buddhist temple and showed some interest in becoming a monk, until one day he opened fire on innocent people at a military base. Thirteen people died, including Alexis.

“Not all is plain sailing with meditation,” Farias and Wikholm wrote. “There are a certain percentage of practitioners that have adverse effects.

Stories abound of meditators experiencing the so-called ‘dark night of the soul’ that describes states of spiritual crisis and even mental illness as outcomes from their practice.”

That's why I think approaching real life situations with a calm state of mind is always good, but you do not meditate to find peace and enlightenment. People can do that all on their own.

Follow Joe on Twitter | @joe\_roias

# Social media addiction does not only affect teenagers



**Alex Martinet**  
STAFF WRITER

It's been a tough year for Facebook.

Since the beginning of the year, the company has been surrounded by controversies regarding its role in the 2016 presidential election and the rise of fake news on the platform.

According to the New York Times, President Donald Trump hired Cambridge Analytica, a political data firm, to gain access to private information of 50 million Facebook users.

This has prompted increased privacy concerns about what users post online and how they interact on the platform.

Four months ago I

deleted the Facebook and Twitter apps off my phone because it was distracting me from my work.

I was sick of the getting spam notifications in an attempt to get my attention. There is a bliss in not needing all of today's news shouted into your phone.

When I had the apps installed, the first thing I used to do after I woken up was reach for my cell phone. It just became automatic without even thinking about it.

I continue to see social media as a large public chat room where people can gather and discuss anything.

As a San Jose Sharks fan, having a platform

to discuss the action as it's happening helped make the action on the ice exciting. Watching the game along with fans online can almost replicate the feeling of being in the arena.

This was what made it worth my while to use social media, however if you switch sports with politics, it's harder to tune out the discussion.

Part of the reason why this is a problem now more than ever is that we have our phones on us at all times.

When the latest news is constantly being beamed to my handheld, I find myself losing track of how it's connected to the bigger picture.

Every mobile app developer wants us to spend as much time as possible on its respective app, and notifications are a way to keep users engaged, but I think many go overboard.

Social media apps like Twitter, Facebook and

Instagram emphasize self-promoting over connecting. It helps build the illusion that your voice is being heard through likes, retweets, emojis and dog/cat videos.

In a 2016 study done by UCLA, the same brain circuits that are activated by eating chocolate and winning money are activated when teenagers see large numbers of “likes” on their own photos. Additionally, 17 percent

of teenagers showed a fear of disconnecting from using social media.

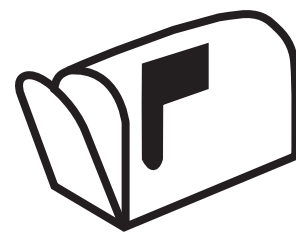
Lindsay Howard of the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology in Norfolk found that high uses of social media may be connected to “higher degrees of dissatisfaction” with one's body image and eating disorders.

“Ultimately, it appears that the way social media is used, rather than the amount social media is used, leads to

maladaptive outcomes,” Howard said in a interview with Reuters, a international news outlet.

I still use social media today, and don't plan on stopping anytime soon, but I am more aware of how much time I am staring at my cell phone and looking at my feed. My time is valuable to me, and I intend to get the most out of each day.

Follow Alex on Twitter | @almartinet



send a letter to the editor

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# Liberate lives by prioritizing mental health



**Camille Antolini**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On a holiday designed for love, suffering took place instead when Nikolas Cruz recently stole the lives of 17 students at Stoneman Douglas High School in the name of mental health. According to National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), 75 percent of mental health cultivates by age 24. It is critical for students and faculty to advocate wellness and recovery for those experiencing feelings of depression, loneliness, stress, anxiety, schizophrenia or suicide.

What we need now more than ever is to support those students at war with mental health, and there has never been a better time to implement action. The impact of mental illness ranges on the spectrum from as little as suffering grades to mass school shootings; prevention has become necessary.

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at San Jose State University is an exquisite resource for relief and opportunity for students to vent about overwhelming academic stress, financial struggle, identity perplexity, parenthood exhaustion, panic attacks, military trauma, significant life events or whatever may

burden their soul. Setting up an appointment is an easy process and worth finding time for. As a student, faculty member or professor at SJSU, you have the dynamic ability to affect others by exposing the resources, such as the free food-for-thought pantry at the Health and Wellness Center, to your classmates.

The book of wisdom emphasizes it well in Proverbs 3:27 when it states, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." We have a responsibility to utilize our conscious intuition to reach out to our colleagues when we sense something wrong. Why not take advantage of being more alert to those you interact with and suggest a helping hand? We must also permit time to self-reflect our own mental health, a universal component of humankind. Let's face it, stress is inevitable.

Myles Munroe, an author and motivational leader, articulated that "... if we do not control our own lives from the inside, somebody else will control them from the outside." Mental health can be triggered by peer pressure, bullying and social hierarchies. Potential movements

regarding mental health are a policy-mandatory assessment each semester, expanded awareness of student resources, research on prevention and workshops on campus providing creative ways to express feelings of anxiety or depression.

The greatest satisfaction of authentically connecting, uplifting and encouraging others to invest in their mental health is equally beneficial to our own. A UC Berkeley research study titled "kindness makes you happy ... and happiness makes you kind," suggests that a positive cycle of euphoria is naturally reinforced with generosity.

Becoming a symbol of change is as easy as getting involved in school activities, and resources such as CAPS and the weekly meditation group are offered on campus. You can visit [www.sjsu.edu/counseling](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) for support. Dr. Seuss said it well when he highlighted, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

This op-ed was written by Camille Antolini, a junior at SJSU and a participant in the Stanford Medicine Center of Excellence Leadership Education for Aspiring Physicians (LEAP) program, to improve the mental health of SJSU students. Her project primarily spotlights depression, stress, anxiety and related concerns that may interfere with a healthy and happy life.

## SPARTAN DAILY EDITORS'

# SPARTUNES

## FAVORITE EXPLICIT SONGS

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selected by  
*Sarah Klieves*

### THE FIGHT SONG

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selected by  
*Jonas Elam*

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**CeeLo Green**  
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*Jessica Howell*

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**Bone Thugs-n-Harmony**  
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**Spring Awakening**  
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**Beyonce**  
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**J. Cole**  
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*Mike Corpos*



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1. Back of the neck
- 5. Supplications
- 10. Not fully closed
- 14. Press
- 15. Oblivion
- 16. "Your majesty"
- 17. Gar
- 19. Anagram of "Ties"
- 20. Preserve of crushed fruit
- 21. Foreword
- 22. Relating to a fetus
- 23. Helps
- 25. France's longest river
- 27. Travel through the air
- 28. Female flyer
- 31. Rub
- 34. Supporting column
- 35. Lad
- 36. Optimistic
- 37. Obdurate
- 38. Shacks
- 39. One or more
- 40. Unpaid
- 41. Sired, biblically
- 42. A thin pliable sheet of material
- 44. Tavern
- 45. Board

### DOWN

- 1. Martial arts expert
- 2. Districts
- 3. Lines of verse
- 4. Terminate
- 5. A full supply
- 6. Elevators (British)
- 7. Arab chieftain
- 8. Pardonning
- 9. Comes after Mi and Fah
- 10. Declare with confidence
- 11. A 1940s dance
- 12. Diva's solo
- 13. Bobbin. Fine thread
- 22. Decree

### ACROSS

- 24. Questionable
- 26. Greasy
- 28. Redress
- 29. Greek letter
- 30. A covered garden walk
- 31. Study hard
- 32. Sharpen
- 33. The limiting value of a curve
- 34. Smelliest
- 37. An aquatic bird
- 38. Protagonist
- 40. By mouth
- 41. Light wood
- 43. Found fault
- 44. He builds dams
- 46. Ecu
- 47. Blood vessels
- 48. Overact
- 49. Ridges of sand
- 50. Ex-servicemen
- 51. False god
- 53. "Damn!"
- 56. Twosome
- 57. Letter after sigma

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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

## SOLUTIONS 04/11/2018

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

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

# JOKIN' AROUND

What do you call a Mexican who has lost his car?

(-: Carlos)

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SOFTBALL

# Slugger in batter's box, hurler in circle

BY SARA BIELA  
THE SPEAR

Players take the field, but instead of heading to first base like she has for the past three years, junior Madison Aurin now steps on the rubber.

In the 2018 softball season, Aurin debuted as a starting pitcher and first baseman for the first time in her collegiate career.

"This is the first season I'm playing both positions," Aurin said. "It's more difficult compared to if I was needed in the outfield. Pitching is such an important key part in the game."

The Bakersfield native started playing the game at 10 years old and was initially positioned behind the plate and in the circle.

Everything changed in her last two years at Centennial High School.

"There wasn't a need for me to catch and I was needed in other positions," Aurin said. "When I was being recruited, SJSU only saw me playing first base and sometimes as a middle infielder. They wanted me more as a hitter."

Once Aurin became a Spartan, it appeared her days of pitching and catching were behind her.

In her first two seasons,

the slugger made 87 starts at first base. As a freshman, Aurin earned Second Team All-Mountain West and then First Team All-Mountain West honors her sophomore year.

Desperation arose when the Spartans lost their two best pitchers in Colette Riggs and Katelyn Linford at the end of the team's 2017 postseason run.

“**She has stepped up big this year and has been an integral part of our pitching staff.**”

Peter Turner  
head coach

Knowing the uncertainty in the circle, Aurin reclaimed the position and erased any doubts that pitching would be a problem for the Spartans this season.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself personally because I know that position is struggling with our team right now," Aurin said. "I really want to be that player that can

help in any position."

The drive to be a better player comes from the unconditional support Aurin receives from her family, especially her older brother Brendon.

He was born with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects muscle tone and the movement of the body.

Brendon had dreams of playing football his whole life but simply couldn't. Now that dream of playing sports resides within his younger sister.

"I think he lives the college-athlete experience through me," Aurin said. "Brendon and I are really close. My family really makes me appreciate the game because of everything they've done for me."

All of the motivation from her family fuels the power hitter's passion to be successful.

Entering the 2018 season, the dual-threat junior had to step up and lead by example.

In sophomore first baseman Georgia Blair's eyes, that's what makes Aurin the perfect teammate. "Madison's the type of



Additionally, she leads SJSU with nine home runs and a .637 slugging percentage.

As a pitcher, Aurin attacks the lower half of the strike zone with aggression.

Head coach Peter Turner expects his dual-threat player to induce more groundouts than strikeouts. Six games into conference play, Turner has noticed the contribution from the down-ball pitcher.

"She's the kind of versatile player that can do a multitude of things, like play first base, hit a n d p i t c h w h e n w e n e e d i t," Turner said. "She has stepped

up big this year and has been an integral part of our pitching staff."

SJSU's 4-0 record against Fairleigh Dickinson and San Diego State in the third week of March helped Aurin earn USA Softball Collegiate National Player of the Week honors.

She posted a 1.00 ERA in 14 innings in the circle, while going 4-for-12 with nine RBIs and a trio of three-run homers at the plate.

Overall, Aurin has tossed six complete games and three shutouts in 14 starts. She posts a 8-7 record with a 3.10 ERA.

Her role as a leader and aspiration to win drives the team to fulfill a common goal—winning back-to-back conference championships.

For a player who was recruited as a hitter, she has contributed in more ways than one for the Spartans and the team's success.

"There's a common sense of passion among every member of the team, no matter what their role is," Aurin said. "Everybody wants to fill any role that needs to be filled and contribute to winning. We're shooting for another ring."

Follow Sara on Twitter | @sarabiela

SPORTS COLUMN

# Warriors have back-to-back championships in their sights



Gabriel Mungaray  
STAFF WRITER

The 2017-2018 NBA regular season has finally come to a close for the Golden State Warriors after a 119-79 loss to the Utah Jazz in game 82. The team will look at the road that lies ahead of them in the playoffs.

The Warriors clinched the number two seed in the Western Conference with a record of 58-24 early in April, and will be playing the San Antonio Spurs in the first round. Game 1 will be at Oracle Arena on April 15.

The Oklahoma City

Thunder seem to be a team Warriors fans were hoping to see in the first round, not only for the intriguing matchup, but also for the storylines that may arise.

"I think the Warriors would win in a first round series against the Thunder, but it would be a tough series, a tougher one than they want in the first round," economics junior Jason Vitalich said. "The media will make the Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant storyline bigger than it has to

be with all the drama happening this year and last year."

The New Orleans Pelicans, led by power forward Anthony Davis, is one team fans didn't want to see the Warriors play in the first round of the playoffs.

"I'd rather have the Warriors play the Thunder than the Pelicans in the first round as Carmelo [Anthony] and Paul George are both not that great. They can be on and off, and Westbrook is overrated to me," computer engineering senior Arslan Idrees said. "Anthony Davis is a monster and I much rather not see the Warriors play against him."

As far as expectations go for Golden State in

the upcoming playoffs, championship pedigree is in its DNA now, but the idea of falling short of winning and making it to the 2018 NBA Finals is not out of the realm of possibility.

"I'm a little worried because we don't have Steph for the first round and the defense has been pretty bad, but I'm pretty sure we can get through the first round in like four or five games and then survive the rest of playoffs once Steph returns," Idrees said. "That would suck if they didn't make it back to the NBA Finals, but it's something I kind of thought about because of the injuries and everything that has gone on as of late."

One storyline that will

no doubt be brought up come playoff time is the injuries that have plagued the Warriors throughout the season and heading into the playoffs.

Golden State Warriors' starting point guard Stephen Curry has already been ruled out for the entire first round of the playoffs with an MCL injury in his left knee and the other three All-Stars on the team have just recently returned from injury.

The lone injury to Curry, and the fact that Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green are playing through injuries, may have a profound effect on the Warriors. These injuries could hinder a deep run in the playoffs and lead to an early exit for the defending champions.

"Yes this will definitely have an effect. I think it's going to be pretty crucial," biology junior Vishek Sharma said. "But since we have good bench players that provide a lot of backup for the starters and have good decision-makers on the coaching staff with Steve Kerr, I think we'll be able to make it back to the NBA Finals and have a good chance at winning it all again."

The Warriors will have an uphill battle ahead of them as they will need to bring back their relentless energy and consistency on both ends of the floor if they want to repeat as 2018 NBA champions.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Ryan Welage tweets transfer

BY BEN STEIN  
STAFF WRITER

Former San Jose State men's basketball forward Ryan Welage tweeted on Wednesday night he will transfer to Xavier University.

On his personal Twitter account, Welage thanked SJSU, his teammates and the school administration.

"I'm thankful I have such great people in my life," Welage's tweet said. "I'm excited to say I am going to be attending Xavier University for my senior year."

The 6-foot-9-inch forward from Greensburg, Indiana originally announced his intent to transfer on March 16.

During his junior season Welage led the Spartans in

scoring with 18.1 points per game, good for fourth best in the Mountain West Conference.

Welage became the Spartans all-time leader in three-pointers made during a conference game versus Utah State on Feb. 28. He made 161 of them during his three years at SJSU.

Welage's announcement came less than two weeks after Xavier promoted assistant coach Travis Steele to be its new men's basketball head coach.

Steele will succeed Chris Mack, who accepted a head coaching job at Louisville University after nine seasons with the Musketeers.

Welage tweeted he will be graduating in the summer

and transferring as a graduate student, allowing him to play for Xavier immediately without missing a year because of NCAA transfer rules.

Welage will join former Columbia guard Kyle Castlin, who shot 49.6 percent from the field last season. Castlin also just announced his decision to transfer to Xavier this week.

SJSU teammates Keith Fisher III and Jaycee Hillsman who have also announced their plan to transfer to different programs have not made any further decisions.

Last season Xavier had a 29-6 record overall and went 15-3 in the Big East Conference.

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