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# On the path to success: "It's OK to fail"

By Vicente Vera  
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday the Student Alumni Connections (SAC), a student organization at San Jose State University, hosted the second installment of their Fall 2018 Student Success Series.

The series, which has been put on by the SAC since the 2015 spring semester, invites alumni to speak directly to students about tips and tools they have used to succeed.

This event took place in the Student Union Meeting Room 1A and featured SJSU alumnus and entrepreneur Michael Truong.

Truong graduated from the university in 1998 with a degree in finance.

"I hated working in finance," Truong said. "Since I graduated during the 'com' boom, I knew that everyone wanted an information technology (IT) person."

After realizing his true passion, Truong came back to SJSU to get a degree in management information system (MIS).



VICENTE VERA | SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU alumnus and entrepreneur Michael Truong shared his experiences – the successes and the failure.

MIS is a program for business students that want to venture into technology.

Truong has heavily invested his talents into cloud technology, which are online services that

are administered through the internet without the need to download any new software.

He delved into building a personal online network when he joined LinkedIn in 2007.

"Once I started to see how easy it was to connect with people online, I wanted to reach out with the people I was talking to in person," Truong said.

Associate Director of Student and Alumni Engagement April Cole first came in contact with Truong when he filled out an "Alumni Mentor Interest Form."

"Michael told me that he was interested in sharing his experiences with current SJSU students because he wanted to give back to the school that helped him through so much," Cole said.

Truong also wanted to lend his voice to students, literally.

He told Cole that he wanted to be a motivational speaker and share his experiences with failure throughout his career.

"When the economy tanked in 2008, my business was losing revenue fast." Truong continued, "I knew for my family that I had to swallow my pride to pick up the phone and call my dad for

ALUMNUS | Page 2

# Policies aim to reduce teacher shortages

By Winona Rajamohan  
STAFF WRITER

A report by the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) identified state policies that could produce solutions to end the rampant shortage of teachers across the country.

The report, "Taking the Long View: State Efforts to Solve Teacher Shortages by Strengthening the Profession," draws attention to the evidence-based policies pursued by states to strengthen their teacher workforce.

These policies for recruiting and retaining teachers were identified to be enacted in 40 states, including California.

For too long, too many districts have been forced to use emergency permits and long-term substitutes for hard-to-fill teaching vacancies," LPI President and CEO Linda Darling-Hammond said in a news release on Wednesday.

The policy strategies include offering service scholarships and student loan forgiveness for those earning degrees in education, mentoring and induction for new teachers, offering competitive

EDUCATION | Page 2



LATTIMER

# Renowned folklórico figure leads Luna y Sol



VICENTE VERA | SPARTAN DAILY

Maria Luisa Colmenarez will instruct the Mexican folk-dance group, Grupo Folklórico Luna y Sol.

By Vicente Vera  
STAFF WRITER

Former artistic director of the Mexican folk-dance group, Grupo Folklórico Luna y Sol de San Jose State, Itza Sanchez, left an instructor position vacant following her July departure.

The beginning class instructor's role went to a renowned figure in the folklórico world, Maria Luisa Colmenarez.

She was a folklórico artistic director at "Grupo

Mizoc de Sacramento," and "Danzantes del Alma de UC Davis" before joining SJSU.

"I was always a huge fan of Luna y Sol prior to coming on," Colmenarez said. "Me and the former director are colleagues as well."

Colmenarez's background also includes cultural consultant work in the private sector.

In 2013, she and her husband Rudy were brought by the animation

INSTRUCTOR | Page 2

# Grant to boost BART security efforts

By Winona Rajamohan  
STAFF WRITER

BART received \$6.8 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to tighten security on their trains and platforms, according to a media release by the company on Aug. 27.

The grant will help pay for continued officer patrols on trains travelling through BART's busiest stations as well as upgraded surveillance cameras and radio equipment.

The announcement came at a time of public scrutiny on the agency's enforcement of security on its trains and platforms.

According to ABC News, a BART agent was sucker punched late Friday night at MacArthur

Station while he was in the process of looking for a suspect who was harassing two female passengers.

This same agent happened to be on duty when 18-year-old Nia Wilson was stabbed to death.

"The grant provides an extra boost to the important steps we have already taken to improve the security and safety of BART riders," BART General Manager Grace Crunican said.

BART has been struggling to reassure their passengers of their safety following strong nationwide concern over the murder of Wilson at MacArthur Station in Oakland, as well as three other cases of violent stabbings and slashes in recent weeks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A new grant will support more security for BART.

Among one of the cases was the attack of a San Jose State University student in early August at Richmond Station.

The victim was treated for broken teeth, a concussion and a possible broken jaw, according to reports from ABC7 News.

The annually-applied funding acts as a primary resource for anti-terrorism measures that the Department of Homeland Security requires from public transportation agencies, according to

GRANT | Page 2

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## INSTRUCTOR

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company Pixar as cultural advisors to the Dia de los Muertos-inspired film "Coco."

"When we were called in by [Pixar], we took with us costumes, dancers and our knowledge of Mexican cultures," Colmenarez said. "I was so proud of the end product of 'Coco,' the director was so respectful in his portrayal of Mexican culture."

Colmenarez's husband Rudy and their son, Luis Garcia, brought live music to Grupo Folklórico's Aug. 29 beginner class.

Rudy was on the guitar, and Luis shredded away at his violin, while the new instructor danced in front of a group of about 30 students.

Grupo Folklórico's faculty advisor Kathryn Blackmer Reyes suggested Colmenarez for the job based on their history.

"Kathy and I go way back," Colmenarez said. "She was a student manager at UC Davis during the same period that I was teaching folklórico there."

She initially contacted Colmenarez to consult with her on who would best fit the role of instructor for the beginner dance course. Reyes ended



**She's already established in the community, and I know first-hand that she knows how to teach a group of students who might not have dance experience before coming to the group.**

**Kathryn Blackmeyer Reyes**  
Grupo Folklórico faculty advisor,

up bringing her Davis colleague on board.

"She's already established in the community, and I know first-hand that she knows how to teach a group of students who might not have dance experience before coming

Already a fan of the dance style, Reyes jumped on the opportunity to be a part of the folklórico world.

"Since [Sanchez] was already taking on so many roles in the group, she didn't have time to also be a faculty advisor, so she asked me to take the position," Reyes said.

"One day, we hope to make SJSU the hub of folkloric dance in the city," Reyes added.

Psychology senior Ana Canela has been with the club since her freshman year and thinks Colmenarez filled in Sanchez's old role quite well. Canela says the class has taught new Mexican

dances such as, "Veracruz" and "La Viejada."

"[Colmenarez] has been really great. She's moving a faster pace, but everyone seems to be keeping up since she knows how to keep students up to speed."

With Colmenarez starting her first semester at SJSU, Reyes hopes the instructor's presence will boost interest in the dance collective.

The ultimate goal of the club is to institutionalize Grupo Folklórico so that it gets more funding, and its own space.

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## GRANT

Continued from page 1

BART spokesperson Jim Allison.

The grant is not a direct response to the rise in recently reported crimes. However, the funding, called the Transit and Security Grant, will allow for the effective presence of BART's Critical Asset Patrol Team (CAP).

The team of trained terrorism liaison officers will patrol the trains especially during peak passenger travel time and special events.

"These police officers are specially trained and equipped for anti-terrorism and will be there to respond [to safety and security concerns]," Allison said. "Having those officers there will also help to deter more day-to-day crimes."

BART had announced last year of their plans to extend their system into Milpitas, Berryessa, downtown San Jose and Santa Clara.

SJSU Vice President of Administration and Finance Charlie Faas called the decision an "enormous potential benefit" to students and faculty living along BART's route system in a newsletter following the announcement.



**Having those officers will also help to deter more day-to-day crimes.**

**Jim Allison**  
BART Spokesperson

The long-awaited extension was approved in late April, confirming decisions with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to extend train lines from Fremont to bore a tunnel under San Jose.

Electrical engineering student Mike Lin said that as a frequent user of public transportation, he found the BART station attacks horrifying.

"I've always thought that public transportation is generally pretty safe otherwise, and I've even slept while taking public transportation," Lin said. "To hear that people are being attacked while taking the BART makes me extremely worried for everyone."

Crunican proposed a Safety and Security Action plan on Aug. 6 to the BART Board of Directors following Wilson's death.

The plan consisted of proposals that would allow for more police and employee presence in the system, a better network of surveillance cameras and an increase in public safety outreach.

The newly awarded Transit and Security Grant falls in line with the goals of the Safety and Security Action plan, with more than \$3 million allocated toward modernizing BART's entire security system, made up of more than 4,000 cameras on trains and in platforms.

The grant will use \$2 million to install radio equipment connecting an underground radio system to regional radio systems in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This will enhance local first responders' ability to communicate directly with BART radios.

"We want to make sure that SJSU students are able to use this system and feel comfortable using it," Allison said. "It's an overall commitment we have to our customers."

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## EDUCATION

Continued from page 1

compensation and implementing recruitment strategies to expand the pool of qualified educators.

The dean of the Connie L. Lurie College of Education, Heather Lattimer, said that the biggest challenge in responding to this shortage is retention in credentialing programs, strengthening teacher quality and reducing diversity gaps in the teacher workforce.

"The recommendations provided by LPI are responsive to these goals," Lattimer said.

The college released a newsletter introducing plans to address teacher shortages.

This will be done by building collaborative partnerships with area schools and using co-teaching models, the national science standards and the newest educational technologies.

"More than 900 graduates over the past 18 months can now serve as educators in California schools, thus helping to alleviate the teacher shortage," interim Dean Paul Cascella said in the newsletter.

According to reports by The Mercury News, California has spent close to \$70 million on initiatives to tackle the shortages over the past two years.

Efforts include a program that underwrites costs of teacher preparation programs for classroom aides and paraprofessionals who already work in the district, encouraging employees to get their teaching credentials.

An LPI report released in February provided evidence



**... I've been very impressed by the energy and attention dedicated to teacher education both at Lurie College and across the university.**

**Heather Lattimer**  
Dean of the Connie L. Lurie College of Education

of shortages in California becoming more severe. Findings were based on a survey of 25 school districts in diverse locations in the state, and demonstrated that the shortages concentrated on several areas of study.

"In order to meet the need for great educators across our region, especially in high need areas including math, science, special education, bilingual education and computer science, we recognize that we need to continue to grow and recruit great candidates into the education field," Lattimer said.

The report identified that four-fifths of these districts reported continued shortages from the previous year, more than half had observed no change in the issue, and one-third said that the situation has gotten worse.

Only 10 percent of districts reported improvements on the situation.

Three quarters of the 25 surveyed districts said that they were unable to fill all their vacant positions with

fully credentialed teachers by the start of the 2018 school year, confirming the urgent need for the state to impose effective policies to address the shortage.

Gov. Jerry Brown proposed an increase in education spending in his final state budget this January, including a proposal asking the legislature for an approval to allocate \$100 million in the 2018-2019 budget for recruitment and preparation of additional special education teachers.

The Connie L. Lurie College of Education has seen steady enrollment and graduation rates in most areas and has even shown growth in the number of special education candidates who could potentially be hired.

"As a dean new to SJSU, I've been very impressed by the energy and attention dedicated to teacher education both here at Lurie College and across the university," Lattimer said.

Faculty at the college have managed to secure grant funding to work with experienced classroom teachers in order to mentor new teachers, embed residency programs in local districts and train principals and district administrators to support new teachers, according to Lattimer.

"Choosing to be a teacher is choosing to become part of a movement for equality and social justice," Lattimer said. "We welcome all interested Spartans to come talk with us about becoming teachers."

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**@winonaarjmh**

## ALUMNUS

Continued from page 1

financial assistance. It was the hardest phone call I've ever had to make."

He started off as a panelist for SAC, then Cole gave him the opportunity to speak about his life and how he used LinkedIn to build his career. Truong currently has 8,377 connections on LinkedIn.

Truong spoke to a room filled with 75 students, many of whom were from the SJSU Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

According to its site, the EOP is "designed to improve student academic support of first-generation, low-income and educationally disadvantaged students."

Cristy Yang, a civil engineering freshman and Annie Williams, a sociology junior attended the success series through the EOP.

"I like how he was



**Since I graduated during the 'com' boom, I knew that everyone wanted an information technology (IT) person.**

**Michael Truong**  
SJSU alumnus, entrepreneur

honest and said that we all fail at some point, but that doesn't mean you can't succeed if you keep trying," Yang said.

One of the points Truong hit on in his speech was that students shouldn't be defined by their major.

"I'm majoring in sociology but I might not want to work in that field forever, so it was cool to hear [Truong] say that he ended up working outside of finance," Williams said.

The main message Truong wanted tell

students was that it's OK to fail. He related this to a personal story from his earlier struggles.

"The phone felt like it weighed a thousand pounds when I picked it up to call my dad," he said. "After that, I knew I never wanted to get into that situation again."

In addition to public speaking and online networking, Truong continued to work in technology.

He founded a company called "Bot Digital" which sells chatbots to businesses that wish to create automated messages to engage and notify customers about new products.

Truong explained that it's important to always learn and maintain a technical skill.

"It will always allow you to make money, and it's a skill that will never lose its value," he said.

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# Film is window to unseen world

By Nora Ramirez  
STAFF WRITER

Released in June 2018, "En el Séptimo Día" is a film written and produced by American television director Jim McKay.

The film was created with a group of non-professional actors to depict the lifestyle of undocumented immigrants in the United States given the political issues currently surrounding them.

For a week-long period, the independent film follows the life of a Mexican immigrant living in Brooklyn, providing an up-close view of the challenges facing the lower-class.

The worries and fears of the protagonist José guide the viewer to the realization of the endless challenges undocumented immigrants have to face because of their legal status in the U.S.

José works as a deliveryman for a Mexican restaurant and bikes his way around the city.

He takes viewers on a journey to introduce them to the locals of the area, showing the uneasy life he carries.

However, the drama of the movie becomes a bit intense when the excitement of sports

**movie review**

**"En el Séptimo Día"**

**Rating:**  
★★★★★

**Directed:**  
Jim McKay

**Starring:**  
Fernando Cardona

**Screening at:**  
3Below Theaters & Lounge

comes into the picture.

As captain of his soccer team, José risks his own job when he goes out of his way to help his crew advance in matches for the championship.

"En el Séptimo Día" shows the true meaning of dedication, solidarity and friendship. It is not a common story you would see in mainstream cinema.

Each scene shows the viewer a moving adventure that creates a window to see and feel the character's emotions.

This scheme leaves viewers with a "what if" scenario throughout the movie.

Given the story, the audience wonders if José will be promoted at his job or if his team will have the chance to win a match.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEE KOPP

**Fernando Cardona stars as José in "En el Séptimo Día." It is currently screening at 3Below Theaters & Lounge on select days until Sept. 13. Tickets are \$11 to \$14 with discounts for children, students, seniors and military.**

I was able to see that besides the challenges, immigrants have the chance to find people along their way who are willing to help them ease their worries.

McKay's movie finishes with a suspenseful ending depriving the viewer from witnessing José's future.

In the last scene, José and his friends walk by a street singer with a guitar and debate whether or not to tip him.

After José leaves a few dollars on the guitar case,

he says that the singer is good and probably a professional artist in his native country.

This was very touching for me because I am an immigrant myself and can relate to the struggles José goes through.

It made me think about all the sacrifices immigrants have to make in order to provide a better life for their families even if it means leaving behind their own education.

Though the end is a little nostalgic, it's also hopeful given that the

viewers can understand that there is always a new beginning at the start of a new day.

"En el Séptimo Día" ends with a reminder for viewers to never give up, alluding that there's always a new start to life besides the hardships and challenges.

With this film, McKay returned to the big screen after 12 years away from the film industry. He began as a writer and director for small independent films in the 2000s, producing the award-nomi-

nated movie "Our Song."

During his time away from the big screen, McKay directed various episodes for TV programs such as "Law & Order," "Gossip Girl" and "Breaking Bad," to name a few.

McKay also produced the movies "Girls Town" and "Everyday People," all with a theme of community and "En el Séptimo Día" didn't fail to do so.

Follow Nora on Twitter  
@noraramirez27

# Chinese pop album worth the listen

By Huan Xun Chan  
STAFF WRITER

Chinese idol male group ONER had their stage debut on Aug. 30 and dropped their first album "Allergy" the same day.

The group is composed of four members, Yue Yue, Bu Fan, Mu Ziyang and Ling Chao. The idols attracted more than 400,000 loyal fans and 3 million followers on Weibo, a Chinese social media platform, within eight months of their pre-debut activities.

"Allergy" was produced by Qin's Entertainment and Rock Records, the largest independent record labels that produce Chinese music.

Their album has a relatively higher quality of production compared to albums from other Chinese idols.

The album starts with a one-minute instrumental intro track, followed by six songs and then wraps up with another one-minute instrumental outro track. The arrangement of the tracks presents the theme of the album in a smooth flow.

When I listened to the album, I felt like I was watching a movie. All six tracks are in different styles, varying from electronic and hip-hop to retro and dance.

ONER has set its musical brand and style in its first album. In the East Asian music culture, it is essential

**album review**

**"Allergy"**

**Rating:**  
★★★★★

**Artist:**  
ONER

**Release date:**  
Aug. 30, 2018

**Genre:**  
Chinese pop

singers, known as idols, to build a strong and clear brand and image.

The first track "Work" is a dance song with strong beats. The chorus is accompanied by bass and snare drums, creating a strong build up to the lead.

The message and sound of the song is motivational. When you realize something isn't going to work out, don't give up but keep on pushing.

The song "Allergy" is a mix of trap, trance and hip-hop styles.

The term "Allergy" here is used to describe the relationship between humanity and the world.

The rap lyrics by the four idols describe patients who have paranoid personality disorder, borderline personality disorder, schizoid personality disorder and impulsive personality disorder.

After the first two rap verses, the chorus suddenly comes in with a soft and gentle melody, which

creates a strong contrast.

"Sing Alone" is the track I like the most. It is the most peaceful and slow track on this album, with clean vocals accompanied by piano. In the first two verses of the song, I imagine myself walking alone in the streets. When it comes to the chorus, I picture the singers in an empty room singing alone with a piano beside them.

"Dazzle" uses the style of UK garage, a genre of electronic music, which is not commonly found in Chinese pop songs. The arrangement of the electronic music takes you to another world and creates a dazzling feeling.


The intro of "Will U" set its retro style. The rhythm is repeated in almost every line, making the song very catchy and easy to remember. It's a song for family, friends or loved ones, expressing their desire to continue being by their side.

The last track "All Falls Down" is in the style of future bass. The lyrics tell listeners that members of ONER will continue being themselves, even if everything crumbles. This song is relatively simple and common, and does not leave a strong impression after multiple listens.

Overall, the quality of this album exceeded my expectations and has me looking forward to ONER's future albums.

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# Mediocre film saved by quality acting

By Hugo Vera  
STAFF WRITER

Following the release of “Loving” and “Dunkirk,” Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures’ “Operation Finale” once again confirms that decent cinema can be adapted from historical events.

The 2018 film recounts the mission carried out by Israeli Mossad agent Peter Malkin, played by Oscar Isaac, and his team of fellow spies to capture, extradite and try ex-Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, portrayed by Ben Kingsley, in 1960 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Director Chris Weitz and screenwriter Matthew Orton produce a moving portrait of these agents, Eichmann and their individual moral dilemmas concerning the international espionage mission.

The film’s greatest strength is composed of the on-screen interactions the audience sees between Isaac and Kingsley.

Isaac does a superb job of presenting Malkin as a conflicted soul who is tempted to strangle a now defenseless and aged Eichmann when in his grasp at a safehouse.

However, he is compelled not to kill him because of his commitment to duty and desire to see Eichmann speak for his crimes “in a country full of Jews.”



Oscar Isaac stars as Israeli agent Peter Malkin in “Operation Finale.” The historical drama runs for 122 minutes.

Kingsley’s portrayal of Eichmann is masterful, neither fully apologetic nor boastful about his actions.

He doesn’t resist his capture and doesn’t fear what Malkin might do to him.

Eichmann even tries to rationalize his wrongdoings to his Israeli captors, clinging to the defense that he was following orders.

He tells them that if it were up to him, his Jewish prisoners would have been sent to Madagascar instead of concentration camps, a fact that is bizarre but historically accurate.

Despite excellent character development, the

film is not without fault.

The first half moves at an excellent pace as the characters squabble over the fine details of the mission before finally subduing Eichmann and holding him comatose with drugs.

The second half of the film mostly centers on discussions that grow stagnant and lose their dramatic effect after several waves.

The film’s tone is also sporadic and inconsistent. Re-enactments of Jews standing in their own mass graves, prior to getting shot, cut right away to scenes featuring literal fart jokes and slapstick humor.

In fact one could argue that this film tries too hard to be funny when in fact I’d prefer they would leave out such antics in a film of this caliber.

“Dad jokes” are acceptable in a conventional action movie, but not a film about the capture of a genocidal mastermind.

As expected, there are some historical inaccuracies with one of them being the role of Hanna, played by Melanie Laurent, the Mossad doctor who sedates Eichmann.

Historically, the entire extraction team was male. I suspected the role of the doctor was

switched to a female character as a means of creating a romantic subplot and that’s exactly what happened.

Malkin and the fictional “Hanna” are ex-lovers that put aside their differences for their shared mission and reclaim their feelings for each other in the process.

This isn’t necessarily bad filmmaking, but we’ve seen the “mission rekindles an old romance” cliché before in films such as “Indiana Jones” and “Black Panther,” so I wish such clichés were left out of this tragedy-centered film.

Lastly, the film’s score was confusing at times.

**movie review**

**“Operation Finale”**

**Rating:**  
★★★★★

**Directed:**  
Chris Weitz

**Starring:**  
Oscar Isaac,  
Ben Kingsley

**Genre:**  
Historical drama

The opening scene reveals Malkin’s sister Fruma’s tragic fate but the subsequent opening credits sequence contains a rather upbeat piano tune.

This upbeat piano theme, juxtaposed with the film’s plot, made me believe I was watching “The Pink Panther” at times.

“Operation Finale” left me neither disappointed or impressed.

It’s a faithful retelling of one of history’s most daring spy missions as seen through the eyes of a talented cast with rich dialogue. Perhaps too much dialogue.

This film is a tragic, but strangely uplifting testament that shows justice is worth seeking no matter the time, distance or risks.

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# Slim Shady drops the bomb in new record

By Vicente Vera  
STAFF WRITER

Coming off of his critically panned 2017 album “Revival,” Eminem dropped his 10th album “Kamikaze” on Friday, with no prior announcement.

His verses were finally able to come off as natural over trap beats, on “Kamikaze.”

“Revival” was the first instance where Eminem finally embraced the jittering high hats popularized by artists Migos and Chief Keef.

The rap giant’s flow hardly matched the rapid fire production, this was one of the biggest flaws he sought to improve on his new album.

He brought on contemporary rap producers Ronny J and Mike WiLL Made-It in order to make “Kamikaze’s” production sound more relevant. This decision paid off big time.

Not only did Eminem finally prove that he could kill a trap beat, but he stole the Migos flow and managed to make it sound like he created it.

On the song “Lucky You,” he takes aim at trap, while at the same time adding to the genre.

“I don’t hate trap, and I don’t wanna seem mad / But in fact / Where the old me at? The same cat,” he raps.

“Kamikaze” itself is a response to all the hate Eminem got for his al-

**album review**

**“Kamikaze”**

**Rating:**  
★★★★★

**Artist:**  
Eminem

**Release date:**  
Aug. 31, 2018

**Genre:**  
Hip-hop

bum “Revival,” which is currently his lowest rated album on review aggregator site Metacritic.

On the opening track of his new album, he blamed music journalists rather than addressing the fans who were disappointed by his last album.

“Skim through the music to give shit reviews / to get clicks / but bitch / you just lit the fuse,” he raps on “The Ringer.”

As someone who grew up listening to Eminem, it’s refreshing to hear him get back to his roots of attacking the media, rather than put out another pop-rap album that panders to the Billboard Hot 100. He also roasts many rappers on “Kamikaze.”

On the song “Fall,” he disses Joe Budden, Charlamagne tha God, Lord Jamar and Tyler, The Creator. Eminem calling people out makes the song so much better. As someone who “stans” by the philosophy of this artist, his

use of homophobic slurs against Tyler, The Creator has me torn.

Eminem has been using homophobic language in his songs since before he blew up, and he’s always defended the use as “battle-rap language.”

The album was not just pure digs. His song “Stepping Stones,” addressed the rappers who weren’t able to sustain themselves once Eminem stopped affiliating himself with them.

Eminem also addressed the death of his best friend DeShaun Holton on “Stepping Stones.”

The rap ballad reminded me of the recollection of songs Eminem recorded during his “Relapse” sessions in 2009. His “Relapse” album is one of my favorites, so listening to “Stepping Stones” triggered a flush of nostalgia.

Coming in at 45 minutes, “Kamikaze” was an amazingly-paced album even though it was his shortest solo project.

I love how Eminem brought back his frustrated Slim Shady alter-ego.

He drastically improved from his last album by changing up his flow and using better producers to engineer the trap beats that tailor better to Em’s rapping niches.

Let’s hope he keeps it that way, and continues to keep his distance from mainstream pop-rap.

Follow Vicente on Twitter  
@VicenteSJSU

# End the stigma around drug use



**Vicente Vera**  
STAFF WRITER

Demi Lovato's first television role was at the age of 10 on the children's show "Barney & Friends."

She's now a platinum selling singer-song writer and civil rights activist recognized for her work by organizations like the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Human Rights Campaign.

She also suffers from substance abuse.

Lovato reveals in her recent song "Sober" that she relapsed after six years of sobriety.

On July 24, she experienced a near-fatal overdose. The Los Angeles Times reported that she took an "unspecified drug."

Celebrities overdosing on drugs makes some people question why people with so much purpose in life would go and squander it on a cheap vacation.

This isn't the attitude we should have when approaching the topic of addiction though.

No person, regardless of their occupation is

immune to drug abuse.

Taking recreational drugs is undoubtedly a conscious decision, but once dependence is developed, consuming the drug becomes more about stopping withdrawals rather than getting high for fun.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), "repeated drug use can lead to brain changes that challenge an addicted person's self-control and interfere with their ability to resist intense urges to take drugs."

Drugs trigger the brain's pleasure system, like any other enjoyable activity.

As the brain builds tolerance, users take more of the drug to achieve the same feeling. This is when overdoses start to become more likely to happen.

Global studies senior Amanda Mack said, "I think there is a stigma some people attach to drug users that might discourage them from seeking help."

People should be able

to seek help for their addiction problems without having to worry about being forever defined by their mistakes.

Treating addicts like inferiors won't help them recover. It's essential to create a support system instead of a hostile one.

Marketing senior Amanjot Singh thinks we shouldn't judge people who are addicted to drugs without knowing them on a personal level.

"People shouldn't be

statement on Instagram.

"This illness is not something that disappears or fades with time," she wrote. "It is something I must continue to overcome and have not done yet."

An important thing to note is not every drug user starts off using recreational drugs.

NIDA reported that "nearly 80 percent of heroin users reported using prescription opioids prior to heroin."

Many people

**No matter how someone might have fallen into addiction, helping them out of that stage should be the main priority.**

criticized just because they do drugs. There are so many people on this campus that do drugs and they're cool," Singh said.

The misconception surrounding drug users is that they are all lazy, helpless and totally at fault for their addiction. There are many people who do drugs that defy these labels, like Lovato.

Shortly after her overdose, she released a

get into addictive substances through opioids prescribed to them, while other people may use drugs to cope with various struggles in their lives.

Throughout my college journey, I've found myself turning to weed during times of high stress.

I'm not any less valuable as a person because of the substances



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Demi Lovato recently relapsed with "unspecified drugs" on July 24, 2018. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, repeated drug use can lead to difficulties with an addicted individual's self-control.

I put in my body. I reserve the right to make those judgments.

Weed may not be as debilitating as opioids or synthetic substances, but it is still a drug that continues to have negative stereotypes attached to the users.

"Not everyone lives in the same situation. We have to learn what's going on in

their lives that makes people want to drugs before we write them off," business administration senior Malia Garcia said. No matter how someone might have fallen into addiction, helping them out of that stage should be the main priority.

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# Spartanunes

SONGS WE KNOW BY HEART, SELECTED BY SPARTAN DAILY EDITORS

<p><b>TEARS DRY ON THEIR OWN</b> Amy Winehouse <i>selected by Jackie Contreras</i></p>	<p><b>WATCH</b> Travis Scott <i>selected by Gabriel Mungaray</i></p>
<p><b>WHERE IS THE LOVE?</b> The Black Eyed Peas <i>selected by Ben Stein</i></p>	<p><b>SHE'S MINE PT. 1</b> J. Cole <i>selected by Nicholas Zamora</i></p>
<p><b>ALWAYS AND FOREVER</b> Heatwave <i>selected by Marci Suela</i></p>	<p><b>BOHEMIAN RHASPODY</b> Queen <i>selected by Dominoe Ibarra</i></p>
<p><b>GIRL</b> The Beatles <i>selected by Elise Nicolas</i></p>	<p><b>LOOK AT ME NOW</b> Chris Brown feat. Lil Wayne &amp; Busta Rhymes <i>selected by Jana Kadah</i></p>
<p><b>DREAMS</b> Fleetwood Mac <i>selected by Melisa Yuriar</i></p>	<p><b>HO HEY</b> The Lumineers <i>selected by Amanda Whitaker</i></p>
<p><b>THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT</b> Frank Sinatra <i>selected by William dela Cruz</i></p>	<p><b>BORN TO RAISE HELL</b> Motörhead <i>selected by Mike Corpos</i></p>
<p><b>OWN IT</b> Drake <i>selected by Jasmine Strachan</i></p>	

Listen to this playlist on Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/2POfuWY>

ISSS Welcomes NEW students for an **Ice Cream Party!**  
Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
12-2pm  
Smith/Carlos Lawn

Open to all NEW students

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COUNTERPOINTS



ILLUSTRATION BY MARCI SUELA | SPARTAN DAILY

# Should Nike have included Kaepernick in its campaign?

## Yes, I kneel with Kaepernick



Melody Del Rio  
STAFF WRITER

I believe you should be able to stand up for what you believe in, or in Colin Kaepernick's case, kneel for what you support.

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, protested police brutality by kneeling during the National Anthem on Sept. 1, 2017.

generation, who has leveraged the power of sport to help move the world forward."

Nike's slogan, "Just Do It", has become a symbol of courage and inspiration.

It's a phrase my teammates and I would say when we needed to dominate in whatever sport we were playing, "Don't think, just

said, "This stand wasn't for me. This is because I'm seeing things happen to people who don't have a voice ... I'm in a position where I can do that and I'm going to do that."

Protests sparked debates on whether kneeling during the anthem was disrespectful, but I believe that misses the larger point.

The point is to hold policemen responsible for police brutality toward racial minorities accountable. Nothing more, nothing less.

Kaepernick's kneel was silently practicing his First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and expression.

That is a right that our fellow troops have been and still are protecting.

It's important to focus on Kaepernick's message and not his method.

Kaepernick, in the same interview with KTVU, mentioned his support for our troops stating, "I have great respect for the ones who served this country."

Nike made the right move by casting Kaepernick as the new face of the brand's campaign.

Considering the campaign "Just Do It" was made to inspire, I believe Kaepernick was the right choice. He inspired many athletes to follow in his footsteps.

He used his platform to raise awareness for an issue bigger than him and his sport.

His actions sparked more discussions about the injustices that minorities experience.

He has inspired others to stand up for what they believe.

Follow Melody on Twitter | @spartanmelody

## No, don't commercialize activism



Winona Rajamohan  
STAFF WRITER

When Nike revealed on Monday that former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, was going to be the face of its 30th anniversary campaign, social media erupted with strong reactions – both good and bad.

"Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything," the advertisement read, echoing signature drives of empowerment that the multi-billion dollar sneaker empire often holds in its campaigns.

As part of the 30th anniversary celebrating the birth of their iconic slogan "Just Do It," Nike has chosen to thread a nail-studded path.

Kaepernick's outspoken form of activism has turned him into a figure synonymous with a heavy political divide in the country today.

Making the decision to support his actions tend to turn into an inexcusable way to identify where you stand on a left-to-right spectrum.

His decision to kneel during the national anthem was a one-way ticket to having his name be the forefront of a viral political issue.

Kaepernick's actions were interpreted as a symbol of disrespect to the flag, country and military, despite its original intent of protesting systemic oppression in the criminal justice system.

If there's anything we can conclude about Nike tapping into a viral hot topic like Kaepernick, it's the buzz generated that's going to turn all eyes on the company and everything that has its name on it.

Nike's decision to stand with Kaepernick could be seen as part of a growing wave of large corporations choosing to personify their

business models with social issues that matter to their consumer demographic.

We've seen similar instances when United Airlines and Delta's decision to cut ties with the National Rifle Association (NRA) this February.

**A brand you're wearing on your body should bridge common interest and not turn into a clash of ideologies.**

The New York Times called this new age of corporations the rise of a "woke capital," a carefully-constructed plan to use activism as a shield to protect their own self-interests.

Nike knows exactly who its key demographic is and where they stand in the political climate.

As a sneaker company, it makes sense for Nike to leverage itself on such a major moment in sports history.

However, this issue breaks beyond sports and steps into territories that feed off the tension that exists nationwide.

In The Business Insider's analysis of the company's daring marketing fiasco, the article acknowledged Nike's turn to politics as a move that could both alienate its existing customers but also attract new ones.

A drop in the company's stocks and a social media rampage of people burning their Nike sneakers clearly

shows the stark disapproval some of its customers have. I think these decisions by corporations are something to consider.

They spark the potential of turning common goods into not-so-common products that divide mass consumers into identity groups.

Nike is a brand loved by many who come from very different racial, economic and political backgrounds.

Politicizing the shoes or clothes you wear doesn't sound like the best form of activism, especially when they're trying to be enjoyed by the masses.

A brand you're wearing on your body should bridge common interest and not turn into a clash of ideologies.

Nike knows exactly how passionate its younger demographic would react to the company's new "social justice" standpoint. They know how being responsive to their anger and concerns would spin the already-relevant brand into another round of being the hottest trend in the market.

Every single product Nike puts out from this point falls into the wave of publicity that has been generated, increasing its consumer outreach and ultimately increasing its profit.

Turning activism and social justice concerns into capitalist ventures seems to take away the truth that lies in the heart of its entire purpose.

Pulling activist figures into clickbait marketing schemes seem to take away the strength of its intended message.

Kaepernick's actions spoke volumes about problems that are apparent, but not said by athletes affected in the sports industry. They stand strong on the weight of its arguments alone without being supported by the commercial success of a motivational ad campaign.

Follow Winona on Twitter | @winonaarjmh

# Self awareness is crucial during car sharing



**Huan Xun Chan**  
STAFF WRITER

A female passenger, surnamed Zhao, was raped and murdered after using Hitch, the DiDi carpooling service, in the eastern city of Wenzhou, China in late August.

"When I heard about the DiDi incident, I was very angry and shocked." Chinese international student Xiaohan Sun said.

"Many people posted on Weibo, a Chinese social media platform, that they had tried so many times to contact to complain about the problems they met when they took DiDi, but there was no response from the DiDi customer service," Sun said.

Sun took Didi's Hitch service many times when she spent her three-month summer break in China.

"As a girl, if my safety is not secured, I don't think I will try it again," Sun said.

Xinxin Jin, who is also from China, added, "It's not only DiDi. Even the United States, where people say it is safe, had many cases like this happened."

Jin said Uber does a better job than DiDi in terms of the quality because Uber has a feature that allows customers to

call 911 immediately and has a high requirement for drivers.

"However, there are still many cases, which means this is a problem that could not be completely avoided," Jin said.

The only protection that can keep a person out of danger at the highest percentage is self-awareness.

Many victims did not take any action they when realized that they were in danger.

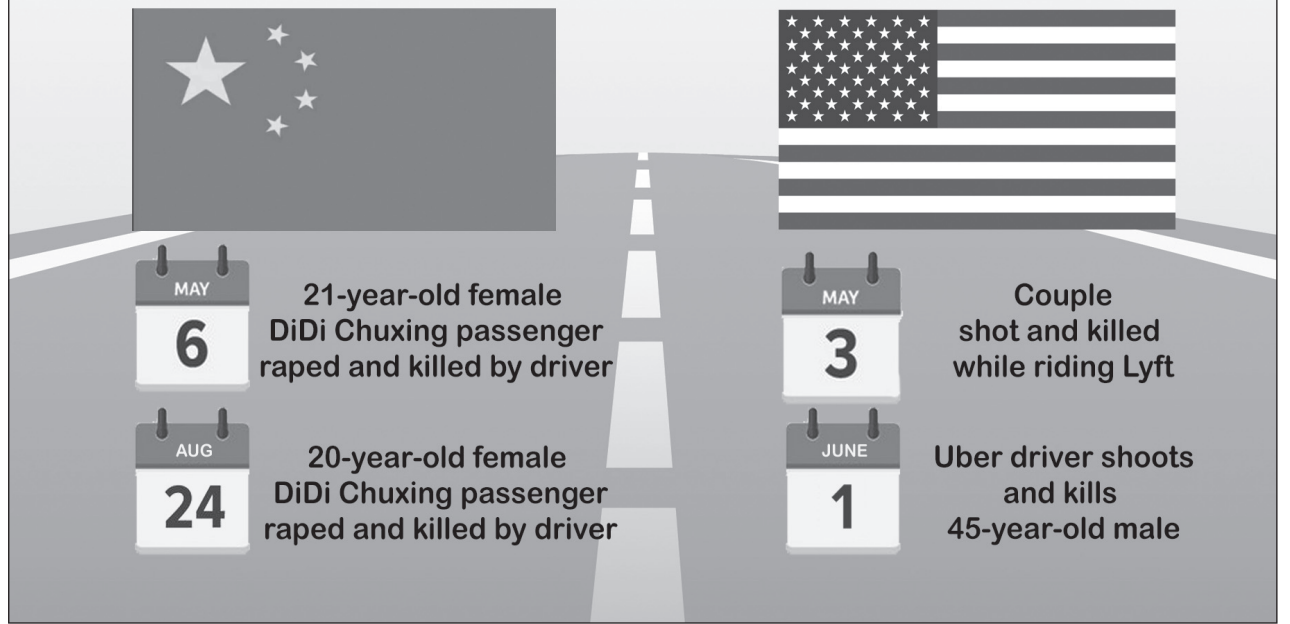
"Many girls in the U.S. are more alert. They have a relatively higher awareness to protect themselves than girls in China," Jin said. "Chinese girls might not even know that they were in danger or how to protect themselves."

When asked what they would do if they were the victim, Jin said she would try her best to escape the car no matter what, but Sun offered a different answer.

"If I was the girl, I kind of don't know what to do, I don't know how to protect myself actually," Sun said.

This incident went viral on social media because it was the second DiDi rape and murder case in three months. In May, a

## Passengers Killed by Drivers of Ride-Sharing Companies



SOURCES: NBC WASHINGTON ECNS ON THE EPOCH TIMES | INFOGRAPHIC BY HUAN XUN CHAN | SPARTAN DAILY

### We should seek for ways to increase public safety and security instead of blaming the responsible party.

21-year-old female flight attendant was found dead after using DiDi's Hitch service in the central city of Zhengzhou.

A friend of Zhao posted on Weibo at about 2 a.m., after losing contact once Zhao sent a few messages crying for help, seeking public support to search for her.

Many users criticized DiDi upon its customer service because it refused

to provide the driver's information when the victim's friends realized the dangers.

I realized public opinion had fallen to the side that criticized DiDi's service.

Key opinion leaders on different social media platforms talked about this to show their activism and directed the public to express obnoxious feelings

toward the company.

Jin admitted that while she felt sympathetic toward the victim, she did not feel the danger around her.

"Recently, I saw on the news that a Chinese girl in the Bay Area lost contact for three weeks and her last track was taking an Uber. I finally felt that the urgency and pressure of danger is around me."

She believed that there are always gray areas in these issues.

DiDi has the responsibility to rectify the operating system and procedure but it shouldn't be removed.

"Many people boycotted DiDi and said they would never use DiDi anymore.

Although there were problems, DiDi brought so much benefit to the society," Jin said.

Jin added that DiDi actually provided easy-to-access service, and that it was cheap and comfortable.

In fact, not all people who were expressing thoughts online had a bad experience with DiDi, they might be internet trolls.

I think, when tragic cases like this happen, we should seek for ways to increase public safety and security instead of blaming the responsible party.

Follow Huan Xun on Twitter @ Huanxun\_chan

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**ACROSS**

- 1. Spouse
- 5. Gown fabric
- 10. Throat-clearing sound
- 14. Smell
- 15. Scallion
- 16. Stare
- 17. Heaven-sent
- 19. Cain's brother
- 20. Mire
- 21. Flip over
- 22. Attempted
- 23. Besmirched
- 25. Excellence
- 27. Hasten
- 28. A chain of atoms
- 31. Hot chocolate
- 34. Sealant
- 35. Atmosphere
- 36. Askew
- 37. Fasteners
- 38. Sun
- 39. Prefix meaning "Modern"
- 40. Tropical Asian starlings
- 41. Wharves
- 42. Teacher
- 44. Black gunk
- 45. Hollowed out

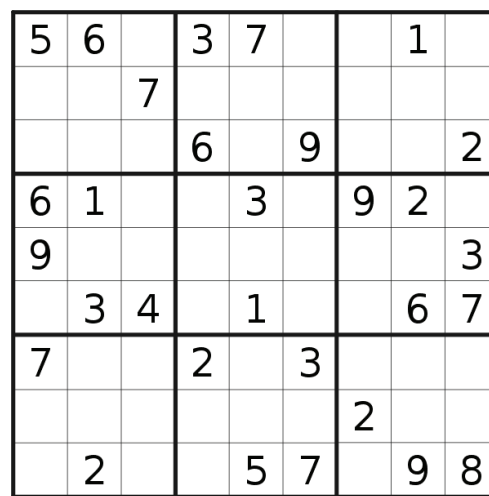
**DOWN**

- 46. Hereditary
- 50. Fall color
- 52. Leered
- 54. Big fuss
- 55. Handle
- 56. Note
- 58. Flows
- 59. A barrel slat
- 60. Leer at
- 61. Border
- 62. Daisylike bloom
- 63. Not difficult
- 1. Uteri
- 2. Manner of speaking
- 3. Make a counterfeit
- 4. Historic period
- 5. A small hairpiece
- 6. Lacking leadership
- 7. King of the jungle
- 8. Braggart
- 9. N N N N
- 10. A type of fungus
- 11. Accustom
- 12. Type of sword
- 13. Blend
- 18. Papal court

- 22. Journey
- 24. Greeting at sea
- 26. L L L L
- 28. Of the cheekbone
- 29. Teller of untruths
- 30. Makes a mistake
- 31. Walking stick
- 32. Was indebted
- 33. Squatting
- 34. Jawless fishes
- 37. 8 bits of data
- 38. "Your majesty"
- 40. Filly's mother
- 41. Chinese "bear"
- 43. Body
- 44. Move unsteadily
- 46. Fits on a hand
- 47. Subarctic coniferous forests
- 48. Graven images
- 49. Hyrax
- 50. Monster
- 51. Gunk
- 53. Annoying insect
- 56. An Old Testament king
- 57. Foot digit

### SUDOKU PUZZLE

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



### SOLUTIONS 9/05/2018

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

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

### JOKIN' AROUND

What do you call a pony with a sore throat?

A little horse.

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# Spartans prepare for home opener

By Winona Rajamohan  
STAFF WRITER

After ending the 2017 season in fifth place – the team's best conference finish since joining the Mountain West Conference in 2013, the Spartan volleyball team has high expectations heading into this year's season.

The Spartans are projected to place sixth in the conference, according to an MWC preseason poll.

Head coach Jolene Shepardson led last year's team to a 17-12 overall record and a 9-9 conference record. Shepardson is returning for her fifth year with the Spartan volleyball program.

The 2017 team secured its first winning season since 2006 with the most overall wins since 2012, raising the bar for the talent in the court in this new season.

"We have a lot of good returners from last year and a lot of good incoming players, both transfers and freshmen," Shepardson said. "Our expectations are high because the ability is high."

The Spartans welcome a big freshman class this year with eight new players joining the team. There are also four starters, the libero and seven other letter winners return from last season.

"Our freshman class is raising our own expectations of where we need to play and therefore the returners are raising their expectations of us," freshman Haylee Nelson said. "It just builds a better gym environment to be in and to strive to be better in every day."

Shepardson said this is "a very tough team to beat" and the team has its eyes on securing wins in its conference matches.

To do that, the Spartans are working closer together to find the perfect rapport when they're on the court.



WINONA RAJAMOHAN | SPARTAN DAILY

The Spartans volleyball team plays its Blue/Gold exhibition on Saturday to prepare for its upcoming tournaments in the regular season.



**We have a lot of good returners from last year and a lot of good incoming players, both transfers and freshmen.**

Jolene Shepardson  
head coach

"It comes to us meshing well and having chemistry together, which I think is building up more and more everyday. I think we'll be playing pretty good this season," junior Thaliana Grajeda said.

Grajeda, who represented San Jose State University as part of the Mountain West All-star team this summer,

returned with a silver medal from the European Global Challenge.

Unity among the team has already been well established and the Spartans are confident they will only continue to grow as the season progresses.

"We've always had a good culture and we built some good chemistry in our team together," Shepardson

said. "We have a lot of returners that can bring that attitude and I think the newcomers have embraced that tremendously."

The Spartans opened the season on Aug. 24 for the USF Invationals.

The team they lost against host South Florida, 3-1 and Stony Brook, 3-1.

However, the team viewed the upsets as an opportunity to test the on-court chemistry that it had been working so hard to master.

"We didn't execute in the first two matches but I think it was a good practice for us to realize that even if we're not playing well, we can snap out of it," Grajeda said.

The team snapped right out of the funk with a 3-0 sweep against Jacksonville.

"This weekend was a good test for us to see if we mesh in certain rotations and in certain set-ups," Nelson said. "We pulled it together in the last game so it was a good way to end the weekend."

Nelson and Grajeda were named to the USF Invitational All-Tournament team.

Spirits are high, as the Spartans fine-tune loose ends in their play during their opening games in Florida. The team is preparing for what Shepardson believes to be a "tough tournament com-

ing up."

"We have more talent in the gym than ever before, so I think once they embrace each other and understand that we can do some really good things and we'll go into conference play very well," Shepardson said.

With a team of "lively players, big voices and a lot of leaders," Grajeda is set on the team being good to go as soon as all roles on the team are solidified.

The Spartans will head on the road to face off against Northern Colorado this Friday.

Follow Winona on Twitter  
@winonaarjmh

# Is banning Serena's catsuit sexist?



Claire Hultin  
STAFF WRITER

When people think about 36-year-old Serena Williams, they usually think about the 23 Grand Slam titles she has won and the role model that she has become for women everywhere. People usually do not think about the outfits she wears while winning matches.

However, French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli clearly thinks more about her attire, as he made a new dress code, banning her legendary "Black Panther" catsuit that she wore during the French Open this year, from the competition next year, according to the New York Post.

"It will not be accepted. One must respect the game and the place," Giudicelli said.

He added that William's outfit became "too unique for tennis."

William's response was as classy as ever.

In an ESPN video, they showed her response. William's said "The president of the French Federation, he's been amazing. We have a wonderful relationship," Williams

said. I've since found other methods and when it comes to fashion, you don't want to be a repeat offender."

Though her response

**She used the outfit to speak out, empower women and especially mothers everywhere.**

was calm and respectful, the uproar throughout the online media that followed was loud, passionate and powerful.

The Los Angeles Times responded, "Someone (or maybe everyone) should take to Twitter to remind the French Tennis Federation president that respect can't be codified or demanded into existence. Like the 23 Grand Slam victories the new mother has under



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Professional tennis player Serena Williams goes for a forehand return at the 2013 U.S. Open in New York.

her red catsuit belt, it has to be earned."

Worldwide newspapers were not the only people to speak up. Even locally, people are outraged.

"Can you imagine the head of any sporting event telling ANY male athlete, let alone one of the world's best athletes of all time, that they didn't respect the game because of what they were wearing..." San Jose State alumna Lisa Ellis tweeted.

Many, like Ellis, argued

that the dress code is not the problem, the respect of female athletes and their attire is the problem.

They also argued that male athletes would never be told what to wear, especially male athletes as successful as Serena Williams is in the sport of tennis.

Williams, a new mother, gave birth last September and dedicated her outfit to the women who have been through difficult pregnancies.

After her pregnancy, Williams suffered from blood clots and the compression of the cat suit supposedly helped with the circulation of blood in her body. She used the outfit to speak out, empower women and especially mothers everywhere.

"All the moms out there that had a tough pregnancy and have to come back and try to be fierce, in the middle of everything," Williams said. "That's what this represents.

You can't beat a catsuit, right?" Williams said, according to the New York Post.

Serena Williams recently visited SJSU for the 2018 Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic and is currently competing in the U.S. Open, and most would agree that what she has worn up until this point has been working out pretty well for her.

Follow Claire on Twitter  
@ClaireHultin