



Buffet of nations
Multimedia Online



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Monday
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Petitioners flock to campus anticipating elections



Petitioner Greg Wright helps freshman economics major Simone Saslow register to vote and sign petitions outside of the Student Union on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Wright said his main job is hosting the National Health Call and he petitions on

campus and around San Jose in his free time. Wright said he sees a low turnout of students signing petitions, which he said is a good example of the apathy of college students show about politics. **Photo by Nick Rivelli / Spartan Daily**

Signature gatherers, who seek to promote political issues, swarm university

by Aliza Saeed
Staff Writer

As the 2012 election gets closer, more and more people all around campus with clipboards are seen approaching SJSU students in order to obtain signatures for their petitions on different issues.

"Students are always in a rush and it's hard to get them to sign but I think it's the best place to obtain signatures since it's one of the most crowded places," said Andrew Chacon, signature gatherer and San Jose resident.

Chacon said since college students are open minded about a lot of issues that need to be approved for the betterment of the environment, it's easier to get them to sign the petition.

Chacon was gathering signatures for a company called Progression and was carrying four clipboards for different issues.

"One of my petitions is to stop gerrymandering, politicians that redistrict to guarantee a re-election, another on auto insurance which is to try to change it so they base it on driving history instead of demographics, one on supporting the merger with AT&T and T-Mobile which says to merge them together in one

SEE PETITION PAGE 6

I-House sizzles at pancake breakfast



German exchange student Martina Dach (right) serves some international cuisine to freshman physics major Joss Lee during the International House's Pancake Breakfast event Sunday morning. **Photo by Jack Barnwell / Spartan Daily**

International students seek to develop relations with community at event

by Angelica Valera
Staff Writer

Music flowed through the dining commons and living room of the International House as the occupants' laughter and chit-chat echoed against the walls and the smell of food filled the air.

The inhabitants of the I-House hosted their semi-annual pancake breakfast yesterday morning from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Admission was \$5 for students, \$10 for general and \$25 for family of four.

"It's a big event that takes the co-

ordination efforts of all the residents in the house," said Leann Cherkasky Makhni, director of the I-House.

She said the pancake breakfast started in 1983 as a fundraiser.

"Now, it's an amazing community outreach event," Makhni said.

Marilyn Lowman, Associated Students director of programming affairs, said she lives in the house and helped organize the event to make sure it goes smoothly.

The senior hospitality major said this is her first semester and event at the I-House.

"I love it," Lowman said. "It's great. I don't know how it is from the guests' perspectives but for mine, everyone seems to be happy, so it's good with me."

A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejak, a native of Poland, said he usu-

ally comes every year, as it's one of the best events on campus for seeing different cultures.

He said the food, atmosphere and performances are all excellent.

"Everybody here is the best," said Kolodziejak, a graduate student in economics. "I used to come for coffee nights to socialize — it's just great to meet all the international students on campus."

"I came here to meet the students and to speak with Leann so I can put together an event and so forth," said Hector Shlimovitch, A.S. director of intercultural affairs.

He said this was his first time at the pancake breakfast.

"It's actually very great," said Shlimovitch, a senior accounting major.

SEE PANCAKE PAGE 6

Views on spirituality shared in series of talks

by Aliza Saeed
Staff Writer

The SJSU Unity Council held Spiritual Awareness Week for the first time in university history last week.

According to event coordinator Luann Budd, the goal of the week was to create an opportunity for all students on campus to promote knowledge and understanding about where people come from in different places of spirituality.

"Everyone in the Unity Council sat down and decided to have this event and find out how having Spirituality Awareness Week can help campus members," said Budd, an administrative officer for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Anyone was welcome to participate in Spiritual Awareness Week and it was open to all spiritual beliefs or people with no religious beliefs.

SJSU faculty, staff and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship sponsored the event.

There were dialogue meetings held at the King Library from noon until 1 p.m. from Oct. 18 until Oct. 20.

According to the agenda of this event, the meetings were about reflecting on the university's commitment to creating a diverse community that respects each individual and values inclusion and civility.

The questions on the agenda for all three days of dialogues were on the various issues and perspectives around the topic of spirituality and religion and were an open discussion to speak about every individual's belief and background.

"Shouldn't we engage with each other and maybe further under-

stand from each other, even though religion can be a very emotional topic?" said engineering Professor Burford Furman.

At the meetings were SJSU students, faculty and some locals with different belief systems and religious backgrounds including agnostics, Christians, atheists, Muslims and Buddhists.

"I wasn't really religious growing up and I didn't really practice it growing up or feel that I was Catholic," said freshman biology major Abigail Arzola.

There were different topics discussed each day of the three dialogue meetings — the first meeting was about spirituality and religion, the second about spirituality and the university and the third was about spirituality and the community.

"As atheists, we're not bad people," said graduate student Brent Johnson. "We go about our daily

SEE SPIRITUAL PAGE 6

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■ COMMENTARY

Android provides solid base for today's smartphones

“This isn't to say that Apple's iPhone isn't good. Android is just better.”



Photo illustration by Leo Postovoi and Jack Barnwell / Spartan Daily

Those thinking about buying the iPhone should reconsider

by Peter Fournier
Staff Writer

There isn't any way to really describe how it feels to have the world's greatest search engine powering your own cellphone unless you have the actual product in your hands.

The Android operating system for cellphones, developed by Google, gives its user the power of its search-engine website in the hands of a smartphone. To be exact, Google Maps, Docs, Gmail, YouTube and Navigator are all available as applications on the Android market.

These apps can all be placed on the home screen, something that wasn't possible to do on any cellphone five years ago.

Switching apps is incredibly easy, and that is ultimately the goal of any smartphone — to be simple.

A product that is easy to use should be the goal of any

cellphone, and Android has done that with its operating system. This isn't to say that Apple's iPhone isn't good. Android is just better.

The most recognizable feature of any Android phone — which is interchangeable — is the giant clock on the home screen. It's the staple of Android that doesn't leave a consumer scanning for the time in the upper-right or left-hand corner.

In addition to the time-friendly home screen, most Android phones, which are made by Samsung, HTC and a few other companies, have four hard buttons at the bottom of its phones. The search button, when accessed from the home screen, displays a Google search bar. It's a handy thing to have access to in your front pocket.

One of the biggest criticisms of the Android system is that its phones drain the life out of their batteries.

As an Android user, I can back up that theory by saying I haven't been able to use my phone in critical situations because the battery had been drained by the late evening.

When I first had my phone, I was lucky just to get into

the afternoon (about seven or eight hours) with a slightly charged battery. Then I met a fellow Android user while writing a game story at a Starbucks in Sacramento. He advised me to turn off my GPS and Wi-Fi if I wasn't using them. The recommendations made an immediate difference, but my phone could hardly last 12 hours without needing a charge.

I don't believe any Android phone will ever get near the iPhone's reported 38 hours of battery life on heavy use, but if the phone can last me from morning to night, I'll take the features it flaunts over the brand-name and battery power of its competitor.

However, I will take the Android and its phones that suck the life out of its hardware over the iPhone and its first-, second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-generation hardware.

I prefer the Android system over Apple iOS. I don't have the need to make the jump to Apple. Android does the job for me.

I love the fact that when people ask me to “Google it,” all I have to do is reach in my pocket.

■ COMMENTARY

The death of my laptop brings great frustration to my life

by Jeremy Infusino
Staff Writer

When my Toshiba Qosmio stopped working I was not surprised.

For the past year I have had problems with my laptop, like constant freezing and randomly erased music files.

On Monday, my computer stopped working properly, and since then schoolwork and other aspects of my daily life have been more complicated.

Since this was my first computer I felt a unique attachment to this contraption that I spent hours using.

Since I am not tech savvy by any means I just ignored these problems because my computer was still functioning when I needed it to work.

When it stopped working I wasn't sure if it was the computer itself or the always-complicated Windows operating system.

After calling Toshiba product support we came to the conclusion that it was Windows not working properly, and I need a system recovery that would revert my computer back to its original factory settings.

This means that everything

that I put on my computer since it was purchased, such as Microsoft Office 2007 and Adobe Creative Suite 4, would no longer be on my hard drive and I would have to buy them again.

On top of that, all my personal files — pictures, papers, videos and music — that I have accumulated over the years would be gone, too.

Fantastic.

Not being able to use my computer is almost as frustrating as losing those programs and files.

I never noticed how frequently I used my computer until it finally stopped working.

Checking and sending emails, writing essays, streaming TV shows and movies, doing research and listening to music is how I used to spend countless hours on my laptop.

Watching Epic Meal Time videos on YouTube isn't nearly as entertaining when I'm watching them on my smartphone.

According to a 2010 Pew Research Center study, 72 percent of Americans between the age of 18 and 29 own a laptop.

I am not the first person who has had problems with a laptop and had to reset it back to

Warning

“On top of that, All my personal files — pictures, papers, videos and music — that I have accumulated over the years would be gone, too.”

OK

factory settings, and I will not be the last.

Still, being without my computer has posed a variety of problems for me.

For example, this semester I am enrolled in a class that has requires me to

watch videos online through Lynda.com, a software training and video tutorial site, and for the most part I have not watched them because I simply can't.

My friends let me borrow their laptops when it does

not inconvenience them, but I don't want them to feel burdened by my plight.

Luckily I have a smartphone that I got last summer so I can check and send emails.

Still, I really don't enjoy writing 500 word stories for

the Spartan Daily with my opposable thumbs.

According to a Yahoo article by Consumer Reports titled “Computer Prices Keep Dropping,” prices should be dropping around the holidays, but I need one that works now.

iPhone App review roundup

1. Alarm Clock Free (Free)

Allows you to wake up to your own music, set playlists and create different alarms for separate events. Turn your phone sideways and it becomes a bedside alarm — swipe across the screen to brighten or dim and shake for a flashlight in the middle of the night.

2. Pandora Radio (Free)

The app syncs with your existing account to deliver all your radio stations straight to your phone — a real plus if your car has an input for your phone, it's the joy of Pandora Radio in your car.



3. Xplane 4G (\$9.99)

This simulator, which lets you fly planes such as F-16s, Cessna seaplanes and 747s, is worth the nearly \$10 price tag. Graphics on the app are awesome as you stream across various scenery at mach speed and work great with iPhone 4's retina display.

4. BBC News — Free

Get BBC-quality coverage of U.S. and international news for free, with no digital subscription necessary. The app also has a live feed for BBC News Radio.

5. Tuneln Radio Pro —

\$0.99

Tune it to nearly any radio station around the world that live-streams through the Internet, allowing you to listen to everything from KGO News to Radio Masala from Trinidad.

by Jeffrey Cianci
Staff Writer

See more iPhone app reviews online at
spartandaily.com/?p=45596



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Women's soccer team records two-goal win on Spartan senior day

by Jeremy Infusino
Staff Writer

The Spartans defeated Louisiana Tech's Lady Techsters 2-0 Sunday afternoon in their final conference home game of the season for senior day and secured a spot in the Western Athletic Conference tournament.

SJSU (5-10-1, 3-1-1 WAC) scored both goals in the second half and managed to shut out Louisiana Tech (8-7-4, 1-5 WAC) to secure the win.

Head coach Jeff Leightman said he felt Louisiana Tech was the aggressor in the first half and this game had one of the Spartans' worst first-half performances.

"I think it was a tale of two halves," he said. "We came out very lethargic."

Leightman said at half-time he spoke to the team and told them to start playing with more intensity.

"I was happy with the second half," he said. "I thought once we started playing we controlled the tempo."

Leightman said the team needs wins so it can get a first or second seed in the WAC tournament and get a bye for the first round.

Junior forward Kelsey Lord scored her sixth goal of the season and the first goal of the game six minutes into the second half with an assist from senior defender Amanda Martin.

Martin crossed the ball from deep in the corner and Lord knocked the ball into the goal, which was nearly saved by Techsters goalkeeper Caitlin Updyke.

"I honestly didn't know I scored," Lord said. "(Abigail Hernandez) jumped up and I jumped up and it hit my back and went in."

The Spartans' second goal came from senior forward Maria Esquivias, who redirected a pass from sophomore defender Sarah Fraser to score her first goal of the season.

Esquivias said she felt great after she scored the goal.

"It felt even better because it was on senior day," she said. "It was exciting to finish my last home game here and do it for my team and my seniors."

Ten senior Spartans were recognized with their families before the game began and took photos on the field together — Esquivias said she enjoys senior day and thinks it is an important tradition.

"It's a great way to leave," she said. "It feels good to get all your fans, your family, here. It's a very supportive atmosphere."



Louisiana Tech defender Amy Quintana (right) slides in for the tackle against Spartan senior forward Stephanie Bales during the Spartans' 2-0 victory Sunday afternoon at Spartan Stadium, which sealed SJSU a spot in the WAC tournament. Photo by Nick Rivelli / Spartan Daily

The win marks the Spartans' third win by shutout this season and Leightman said while

he was happy with the wins he felt there should have been more.

Leightman said these shutouts can be attributed to solid performances by senior goalkeeper Meghan Maiwald.

"Meghan played great all year and it's a travesty that she doesn't have more shutouts," he said. "She has saved our bacon a number of times."

Maiwald said the shutout felt awesome.

"It was a really tough shutout," she said. "It's a great honor to be on this wonderful team."

The Spartans have two more conference away games left in the season against Utah State (4-1) and Nevada (1-4).

Leightman said Utah State is a very good team.

"They play a similar style to us," he said. "They attack like crazy and they're very strong everywhere."

Leightman said Nevada is no slouch either.

"We always have passionate games against Nevada," he said.

"It feels good to get all your fans, your family here. It's a very supportive atmosphere."

-Maria Esquivias, senior forward

Spartan volleyball team captures dramatic five-set win over Idaho

Staff Report

Four players recorded kills in double figures, three with double-doubles and five with double-figure digs, as the Spartan volleyball team defeated Idaho three sets to two Friday night in the Spartan Gym.

The Spartans and the Vandals alternated set wins through the five sets played, with the match resulting: 25-23, 18-25, 25-18, 19-25, 15-12 in favor of SJSU.

"This was a phenomenal team effort all the way around tonight," head coach Oscar Crespo said in a post-match interview. "Our team did a good job communicating on the court and worked hard to close out the match."

Freshman left-sider Savanah Leaf was one of many top performers for SJSU, recording her sixth double of the season with a team-high 19 kills and 17 digs.

Also heavily contributing was senior middle blocker Kylie Miraldi, who recording a team-best kill percentage of .448 — 15 kills on 29 attempts.

Junior setter Caitlin Andrade moved to within 20 assists of fifth place on the SJSU all-time assists list with a 62-assist performance in the five set victory.

Two Spartan players recorded career-high performances in digs — sophomore Hanah Blume with 20 and freshman Kiely Pieper with 16.

The match was tightly contested from the beginning set, which reached a score of 22-22 before SJSU pulled ahead with two kills by Leaf and a service ace by Pieper.

After dropping the second set, SJSU took its first lead of the third set at 9-8 and never gave it back, taking the third set 25-18 after three consecutive kills by junior middle blocker Alex Akana to finish the set.

Idaho won the fourth set to set up the fifth and final, winner-take-all set.



Junior defensive specialist Katie Turner during SJSU's Oct. 4 victory over Sacramento State. Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo

SJSU took an early 4-1 lead but gave it to the Vandals after they grabbed four consecutive points to take a 5-4 lead.

The two teams traded off points until it became tied at 6-6, at which point junior left sider Krista Miller served six consecutive points to take a 12-6 Spartan lead.

Miraldi gave the team a 14-11 lead and Leaf closed out the match with her 19th kill to give SJSU the set and match victory.

"Our goal was to play together with unity tonight," Miraldi said. "We really talked about making eye contact and communicating with each other on the court. This was a fun match for us as we were communicating and telling each other where to hit the ball and where the defense was set up."

Information compiled from SJSU Sports Information.

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INTERNATIONAL AND EXTENDED STUDIES

MOVIE REVIEW



Chloe Csengery as young Katie (left) and Jessica Tyler Brown (right) as young Kristi Rey in Paramount Pictures' "Paranormal Activity 3," a horror film about demonic possession. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

'Paranormal Activity 3' delivers fresh new thrills and scares

★★★★☆

by Jackson Wright
Staff Writer

I can't handle the intensity of modern horror movies.

I enjoy the feeling of being scared, and most of the premises are interesting enough to hook me, but I rarely see them in the theater because of how quickly I become invested in the films and the intense terror I'm plunged into as a result.

That all changes for the "Paranormal Activity" movie franchise.

I saw both the original and the sequel as they released at midnight, so when I heard that a third was to be made, by no less than Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost, the guys who

made the controversial 2010 documentary "Catfish," it was assured that I would be in attendance for the third year in a row to watch a demon mess with some innocent bystanders.

Every seat was packed in the theater of Camera 12 as the lights began to darken and the advertisements and previews began to roll. I could tell even as it started that it was going to be a much better movie than the flawed "Paranormal Activity 2," which I didn't enjoy half as much as the original.

Fortunately, what came after was much different than what we all got for the last clash with the vengeful spirit.

It begins before the events of the second movie when the main victim of the original, Katie (Katie Featherston), brings

some old family videotapes to younger sister Kristi (Sprague Grayden). In a change from the plot of "Paranormal 2," during the same burglary that set off the events of the sequel, the tapes are the only items removed from the house.

We are then treated to the content of these old family videos, which sets back the story to 1988 when the sisters are little girls living with their mother Julie (Lauren Bittner) and her live-in videographer boyfriend Dennis (Brian Boland).

As with the other films, some spooky happenings are occurring around the house, and so the male lead sets up cameras to try and capture proof of a ghostly aggressor.

It is the same fiend from the first two films, and through the

events of this one we start to understand the backstory between him and these two girls.

As it turns out, Kristi treats the demon as her imaginary friend, calling it Toby. Shenanigans ensue as Toby becomes increasingly bolder in horrifying the family, first opening and closing doors and progressing to some lightweight little girl dragging.

It's a formula that sounds familiar to the franchise, but for some reason placing the story in the past breathes some life into what is becoming a tired premise.

Jessica Tyler Brown, who plays young Kristi, is particularly great, putting a new edge and character to the film and reminding viewers that children are indeed one of the easi-

est surefire ways to inject some creepiness into any storyline.

The story progressed well over the rest of the 84 minutes, steadily pushing the pace forward with jolts of excitement interspersed in creative places.

Overall, my fear was palpably increasing at an exponential rate, each scare hitting harder and stretching my overall threshold further and further.

I finally reached that limit about eight minutes from the end, much too scared to fully let myself fall back into the storyline, instead taking in the whole experience of the movie, but also hiding from the remainder of the horrifying images onscreen by looking at the reactions of my friends and the audience.

It seemed to me that we

were all going nuts with terrified suspense.

It seems to me as a casual fan of horror movies such as these that the endings cannot be good.

It seems that no matter how interesting the premise, horror movies can rarely truly take it to the next level and deliver a fitting finish to the package that came before.

"Paranormal Activity 3," however, delivered amazingly.

It was a great and complex ending that explained much and left much open for further questions.

One thing is definitely true, though — this simple premise has led to some of the scariest movie moments of my life and I can't wait to see the next installment.

Classifieds

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Sudoku

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

How to Play

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

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Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Decide not to include
- Expand, as a collection
- Junker of a car
- Toque and tricorn
- Heston's co-star in "El Cid"
- Place to play b-ball
- Superhero's secret identity preserver
- "Well, ___ you clever!"
- Fine cotton variety
- Cap-wearing Glasgow girl?
- They may be batted
- Self-esteem
- Sealed, as a champagne bottle
- Christie of mysteries
- Bill Cosby, in college
- Praiseworthy girl?
- Cheat at cards
- Finless wonder
- Historic "elder" statesman
- Cartoon girl?
- Fraternity letter
- Comparatively thick-skulled
- "Schindler's List" star Liam
- Father, informally
- One who does penance
- Amusement park-going girl?
- Feverish condition
- Member of the electorate
- Elbow in the ribs
- They can be fine or graphic
- Nintendo forerunner
- Pupil surrounder
- Monstrous Scottish loch

Previous Puzzle Solved

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T	O	S	S	E	N	D	O	R	E	R	R	S	

- Poem division
- New Jersey NBA team
- Piece de resistance?
- Mutton murmur
- Impersonal pronoun
- "For shame!"
- Oakland neighbor
- Campus digs
- Squirrel's nest
- Ovid's X's
- Like an active person
- Spellbinding
- Send out
- Cartoon supply company
- Early late-night host
- "Pardon me!"
- Seaweed extract
- Inexpensive
- She's a Dahl
- Cabana opening?
- Mythic king of the Huns
- Speaking with a grating voice
- Card catalog datum
- Back of the pack
- To this point
- Any minute now
- Benignity
- Morales of "La Bamba"
- Emergency vehicle
- Least of the Great Lakes
- Gaudy night light
- Cello part
- On the ball
- Sonny portrayer in "The Godfather"
- Shrek, for one
- Cashews or filberts
- Tiny Greek letter?
- Hall-of-famer Musial
- Groundbreaking discovery
- Little fox
- Silly start?

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64						65				66			

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WESSIDE STORY

by Wesley Dugle

Reflecting on the war in Iraq



Wes Side Story appears weekly on Mondays

Last Friday, President Barack Obama officially stated that all U.S. troops would be out of Iraq by the end of the year.

It was a monumental declaration that appears to have put an end to a struggle that has been going on now for nearly nine years.

It was mind boggling to me to see that the war was officially coming to an end because in all honesty I hadn't truly thought about it in a long time.

In fact, most of this country has barely talked about it for

the last three or four years with the economy tanking and tea partiers and Wall Street occupiers protesting but when you look at the numbers its amazing no one has even taken note of it lately.

More than \$800 billion have been spent over in Iraq in this past decade and it's hard not to think the war's cost had something to do with our downgraded economy.

Just over 4,400 American soldiers have paid the ultimate price for Operation Iraqi Freedom and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have perished as well and yet it's barely a blip on the media's radar.

There's no anniversary for the war every year like we do 9/11 and yet arguably both are just as important to how America's foreign policy has been shaped today.

I know the war definitely affected me.

Up until the war broke out I would say I was largely igno-

“... my shell of ignorance shattered and I realized just how screwed up our government was.”

rant of the world around me.

Sure, I was in middle school and I didn't know any better, but the events that happened in the world while I was there in many ways shaped my political and social outlook on the world today.

The events of 9/11 were the first to really change me.

I was too young to really

understand just how shocking the event was but it still rattled me nonetheless when I understood for the first time that there were people out there that wanted to destroy America.

It was at that moment my shell of ignorance began to crack and I started to see the world outside of my hometown a little differently.

But just two years later, on March 20, 2003, is when things officially changed for me.

I remember asking myself “Wait, when and how is Osama Bin Laden in cahoots with Saddam? Why are we declaring a war when we should be diverting all our sources to catching the monster who actually attacked us? And why are we issuing a preemptive strike on a country that we think has WMDs while another that actually has them (North Korea) is the one we are negotiating with?”

It was at that point my shell

again, to ask questions, and to not simply just follow the commander in chief and whatever he says (this goes for Obama as well).

It changed me in a way that helped me take more notice of the world around me and dare myself to question what our government tells us is right.

The war has barely been in the minds of many Americans over the last few years however, but either way you look at it this conflict has had a profound effect on this country today.

With all this said though, despite the fact that we should have never been there in the first place, I wish Iraq and it's people nothing but the best for they have probably suffered more than we have.

I really do hope that Iraq can evolve into a stable peaceful democracy and even if we did not go in there for the right reasons I hope that some measure of success and peace is yielded from this war.

The war was one of the biggest events of the last decade and even if most Americans don't think about it much today, I will never forget the impact it had on me and this country.

of ignorance shattered and I realized just how screwed up our government was.

It was infuriating to me that we would attack a country prematurely without any hard evidence and waste valuable resources while our economy was hurting and the real monster was still at large.

After that day I learned never to trust my government

I remember coming home from school that day and seeing my parents watching the television as President George W. Bush declared war in Iraq.

Bush was stating that Saddam Hussein and his regime were connected with Osama Bin Laden and 9/11 and that they were in control of weapons of mass destruction.

This was infuriating to me.

Letter to the Editor: Relocate the garden

In response to an article published on Oct. 17, called “Possible uprooting for garden,” Brittany Patterson discusses the possible replacement and relocation of the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue Garden, organized by SJSU's gardening club.

I do think that this garden of vegetables is a unique idea to have on San Jose State's campus, but I believe that it should be relocated and replaced if the plants itself do not have an appealing appearance year round for anyone who walks by it.

I have passed by this area and have noticed this circular garden several times on my

way to class, but to my eyes, the plants look like just another bush from afar.

From close-up, personal experience, I have sat around this garden to meet up with some friends before and my view of the garden was a view of dried-up plants that gave off a sad and dreary vibe for a day that was all sunshine.

The location of the garden is where many students and staff, as well as visitors, like to hang around because of the variety of sitting areas, a spacious grass area, and the famous Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue.

Since the current location is a central and visible space, relocation of the garden should

happen if the plants appear more dried-up than fresh

However, I think more people would be more interested and involved in this garden if it was talked about more.

I didn't even know it was a vegetable garden until I read this article.

Also, it'd be nice to plant a mixture of colored and eye-catching plants to not only appeal to the eyes of students and staff, but to positively catch a visitor's attention and interest as well.

Christine Le, Business major, management information systems

My motto: Everyone deserves a cookie



By Cynthia Ly

In at least one mind, a simple philosophy exists: “Everyone deserves a cookie.”

By cookie, I mean a soft, slightly lopsided chocolate chip cookie (or sugar cookie, if supplies run low).

No, the frozen cardboard version at the local grocery store does not count.

“Everyone deserves a cookie.”

It is also written on the welcome mat in front of my mental Happy Place.

Since my middle school days, I have been baking. (Why is the corn bread still lumpy? I shake my fists in frustration)

Have you ever made a cookie from scratch?

To this day I still get puffs of flour on my clothes, feel guilty about the amount of butter used and wish KitchenAid stand mixers were cheaper.

Seriously, what kind of company sells a mixer for \$300? Baking is a great way to build upper body strength.

Nowadays, instead of using boxed cake mixes, I chop whole macadamia nuts just before folding them into fresh cookie dough because this method makes the best chocolate chip cookies ever.

After cooling on a plate-sized

metal rack, at least one cookie is sacrificed for the required quality check.

Unfortunately, my palate has been ruined by the exposure to all this sweetness over the years. Everything tastes like sugar and more sugar.

So because of my terrible life choices, I give most of my cookies away to family members, friends and co-workers.

They are wonderful, willing test subjects.

Go ahead and argue the unhealthiness of butter and processed sugar to me — you won't win.

I don't bake for altruistic reasons, but for myself.

When exams, work or life in general get to be too much, I enjoy the warmth of a 350 F oven in the dead of winter, the satisfaction of making a perfectly golden snickerdoodle and the surprised joy on someone's face when offered a piece of the pie.

When I burn out, my Happy Place is out of reach. I live on Misery Lane. The neighborhood is bad, with shady corners and cracks all over the place.

“Everyone deserves a cookie” — hey, I'm back.

I would like to permanently live in a simple cookie-cutter world full of sugar and spice and everything nice, but the rent is unreasonable.

In a world where everyone deserves a cookie, everyone deserves a place to make their own batch. Regardless of the skill level a person starts at, everyone

should have access to recipes and ingredients — to knowledge and to resources — in whatever form they take.

In a world where everyone deserves a cookie, everyone has the time to savor said cookie.

Ignoring the rigid laws of time and work, a person can take a moment to do something just because it is enjoyable, instead of a means to an end.

In a world where everyone deserves a cookie, everyone thinks everyone else deserves a cookie.

Eat the cookie — you know you want to.

This isn't our world — I'm crazy/mad, not delusional.

When I first started baking, it took me two months to learn which parts of my oven heated unevenly.

To this day, I still manage to burn my fingers.

This is odd considering I have black and white, polka-dotted oven mitts (a gift).

Then again, considering how much there is to learn about making cookies and breaking bread and sharing pie, perhaps not so much.

Happy Places don't exist in reality.

Also, other people's happiness is too mental for me to control.

“Everyone deserves a cookie.”

Life can be more sweet than bitter, though.

(Misery Lane actually exists — in Pollock Pines, California.)



Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934

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Opinion Page Policy

Letters to the editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3282, emailed to spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu or the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Letters to the editor must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become proper-

ty of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

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PANCAKE: Breakfast with a little culture



Students and community members chow down during the International House's Pancake Breakfast event on Sunday.

The event included diverse entrees and cultural performances from several countries. Photo by Jack Barnwell / Spartan Daily

FROM PAGE 1

"I recommend it to everyone. I wish I could have told more people because the food was awesome."

Cherkasky Makhni said when the I-House had its 23rd anniversary in 2003, she questioned the event, noting how they've been doing the breakfast for so long.

"I think it's time to change it — do something different," she said. "But the alumni were appalled. They said, 'Absolutely not. This is not to be changed. This is a legacy.' And they're right, since everybody who has lived in the I-House

since 1983, almost without exception, has participated in the breakfast. But as you've seen, in addition to pancakes, there is always other ethnic dishes there."

Cherkasky Makhni said she has been the director for the past 20 years.

According to the official website, I-House is a co-ed residence for 70 U.S. and international students attending SJSU.

The house accommodates residents from more than 35 countries each semester, ranging in age from 17 to 35 years of age, according to the website.

Final international event will challenge student knowledge

.....by Angelica Valera.....
Staff Writer

Aside from the pancake breakfast and coffee nights, the International Quiz is the other I-House event that is open to all students on campus.

The quiz is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the Dining Commons.

The I-House also puts on

their cross-cultural workshops that occur several times this semester.

"(The International Quiz) is a game that's played with teams of four to eight people — it's usually eight people," Cherkasky Makhni said. "People come in on their own, where they get formed into teams or they bring a team of their own, and there are trivia questions."

She said there are two rounds of trivia questions within three categories, and a team works together to come up with the best answers.

There are very low-key prizes for the winners, she said.

SPIRITUAL: King Library plays host to series of discussions

FROM PAGE 1

lives, try to live life to the best we can."

Mary Poplin, education professor at Claremont University and author of the novel "Finding Calcutta," flew from Los Angeles to SJSU to give two speeches on this occasion.

"I wanted to talk about my experience in Calcutta after I met Mother Teresa," she said.

Poplin gave two speeches, one of which was regarding

her views on naturism, secular humanism and pantheism before her encounter with Mother Teresa's Christianity and where the views overlap and contradict one another.

Another speech she gave was during the regular meeting time of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Poplin spoke about her experience volunteering for two months with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Char-

ity and how it challenged her to rethink her understanding of spirituality.

Poplin said she wanted students to search out all world views, all the options of spirituality and that everyone has a purpose for life.

"I think she spoke a lot of truth, things I needed to hear and a lot of us on campus can relate to," said Hannah Leanos, a junior hospitality management major.

PETITION: Workers paid by number of signatures

FROM PAGE 1

company," Chacon said.

According to Chacon, petitions can be started by any company and it all comes down to the amount of signatures gathered at the end of the day.

Micky Hostler, a SJSU Alumnus from 1964, gathering signatures right outside Hugh Gillis Hall said the amount of valid signatures depends on what area he obtains the signatures from.

"Some areas have more registered voters than others," he said.

He said a college campus is a rare place for valid signatures since the students tend to not participate in voting and it depends on the issue.

"College campuses are the lowest validity but it still feels good to try and get college students involved in the political side of life," Hostler said.

He said he was gathering signatures to encourage students to enter the political process and use it for their benefit.

Hostler was carrying one of the clipboard for the marijuana dispensary issue.

He said he is doing it because he is a supporter of war and people who have lost limbs because of war and benefit from a number of pain-reducing substances such as marijuana.

"I don't smoke and never will because there is no need for it for me," he said.

Hostler was also getting signatures for an initiative towards changing the law to allow auto insurance companies to set prices based on a driver's history of insurance coverage.

According to California Secretary of State website, this changes current law to permit insurance companies to set prices based on whether the driver previously carried auto insurance with any insurance company and treats drivers with lapse as continuously covered if lapse is due to military service or loss of employment, or if lapse is less than 90 days.

"This ensures that your insurance rates won't change and will remain the same even if you left to a war or moved from another state," Hostler said.

Hostler said both petitions require 30,000 signatures each and the total has to be "valid" — from people who are registered as voters.

Hostler gets paid a dollar per valid signature, but for non-valid signatures, he must pay the company back after the signatures are processed.

"It's a pretty expensive process to get us out here to do this," he said.

Stephan Richardson came from Oakland to gather signatures in San Jose to stop dispensaries from being closed down.

"I'm just doing this as volunteer work," he said.

He said these petitions are given through many companies and recruiters who want to get an issue placed on the ballot.

Richardson said he worked for Sanctuary, a marijuana dispensary in San Jose, and the owner of the dispensary asked a number of people, including him, to get signatures for this petition.

"As you know, the San Jose City Council voted that the

number of dispensaries in the city should limit to 10 and limit no more than two per district," he said. "Right now the city has about 140 dispensaries so I don't know how it would help people if we rid the dispensaries."

Travis Barrow from Oakland and Jason Dominguez from Los Angeles said they're just doing this to make extra money.

"I mean, if I can get money for it — a dollar per valid signature — sure, why not?" Barrow said.

Dominguez said he travels a lot from city to city, depending on which places need petitions signed.

"I saw one of my friends in front of the grocery store a few years back and that's how I got into it," he said.

According to Dominguez, there are many companies that have an issue that needs to be put on a ballot.

He said he gets paid through those companies and contractors in order to get valid signatures.

"There are so many contractors, but some of the ones that I went through are JSM, Inc., and John Burkett Petition Management," Dominguez said.

Dominguez said there are several ballots circulating for different issues and students are an easy target since they don't take their time to read what the ballot is about.

"They are usually pretty quick and nice about signing the ballots," he said.

The reason the signature gatherers are seen at this time of the year is because signa-

Petitioners told to move their tables

.....by Jeremy Infusino.....
Staff Writer

Edward Jefferson, a petitioner gathering signatures, was asked to move his table near the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch walkway by the University Police Department on Wednesday afternoon.

Jefferson, 63, along with fellow petitioner Cliff Hoffman, 53, said they were looking for voters to sign petitions regarding marijuana dispensaries, auto insurance rates and redistricting.

Sgt. Manuel Aguayo said a citizen called UPD around 2:45 p.m. saying there was an unauthorized person on campus with a table set up and officers responded to the call.

Hoffman said he had been on campus since 7 a.m. but had not encountered any problems until around 2:50 p.m.

Sgt. Mike Santos responded to the call and spoke with Jefferson.

"I just need you to move your table," Santos said to Jefferson.

After about 20 minutes of talking with officers Jefferson said he and the officers "reached a compromise" and moved his table.

SpartaGuide

Stephen Suleyman Schwartz — "Freedom of Religious Choice: Islamic Views"

Scholars for Peace in the Middle East

Tuesday, Oct. 25

4 p.m.

King Library 255/257

Land of the Unconquerable: Author talk with Ashraf Zahedi

Iranian Studies @ SJSU and Student Association of Middle Eastern Studies

Wednesday, Oct. 26

4 to 6 p.m.

King Library, 5th floor, Cultural Heritage Room

Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket):

Reading and Book Signing

Center for Literary Arts and San Jose Stage Co.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

7 p.m.

ENG 189 (SJSU Engineering Auditorium)

Israeli Defense Force Panel: The Varied Work of Homeland and Ethics

Wednesday, Oct. 26

6 to 9 p.m.

Clark Hall, room 412

Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket):

An Afternoon of Stories and Slides

Center for Literary Arts and San Jose Stage Co.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

4 p.m.

The Stage — 490 S. First St., San Jose

Haunted House and fundraiser for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Alpha Tau Omega

Thursday to Friday, Oct. 27 to 28

6 to 9 p.m.

202 S. 11th St.

Inside the Egyptian Revolution: From Occupy Tahrir to Occupy Wall Street

Middle Eastern Studies Program and Student Association for Middle Eastern Studies

Tuesday, Nov. 1

7 p.m.

King Library, room 225/229

Poe Fest

English Department

Tuesday, Nov. 1

7 p.m.

Spartan Memorial

Disability Sport Expo 2011

Adapted Physical Activity Club and KIN 159 Sport and Adapted Activity Class

Monday, Nov. 7

4 to 7 p.m.

Spartan Complex 44B Gym

SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to spartadailyeditorial@sjsu.edu titled "SpartaGuide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.