



High: 66°  
Low: 52°

Going through the motions

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Selflessness, exuberance characterize Spartan attacker

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# SPARTAN DAILY

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Wednesday, April 20, 2011

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Volume 136, Issue 41

## Romney, Huckabee leading GOP contenders

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee are the strongest potential Republican challengers to President Barack Obama at this time, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

Obama faces a formidable bloc of voters who say, as of now, that they definitely won't vote for him no matter who his opponent is.

Obama's in a virtual tie with Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, and barely tops Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor. Among registered voters, Obama leads Romney by 46-45 percent and Huckabee by 48-43 percent. The survey has an error margin of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

The survey was conducted April 10-14 while Obama and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives were engaged in a bruising battle over the federal budget. The results reflect both the nation's sharp partisan divide and swing voters' disdain for political warfare.

"This is evidence of the political polarization that exists in the country," said Lee Miringoff, the director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, which conducted the poll. Independents, he said, "don't like the bickering."

Perhaps most worrisome for Obama, 44 percent of registered voters said they definitely would vote against him in 2012, while only 37 percent said they definitely would vote for him, and 18 percent were undecided.

That was a small gain for Obama over November results, when 48 percent said they'd definitely oppose him, while 36 percent said they'd vote for him, and 16 percent were undecided.

The president won 52.9 percent of the popular vote in 2008; Republican rival John McCain got 45.6 percent.

Some voters said it's too early to settle on a candidate.

Kyle Dittmer, a Seattle area teacher, said he voted for Obama last time largely because McCain changed from being a maverick to a more conservative candidate.

While Obama has "done pretty well," Dittmer said, he's disappointed he hasn't seen that feisty streak in the president. "He's backing off on some stuff," Dittmer said. "There's been too much pandering to corporations."

Lydia Davis, a Cary, N.C., registered nurse, still likes Obama. A Republican for years, she now criticizes the GOP for handcuffing Obama as he tries to improve the economy.

As for the 2012 horse race margins, Romney has closed the gap vs. Obama; he trailed him by 51-38 percent in January. This time, Romney won among independent voters, 45-42 percent, and does very well among "tea party" conservatives, winning their support vs. Obama by 75-18 percent.

### ■ SUSTAINABILITY WEEK



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily  
Senior Spanish major Ally Diaz gets a push from junior business major Nithin Mathew during a relay race. The event promoted alternative means of transportation at A.S. barbecue pits on Tuesday.

## Bay to Brakes

Free barbecue, games and races promote alternative transportation solutions as part of the SJSU's Sustainability Week

Eric Austin  
Staff Writer

Teams of SJSU students and faculty were given the opportunity to race each other in a wheelbarrow, Big Wheel, kangaroo ball and scooter relay race on Tuesday for a grand prize of \$100 in an attempt to promote alternative transportation on campus.

"I really think it was fun for the students and faculty," said Katherine Cushing, SJSU sustainability director and an associate professor of environmental studies. "It also helped people recognize that there are other ways to get to campus other than using a personal automobile."

Bay to Brakes, sponsored by the Environmental Resource Center and the Bay Area Air

Quality Management District, is part of SJSU's Sustainability Week, and was the center's biggest event this year thanks to the free barbecue and the spectacle that only students and faculty racing each other can provide, said Ian Bell, senior environmental studies major.

"We could have had a normal

see **BRAKE** page 4

## Gulf states, oil industry seek to restart drilling in Gulf of Mexico

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — A year after the BP oil spill put the brakes on full-bore domestic production, it's back to "drill, baby, drill" as federal lawmakers, anxious about rising gasoline prices, push legislation to open offshore leases and make it easier to drill domestically.

Nowhere is this emphasis on increasing domestic production louder than in the Gulf Coast states hit hard by the oil spill — Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas — where the calls for drilling from members of both parties are louder than last year's calls for caution as oil spewed into the Gulf of Mexico.

"Louisiana is home to the nation's oil and gas industry that is trying to get back to work

after the Deepwater Horizon accident," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

Landrieu is critical of the drilling moratorium imposed by the Obama administration after the spill, as well as its slow restarting of the oil well permitting process on the Outer Continental Shelf.

"We need to rapidly accelerate the permitting process in the Gulf to increase production," she said, as well as expanding it to offshore Alaska and other areas.

Last April 20, the Deepwater Horizon oil platform exploded, killing 11 men and injuring 17. The rig's blowout preventer failed, sending oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for three

see **OIL** page 3

## Sustainable art highlights design of everyday items

Francisco Rendon  
Staff Writer

Bamboo bicycles, solar-powered streetlights and a display on the life cycle of jeans are currently lining the walls of the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery in the Art Building.

Sustainability 3.0: Beauty, Brains and Brawn, an exhibit themed around the applications of sustainable thinking in industrial design, opened on Tuesday and will be shown until May 20.

Prior to the opening of the gallery, there was a panel discussion featuring professionals from the industrial design field with experience in sustainability.

In front of 75 attendees, the speakers discussed their experiences with "green" design, sharing their stories of how they arrived at their current careers.

Josh Handy, vice president of industrial design at Method, a household cleaning-product company, said these discussions were not only beneficial to the students, but also a fine reason for reflection.

"I think whenever we get a chance to talk about sustainability in design, and how it's changing, it's good for students to hear," Handy said. "But it also helps me contextualize what I am doing."

In his experience at Method, Handy chronicled the process of designing the company's laundry detergent, and how the company managed to reduce the amount of waste from detergent dilution and overdosing in individual loads of laundry.

"Designing soap bottles isn't for everyone," he said. "What I was really striving for in my career was to really impact the world. For 25 million people a year to say 'I like that, I want to buy that,' it's kind of cool."

Other panelists were Craig Calfee, founder of industrial design companies Calfee Design and Bamboosero Bamboo Bicycles, and Adam Reineck, a senior designer at IDEO, a design and consulting firm.

Calfee discussed his experiences designing bamboo bicycles and his manufacturing products in Africa.

Reineck shared his experiences in a consulting firm, and his efforts to bring a green vision to large projects, such as the transition to using wind energy as a main source of power for Hull, Mass.

SJSU Alumnus Allen Enemark said he found the experience of the panelists helpful.

"I thought it was really great because it shows what actual heads of companies are using," he said. "Picking their brains of what sustainability is and how it has helped them."

Gallery curator Leslie Speer said having the gallery's opening correspond with Sustainability Week was largely a coincidence, and that she had been working on it since 2010.

One of the main goals of the gallery was to broaden people's vision of what sustainability is, Speer said.

"A lot of people in general don't understand how sustainability connects to art," she said. "I think industrial design shows how arts are connected to products we use every day. People can see the science and technical thinking (of

see **ART** page 2



**THIS DAY IN HISTORY ...**



On April 20, 1995, Spartan Daily reported that ...

- (Above) A car bomb ripped a nine-story hole in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing at least 19 people and injuring hundreds more.
- Radio host Michael Krasny conducted his "Forum" talk show live from the Student Union.
- A state Senate committee voted to boost California's minimum wage to \$5.75 an hour.
- The Academic Senate approved a plan to address cultural diversity on campus, which included a new General Education requirement.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Tony Ton, an industrial design senior, explains the idea behind the Zero Emissions (ZEM) House to industrial design alumnus Doug Schaller on Tuesday.

**ART**  
From Page 1

design, and see how sustainability is connected to art."

Arti Patel, a junior industrial design ma-

ior, said the event helped her make the connection between her profession and the environmental consciousness in her field.

"It did help explain what sustainability is, and how it affects industrial design, and how it creates an effect on the world," she said. "(These designers are) not designing a project that will end up in a landfill."

**Obama pitches budget deficit reductions via tax increases**

McClatchy Tribune

ANNANDALE, Va. — President Barack Obama hit the road Tuesday to start selling his plan to cut runaway budget deficits, saying his blueprint is more balanced than a rival Republican plan because he'd ask more people to share the sacrifices — mainly wealthier Americans.

"The debate isn't about whether we reduce our deficit — the debate is about how we reduce our deficit,"

he said in a town hall meeting at the Northern Virginia Community College, a Democrat-friendly campus just outside Washington.

Obama said his plan would ask the wealthy to pay more, would save Medicare and Medicaid by making them more efficient, and would increase spending on education, energy research and roads. He also said that Social Security taxes should rise on incomes above \$106,800 to shore up the program.

He said the Republi-

can budget plan passed last week by the House of Representatives would gut Medicare and Medicaid to finance more tax cuts for the wealthy.

Today and Thursday, Obama will pitch his plan in town hall meetings at Facebook's headquarters in California, where his online audience will include the young people that he courts everywhere, and in Reno, Nev., another battleground. He'll also raise money for his re-election campaign on his trip West.

**CAMPUS VOICES**

By: Marlon Maloney and Leonard Lai

**What would you do if your best friend told you he or she was gay?**

**Spring 1983**

**Spring 2011**

Jeff Locastro



Junior Business Management

Oh my God. What would I do? I would probably try not to think about it. I probably wouldn't invite him over for coffee anymore.

Nicola George



Freshman Kinesiology

I would be really supportive of them, because if they're my best friend, obviously, I'm their friend for a reason, I would be there if they need any support or help.

Ray Seva



Senior Radio/television

I would probably stop wearing pastels, and talk about sports a lot.

Sherenpal Singh



Graduate Electrical Engineering

I would be completely OK with it. He has no physical relationship with me and so it doesn't matter to me.

Julie Dykmans



Junior Art

I'd accept it, because if that friend is truly my friend I'm going to accept him or her as he or she is.

James Smet



Freshman Graphic Design

I wouldn't judge, I would be totally understanding. I've had to deal with it before. It's not something they can deny or anything, if that's how they feel.

Kevin Coates



Senior Occupational Therapy

I would try to talk to him and be understanding. It's happened to me before. I would just try to be comforting and supporting.

Shayla Simpson



Senior Business Marketing

I would first say, 'Oh is that it?' I wouldn't even take a second thought about it, I would accept them, it's not a big deal to me.

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■ U.S. NEWS

# Supreme Court: EPA should regulate greenhouse gases

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — In a setback for environmentalists, Supreme Court justices signaled they will throw out a huge global warming lawsuit brought by California and five other states that seeks limits on carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants in the South and Midwest.

Encouraged by the Obama administration's top courtroom lawyer, the justices said the problem of regulating greenhouse gases should be left to the Environmental Protection Agency.

It is too complex and unwieldy to be handled by a single federal judge acting on a "public nuisance" lawsuit, some of them said.

A defeat for the lawsuit would put more pressure on the administration and the EPA to enforce limits on carbon pollution in the face of strong opposition from congressional Republicans, environmental advocates said.

"The stakes will be very high. The question is whether they can deliver," said David Doniger, a climate change expert for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The issue debated before the high court Tuesday was not whether greenhouse gases are causing global climate change, but who should regulate these gases. The decision involves politics, economics and science, the lawyers said.

"It's a question of trade-offs," said Peter Keisler, a lawyer representing the power producers. "There is no legal principle here to guide the decision" if it were made by a judge.

Keisler, a former Bush administration official, was joined by acting U.S. Solicitor General Neal Katyal in urging the justices to

throw out the lawsuit against the power plants as too sprawling.

"In the 222 years that this court has been sitting, it has never heard a case with so many potential perpetrators and so many potential victims," Katyal began.

Everyone on the planet is an emitter of carbon dioxide, he said, and everyone is a potential victim of global warming — judges and courts are not suited to handling "global" problems through a lawsuit.

This "sounds to me a lot like what the EPA does," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told a New York state lawyer who was defending the lawsuit.

A judge cannot be "a super EPA" who sets and enforces detailed regulations, she said.

Four years ago, the justices cleared the way for the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Since then, the government has adopted stricter standards for new motor vehicles, which take effect next year.

But regulation of power plants has stalled, and the agency says it will propose new rules in July.

All the while, states have pressed ahead with their "nuisance" suit against the five large power producers. It began in 2004 during the time when the Bush administration insisted it had no authority to tackle global warming.

Lawyers for California, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Iowa and New York City sued the power plants that were responsible for 10 percent of the nation's carbon emissions. They said these gases are causing the planet to heat up, posing a threat to the coastal communities in the East and West and to crops in the heartland. It asked for a judge to impose limits on these emissions.

## OIL From Page 1

months and causing widespread economic and environmental damage.

The leak was stopped on July 15 after more than 4.9 million barrels of crude oil contaminated the Gulf. The wellhead was permanently sealed on Sept. 19.

BP initially underestimated the size of the spill, with Tony Hayward, BP's then-chief executive, downplaying its impact without much challenge from the Obama administration, which coordinated the response to the spill with the oil company.

Still, Gulf Coast lawmakers say, it's time to get back into the oil business. Republican lawmakers are pushing legislation that would give leaseholders an additional year to make up for production lost during the moratorium.

"At the one-year anniversary mark, I believe progress has been made to clean up after the spill and to begin rebuilding the economy along the coast," said Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss. "I will continue to support legislation to ensure that Gulf energy exploration, and the jobs associated with that industry, are not unjustifiably obstructed by the federal bureaucracy."

A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation survey released Tuesday indicates that 69 percent of Americans favor increased offshore drilling. That's up 20 percentage points from last June, while the oil spill was still in progress, and is back to the level of support seen in the summer of 2008.

In the GOP-controlled House of Representatives, the Natural Resources Committee last week approved three bills that would force the Interior Department to speed up permits, open leases in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Virginia coast, set a domestic production goal and, as Chairman Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said,

## What happened to the leaked oil

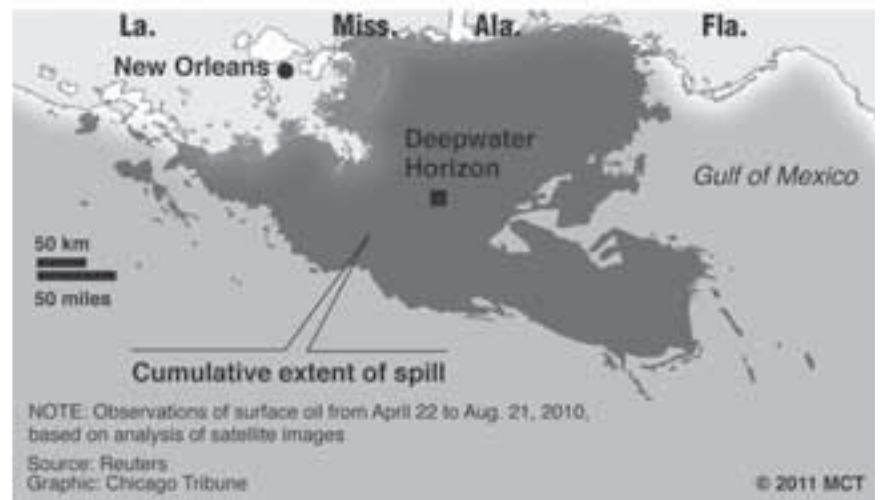
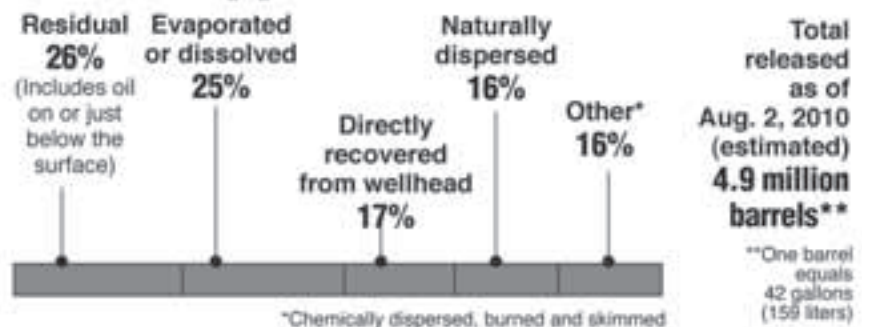


Photo: McClatchy Tribune

"end the administration's de facto moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico."

The House is expected to vote on the bills, which includes the one-year extension for leaseholders, when Congress returns from its spring break.

The reason for the push: instability in the Middle East and \$4-a-gallon gasoline in several states, with the national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded at \$3.83 a gallon.

Crude oil reached a high of \$112 a barrel on April 8, with the U.S. Energy Information Administration warning that "crude oil prices are currently at their highest level since 2008."

Environmental activists are alarmed at what they say are short memories by lawmakers on the dangers of offshore drilling.

"We are seeing the chronic effects of the oil spill with 65 (baby) dolphins washing up on the coasts

of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida," said Louie Miller, head of the Sierra Club in Mississippi, who added that there also have been 87 dead sea turtles since March 15.

"Our concerns are that we haven't recovered from the first disaster."

Tyson Slocum, the director of energy programs for Public Citizen, founded by Ralph Nader, said, "People tend to forget that the industry screwed this up. BP cut corners."

All the legislation moving to open up drilling, he said, is going in the wrong direction.

Democratic lawmakers from other regions are urging the tapping of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve — the federal government's oil storage tank — to help increase supply and lower prices, and are encouraging the administration to promote alternative fuels.

■ U.S. NEWS

# Full effects of Gulf oil spill still unknown, says biologist

McClatchy Tribune

GRAND ISLE, La. — Hundreds of brown pelicans are doing what they always do on Cat Island in the spring: wheeling above the mangroves, nesting and jostling for space on this noisy rookery a few miles off the Louisiana coast.

A year after the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 workers and unleashing the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, life on Cat seems pretty much back to normal, as it does in most of the Gulf of Mexico environment.

But when biologist Todd Baker takes a close look, he sees that not all is right.

Before the spill, "this was a lush green island; you couldn't see the ground," recalled Baker, who works with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The black mangrove bushes on which pelicans build nests are thin and scraggly, damaged by the oil that sloshed over the two-acre island. A strip of the plants disappeared, wiped out by a loose, wave-driven boom set by spill cleanup crews. It plowed through the dense stand, destroying nesting perches.

Nests built on the newly exposed sand could be washed away in storms. If the mangroves don't recover, more of the island will erode, imperiling the rookery.

The northern Gulf's brown pelican population didn't escape the spill unscathed. But precisely how it was affected, Baker said, "We don't know yet."

The spill's toll on the Gulf environment is turning out to be more subtle — and at this point, elusive — than was feared when BP's blown-out well spit light crude into mile-deep waters for three months.

Beaches that were coated last summer with a rusty-colored goo, the product of oil and chemical dispersants, are clean. Most of the waters have been reopened to fishing. Only a small fraction of ocean and sediment samples taken by the federal government found oil compounds at levels harmful to aquatic life.

"It's been difficult to confirm everybody's worst fears," said Ian MacDonald, an oceanography professor at Florida State University. "My statement all along has been that we

probably are not going to see ... an acute toxic impact. Instead what we should be concerned about is a marginal reduction in the productivity and biodiversity of the components of the Gulf ecosystem. ... But that's not something that you know right away."

Government and academic scientists are examining the Gulf ecosystem to figure out what the release of 4.1 million barrels of oil and 1.8 million gallons of chemical dispersant did to the environment, but they may not have answers for years.

A combination of factors helped the Gulf escape ecological catastrophe: The oil was a light crude. Weather, currents and the application of dispersants deep in the ocean kept much of it offshore. The warm-water Gulf ecosystem, adapted to abundant natural oil seeps, proved efficient at producing hydrocarbon-consuming microbes that munched their way through the oil and methane.

"Quicker than anyone thought," oil and gas levels in most of the spill area have returned to normal levels, said David Kennedy, an assistant administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with 30 years of spill experience.

Much of the looking is being done as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, a legal process involving federal and state agencies as well as BP and the other companies involved in the Deepwater Horizon drilling operation. Those corporations will pay for the work and will be liable for the costs of environmental restoration.

The oil has not completely disappeared — as of early April, 66 miles of Gulf shoreline, most of it in Louisiana, were still tainted by heavy or moderate amounts of oil or tar balls. Biologists continue to recover oiled birds. And University of Georgia geochemist Samantha Joye has reported that on a December research voyage she came across large patches of the Gulf floor covered with oil residue and empty of the typical bottom-dwelling sea life.

Biologists also believe many birds and sea mammals that died during the spill sank to the bottom, never to be counted.

"It may take a while to really appreciate what this body blow did to that longer-term health," Kennedy said. "We know there's injury."

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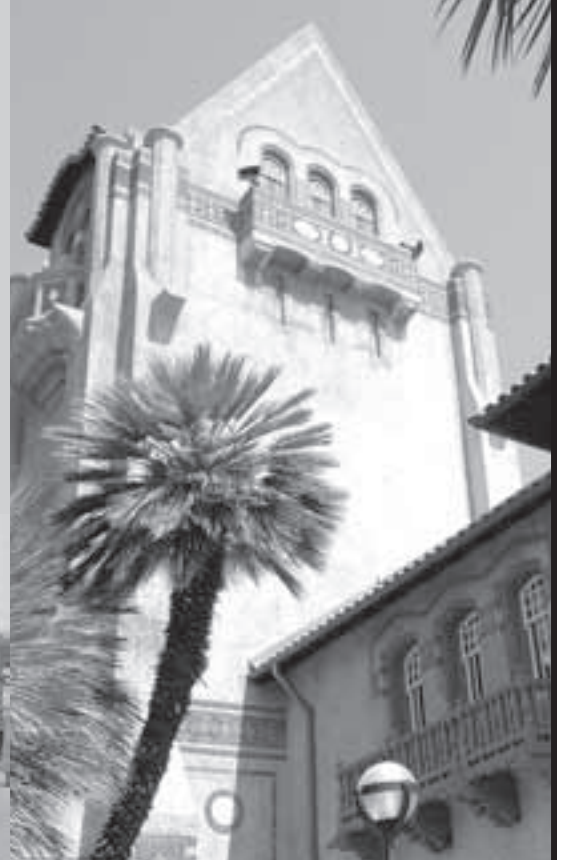
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## BRAKE

From Page 1

relay race but we decided it would be way more exciting if we had stupid stuff like the Big Wheels and the kangaroo balls," he said. "We thought it would attract more people."

Andreas Walters, a junior environmental studies major and member of the winning relay race team, said he believes the event was a great success.

"I was surprised at the turnout," he said. "A lot of people came out and were looking around and talking about it. Food is always a great motivator for people, especially students."

The relay race was the brainchild of the management district, which event organizer Tracy Keough said is always looking for different and unique ways to promote alternative transportation.

"When people think about carpooling and transit they think it is hard, but it really is not," she said. "It is certainly easier than using the Big Wheel."

Otto Melara, commute coordinator for Transportation Solutions, said alternative transportation can not only be easy, but an enjoyable experience.

"It is important to show people that it is not just about getting from Point A to Point B," Melara said. "Alternative transportation can be fun and it's a different experience. For example when you are on a bus or train you can do a variety of things with your time because someone else is driving for you."

In addition to the relay race, Bay to Brakes also included demo rides of brand-new electric bicycles from ELV Motors, a Silicon Valley based corporation.

Douglas Schwartz, founder of ELV Motors, said he believes electric bicycles are set to become a more popular method of alternative transportation in the United States.

"In China last year they sold about 25 million electric bikes," he said. "By using an electric bicycle you are saving the environment and getting out of the car and getting some fresh air."

Students and faculty were also given the opportunity to sign up for RideShare, a program run by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission with the goal of making it easier for alternative transportation users to find each other and carpool,



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

**Lynne Trulio, chair of the environmental studies department, takes a test drive on one of the big wheel bikes that was used for Sustainability Week's relay race.**

vanpool or bicycle to work or school together, said Charlotte Simpson, organizer for RideShare and 511.org.

Bay to Brakes was about more than just having fun, Cushing said, as part of the event's goal was to educate the SJSU community about automobile use being the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions that we have control over.

"The decisions we make about personal transportation has a really big impact on air quality and on carbon emissions," she said.

Transportation Solutions Manager Eyedin Zonobi said his department has been trying to get students to switch from commuting by car to alternatives for many years.

"When we started, our goal was to re-

duce traffic and impact on our limited parking facilities and the environment," he said. "But lately we have been pressing the environmental issues and air quality impact even more."

Ron Roman, a professor of organization and management and member of the SJSU sustainability committee, said he believes education and events that promote awareness, such as Bay to Brakes, are the key to solving the problem of greenhouse emissions.

"It seems to me that people have a kind of surface-level knowledge but they do not really understand it more in depth and I think by having them gain more knowledge they would be more willing to take action," he said.

## SPARTA GUIDE



Sparta Guide is provided to students 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. Entries can be emailed to [spartadailyeditorial@sjsu.edu](mailto:spartadailyeditorial@sjsu.edu) titled "sparta guide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

## Wednesday, April 20

3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Pacifica Room, Student Union  
Environmental Spirituality: An Interfaith Event

## Thursday, April 21

Noon - 1:15 p.m., King Library Room 225/229  
Diversity Dialogue: Understanding Suicide  
Contact: Marina Corrales @ 408-924-2263

## Friday, April 29

6 p.m., Event Center  
49th Annual Honors Convocation  
Contact: Jessica Larsen @ 408-924-2402

Noon - 1:30 p.m., Statues Garden in front of Clark Hall

Composting Workshop

Contact:

[growingrootsofwellness@googlegroups.com](mailto:growingrootsofwellness@googlegroups.com)

## Saturday, April 30

4:30 p.m., Barrett Ballroom  
Pride of the Pacific Islands 11th Annual Luau  
Contact: Vincent Calapit @ 858-415-5580

## Saturday, May 14

6 p.m. - midnight, Fourth Street Summit Center  
A Wish Come True gala by Delta Sigma Pi — Theta Chi chapter  
Contact: Arleen Cantor @ 650-740-5660

## ■ U.S. NEWS

## White House releases plan to counter increasing prescription drug abuse

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Tuesday unveiled a plan to fight prescription drug abuse, warning that accidental fatal overdoses now exceed the combined deadly overdoses from the crack epidemic of the 1980s and black tar heroin in the 1970s.

The initiative to combat the nation's fastest-growing drug problem includes boosting awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among patients and health care providers, cracking down on "pill mills" and "doctor shopping," and requiring drug manufacturers to develop education programs for doctors and patients.

"Too many Americans are still not aware of the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs and how dangerous they can be," said Gil Kerlikowske, the White House director of national drug-control policy.

Accidental drug overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death in 17 states — ahead of car crashes — Kerlikowske said. They account for seven a day in Florida, one of the epicenters of the epidemic and the source of much of the drugs. In Broward County alone, more than 1 million pills are dispensed every month, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office.

The plan calls on every state to develop a prescription drug-monitoring program and encourages them to

share the information with other states. Thirty-five states already have such monitoring programs in place, Kerlikowske said.

The initiative recommends convenient ways to remove and dispose of unused and expired medication from the home. Kerlikowske noted that seven out of 10 prescription drug abusers obtained their drugs from friends or relatives. A national "take-back" effort last September netted more than 121 tons of prescription drugs in a day, he said. Another take-back day is scheduled for April 30, Drug Enforcement Administration head Michele M. Leonhart said.

The plan also calls for the drug control policy office and the DEA to step up enforcement by targeting training to states with the highest need. Law enforcement agencies and the lawmakers who represent them have long complained that clinics where pain medication often is dispensed without prescriptions, or "pill mills," contribute heavily to the prescription drug epidemic.

Kerlikowske said his office would ask Congress for an increase in funding for drug prevention of \$123 million and for treatment of \$99 million for 2012, to train primary health care providers to intervene in emerging cases of drug abuse and to expand and improve specialty care for addiction.

As part of the initiative, the Food and Drug Administration will require the makers of a certain class of drugs — "extended-release and

long-acting opioids" — to work together to develop an education plan to help doctors and patients.

Opioids — such as morphine and oxycodone — are used to treat moderate and severe pain.

The announcement came on the heels of Kerlikowske's testimony last week before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee about the destructive underground prescription-drug network that weaves its way up from Florida's pain clinics to Kentucky's Appalachian mountain communities. Kerlikowske, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and Florida Gov. Rick Scott — whose states anchor each end of what's known as the "pill mill pipeline" — stressed that sales and abuse of prescription drugs, especially oxycodone, had grown to epic levels.

Ninety-eight of the top 100 doctors in the country dispensing oxycodone — the generic form of OxyContin — are in Florida, mostly in Miami, Tampa and Orlando, Scott said.

According to a study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there was a fourfold increase nationally in treatment admissions for prescription pain-pill abuse during the past decade. The increase spans every age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, employment level and region.

The study also shows a tripling of pain pill abuse among patients who needed treatment for dependence on opioids.

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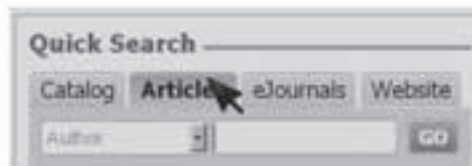


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■ DANCE REVIEW

# Going through the motions

The Listening Hour paired musical pieces composed by SJSU music students with original choreography from dance students

**Francisco Rendon**  
Staff Writer

I have never been a fan of interpretive dance.

In fact, I don't know the difference between interpretive dance and modern dance.

For most of my life, I have been able to avoid pirouettes and swivels without much trouble.

Covering the Listening Hour's presentation of student composition and choreography on Tuesday garnered a large mental sigh as I prepared myself for several hours of skinny women jumping and rolling around.

The Listening Hour, for those unfamiliar, is a program at SJSU that brings 45 minutes of music to the concert hall of the music building every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

The program featured four original musical pieces composed by SJSU music students and original choreography from dance students to match the music, which were themed around games and sports.

A surprisingly engaging aspect of the program was that after every performance the composer and choreographer stood in front of the audience and fielded questions about their collaborative work.

Beginning with "Pole Vault," a classical-style quintet of brass and woodwind instruments composed by Harlan Otter and accompanied Amy Herrera's choreography, Herrera launched herself across the stage.

Collapsed in musical exhaustion, she adorned herself with "cleats" by moving her fingers over her feet, all while horns and woodwinds rose and fell in dramatic fashion.

While my unfamiliarity with the art of modern and interpretive dance was a large barrier for understanding everything that was going on, the question and answer session was helpful in figuring out what the dancer's movements symbolized, and how the composer and choreographer had tried to find common ground along the theme.

If I had not seen the title of this piece or heard the questions afterwards, I would have had no idea this song and dance was about pole vaulting.

Being able to hear the artists share their vision about the performance allowed me to appreciate the subtleties in the movements and music much more than



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

**Choreographer and dancer Marte Madera portrays a chess piece in his performance for The Listening Hour on Tuesday.**

I otherwise would be able to.

The second piece was danced and choreographed by Marte Madera, along with ambient, eerie and subtly electronic melodies from Rika Ellis.

The live musicians on this piece, Jennifer Wu on the viola and Lydia Lo on the piano, did an excellent job blending the music recorded and looped by Ellis, creating a dramatic and engaging experience, in which smooth viola lines contrasted against tense recording loops.

**"These artists certainly deserve a lot of credit for experimenting and trying new things."**

Madera's choreography did not disappoint.

After hearing Herrera's explanation about what her moves symbolized and how she was trying to represent the energy and movements of a pole vaulter, I was able to better appreciate the way Madera mimicked the shapes and movements of various chess pieces in his performance.

The energy he brought to the performance combined with thematic music, resulting in an impressive performance, which I am fairly certain many other members of the audience did not want to end.

The third performance, themed around Scrabble, was choreographed and performed by Marcia Marshall and composed with electronic music by Corey Keating.

These artists certainly deserve a lot of credit for experimenting and trying new things.

Marshall demonstrated a lot of skill in her ability to slow down and move rhythmically with echoes in the music, in between rapidly jerking to the edgy music.

In her question portion, it became clear that she was doing lots of complex choreography, spelling out entire words and drawing attention to double word scores, but I simply was not able to see any of it while it was going on.

Musically, Keating said many sounds in the music came from an electronic Scrabble program, and while I would never have known this if he had not mentioned it, they again get many points for creativity.

The closing piece featured four percussionists seated behind hi-hats with whistles in their mouths.

In between them, Autumn Taylor bounced around, channeling the energy of a basketball game in "Four-court."

The music, composed by Jason McChristian, was good, with upbeat lines and enough dynamics to keep the song entertaining.

Taylor did a solid job of choreographing a piece with only percussion and managed to create enough movement where the audience could actually feel the rising and falling action in the game she was emulating.

Overall, the performance was actually enjoyable and though I still would not consider myself a fan of modern and interpretive dance, I can appreciate that the moves and motions that these dancers develop clearly requires talent and discipline.

Besides, good music can make just about anything better.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

**Amy Herrera performs a leaping double stag on stage, accompanied by an original music piece composed by SJSU music students at The Listening Hour on Tuesday.**



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## TV SERIES REVIEWS

# The deadliest game proves riveting to fans of epic fantasy

Matt Young  
Staff Writer

The game has finally begun: HBO debuted the first installment of its highly anticipated (and highly promoted) maxi-series, "A Game of Thrones" this week.

Based on the first book of George R. R. Martin's magnum opus, *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the epic fantasy weaves a complicated story of a fractured kingdom at war over a contested seat of power.

Like carrion-eaters vying for a carcass, anyone with ambition plots to consolidate power, wooing potential supporters and setting up enemies for bitter betrayal.

Add to this a few surprises and twists, and you've got a possible hit of a series. This story isn't for the faint of heart.

There are ice zombies, dragons, graphic violence, twisted sex and an inescapable sense of melancholy, so don't put this on for the kids.

The thing is, even with these elements, the series is never flippant.

The characterizations are complex — It's a pretty Shakespearean work. Flawed characters each have their motivations and the relationships are fascinating as they shift throughout the narrative.

As for the sex, it's used to help illustrate the values of the characters.

Visually, the settings are utterly believable.

The set designers and matte artists really pulled off an impressive feat. The filming in Northern Ireland and Morocco helped with the authenticity of the portrayed environments.

Just wait until you see the massive wall of ice at the onset.

Making the jump from page to screen was long thought undoable for this series, which itself was a response to the limitations of visual storytelling by Martin.

Having worked on multiple series like "Beauty and the Beast," "The Twilight Zone" and "Outer Limits," Martin found himself having to pare back the scale of his work because of budgetary concerns.

Characters were consolidated, sets reduced or re-imagined, and everything was squeezed into a more affordable package.

With HBO developing the series, an ideal marriage seems to have been arranged.

The premium cable network's deep pockets and lack of concerns over censorship provide a natural venue.

The sets are big, the digital effects feature film-worthy, and the characters are mostly intact.

The story certainly hasn't suffered.

The first episode introduced a number of key characters and locations, and the fantastic casting and visual work virtually glowed.

With actors such as Lord of the Rings' Sean Bean and 300's Lena Headey in lead roles, genre fans will have a few familiar faces in the mix.

In the south, the city of King's Landing is awash with rumors over the mysterious death of the Hand of the King, essentially the guy who helps the king carry out his mandates.

That guy was doubly important since King Robert Baratheon, ably played by Mark Addy, is something of a drunken, whoring fool.

He enjoys knocking heads (and boots) and loathes politics.

Enter Eddard Stark of Winterfell, a longtime compatriot of the king and the governing power of the North.

Stark, played by Sean Bean, is a character torn by his love of family and country and his sense of obligation to his friend and king. Too bad the king's wife, backed by a powerful family, is plotting their downfall.

As the kingdom spirals out of control, a grim threat from the north gathers its power that will take all unaware.

As a huge fan of the series, I was highly impressed.

As I mentioned, the casting was impeccable, the visual effects riveting and the second-to-none storytelling seemed to be off to a good start.

This really is War of the Roses-meets-Stephen King.

J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle Earth seems like Disneyland next to the Seven Kingdoms of Martin's World.

If the reception to the series goes as expected, the rest of the books in the series will be adapted.

In the game of thrones, you live or you die.



Photo Courtesy: www.TV.com

Lord of the Rings' Sean Bean portrays Eddard Stark, king and governing power of the North of Winterfell in HBO's "A Game of Thrones."

## SF Giants get down to the nitty gritty with new reality show 'The Franchise'

Joey Akeley  
Copy Editor

Normally, I hate reality television shows.

When I heard that my beloved San Francisco Giants were going to be the subject of one, I was about as thrilled as I would be when the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Giants.

But the 30-minute preview episode of "The Franchise" had just as much intrigue, drama and emotion as a Brian Wilson save.

There was the expected — Wilson's randomness, Aubrey Huff's pranks and Pablo Sandoval's offseason workouts.

But there were also some captivating storylines that I knew little about, such as the comeback attempt of reliever Marc Kroon and the emergence of rookie Brandon Belt.

Kroon, who played in the majors as recently as 2004, pitched in the Japanese leagues from 2005-10. The 37-year-old ended up competing for a spot on the Giants' 25-man roster during Spring Training.

Despite having an outstanding spring and establishing rapport with the team, he was left off the major league roster, a decision he was informed of by manager Bruce Bochy.

Although slightly heartbroken, Kroon took the news like a pro, accepting Bochy's decision without making a scene.

Belt also had a tremendous spring, and the 22-year-old was quoted several times as saying that he would completely understand if the Giants' staff decided to send him back to the minor leagues to gain more experience.

But this time, Bochy told Belt that he made the team, and Belt began to break down in tears.

In each scene, the emotion of the players and the normally emotionless Bochy was captured. You could feel how deeply Bochy cared for his players.

The episode did a superb job of humanizing the players, particularly in the cases of Belt and Freddy Sanchez, who were shown in multiple scenes with their wives.

Sanchez talked about the

precious time he gets to spend with his wife and two sons, who he sees inconsistently during the season, which can last up to nine months.

Barry Zito, the much-maligned, overpaid Giants' pitcher, was shown talking about the struggles of his past and the false rumors during Spring Training that the Giants were going to buy out his contract.

As a frequent basher of Zito, I saw the human side of the aging left-hander, and suddenly I felt guilty for my brutality as I realized Zito's sole focus is trying to help the Giants win games, and that attitude should never be ostracized.

The star of the show is Wilson, who was interviewed several times during this episode.

Whether it was because of his beard, suspenseful demeanor or humor, he instantly grabbed my attention every time he was onscreen.

Even during the dog days of August, I suspect Wilson will devise a plan to make the show entertaining.

Just a few clips of the first week of games were shown, such as Belt's first career home

run and Aaron Rowand's game-winning double in the team's home opener.

The episode seemed more intended to give a behind-the-scenes look at the defending

World Series champions instead of a recap of the team's games.

I'm still not totally sold on reality television shows featuring sports teams, but if there

was ever a team where it could work, it would be the freakish, pandamonium-starved, bearded Giants.

The series will officially premiere on July 13.

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■ WATER POLO

# Selflessness, exuberance characterize Spartan attacker

Ron Gleeson  
Staff Writer

Seven years ago, a girl left her home in Pleasant Hill, Calif. and traveled to Mexico with her mother to help the local natives by giving them pillows and candy — or at least that's what she thought.

Natalie Jennings, an attacker on the SJSU women's water polo team, has since made the mission trip with the Hope Center Covenant Church multiple times and said her trip last summer sparked a serious interest in helping others — so much that she made the commitment to visit Kenya the same summer.

Jennings, who was raised in missionary work, spent a month in Kenya helping young children with their schoolwork and said she now knows that helping others is much more than simply giving them pillows and candy.

"As I have grown up, I realized that it's about helping these people become self-sufficient," she said. "I have learned to teach people how to use their own resources and become part of their civilization again."

Teammate Dani Curran, a junior utility player, said she offered to help pay for Jennings to go to Kenya because of her will to help others, but Jennings ended up not needing the extra funding.

"Natalie is a very positive and always outgoing person," she said. "She is the loudest person on the pool deck. You always know when she is around."

In addition to missionary trips to Mexico and Kenya, Jennings also travels to Los Angeles every summer for one week with a group called Fellowship for Christian Athletes to help host summer camps for inner city children from both Los Angeles and San Jose.

"When we first went, some of the kids did not even know how to swim — in fact, some were afraid of the water," she said. "F.C.A. has really allowed



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Junior attacker Natalie Jennings looks for her next play during practice on Tuesday.

me to be able to bring my faith into the pool and shine it to the rest of the team."

Teammate Ally Waasted, a junior utility player, plans on joining Jennings in Mexico this summer and said Jennings' encouraging attitude improves the overall demeanor of the team.

"She not only has a positive attitude around the team, but throughout her life," Waasted said. "Especially when we are in a close game, she is always the first person to get off the bench and let everyone know they are not out of it yet."

Jennings, a junior psychology major, said her activity in humanitarian work has opened her mind to turning her passion for helping other

people into a career. "I know I want mission work to be something that happens in my future," she said. "As I am getting older and finishing my education, I realize I can take my education and my degree put it toward what I love."

Head coach Lou Tully said Jennings' attitude is one of the greatest he has ever had the opportunity to work with, and is not surprised of her selflessness outside the pool.

"Everything she does and says is inclusive with the team," he said. "It's not about her, it's about the team, which is extremely helpful. We have a lot of girls with great attitudes, but Natalie is certainly on top."

Jennings said there is a group called the Lord's Resistance Army located in Northern Uganda which abducts children and teaches them how to fight in war. Some of the children return to their villages and do not know where to go.

There has been a constant rise in American people deciding to go to Africa to equip psychologists in Congo and helping them become efficient enough to help others in their respective countries, Jennings said.

"They are devastated in the Congo, Uganda and Kenya," she said. "They just need the resources to be self-sufficient, and we can help them with that."

This summer, Jennings plans to return to Kenya for

## ABOUT NATALIE



- Lettered in water polo and swimming at Clayton Valley High School in Concord, Calif. She was a team captain in both sports.
- SJSU Scholar Athlete
- 2010 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation All-Academic Team member
- Member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at SJSU
- Majoring in psychology
- Has traveled to Mexico and Kenya to do missionary work with her church

"This year we actually get to do something physical for them," she said. "The water situation is very devastating there. It will be very rewarding to give them something that will last them longer than just the 17 days that I am there. It will last them years and lives."

Jennings said her ability to make the trip to Kenya a second time is a dream come true.

"I first thought of the idea to travel to Africa when I was 18 and I never thought it would really happen," she said. "I thought my first trip would be the trip of a lifetime — and now I'm going again."

Tully said he recognizes the differences Jennings

makes inside the pool for team as a whole, away from her humanitarian work.

"Our team has an attitude that they are going to win the game before every game, and they play like that," he said. "Natalie sort of personifies that."

Jennings said her experiences in traveling around the world and helping people of many nationalities has benefited more than the people she is helping.

"I have learned to cherish my life," she said. "I may just be Natalie, a 21-year-old from California, but I now know I am big enough to do things for people, to change their lives for the better."

**"She not only has a positive attitude around the team, but throughout her life."**

**Ally Waasted**  
Utility Player



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Teammates Natalie Jennings (left) and Ally Waasted will be traveling this summer for missionary work.

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Photo: Matt Young / Spartan Daily

### Jamaica: Where people live without handouts

The tan lines are fading, but I recently went to Jamaica. Amid the sun, surf and fun — I made a few observations. One minor caveat — I didn't see much of the country outside of Montego Bay, so I might be totally wrong. Being a journalist, I took the opportunity to converse with the staff of my hotel whenever possible so I could get a better feel of the area. First, people in Jamaica seemed to value their jobs.

Many people had longer commutes than those of us in the Bay Area. I spoke to one guy whose trip took two hours. He would gladly hop on the bus and ride over the potholes, all to hack up pineapples and coconuts for tourists. Another person had a trip of well over an hour as well — this was a common story. I mention this because of how often I hear people grumble about their jobs here. I frequently hear things like "I hate my

job!" or "I don't want to go to work!" I think people assume the public safety net (i.e. unemployment or other assistance programs) will pay their bills for them. This brings me to another point. Not once did I see a single person with a cardboard sign looking for handouts. Everyone either had jobs or were at home, out of sight — not so here in the States. I can't make a single trip to Santa Cruz, San Francisco or Berkeley without being hounded relentlessly for "spare change." Sorry, but my "spare change" goes toward feeding myself or paying for my mortgage. If I elect to help someone in need, I do it because I want to, not because I'm being hounded. I believe that some government assistance programs are necessary. Some people fall on hard times and need help getting by while they do their best to find work. Unfortunately, I've known people who refuse to go to work as long as they get their unemployment checks, which went to pay for their cable TV bills and video game purchases. I suppose they also fed themselves with



Matt Young Staff Writer

Taco Bell, so there's that at least. I wonder sometimes how many people stay on the government teat longer than necessary. I think that entitlement programs tend to produce people more dependent on entitlement programs, such as in the instance where someone goes, "That was easy — I wonder how much more 'free' money I can get?" How many people would work harder and appreciate their jobs more if they knew they alone were responsible for feeding, clothing and housing themselves? What if we alone were responsible for our successes and failures? Come to think of it, that was the reality for most of the people who built this nation, from the founding fathers to the working immigrants. They had dreams, put in the work, achieved the American Dream the American way: Hard work and a sense of pride in the day's labor. I know for many Jamaicans life is a challenge with poverty and civil unrest at the doorstep. However, I was also impressed with their work. Maybe we can all learn something from that?

## Cut the slackers out of your workplaces already

One thing most people hate, or most people should hate, are those people who slack off at work. Why should someone make the same amount of money or make more money than you if they don't pull their weight? I can't stand lazy people. Why should they still have a job at all? They shouldn't. If someone isn't doing his or her job at work then he or she should be fired immediately. During these tough economic times, when jobs are more than hard to come by, inadequate workers should be let go. There are plenty of people looking for work, people who are dedicated and hard working.



Amber Simons Simons Says

She is distracting to other employees and never makes deadlines. You would think Julie would be fired because it doesn't make sense to keep an employee on payroll who constantly takes advantage of her job. However, this is not always the case. For some reason, it seems people these days have a hard time letting go of workers. Then there's Jim who never shows up for work and never even tells you he's not coming in or why he can't make it. He just doesn't come in to the office. Everyone else has to cover for Jim and do his job for him, even though he is still being paid for the work. Things happen in life and sometimes you just can't make it to work. However, the least Jim could do is to give a heads-up to everyone else that he can't make it in because of X, Y or Z. But Jim keeps his job and doesn't even get reprimanded. Why is this?

There is Michael who is just plain incompetent. He has no idea what he's doing and even though he's been told a hundred times what he's supposed to do, he just can't get his projects finished. Someone feels bad for him, so he keeps his job and his salary. Carrie takes advantage of the fact that your supervisor doesn't constantly keep an eye on everyone. She logs hours she hasn't worked, spends the entire shift Facebooking and takes extra-long breaks. Because everyone is afraid to tell on her, of course, she keeps her position. When did bosses turn into softies? I remember watching Donald Trump and Sean Combs fire people on TV without even batting an eye. Yes, the times are hard. Yes, people have families to feed and overpriced gas to buy. However, there are many willing, able-bodied people out there who still need jobs. Give these slackers a pink slip and hire those people in our society who actually care about their work.

"Simons Says" is a weekly column appearing on Wednesdays. Amber Simons is the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor.

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Crossword puzzle grid with 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues listed on the left and 'PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED' on the right.

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers filled in, likely a continuation of the puzzle from the previous page.



# April: Time to recognize, remember victims and take a stand against sexual assault

I have always been a cautious person, but even so I carried the notion of "That would never happen to me."

Just before the fall semester, it did.

Rape is not just a woman's concern, but is also a human issue, ranked by the FBI as the most violent crime after murder.

College-aged women are the most targeted age group for assault and one in four college women will be raped, according to the most recent national statistics conducted by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network.

Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies record an average of 500 to 600 sexual assault cases each year.

Assault doesn't discriminate — it occurs to people of all genders, ages and races.

During a string of sexual assault reports in the spring of 2010, SJSU student Shannon Moore was attacked at a busy intersection on her way to her noon class.

Like Moore, I was assaulted by a stranger — however, 80 percent of victims know their assailant.

With meeting so many new people in college, there is a certain gray area students often find themselves in, where assault and abuse occurs at parties or in dorm rooms through someone they met in class, at a party or on Facebook.

Sometime during the night of my assault, my drink was drugged, leaving me remembering only snapshots of the night.

According to YWCA statistics, 90 percent of all campus rapes occur under the influence of alcohol.

Like many assault victims, I blamed myself at first because I had been drinking, but understanding the legal terms put the situation into perspective.

According to California Penal Code 261.6, "consent" is defined as "positive cooperation in act or attitude pursuant to an exercise of free will."

A person is unable to give consent if he or she is unconscious, asleep or under the influence of alcohol, drugs and even medication — giving in because of fear is not consent.

Though I was scared to report it at



Jenn Elias  
Contributing Writer

the time, I look back on it now and think of how grateful I am that I did.

On SJSU's campus, only three sexual assault cases were reported in 2009, according to the 2010 UPD annual safety report.

With less than a 5 percent reporting rate, college-aged rape and assault is one of the most serious challenges in the field of victimization research, according to a report by the National Institute of

Justice.

Victims often don't report it because they think it doesn't constitute an assault, fear of characterizing someone they know as a rapist, or don't want to go through the legal process.

Another reason why people may not report it is because of the low percentage of prosecuted assailants.

Drugs (such as the one used in my drink) disappear from the body's system within hours, leaving little to no trace of evidence.

Physical evidence is also hard to obtain. After an assault, the victim feels dirty, wanting to discard clothes or shower.

If you do report it, there are many resources available. Conveniently located on Third Street near campus, the YWCA will provide free legal advocacy as well as counseling sessions.

There is also a program that provides reimbursement for personal items lost in the crime and any work missed, as well as additional counseling.

I'm not suggesting that everyone live in fear, but by taking simple precautions, we can prevent assault and other forms of violence.

If you see something that doesn't look right, follow your gut and take appropriate action.

After the assault occurred, there were two missed opportunities that could have helped me sooner: a taxi cab driver and two employees of a prominent hotel.

Neither offered to help nor asked if anything was wrong, despite several obvious abnormalities.

As the clichés follow: It never hurts to ask and it's better to be safe than sorry.

One way you help prevent assault is by

limiting the release of personal information. Easily obtainable through social networking sites such as Facebook, a person can know where you are, what you are doing and who you are with.

Yelling things such as "Give me three shots and I'm out" in a crowd gets around to people nearby.

Another thing to remember is to use the buddy system and be aware of your surroundings.

Shannon Moore said she was able to fend off her attacker with her umbrella because she was aware of her surroundings.

Society also needs to make changes to the ideals of typical gender roles by rejecting stereotypes that regard women as weak or as sex objects, or defining a man's masculinity based on his dominance and aggression.

April is national Sexual Assault Awareness Month and everyone can take a stand against violence at events such as Take Back The Night, taking place at SJSU on April 21.

However, as I've learned, you can do everything right and it may still happen.

No one is immune to violence, but we should take greater strides in a preventative direction out of respect for each victim.

## Resources

- The YWCA has a 24-hour hotline: (408) 287-3000
- YWCA Counseling services: (408) 295-4011, extension 233
- UPD: 911 from campus phone; By cell: (408) 924-2222.
- SJSU Counseling: (408) 924-5910
- SJSU Women's Resource Center: (408) 924-6500
- RAINN.org has a 24-hour instant messenger help hotline.

# Everyone deserves to have a good cry

Like other boys, I was taught early on never to cry, that it was just a waste of effort and time.

Whenever I cried my father would strike me and tell me that I couldn't cry, and if I didn't stop my tears for a minute or two after his warning, his hand would contact me in a fraction of that time.

It was his way of "fixing" me. Boys are taught that crying is a sign of weakness, that it's an emotion that's wasted because crying never accomplishes anything.

Why couldn't I just cry? It was my way of coping, why did I have to stop?

Tears would roll down my cheek when I got a paper cut, fell down after tripping over something, or had my parents yell at me.

That all changed when I learned that paper cuts will happen (and they always suck), that the only thing that was truly hurt from falling down was my pride and that I could yell back at my parents and not just be on the receiving end.

It's funny that regardless of how old I got, and how maturely I try to handle situations, there was always one person who could bring tears to my eyes — my father.

It would be long periods of time, about eight years on average, before I would see him again, except, without fail, there would always be some sort of conflict between us, and without fail I would always end up crying.

The last time I saw him was in December, seven years after the previous time.

We only meet for an hour and in fact it was the most peaceful it has been between us in the last 18 years.

After our meeting, despite its peaceful nature, I drove off knowing I had two never-ending trails running from each of my eyes, and I



Leonard Lai  
Senior Staff Writer

didn't know why.

Lately though, I've been questioning what we are taught as kids, and the fact that tears shouldn't be shed.

Everyone has their own problems and how they want to deal with it is up to them, and mine is to store it up and keep it there, not knowing how much cargo room I have before something happens.

A "good cry," something I feel would relieve some of my emotions that are stored up, is something I keep thinking about doing, but no matter how hard I try to think of everything bothering me, nothing will come out of my eyes.

I've laid awake in bed waiting for the sun to rise thinking that if I were to just be able to cry, it would make facing the coming day easier to deal with, but it never happens and I end up going through the day feeling miserable as the negativity builds up.

Crying isn't a wasted effort, because at least there's some form of release, some form of coping, if you don't then you'll be burdened with unwanted feelings as you continued to suffer.

Don't tread my path, the one that leads to the inability to express your feelings, bearing a fake smile to hide the pain.

Everyone deserves a good cry, no matter who you are.

# LOL, ROFL, LMAO ... The desecration of the English language

Call me an old fart, an arrogant stuffed shirt, or even the politically incorrect grammar Nazi (or perhaps in my case jihadist) but I've had it up to here with what we've done to the English language.

Things are no longer "amusing" or "kind of funny" — everything becomes "hilarious."

Events, situations, and people are no longer "good" or "fun" — everything is "awesome," or my personal favorite — "epic."

The party last night was "epic." The meal we just enjoyed was "epic." I've even had the fortune of being greeted with "I took an epic shit this morning."

However much your bowel movements may have extended beyond the usual or ordinary, especially in size or scope, attributing a word generally associated with ancient Greek literature to your excrement seems to trivialize the Odyssey slightly, does it not?



Salman Haqqi  
On The Contrary

This phenomenon of describing every occasion as momentous speaks to a greater poverty of vocabulary that has occurred as a result of our tech-obsessed modern culture, much of which is premised on brevity of expression.

As someone who appreciates good humor, I have come to despise and fear the acronym "LOL" (short

for "laughing out loud") above all others.

In the interest of full disclosure, I myself have fallen prey to this disease, so before you stand up and shout "Hypocrite!" I'll save you the ordeal.

Humor is the basis for so many of our interactions as social beings, and I believe a deafening chorus of cheap "LOLs" is polluting humor as a shared social aspiration.

Though you might find me obtuse, I have never — not once — "rolled on the floor with laughter," or "ROFL" as a result of an electronic interaction. I usually opt for a "heheh," which, let's be honest, often describes the reality of the situation with the greatest amount of accuracy.

The following is an example of textual encounters I've had with friends many times. And yes, the roles were reversed on "ahem" rare occasions.

Friend: Man i was soooo drunk last nite lol

Me: How did you get home btw?

Friend: Not sure, trying to figure it out lol

Me: Heheh, nice.

Nothing is left to said friend's imagination regarding my reaction, nor am I patronizing him with a cheap "LOL."

Like so many before him, my friend's intoxicated state the previous evening rendered him unable to recall his transport home.

I found this to be undoubtedly worthy of a chuckle — nothing more.

It did not provoke me to "laugh out loud," and had it caused me to "roll on the floor with laughter" I would think that an intervention by men in white coats would not be entirely uncalled for.

George Orwell wrote in 1946 that "any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archa-

ism, like preferring candles to electric light ..."

The problem with this statement is that Orwell presupposed progression rather than regression.

Had old George lived to see the piffle that passes for electronic correspondence in the 21st century, I cannot help but think that he would have shared in my grief.

Sure, I've undoubtedly doled out a number of dishonest "LOLs" simply because I had little else for a reply but I believe we are cheapening and diluting humor as a societal aspiration.

Sure, you can tell me to take that stick out of my arse and tell me to "chill" because it's all in good fun.

But if everything's funny, then nothing's funny, and that is certainly nothing to ROFL about.

*This is a special appearance of "On The Contrary," Salman Haqqi is the Spartan Daily Executive Editor.*

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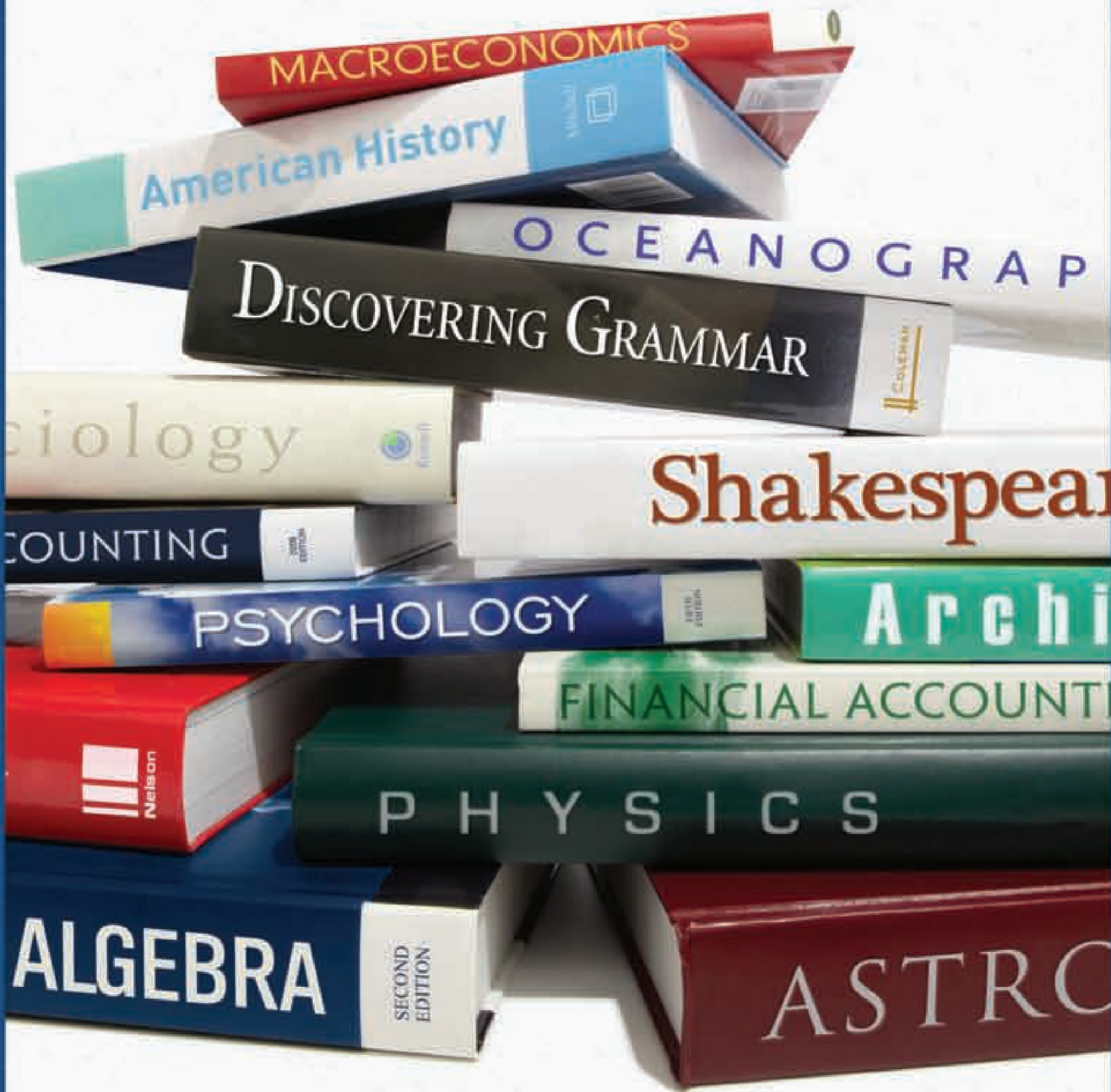


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