



Miami to make most of playoffs see p.5



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SPARTAN DAILY

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Free concert rocks S.J. see p.4

# Taking speed to a higher gear



The SJSU Spartan Racing SAE Baja chassis is being upgraded with reinforced suspension components in the Engineering building garage. Designed to bump over rocks and smash through the mud, the unofficial motto of the Baja Team is design, build, destroy, rebuild. Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

Around since the 1970s, Team Baja is preparing for June competition

by Megan Mills Staff Writer

Dirt, mud and rare use of the brake pedal depicts Team Baja, a racing team that combines the power of classroom education with the

curiosity of applying practical lessons to build a car suitable for competition against other universities from around the world.

Team Baja is a group of mechanical engineering students who build and create a new car each year, fit to run, roll and crawl on dirt roads.

One of three racing teams at SJSU, Baja team members hope to roll out on top as they gear up for a competition in June.

Matt Mohr, a junior mechanical engineering major and treasurer of

Team Baja, said he started with the team this year after previously being on the Formula Hybrid team last year.

"I wanted to take in the experience and enjoy the car I built," Mohr said. "It's about improving on an existing design, making new changes that improve the overall efficiency of the car and most importantly about having fun."

The origin of Team Baja remains a tale surrounded by folklore, which dates back to the 1970s, Mohr said.

Nobby Tozer, a freshman mechanical engineering major, is a new member with the team this year.

"I come from a mountain biking background and Baja off-road racing was most relevant to that," Tozer said.

Ricardo Delgado, a junior mechanical engineering major and Team Baja's captain this year, said Team Baja is the longest-running Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) club at SJSU.

SEE BAJA PAGE 2

# Without funds, Arbor project may leave S.J.

by Boris Slager Staff Writer

The Arbor project, a bus stop that you sit at and plug your electronic devices into, which was designed by SJSU students for the city of San Jose, may end up in a different city.

The project was at a location near City Hall in San Jose, but it had to be taken down, according to John McClusky, a professor in industrial design who was one of the professors to oversee the project.

The project is currently in storage at South Campus, but if it does not find a home soon the city of San Jose will have to sell it to a different city, according to McClusky.

A home for the project on campus will depend on if the team can get a new grant or not, McClusky said.

The funding would most likely have to come from the city of San Jose, he said.

He then said that the project can only be housed in storage until about July or August, and that if it has not found a permanent home on campus then it will be sold off to another city.

However, there is still hope for it to appear on campus, he said.

"(The campus planning board) is as excited as us to get it on campus," McClusky said.

The project was funded by grants from the city and built by SJSU students, according to McClusky.

This project was developed by graduating senior Joseph Sanchez and worked on by six students, including Sanchez, he said.

The five other students who worked on the project were Bryan Day, Bryan De Leon, Becky Field, Maria Lopez and Vincent Pascual, according to Leslie Speer, an associate professor in industrial design.

"The students did a phenomenal job and I have never seen students so invested in a project," she said.

She said her role in the project was to do contract negotiations with outside contractors and added that the project took a year to build.

"It was really intriguing to be able to build a functional product," Speer said. "The level of precision is complex to transfer from computer model to the real thing."

Sanchez said that all the students worked well together and the group

SEE ARBOR PAGE 2

# New A.S. president 'dedicated' to community, students

Once shy, Worsnup says he now hopes to help students' goals come to fruition

by David Wong Staff Writer

In Calvin Worsnup's office there are index cards hanging on a wall from when he was an orientation leader — he is about to lead another group of students as the incoming Associated Students president.

"Calvin is very dedicated and really cares about making a difference," said

Hector Shlimovitch, current A.S. director of intercultural affairs. "He will benefit students and be their voice."

Brown-haired and tall, Worsnup is affable and does not hesitate to smile.

He speaks with an idealistic bent that would make it hard to argue with him.

No words are wasted — everything he says sounds both urgent and important.

Worsnup is knowledgeable of the world around him when he references the Arab Spring and the populist discontent around Greece with austerity measures.

Like many college students, Worsnup is unsure of what his future holds — whether it may be about politics, nonprofits or in his discipline of computer science.

"I really don't have a definitive vision of what my future might be like," he said. "Originally, I wanted to work in networking, but then I started to learn about the corporate culture and it wasn't for me."

As the president, he will be the Associated Students' official representative, according to Rule 3 of the A.S. board of directors functions and responsibilities document.

"I've always been an advocate for students and trying to promote the issues that they have and fight for them — whether it be for open space to use or the fees that are increasing ... this is the year that you'll be heard by your representatives," Worsnup said.

As the current vice president, Worsnup said he is responsible for being the chair of A.S. board meetings,

SEE WORSNUP PAGE 2



Current A.S. vice president Calvin Worsnup speaks with A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejek during a meeting at the A.S. House Monday. Worsnup will serve as A.S. President for the 2012-2013 term. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Spartan Daily

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# BAJA: Students show off mechanic skills

FROM PAGE 1

The team starts with building a new car every year, complete with new materials and a design template that has proved successful in previous years, according to Mohr.

"Sometimes it's to our academic detriment," Mohr said. "Do we want to do our homework assignment or do we want to go design a certain part of the car?"

**"You get a lot of hands-on experience. A lot of the time it's better than what you're learning in class."**

-Dustin Decker, senior mechanical engineering major

The applications learned in class are the specific skills members use to construct the car, Mohr said.

"You get a lot of hands-on experience," said Dustin Decker, a senior mechanical engineering major. "A lot of the time it's better than what you're learning in class."

Decker, who's also president of SAE, said a student can use the building of the car as a senior project for the engineering department.

Because Team Baja does receive funds from Associated Students, it also receives sponsorships from companies who provide the materials for the construction of the car,

such as metal, that enable the team to build a new car each year.

Being a part of a team such as Baja gives students opportunities to show employers what kind of skills they offer, Mohr said, who is currently a manufacturing intern with Tesla Motors.

"A lot of other mechanical engineering students approach SAE people to ask questions about the cars," Mohr said. "The hands-on approach has made us better engineers."

In the near future, the team will head to Madison, Wis. on June 7 for the SAE International Baja Competition, where teams from all over the world, including Canada, Mexico and Brazil, will compete in a series of events.

The competition extends over three days, with the first day bringing the technical and safety inspection, where technical inspectors make sure the car complies with the rules, Decker said.

"Everyone gets the same motor but you can change your transmission and fine tune it, but there are no modifications allowed," Delgado said.

The motor resembles a big, fancy lawn mower motor, Mohr said.

"The motor is a Briggs and Stratton 10 horsepower motor," he said.

Next is a brake and driver test, where the driver has to safely get out of the vehicle in under five seconds.

"They always choose the clumsiest looking person. So they always choose me," Decker said. "I've gotten better each year and last year it took me about 2.8 seconds."

According to the team, the brakes are used to

simply pass the brake test but after that the use of them is frowned-upon.

"Think of your car when you let off the gas your car slows down a bit because of your engine," Mohr said. "The Baja slows down a lot because of our engine."

The second day encompasses a series of dynamic events that the team competes in, including a hill climb, rock crawl, tractor pull and mud pit.

Last year, the team finished in 11th place for the rock crawl, Decker said.

"The rock crawl basically makes a driver overcome a bunch of boulders that are in your way as you climb up a hill," Decker said. "No one made it to the finish last year in this event."

The last day proves to be the longest, complete with a four-hour endurance race, which is worth 400 out of the possible 1,000 points available in the competition.

A car is allowed to roll over three times and still be eligible to continue in the race, Decker said.

"I think I've killed it two years in a row," Decker said. "The first year I was on the team it caught on fire behind me and the second year I flipped it."

Team Baja allows every member the opportunity to drive the car during a point in the competition over the three days.

"We all worked on the car. We all deserve to drive it," Delgado said.

Fortunately, the team members have only suffered minor scrapes and bruises with no broken bones, Decker said.

"We are always happy with our results," Mohr said. "As long as we don't go backward, we're fine."

# ARBOR: Project made for the people of San Jose

FROM PAGE 1

took the history of San Jose into account before completing the project.

"I designed the project for people and what those people need," he said, referring to the people of San Jose.

The project consists of a pair of modules and can be taken apart, Sanchez said.

It will also be tied into the power grid and it could give the city some power back as well, according to McClusky.

Sanchez said that this was one of the ideas behind the project, the other was to make it sustainable for the future.

There is one flaw with the project, but it has nothing to do with the students or their efforts — the solar panels are not on the project yet because the supplier of the panels backed out at the last minute, McClusky said.

However, he said he believes, once the project goes back up, they should have no problem getting someone to donate the panels.

Wherever the project ends up, the team said they would be OK with it as long as it was in use, but they would prefer it to stay in San Jose.

"The most important thing is that people can use it," Sanchez said.



# SpartaGuide

## Wednesday, May 2

Peer Mentor Life Lessons Workshop

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Clark Hall, Room 100H

## Thursday, May 3

Peer Mentor Life Lessons Workshop

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Clark Hall, Room 100H

Presented by the Peer Mentor Center

## Tres De Mayo Poolside Fiesta

5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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## Monday, May 7

Money Management & Cheap Thrills Workshop

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Clark Hall, Room 100H

Presented by the Peer Mentor Center

## Tuesday, May 8

Money Management & Cheap Thrills Workshop

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Clark Hall, Room 100H

Presented by the Peer Mentor Center

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 spartandailyeditorial@sjsuimedia.com 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.

# WORSNUP: Student activism recommended

FROM PAGE 1

which encompasses trying to get the board members to collaborate in work meetings.

"If it's something we can do right here right now, A.S. is here to support you," he said. "We'll try to make it happen for you."

He has also been involved with unrelated projects over the last two years, including working in his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Veggielution, a community farm where he volunteers, according to Brian Bangs, a senior civil engineering major, and freshman sociology major, Arton Falahati, Worsnup's friends.

Prior to that, Worsnup said he was a quiet individual with few friends before he attended SJSU.

"Calvin is very family orientated and he enjoys working with others in any way possible," said Russell Worsnup, his brother. "He tries to help whoever is in need."

Falahati said Worsnup recommended that he look into student organizations as a way of getting himself involved on campus and as an avenue toward meeting new people.

"He never lets anything get him down," Falahati said. "He is a giving man (who) puts others before himself and always encourages others to do their best."

When Worsnup joined the fraternity was the first time he said he met Bangs, who was the fraternity's president in 2011.

He served as a member of the executive council, where he caught the attention of higher-ups in the national organization of the fraternity, Bangs said.

"The trait that I believe has brought Calvin the most success through all of his involvements is his ability to listen to other people," he said. "Although Calvin may go into a meeting with one idea, he is always open to suggestions and input from others."

## A TYPICAL DAY WITH CALVIN

### 11:00 a.m.

An executive board meeting takes place between Worsnup, current president Tomasz Kolodziejak and the current controller Leroy Madarang where they discuss end of the semester matters and recommendations for board members.

### 12:00 p.m.

A gala event takes place with Worsnup meeting with student groups.

### 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Worsnup goes to his computer science class.

### 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Worsnup has a one-on-one meeting with Hector Shlimovitch, A.S. director of intercultural affairs.

### 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Worsnup has a one-on-one meeting with Katrina Swanson, A.S. director of student resource affairs.

### 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Worsnup has a one-on-one meeting with Yan Yin Choy, A.S. director of student rights and responsibilities.

### 5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Worsnup goes to his wine appreciation class.

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# Study abroad program opening doors to different cultures

Office currently freeing space so more students can travel

by Sage Curtis  
Contributing Writer

On the top floor of Clark Hall a vacant, unremarkable hallway greets you after you step off the elevator, but if you venture a little to your left, a whole world of international education awaits.

"People who make it here, whether they are resident students or international students, all seem to be wanting to make a connection with the rest of the world — and quickly," said Justine Toro, a student study abroad coordinator.

SJSU has up to 200 international students and students who study abroad every semester, according to the study abroad office.

"San Jose is an amazing place, but so is the rest of the world," said Anders Hassis, a Swedish mechanical engineering student. "Everyone should go see something else."

He said it is important to budget his finances because it is hard to earn money.

Studying abroad can be a break from SJSU, according to senior linguistics major Eric Duft.

"I spent my time abroad traveling Europe," he said. "How many Bay Area students can say they've seen 16 countries?"

Sarah Maroufi, a German student studying English at SJSU, said that she is having a similar experience here in California.

"Studying in America has been an education vacation for me," she said. "I take mostly PE classes and practice my English while out at bars."

Australian business major Lizzie Mulherin said she is taking Pilates, kickboxing and aerobics classes.

"I have to be in shape for the beach in the summer," she said. "I've been traveling so much, but I am still getting to know Californians and all the other internationals. I love that part."

According to the SJSU financial statement report conducted by the CSU system, the services and programs offered to the study abroad program have had an increase in funding since 2008, however, enrollment has become much tighter universitywide, making spots much more valuable.

"We've seen a slight decline in numbers, but that's mostly due to the amount of space we have for international students," Toro said.

She said she and her team are doing what they can to promote the programs with students at SJSU to free up more space for students who would like to study abroad.

Toro said the more students who go abroad, the more students SJSU can accept into its programs.

They hold informational meetings, host International Week, which is a week out of every semester that celebrates the countries and cultures of the international students, and set up a table on campus near Clark Hall occasionally, so students can easily approach and ask questions.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement coordinated by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, studying abroad is considered a "high-impact activity," which means it positively influences student academic achievement, satisfaction and acquisition of desired knowledge and

knowledge of cultures and the physical and natural world.

There can be some serious drawbacks to studying abroad, including homesickness, culture shock and communication errors, which affect students differently based on their experience, according to study abroad office information.

"I did not receive information about orientation somehow," said Australian business student Jess Roe. "A few of the other Australians didn't either. It was a huge hassle to try to figure everything out for ourselves."

**"I've never lived in the dorm life before, so the freedom and the meal plan is great."**

-Jake Swinson,  
international student  
majoring in art history

Kristin Lewis, a political science major who studied in Bulgaria, said that her time abroad was hard on her family.

"Thank goodness for Skype because I had some family issues and sicknesses," she said. "It was very tough to be halfway around the world and not be able to go home whenever they needed me or I needed them."

Toro said that the study abroad office does what it can to prepare students for the challenges they will face while studying at a university different from their own.

"For the international students, we try to equip them with

as much information as possible and set them up with a community," she said. "For the students abroad, we make sure we maintain constant communication about well being and academic performance."

Orientation programs offered by the study abroad department discuss homesickness and cultural differences, provide information about transportation, help students register for classes and serve as a steppingstone for community atmosphere, according to Toro.

However, she said that monitoring so many students can become difficult at times, especially when they are spread far apart and are on different types of programs.

According to the SJSU study abroad website, there are more than 200 universities in 40 countries available for students to attend through various types of programs for one semester or a whole academic year.

"It's helpful to have been a study abroad student yourself when you work here because you understand where people's questions are coming from," Toro said. "For example, we often inform students about differences in the classroom environment because every country approaches it differently."

Australian media student Georgia Sampson said that she had some problems adjusting to professors at SJSU.

"In Australia, teachers are usually pretty relaxed and they are practically friends with their students," she said. "Here I feel very disconnected and it's hard to focus and do well. It's good I live in Campus Village or I might never go to class."

International students can make the decision as to whether they would like to live in Campus Village or in the International House on 11th Street.

The house has laundry, dining and leisure facilities and houses up to 72 students. They accept both international students and SJSU resident students, according to the International House website.

International House community operations manager Kristen Pendleton said the house is a good option for students who want the support of a family.

"It is a tough application process and we only have 72 spots for American and international students," she said. "We have to make sure that everyone will mesh together well."

Residents of the International House host coffee nights and panel discussions to make sure students understand each other's cultures. They also organize trips for the residents and extend the invitation to all SJSU students, according to Pendleton.

"Being involved here is a good way to guarantee being involved with all the international students," Pendleton said.

According to Toro, while the International House does fill up every semester, most international students chose to live on campus to have a true American college experience.

"I've never lived in the dorm life before, so the freedom and the meal plan is great," said Australian art history student Jake Swinson. "However, SJSU lured me in with the promise of a single room, but after I put down my deposit they gave me a double. They weren't very accommodating."

Business major Jake Lafleur said before he studied abroad he had the same friends since he was a freshman.

"Now, I seek out international students because we have something in common and I have friends all over the world," he said.

## PROS AND CONS OF STUDYING ABROAD

### Pros

- In general, U.S. universities have steadily increased their number and variety of study abroad programs, thus offering students more options and opportunities.
- Students can use U.S. financial aid to pay for their program.
- Resume builder
- Improve language skills through immersion

### Cons

- Depending on the program, you would not be allowed to legally work while studying abroad.
- Frustrations from language and cultural barriers and/or differences.
- Travel costs
- Homesickness

Information compiled from the websites of the Institute of International Education and SJSU's Study Abroad Office.

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# Japanese heritage and tradition celebrated at Nikkei Matsuri

by Alyxandra Goodwin  
Staff Writer

San Jose's Japantown hosted the 35th annual Nikkei Matsuri, a festival celebrating the community's Japanese-American culture, on Jackson Street on Sunday.

"(The) majority of the vendors are either married to, or part, Japanese," said Jimi Yamaichi, the board chairman for the festival. "All of the food booths are the local nonprofit organizations that (work with Japantown)."

Yamaichi, who is 89 years old and has been working at this festival since 1978, said Nikkei Matsuri helps to preserve the old traditions for the

**"The food fair was in a tented area filled with vendors yelling about tempura and the sounds of sizzling teriyaki burgers."**

old folks as a reminder of the Japanese culture.

"People seem to enjoy it," he said. "We try to get a little flavor for everybody."

Yamaichi said there were various activities at the festival that people from different age groups participated in.

"All the stage entertainment is all local kids," he said, explaining that the festival is

to explore activities associated with the Japanese-American traditions.

Lining both sides of Jackson Street were vendors selling clothing, jewelry, stationary with Asian calligraphy and other trinkets that represent Japanese culture.

Mary Masuno was a vendor at Nikkei Matsuri selling her handmade sewn items.

"I've been doing this particular show for about five or six years or so," Masuno said.

She said that festivals like this give vendors the opportunity to showcase their own work and she also feels that at this festival more people come to buy rather than to just look, which is helpful to the vendors.

Masuno's booth featured vibrantly colored and patterned protective covers for kitchen items and also coin purses.

Other vendors were selling and showcasing pottery. There were handmade ceramic pots, bowls, vases and other decorative pieces in variety of colors.

Carol Stanbrough was out from a Blossom Hill craft studio with Thomas Arakawa, who was showcasing his pottery. This was their first year at the festival.

"It's great," Stanbrough said. "We get the pottery out and get people to see the work, and hopefully get a little bit in each home."

At the cross section of Jackson and Fifth streets, there was more to Nikkei Matsuri with the two biggest attractions being the live music performed by San Jose Taiko and the food fair.

The food fair was in a tented area filled with vendors yelling about tempura and the sounds of sizzling teriyaki burgers. The tent was also filled with the images of strawberry shortcakes



T. Tokunaga, right, removes some tempura, a battered and fried mix of vegetables and seafood, from the hot oil during San Jose Japantown's Nikkei Matsuri festival on Sunday. Photo by Sierra Duren / Spartan Daily

being made and ice cream being sold.

Vendors that participated in the food fair were local nonprofit organizations, such as local churches and women's groups associated with Japantown, Yamaichi said.

Next to the food fair was the indoor exhibit that was filled with a completely different flavor than what was offered at the food fair. The indoor exhibit of Nikkei Matsuri featured different parts of traditional Japanese culture, such as ikebana, which is a type of flower arranging, along with bonsai gardens and handmade wooden dolls.

Yamaichi also mentioned that there was stage entertainment by a group of local kids showing off their work in martial arts.

"I like the camaraderie we've created throughout the years," he said. "The vendors come back over and over every year and the food people have been with us from day one. We've been very, very fortunate."

## Multimedia available online Nikkei Matsuri 2012

Video by  
Alyxandra  
Goodwin



## Free San Pedro Square concert jams San Jose

by Sierra Duren  
Staff Photographer

Children played tag out on the patio while band members tuned their equipment before the Daydream Nation free concert at San Pedro Square Market on Saturday.

The event was put on primarily by Save Alternative, aka SALT, and Content Magazine, in an effort to establish alternative music in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Other sponsors included Bands on a Budget, Yelp and Metro magazine.

"It was a cool grassroots organic thing that happened between (the sponsors), and (we are) really excited to have such musical talent," said Bill O'Brien, a promoter with Save Alternative.

The need for a new Bay Area music scene has reverberated through organizations like Save Alternative and Content Magazine, who are willing to oblige with exposing innovative sounds.

The bands that played were Dogcatcher, Benjamin Henderson, FIALTA! and The Shants, each with their own ties to the Northern California.

"All these incredible bands are happening in our own backyard and no one really knows about them so for us it's important for Content Magazine and Save Alternative to get behind it," O'Brien said.

Chilly night air contrasted with the unusually warm day, so all of the audience members except for the hearty crowded indoors and listened

to the slide guitar riffs and mellow bass beats.

Despite being the first ever Daydream Nation free concert, the venue pulled in more than 200 people to listen to the local bands, and sponsors from Content Magazine only expect it to get bigger with more event showings around the Bay Area that incorporate alternative music.

"(The event) came up on a little bar on Facebook and a band called The Shants (was playing) ... so we looked them up on YouTube and they were good, and they're local so we like to help them out," said Patricia Chmelar of San Jose.

The event was publicized through social media sites such as Facebook and the business reviewing website Yelp to generate an audience for Saturday's show, according to Content Magazine's cultivator Daniel Garcia.

There was a large age range of audience members, from small children dancing their hearts out to whatever came out of the speakers, to middle aged yuppies who were getting back to their rock and roll roots.

"If you go to a metal show there's like, mashing, whereas this is more mellow," Chmelar said. "People get excited and into it, but they're not crazy."

Audience members bobbed and swayed to the melodious music, some sitting and some standing, and all seeming to have a good time with one another.

"The idea is to create a kind of playground where



The Shants play during 'Daydream Nation,' a free concert featuring four local alternative bands on Saturday at San Pedro Square Market. Photo by Sierra Duren / Spartan Daily

people can come, socialize, interact and be inspired," O'Brien said.

He said there are not an adequate number of venues in San Jose willing to house alternative bands, and with the Daydream Nation movement they could open more places up to the possibility of alternative entertainment.

"This is an opportunity for San Jose to kind of put it on the map ... and give these artists a reason to come down and play at San Jose," O'Brien said.



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■ COMMENTARY

# Miami will defeat Oklahoma City, James will win first title

by Nina Tabios  
Staff Writer

It's May and the focus of my attention is now diverted to two things — final exams and the NBA playoffs.

It has been one hell of a year for the NBA — a 161-day lock-out ending in early December, a crunched schedule, David Stern exerting his tyranny over trades and a Dwight Howard trade, which didn't happen.

The lockout shortened the schedule from 82 games to 66, which meant that teams had to make every regular season game count in order to solidify a spot in the playoffs.

The NBA is starting to edge into a new chapter of all-stars and champions.

The superstars most of us grew up with are slowly being replaced by a new generation of players who will eventually become the new faces of the NBA.

Players are fighting for more than a trophy — they are fighting for glory.

The Western Conference first-round matchups teeter on the verge of predictable.

The San Antonio Spurs are matched up with the younger Utah Jazz, who have done much better than predicted behind the play of center Al Jefferson,

forward Paul Millsap and guard Gordon Hayward, but coach Gregg Popovich has the Spurs functioning as a well-oiled machine.

The playoff experience of veterans Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker is merely just the foundation for the number-one seed, and the Spurs' front office has consistently made the right draft moves to keep Popovich's slower-paced winning philosophy intact.

The Spurs are sitting comfortably at the top for now, and are likely to advance to take on

the Memphis Grizzlies in the next round — a rematch of last year's playoff first round where a young Grizzlies team knocked them out of the race.

Of all the first round matchups in the Western Conference, it's the Memphis Grizzlies against the Los Angeles Clippers that has me on edge the most.

This series features Memphis' deep team of role players against the superstar play of Clippers guard Chris Paul and forward Blake Griffin, but it's Memphis' depth that will advance the Grizzlies into the second round.

The Los Angeles Lakers face off against the Denver Nuggets — a team that has gotten progressively better without forward Carmelo Anthony but going against Bryant, who is always out for blood come playoff time, in the first round isn't going to be easy.

The real threat is center Andrew Bynum.

He's healthy, dominating in the paint and continues to improve.

The Lakers will overcome the Nuggets and advance to the second round, facing either the Oklahoma City Thunder or the Dallas Mavericks.

Last year's champions, the Mavericks have struggled all season long but that's not going to be an excuse for Dirk Nowitzki.

His true vice right now is the lack of the same supporting cast he had last year — guard Jason Kidd is older, center Tyson Chandler was shipped to New York and the acquisition of former Lakers forward Lamar Odom has done more harm than good.

An aging Nowitzki is no matchup for scoring champion Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder, a team with outstanding players that

has an even more outstanding chemistry.

At the end of it all, the Western Conference finals will wind up being a classic showdown between the reigning powers and the new kids on the block.

In all likelihood, I'd put my money on it being the Spurs against the Thunder, with the Thunder being my favorite to advance to the final series.

The Eastern Conference has grown into a conference that is heavy with individual superstars, but no superstar teams.

There are several teams in the conference that are without their key players due to injuries — Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard has a herniated disk, Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose tore a ligament in his knee at the end of the first game of the Bulls' series on Saturday and Atlanta Hawks center Al Horford is also sidelined by a pectoral injury.

The third versus sixth seed matchup of the Magic and the Indiana Pacers is definitely more interesting with the Pacers' center Roy Hibbert not having to worry about Orlando's defensive presence in Howard.

The Pacers are the Eastern Conference's version of the Grizzlies: There is virtually no outstanding all-star on the squad, but is comprised of a group of highly talented players like guard Danny Granger, guard Darren Collison and guard Paul George, that have progressively developed in the past two years.

The last series between second seed Miami Heat and seventh seed New York Knicks will be exciting, but the clear winner would have to be the Heat just based upon the sheer impact of the Dwyane Wade-LeBron James combo against a depleted Knicks backcourt.



The Miami Heat's LeBron James, left, leaps for a basket as the New York Knicks' Tyson Chandler fails to defend in the first quarter of Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference Quarterfinals at the American Airlines Arena in Miami yesterday. Photo by Charles Trainor Jr. / MCT

There are no real remaining threats standing in the Heat's way, especially with injuries plaguing two of the East's most outstanding all-stars and an aging Celtics team.

At this point, the Heat have no excuse and no choice, but to win — not just the Eastern Con-

ference but the NBA championship.

The only real threat that stands between the Heat and the trophy, or LeBron James and a ring, is whichever team wins the Western Conference.

As I see it, the NBA playoffs will dwindle down to the Miami

Heat against the Oklahoma City Thunder — the self-proclaimed King James against the humble warrior Kevin Durant.

The NBA playoffs have all the more drama and theatrics than any daytime soap opera, and I can't wait to see what happens next.

## Men's golf team currently 3rd in WAC tournament

Staff Report

The SJSU men's golf team is three strokes behind co-leaders Idaho and Fresno State after one round of play at the Western Athletic Conference championship.

The tournament, which is taking place in Henderson, Nev., at Rio Secco Golf Club, has five teams all within just seven strokes of the lead through 18 holes.

As a team, the Spartans shot a two-over par 290 and sit in third

place heading into round two.

Senior Jay Myers shot the low round for the Spartans yesterday, shooting a three-under par 69.

His round was highlighted by an eagle on the par-5 eighth hole, on his way to a two-under par 34 front nine score.

He followed that up with a one-under par 35 on the back nine, which included a birdie on the 18th hole.

Senior Matthew Hovan also played well, shooting a two-under par 70 that included four birdies, three of which were on the front nine.

Myers and Hovan are in the top-five on the individual leaderboard after round one, but both will be chasing Idaho freshman Sean McMullen's seven-under par 65.

Junior Connor Covington continued his hot play, shooting a one-over par 73, and he sits in 12th place after yesterday's opening round.

The tournament is just his second appearance in the Spartans' starting lineup this year.

Sophomore Justin Estrada and senior Christopher Lang both shot top-30 scores for the day on the individual leaderboard. Estrada shot an opening round 78, while Lang shot a 79.

The Spartans will play the second round today, with tee times beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Information compiled from SJSU Athletics.

## SJSU leaving Western Athletic Conference

by Scott Semmler  
Sports Editor

SJSU will be moving from the Western Athletic Conference to the Mountain West Conference, according to the Salt Lake Tribune, who said the school will switch conferences barring something unforeseen.

The news, which was first reported on Sunday afternoon, has Utah State also making the move to the MWC.

SJSU sports information director Lawrence Fan has confirmed that SJSU is in discussions to join the con-

ference, and MWC commissioner Craig Thompson reportedly toured SJSU in late March.

The two schools' departures may cause the WAC to no longer exist. Louisiana Tech University and the University of Texas at San Antonio recently made the move from the WAC to Conference USA, which would leave the WAC with just three football-playing schools.

According to the Salt Lake Tribune, the deal regarding the move to the MWC could become official as early as next week.

SJSU had been considered a finalist to join the MWC for the past few months, as the conference has been looking to

expand as well as combine with Conference USA.

The MWC and Conference USA have reportedly been in negotiations to merge together to form one conference but nothing has become official, according to CBSSports.com.

CBSSports.com said if SJSU and Utah State do make the move official, they would become a part of the MWC by 2013.

SJSU is planning to build a state-of-the-art football complex

near the north end of Spartan Stadium, which they will call the Bill Walsh Center.

The Spartans are reportedly making the move to the MWC just weeks after Tom Bowen resigned as the school's athletic director.

Marie Tuite has been named the interim director of athletics, but the school will conduct a nationwide search for the new athletic director this summer, according to SJSU Athletics.

### Team Leaderboard

- 1 Idaho -1
- 1 Fresno State -1
- 3 SJSU +2
- 4 New Mexico State +5
- 5 Utah State +6
- 6 Nevada +13
- 7 Hawaii +16
- 7 Louisiana Tech +16



# ON THIS DAY IN 1992

## THE SPARTAN DAILY REPORTED...



**Above (From left to right):** Protestors were divided as some called for violence (top) and others begged for a peaceful demonstration (bottom) against the verdict of the Rodney King Beating trial. **Photo by Marcio J. Sanchez / Spartan Daily.** Students began returning to Joe West Hall around 2 a.m. Both glass doors to the hall were smashed. **Photo by Scott Sady / Spartan Daily**

**Riot breed violence:** Swarms of students and local residents stormed through the SJSU campus and the neighboring downtown community in protest over the acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers in the Rodney King Beating trial. The swarm split off into two smaller groups and went on to shatter windows and loot downtown stores. The riot, which was partly started by two student organizations — Striving Black Brothers and Sisters and Students United for Accessible Education — resulted in five students being arrested. One student, Guy Wallrath, who was watching TV in his dorm room in Joe West Hall during the riots, was told by a friend that "... If you're white, don't go downstairs."

**Rallies split between peace, destruction:** Two main forms of protest took place around SJSU on the night of the announced acquittal of the four Los Angeles police officers. A peaceful crowd began its protest at 7 p.m. on Sixth and Julian streets and moved to the San Jose police station at about 9:45 p.m. Some protesters decided to break off from the group and turned to violence as a form of protest. The group broke windows along Second Street and by 10:15 p.m. was clashing with police on Santa Clara and First streets. Three to six arrests were made in connection with this wave of rioting.

**SJSU officials speak out on campus riot:** SJSU officials spent the majority of that night trying to calm SJSU protesters over the outcome of the Rodney King Beating trial. Dean Batt, former interim executive vice president, said the administration's main concern was to let the students know that the administration understands their frustrations. "Our objective was to take something that was an angry moment for a lot of people and to focus that into a positive action," said Samuel Henry, assistant vice president for student affairs. Batt added in saying, "I would be extremely disappointed if we can't find a way to take a step forward and learn from this and grow."

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# UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

## Previous Puzzle Solved

SOLUTION:

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

## How to Play

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

Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

## Today's Crossword Puzzle

### Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker May 1, 2012

**ACROSS**

- 1 Standing ovation, e.g.
- 6 Slender-bodied stinger
- 10 "Wa" follower
- 14 "Johnny B. Berry hit"
- 15 No longer in love with
- 16 Company whose cars stay indoors
- 17 Author anonymously
- 19 Chevy of yore
- 20 1,000,000,000 years
- 21 Angry cat's warning
- 22 Green chalice
- 24 Brits call it
- 26 Vital thing
- 27 Ask overpersonally
- 28 Almighty
- 31 Debaters' positions
- 34 Comfy and cozy
- 35 Three-toed bird
- 37 Lacrimal droplet
- 38 What this puzzle's theme words aim to do
- 39 Complain incessantly
- 40 Leg hider in fashion
- 41 Kind of signal
- 42 "The Creation" composer
- 43 Hidden hazard
- 45 Bad-mouth,
- 46 Lament loudly
- 47 One in a boxing ring
- 51 Commotion
- 54 Pageant entrant's wear
- 55 "La mer" contents
- 56 What a spooked horse may do
- 57 They may involve harassing dissenters
- 60 Chutzpah, in the extreme
- 61 On the quiet side, nautically
- 62 "Black" item
- 63 \_\_\_ out a living (barely scraped by)
- 64 Toe-stubbers' cries
- 65 "Bopper" lead-in
- 13 Former absolute ruler
- 18 Lean and supple
- 23 Hibachi residue
- 25 Medium's contact
- 26 Opposite of celebrate
- 28 Knot in a tree
- 29 "\_\_\_ there, matey!"
- 30 "15 men on a \_\_\_ man's chest ..."
- 31 "Fast cash" site
- 32 Least varying tide
- 33 Public transportation choice
- 34 Henley
- 36 Regatta craft
- 38 Access between floors
- 42 Part of a drum kit operated by a foot pedal
- 44 Govt. branch that oversees airlines
- 45 What everyone brings to a potluck dinner
- 47 Stands up to English 101 subject
- 49 All gone, as food
- 50 Benched too long
- 51 Advocate for carefully
- 52 "Dante's \_\_\_" (1997)
- 53 Abnormal breathing sound
- 54 Slow-cooker concoction
- 58 Geneva-based UN org.
- 59 "\_\_\_ only as directed"

**DOWN**

- 1 Encouraged (with "on")
- 2 Alaskan town
- 3 "Crazy" birds
- 4 Television plugs
- 5 Restricting leashes
- 6 Baddest of the bad
- 7 "We Try Harder" rental company
- 8 Several reps, in the weight room
- 9 Be close-minded
- 10 Halloween novelty tune
- 11 At the apex
- 12 Paris' \_\_\_
- 13 Gauche

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

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

**SPOOKED By Potter Stern**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22	23		
24					25				26			
27					28				29	30		
31	32	33			34				35			36
37					38				39			
40					41				42			
43					44				45			
46					47				48	49	50	
51	52	53			54				55			
56					57	58			59			
60					61				62			
63					64				65			



# U.S. space programs: NASA down but not out



by  
**Chris Marian**  
Copy Editor

A lot of people these days seem down about the apparent decline of the U.S. manned space program — I'm not one of them.

This is partly because I don't think we really need a "manned space program" per se, and partly because I'm optimistic about American spaceflight efforts evolving outside of NASA.

NASA's manned space activities have always struck me as a solution looking for a problem and, to be honest, it's always been on a kind of sentimentality-driven life support since as early as the 1970s.

Don't get me wrong — I loved the space shuttles. I grew up watching all the launches on television and following the program with the innocent enthusiasm of a young aerospace junkie.

The shuttle program had its moments of glory, ones that the program's supporters would use to justify its continued existence, but, in the end,

the shuttle program existed to stroke a fragile national ego, and to give the bloated bureaucratic monster that is NASA a reason to go on as it was.

It was never going to last. NASA is an artifact of the Cold War.

Before the Soviet launch of the world's first artificial satellite — Sputnik 1 — American advanced rocket technology was the domain of the only organization that had a purposeful application for it — the military.

People often forget that the first rockets of the Space Age were nothing more than re-purposed intercontinental ballistic missiles, designed to hurl nuclear warheads into faraway lands — incidentally leaving the atmosphere along the way.

As a whole, for all its glorious achievements, the Space Race was a battle of the Cold War, inseparable from the conflict of ego and technological superiority between the two superpowers.

With the battle for the moon over, skirmishes continued, but with the battlefield becoming quieter, NASA, created to defeat the Soviets, cast about for a reason to exist.

The American space shuttle and space station were born.

The shuttle was originally intended to be exactly what the name suggested, a weekly shuttle bus and utility truck for the planned space station.

In terms of its original goals, the shuttle program was a dismal failure — It was simply too ambitious and never made efficient or safe enough to graduate from what was essentially a prototype endeavor.

After the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986 revealed to the public what would be a long string of flaws with a slapped-together system, and when the goals of any kind of efficiency in the system had long been given up on — Why did it go on?

NASA needed it, and so did we.

NASA's manned space programs ultimately ran, not on success or practical payoffs, but on public sentiment expressed through Congress.

The reason the Constellation program — the spiritual successor to Apollo — is dying what I suspect to be a slow death, is that the modern national psyche no longer demands space spectacles — as opposed to the Chinese,

whose massive cultural inferiority complex most definitely demands it.

I don't think that the end of the shuttle or the impending stillbirth of Constellation means the end of America in space — on the contrary, I think American spaceflight has simply moved out of mom's house.

While NASA's manned programs have mostly been an exercise in pointlessness, its unmanned interplanetary probe missions have been largely, sometimes even spectacularly, successful in achieving NASA's aims of exploration and scientific advancement.

And, of course, there's always the space station, so long as the Russians deign to allow us access.

I personally envision a more mature NASA, smaller, leaner and more pure, dedicated to pure science and efficient exploration and not to the national ego.

More importantly, NASA has never been the exclusive user of American spaceflight technology.

Military interest in space technology, the ultimate antecedent to NASA's programs, is as strong as it's ever been.

Beyond the usual reconnaissance and communication satellites, the U.S. Air Force is developing its own small unmanned spaceplanes, something the Air Force has always wanted for itself after being involuntarily sidelined by NASA.

Space is the ultimate strategic high ground, and someone is always going to have a presence there, whether they tell you about it or not.

Commercial space operations are booming as well. Building and launching satellites is a big business, and one that's unlikely to go away anytime soon.

There's even the potential now for manned commercial spaceflight as well, as exemplified by the success or Burt Rutan's SpaceShipOne and the ambitions of private ventures like Virgin Galactic.

NASA might no longer be at the center of American spaceflight, but I don't see that as a bad thing.

Far from being pessimistic about the future of America in space, I am deeply optimistic — and while many look backward on the end of the last era in space, I look eagerly forward to the next.

# Bravery in the heat of the moment



by  
**Christina Molina**  
A&E Editor

"One brave deed makes no hero."

Contrary to what 19th century poet John Greenleaf Whittier once said, I think heroism comes in all sizes.

Sure, I wouldn't exactly call myself the bravest person in the world.

I did sleep with a night-light for nearly 12 years and still have someone walk me home in the late hours of the evening.

But I won't discredit myself completely, for there is one case where I feel I stepped up to the plate — beyond my own expectations.

It was my sophomore year of college and my first apartment after living in the dorms.

I was in my living room with two friends watching an interesting episode of Ancient Aliens on the History Channel.

My apartment building,

located on Eighth Street, contained mostly young college students.

The apartment complex is a pair of two-story buildings comprised of seven apartments each, facing inward toward a car-width walkway in middle.

It was a great atmosphere to live in, where everyone knew everyone.

As I was hearing about visitors from outer space, I could smell smoke from what seemed like a barbecue pit.

My first reaction was to go participate in the barbecue, until the smell became so unbearable I just wanted to close my window and stay indoors.

When I came to the window that faced the middle walkway, I could see heavy smoke and assumed my neighbors were cooking right between the buildings.

Something didn't feel right, and as soon as I heard glass break I came to my door, opened it and was rushed by a cloud of smoke.

Coughing up a storm, I peeked out the door to find thick, black smoke coming out

of the corner window of the apartment to my left.

This apartment rested on the opposite side of the street, so it was no wonder that no one had noticed.

My friends jumped up off the couch to take a look out the door when we all noticed orange flames appearing out of the window.

We immediately panicked. Both my friends were male so seeing their frightened reaction made me even more nervous.

My initial thoughts were "Oh my God, my apartment's going to burn down!" and "What can I carry out to safety?"

With little time to think, I grabbed my keys and phone, ran into the street and called out for help.

Luckily, one man across the street stopped to notice my hysteria and dialed 911.

Within five seconds, I contemplated the fact I was the only one who seemed aware of the fire and was compelled to let anyone who was still in the building know of the situation.

I asked my friends to knock on the window and door of the apartment that was on fire while I went door-to-door, banging on them and yelling warnings to evacuate.

I made my way upstairs, where no one had come out

or seemed to know what was occurring.

I kept yelling out to leave the building for a few minutes until one person opened his door half asleep.

He eventually caught on and helped me notify others.

Within several minutes, we got everyone out of the buildings.

As we made our way off the property, I realized there was no police officer or firefighter in sight — so I, too, called 911.

I hadn't had a moment to calm down since discovering the fire.

While on the phone with the dispatcher, I grew increasingly annoyed at her passive tone of voice while she said, "Ma'am, don't be a hero. Stay away from the building and wait for the police."

This lady was insane — I had already done half of the police's work. I just wanted my building to be safe so my apartment wouldn't burn down.

One officer finally arrived on the scene, and I quickly brought him up to speed.

He made sure the building was completely evacuated, and after several minutes passed, a fire truck showed up.

The firefighters did what they do best: Contain the fire and calm people down.

I was asked to speak with

them to explain what happened but still had trouble catching my breath.

The cause of the fire was unknown, even to this day.

The fire took its toll on the kitchen, which was burnt to a crisp.

Moreover, the apartment above it sustained damage to its living room floor.

Fortunately, no one was severely hurt, including the old property owner who was more concerned for his tenants' safety than his insurance costs increasing.

After my minor anxiety attack and numerous calls to family members, I was calm enough to realize I had saved people's lives.

I'm sure the police could have evacuated all of the residents of my apartment, but I spontaneously took matters into my own hands and created a better outcome for the situation.

I share this, not only for the quirky read but to show that anyone is capable of really making a difference.

Maybe I am not a big-time hero, especially in the words of Whittier, but my impulsive actions had a serious effect on the safety of others, and that bravery should not go unnoticed.

Just think — if I can do it, you can to.



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# Meteor hunters strike pay dirt in California's Gold Country

Today's residents rush for space rocks instead of gold

McClatchy Tribune  
Wire Service

COLOMA-LOTUS VALLEY, Calif. — In the week since a fireball shot across the sky and exploded, scattering a rare type of meteorite over California's Gold Country, these hills have drawn a new rush of treasure seekers.

Once again there are lively saloons, fortune hunters jockeying for prime spots and astounding tales of luck — including that of Brenda Salvesson, a local who found a valuable space rock while walking her dog Sheldon, named after the theoretical physicist on the TV show "The Big Bang Theory."

It started April 22, Earth Day, with a blazing streak across a morning sky and a sonic boom that the next day had the older women in the "Gentle Stretching to Beautiful Music" class at Sierra Ballet comparing notes on how hard their windows shook.

Eight hundred miles away, while windows were still rattling, Robert Ward in Prescott, Ariz., was getting alerts. A 35-year-old professional meteorite hunter and dealer, he pays for tips and keeps a bag packed, ready to go anywhere in the world to chase a meteorite.

On Tuesday, after 16 hours of driving, he scanned a parking lot in Lotus in the pre-dawn not knowing what type of rock he was seeking. But when he spotted a dark space pebble, he immediately recognized it as carbonaceous chondrite, meteorites containing water and carbon — the type scientists

long to study for insights into how life began on Earth and possibly in other places.

"I was trembling," Ward said. "It's the rarest of the rare. It's older than the sun. It holds the building blocks of life."

The rush was on. The meteorites are invaluable to science but on the open market can also fetch \$1,000 a gram, or more for larger, pristine pieces.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Paul Gessler, a part-time meteorite hunter, was readying for a halibut fishing tournament when he read about Ward's find on a hobbyists Twitter feed. He took his fishing rod back to the house and told his wife he was driving to California.

At the NASA Ames Research Center north of San Jose, Beverly Girten, deputy director in charge of the center's experiments on the International Space Station, announced she was going to Coloma. Her boss reminded her of a conference call about a \$40 million budget. Girten said meteorites with organic compounds could prove more important to science.

In the Gold Rush town of Rescue (elevation and population both 1,400), Salvesson, a wife and mother of two, read a local news article about the meteorites. The field scattered with them, about three miles wide and 10 miles long, included Henningsen Lotus Park, where she walks her dog every morning. She noted what to look for: a rock that seemed out of place — different from anything around it. It would be dark and delicate.

On Wednesday, near the end of her stroll with her dog Sheldon, Salvesson picked up a rock the size of a spool of thread that seemed to match the description.

She walked over to a group with metal detectors.

"I opened my hand and they all let out a collective gasp," she said.

The geologists, as they turned out to be, wrapped the stone in foil and told Salvesson to get it into a bank vault as soon as possible. At 17 grams, it's the largest of the meteorites found so far.

A few minutes before, a firefighter had stopped to search at the park on his way to work and found a 2-gram meteorite in less than 20 minutes. A dealer paid him \$2,000 on the spot.

Before going to the bank, Salvesson made one stop: Rescue Elementary School. She had her children — Linnea, 10, and Tommy, 6 — and their classmates put their hands behind their backs. She pulled back the foil just a little and told them to look at perhaps the oldest thing anyone has ever seen.

Girten believes that should any of those children grow up to take a college earth science class, they might study this meteorite. Until now, the most studied meteorite has been the Murchison, found after a witnessed shower in Australia in 1969. All indications are that the Sutter's Mill meteorite will replace it as the meteorite most known by name to anyone in science.

"We want to learn about this asteroid," said Peter Jenniskens, an astronomer and senior research scientist at the Carl Sagan Center at the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute and the NASA Lunar Science Institute. "This is scientific gold."

But the time window to get the clues from outer space into a lab is small.

Already, the chemistry of the rocks could be changing, and a heavy rain would dissolve them.



Jason Utas, a geology student at UC Berkeley, holds a 7.5-gram fragment of a meteorite called CM chondrite that he found in Coloma, California, on Saturday. He was one of numerous people who descended into the area following a fireball which occurred on April 22. Photo by Gary Friedman / MCT

Saturday morning, Jenniskens asked for members of the public to meet at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and go out with him and other researchers to look for meteorites. The volunteers signed a form promising to turn over to NASA anything they found while with the scientists.

The majority of the individuals scouring grassy fields near where James Marshall found a piece of gold in 1848, or running metal detectors around canoes on the banks of the American River, did not sign on with the scientists, sticking to a prospector's creed of each-for-his-own and finders keepers. The scientists got 30 volunteers.

Derek Sears, a NASA research scientist and editor of Meteorite magazine, led a research group that included George Cooper, a NASA expert in analyzing organic

compounds in meteorites, and volunteers Collin Wadley, 12, and his father, Lee, up a steep red-earth trail framed in wildflowers.

"A large piece is out here somewhere," said Sears. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it. We know so much about meteorites but understand so little. They can pull water from space. They may have formed the oceans. They may have seeded life."

"If nothing else, they are a witness ... to when the solar system was first formed."

Earlier in the morning, Sears had encouraged Salvesson to give her meteorite to science.

"We're paupers, but what can I do to get that meteorite for research?" he asked.

Sears, with a British accent and in a crisp blue shirt, was standing next to Michael

Hunter, a commercial meteorite hunter in camouflage and need of a shower. He's the sometimes partner of Ward, the meteorite dealer. They once spent two months in prison in Oman, charged with smuggling meteorites.

"Did my friend with the CIA contacts reach you?" Hunter asked Salvesson. "He has a lot of resources. He can pay."

A person's universe can sometimes shift swiftly. Salvesson's week went from hoping to get caught up on laundry to having long talks with NASA and offers in the tens of thousands of dollars for the meteorite.

She pointed out that the town of Rescue was named by a man who found a piece of gold that "rescued" his family. But she hasn't decided what she will do yet.

## Get 'em while they're HOT

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