

Thursday
May 3, 2012
Volume 138, Issue 49

SPARTAN DAILY

SpartanDaily.com

Bassnectar Q&A see A&E p. 4



Originally a means of faster transport, bicycling today has transformed into something that encompasses policy, hobby and culture.

by **Nina Tabios**
Staff Writer

Ride 2 School Day is a monthly event that aims to spread awareness of alternative modes of transportation for students hosted by SJSU's Environmental Resource Center (ERC).

Lacey Lutes, director of the center, said that they have been hosting sustainability events raising eco-awareness since the 1960s and work with Transportation Solutions to promote bike to school days.

"Over the years we realized that we were trying to promote alternative transportation," she said. "We changed the name to Ride 2 School Day to include skateboarders, carpoolers, people who take VTA and any other form of transportation that decreases your carbon footprint."

Last year, the resource center received a \$5,000 grant from Breathe California, an organization that works with communities to fight lung disease and promote lung health, according to the organization's website.

Lutes said the grant was funded by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which was used to host a campus wide ride to school day that featured pro skateboarder Steve Cabarello and sponsored skate and bike shops.

The center is running Ride 2 School Day in conjunction with the A.S. rally with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, who will speak on the increase of student loan interest rate, according to Lutes.

Bike mechanics from Bicycle Express, a bike shop located on Third and Williams streets, will be available for free tune-ups and free barbecue is offered for anyone who "rides" to school, according to Lutes.

SJSU BIKE THEFT ON LOCK DOWN

Before junior chemical engineering major Allen Reyes goes to class, he double-locks his bike to the bike racks outside of the Engineering building.

See a multimedia on
**Hellyer County Park
Velodrome bike track:**

<http://spartandaily.com/75039>
see **story** A&E p.3

"Having your bike stolen sucks," he said. "I got my first one stolen two years ago and I'd hate for it to happen again."

According to Sgt. John Laws, the University Police Department receives about 100 bike theft reports a year.

Otto Melara, commute coordinator at Transportation Solutions, said that education is at the core of its efforts to prevent bike theft on campus.

"Theft is such a sensitive issue because we're non-enforcers," he said. "We try to collaborate with UPD as best we can, we're always in communication because, yeah, theft is a big issue."

Transportation Solutions holds a lock exchange where bike riders can trade in a cable or chain lock, regardless of condition, for a brand new U-lock.

Melara said that a U-lock is much more secure than a cable lock because it's easy for thieves to cut them, especially when bikes are left parked for long periods of time.

Bike riders have the option to lock their bikes in any one of the six bike cages on campus, but the cage policy states that bike riders cannot leave their bike parked for more than 72-hours at a time.

"Thefts happen when bikes are abandoned or neglected," Melara said. "Basically what we're trying to do is educate the public and say, 'If you're leaving your bike here overnight, it's more likely to get stolen.'"

In 1989, UPD enforced a bicycle and skateboarding prohibition so students

could not ride their bikes or skateboards anywhere on campus Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

According to Laws, officers were able to hand out some tickets, but that still didn't stop students from riding through campus.

"We were not able to enforce it well enough to make an impact," he said. "Most of the time people didn't even know about the policy."

In 2007, SJSU President Don J. Kassing released a presidential directive that passed a new campus non-motorized vehicle policy.

The policy states it aims "to regulate and promote the safe use of non-motorized vehicles on campus grounds," and to encourage the reduced dependence on motorized vehicles.

It also lists regulations referred to as "courtesy rules," which include yielding to pedestrians, driving at an appropriate speed, no riding in an acrobatic manner and establishing dismounting areas.

Currently, the dismount areas on campus are on the north and side of the Student Union construction, and the Cesar Chavez Plaza, according to Laws.

"Even if you enforce it, there's no way to enforce it all the time," he said. "We can't have officers spend their entire day monitoring bicyclists."

Melara said that in response to the rising number of bikes on campus, Transportation Solutions is in the talk of expanding the bike network, which includes managing the flow of bikes.

He said that Transportation Solutions is also in the works of creating a bike master plan, similar to that of UC Davis where biking is the predominate means of transportation for students.

"They have to manage that, because it would be chaos," he said. "We're not at that point where we have so many bikes that we can't manage them, but it's getting to that point."

SEE **BIKES** PAGE 5

The third issue is inside!



Take our drug poll online:
spartandaily.com/drugsurvey

Federal bill could double loan rates

by **Eddie Fernandez**
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama asked Congress on April 24 to freeze interest rates on student loans to avoid the rates being doubled from 3.4 percent to 6.8 by July 1.

Proposed bill H.R. 3826 aims to extend the reduced interest rate for federal direct Stafford loans, according to the Library of Congress website.

Freshman anthropology major Valeria Rodriguez said she was unaware about the proposed bill and bothered by the possible outcome.

"Half of the students are not gonna be able to afford college ... most students have to take out loans to be able to pay for classes," Rodriguez said. "Now I'm worried because as a freshman I took out two loans to begin with, so I'm not sure if I have to take out more."

Stafford loans are low-interest loans for eligible students to help cover the cost of higher education at a four-year college or university by enrolling or attending a school that participates in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

The proposed bill would amend the Higher Education Act of 2007, which would in turn extend the reduced interest rate for federal direct Stafford loans, according to the Library of Congress website.

The act authorizes Pell grants and students loans, according to Jane Glickman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Education.

Pell grants are need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post-

baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education.

In 2007, a provision in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act reduced the interest rates of subsidized Stafford loans for four years at 3.4 percent, according to SJSU's financial aid and scholarship office.

Christina Garcia, a third-year psychology major, said she is discontent with the education system at SJSU because of tuition cost.

"Every year (tuition) goes up higher and higher, so I just deal with it because it's not like I can do anything about it," Garcia said.

The proposed bill has grabbed the attention and support of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

The representative for the 16th District is scheduled to attend a rally with students at SJSU to advocate against the proposed doubling of student interest rates today at 11 a.m., encouraging students to speak out against the increase, according to a spokesperson for Lofgren.

SEE **LOANS** PAGE 6

CSU faculty union votes for possible strike

Association members OK
walkout if talks stay same

by **McClatchy Tribune**
Wire Service

LOS ANGELES — The union representing California State University faculty announced Wednesday its members have voted to authorize a two-day strike should negotiations over salary, class sizes and other issues continue to stall.

The vote could result in two-day rolling strikes at the 23 campuses, most likely beginning in the fall, according to the California Faculty Association.

The union represents 23,000 Cal State professors, lecturers, librarians, counselors and coaches in the public university system. About 53 percent of the total faculty are union members.

Union officials said that 70 percent of the group's 12,501 members participated in the vote. Of those, 95 percent voted to approve the plans.

The action does not mean a strike will be called, but instead gives the union au-

thority to do so if negotiations with Chancellor Charles Reed fail to come to an agreement.

The vote comes as Cal State has suffered severe cuts in state funding — \$750 million this fiscal year, with the potential for an additional \$200 million reduction next year if voters fail to approve a tax initiative backed by the governor on the November ballot.

The Cal State system has raised tuition, offered fewer courses and turned away thousands of students as a result of budget cuts.

The union, which said the faculty members haven't received raises since 2007, is asking for 1 percent pay increases for each year of the new contract, more control over class sizes and greater stability for

"The CSU faculty have run out of patience."

-Lillian Taiz, CSU Faculty Association president & Cal State Los Angeles history professor

faculty with temporary contracts, among other proposals.

"The CSU faculty have run out of patience," said President Lillian Taiz, a history professor at Cal State Los Angeles. "It's time to address seriously the issues before us so our faculty can get back to the business of providing quality education to the students of California."

The union and Reed have failed to reach agreement since the last three-year contract expired in June 2010.

Mediation efforts broke down April 6, but the groups will meet again this week in an effort to resume talks.

If they do not reach an agreement, a neutral fact-finder will be appointed to seek a resolution. If no settlement is reached at the end of that process, the union has legal authority to stage the walkout.

Union leaders said they understand the possible adverse effect a strike can have on students, but contend such an action will bring attention to their struggles as well.

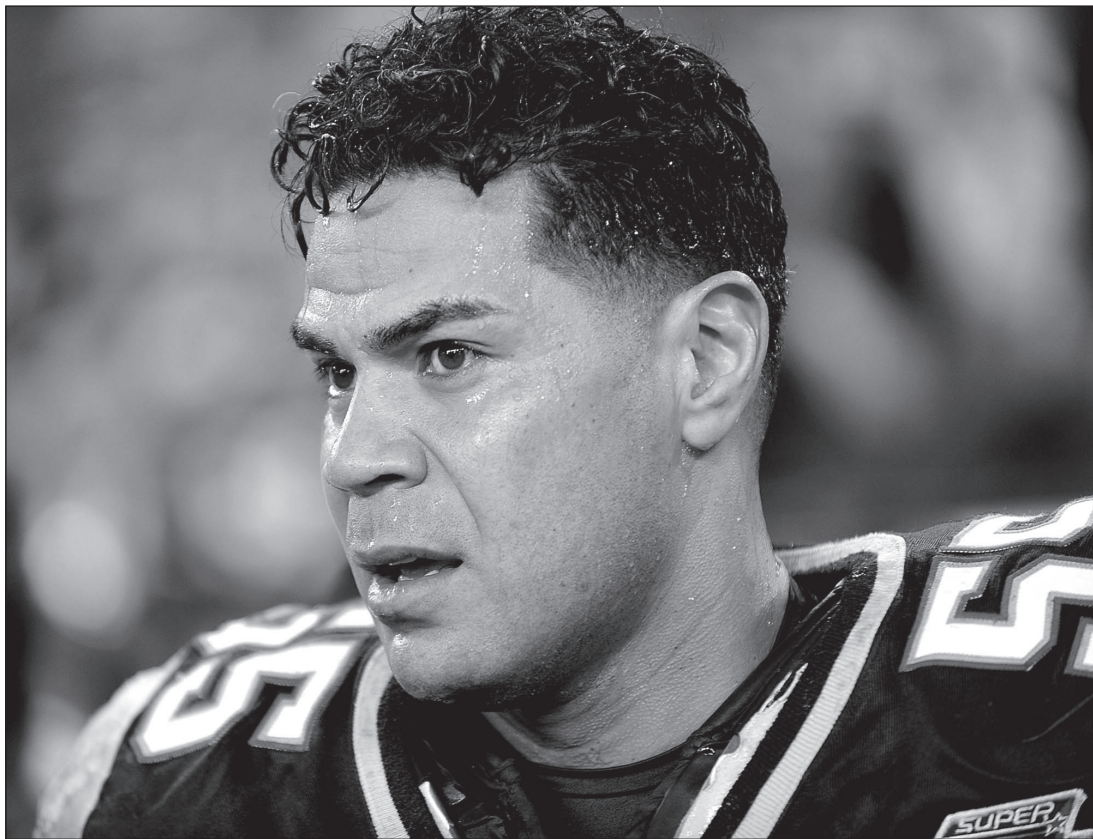
SEE **FACULTY** PAGE 6

Spartan Daily
Serving SJSU since 1934
Volume 138 / Issue 49



Twitter: @spartandaily 70°
facebook.com/spartandaily 54°

View exclusive stories and multimedia at
spartandaily.com



Junior Seau walks on the field prior to Super Bowl XLII on February 3, 2008, where the New England Patriots are trying to be the second undefeated team in NFL history. Photo by Karl Mondon / MCT

■ COMMENTARY

EX-NFL player Junior Seau's death shocks sports world

by Boris Slager
Staff Writer

Retired football player Junior Seau died yesterday in his home in Oceanside, Calif., from an apparent self-inflicted gun shot wound to the chest.

The 43 year old was found by his girlfriend, but according to reports, there was no a suicide note near his body.

Seau was a linebacker in the National Football League (NFL) for 20 years, a 12-time pro bowler played for three NFL teams including the San Diego Chargers, Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots.

Two years ago, Seau drove off a cliff after being released from jail for a domestic violence issue, according to ABC news and according to that article, some suspected that he was trying to commit suicide then as well.

Seau said the crash was because he fell asleep at the wheel.

"We believe it was a suicide," Oceanside police Lt. Leonard Mata said on ESPN's website. "There is no indication of foul play."

If he did commit suicide, he would join a list of NFL players who have committed suicide due to the effects of playing in the league.

Some of those players include Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson, Pittsburgh Steelers offensive lineman Terry Long and Philadelphia Eagles defensive back Andre Waters, according to ABC's website.

Another sad thing about this story is that Seau is the eighth member of the 1994 Chargers to die, according to ESPN's website.

The deceased players on the '94 Chargers who lost the Super Bowl to the San Francisco 49ers were Chris Mims, David Griggs, Rodney Culver, Lewis Bush, Curtis Whitley, Shawn Lee and Doug Miller, according to ESPN.

"Getting the chance to play alongside of Junior Seau, the greatest linebacker to ever play the game, made my dreams come true. I am absolutely devastated to hear this news. Today I lost my hero, my friend, my buddy," said Zach Thomas, a former teammate of Seau, on ESPN's website.

Also, Houston Texans linebacker Brian Cushing was devastated by the news, he said on ESPN's website.

It was not just the players who spoke out after the death of Seau. One of the people to

comment was Chargers President Dean Spanos.

"This is just such a tragic loss. One of the worst things I could ever imagine. My prayers go out to Junior's family. It's heartbreaking," he said on ESPN.

There has been speculation that a reason he would shoot himself in the chest is to follow the example of Duerson, who shot himself in the chest so his brain could be donated to science to study the effects that concussion has on NFL players.

I will not speculate on the reasons behind this tragedy, however, I will comment on why it is so prevalent that NFL

players die young.

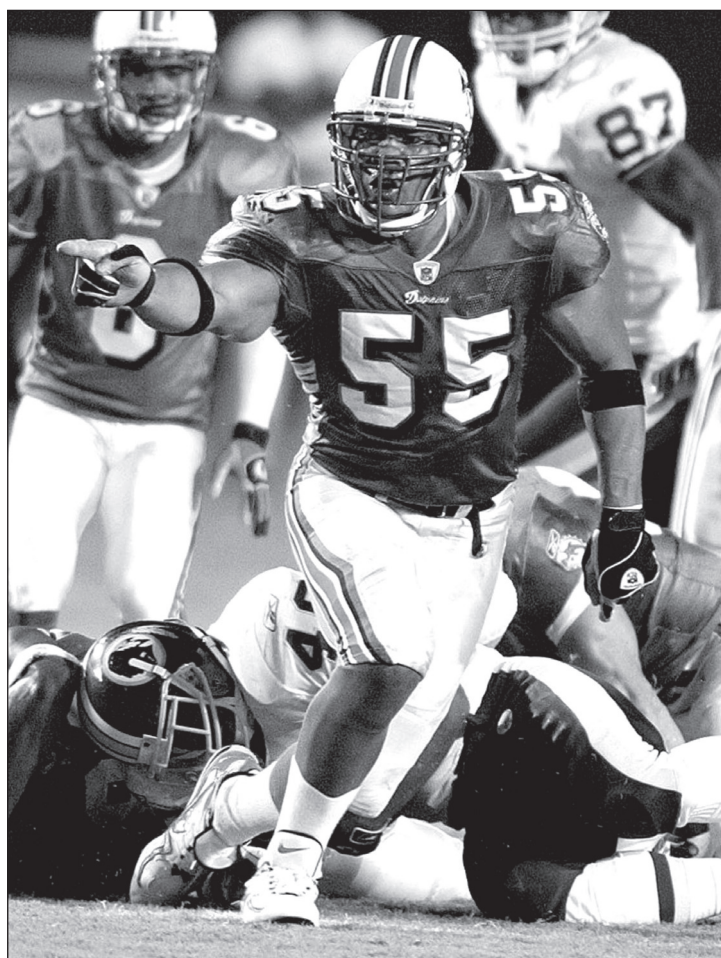
Football is a brutal sport and has been known to severely hinder players in their post-NFL careers.

Also it seems suicides are not as prevalent in baseball, basketball or hockey.

This does speak to the punishment that the players in football have to go through on a day-to-day basis.

The NFL has seen the problems with its former players, and that is why there have been more rules put into place to protect players and their safety on the field.

Seau is survived by his three children and his ex-wife, Gina Deboer.



Junior Seau, a 12-time NFL Pro Bowler, was found dead in his home in Oceanside, Calif., yesterday. Photo by Joe Rimkus Jr. / MCT

SJSU men's golf team holds on for first WAC championship

Myers claims individual title with win in sudden-death playoff

Staff Report

The SJSU men's golf team won its first Western Athletic Conference championship in the team's history yesterday, finishing the tournament with a seven-over par 295 in the third and final round at Rio Secco Golf Club in Henderson, Nevada.

In addition, senior Jay Myers was the individual champion of the WAC championship by shooting a final round one-under par 71. It was his second tournament victory of the season and second of his career.

It took Myers extra holes to earn the victory.

After Myers and New Mexico State junior Justin Shin both finished the three-round tournament with a five-under par 211, both players hit the course for a sudden-death playoff, in which Myers won with a birdie on the very first playoff hole.

Myers got help from fellow senior Christopher Lang in the final round, who fired an even-par 72.

The Spartans entered yesterday's final round with a two-stroke lead and extended it to six strokes by the day's end to win their first conference championship since win-

Team Leaderboard

1 San Jose State +12

2 New Mexico State +18

3 Fresno State +22

4 Idaho +28

5 Louisiana Tech +38

6 Nevada +45

7 Hawaii +47

8 Utah State +55

Lang and junior Connor Covington both finished the tournament in 16th place.

Covington finished the final round with a five-over par 77, and sophomore Justin Estrada added a three-over par 75 to yesterday's final team score.

The WAC championship win was the Spartans' fourth victory of the 2011-12 season — the first four-win season for the team since 1982.

After the tournament, coach John Kennaday was given the WAC Coach of the Year award, and Hovan was named to the second team All-WAC.

Myers was named to the first team All-WAC, as well as given the conference's Player of the Year award.

With the win, the Spartans were given an automatic berth to play in the NCAA Regionals, which begin on May 17.

Information compiled from SJSU Athletics

Spartan Field Day Multimedia



<http://spartandaily.com/74886>

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN)

SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY

welcomes the opportunity to help you learn more about our Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN) program. The ABSBN program is our 12 month nursing program for students with a baccalaureate in a non-nursing field.

- Admission offered 6 times per year
- Taught locally on the San Mateo campus (off 101, just south of SFO)
- Admission counseling appointments available
- For more information contact: eberdali@samuelmerritt.edu



www.samuelmerritt.edu

CARE. LEARN. TRANSFORM. ↗

DON'T HAUL IT HOME!

- Student 3 month Prepay Special \$150 for 5x6 unit
- Free lock with leased unit.

Features:

- On-site project manager
- Computerized gate access
- 24/7 Cameras
- Close to Campus



Visit our web site - www.centraelfstorage.com

1020 Spring Street, San Jose, CA, 95110 - (408) 295-3033

700 Montague Expressway, Milpitas, CA, 95035 - (408) 457-7308

Bike tracks return with speed

by Eddie Fernandez
Staff Writer

The 335-meter, 23-degree banking NASCAR-style concrete velodrome opened its gates for the season mid-April to train bicyclists looking to compete in racing.

Terry Shaw, a former organizer for velodrome participants, said a velodrome is a banked bicycle racing track.

According to Mark Rodamaker, current vice president of the Northern California Velodrome Association, the track's popularity has seesawed over the years.

"Twenty years ago, Friday night was a big thing," Rodamaker said. "They'd fill the stands and there would be spectators completely ringed around the thing, it was just a zoo... we've never seen anything come back at that level since then."

The velodrome is about 40

years old and is the only existing track in Northern California, he said.

Andrew Lanier, coordinator for junior track racing, said that the park was made for the youth of Santa Clara County.

He said the outdoor track did not have a barrier but later a chained fence was added around the track.

It wasn't until the '90s when a wood rail was finally built, Lanier said.

The free-of-charge stadium, seats 200 and gives spectators a panoramic view of racers competing against one another, riding closely along the wood railing for a thrilling time, according to the park's website.

Spectator Erica Engle, from Menlo Park—Atherton, found herself a fan of the action.

"Track racing is kind of interesting, it seems kind of dangerous but it seems really exciting

with all the guys out there going really fast on a curved surface," Engle said.

Originally, the track was supposed to be measured 333.3 square meters but Rodamaker explained the track was made by volunteer laborers and that one lap measures to a kilometer.

Alex Trang, an employee at iMiNUSD Fixed Gear Boutique store in San Jose, identified what separates a track bike from other bicycles.

"A track bike has drop bars, six gears drive and no breaks," Trang said. "Generally a track bike is made up of a horizontal drop out similar to a BMX bike but made of various material."

Rodamaker, who is also a four-time Masters Track National Champion, explained what it's like being on the track.

"There's a sensation of speed because you're out in the open



Mark Rodamaker, vice president of the Northern California Velodrome Association, works on his bike before racing at Hellyer Velodrome on Apr. 27. Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

and your head is not that far from the ground," Rodamaker said. "You got to watch what you're doing so there's a lot of skill required."

A potential racer must complete nine hours of training on a track bike before participating in competition, Lanier said.

There are two different groups of participants that can enroll, either a sprinter or an endurance racer, Rodamaker said.

A sprinter runs one to two laps whereas an endurance racer would race a for roughly 100 laps, he said.

Bob Cronin, a supervisor and a sprinter for the White Oaks Racing Team, said he finds joy in competing.

"It's not really the feeling of speed, it's the feeling of like getting up to speed for sprinting," Cronin said. "It's a lot more explosive efforts."

He said he has been a sprinter for five years and finds racing takes both a good and bad toll on his body.

"Lots of times (as) the older guys we're fighting a lot of stuff all the time ... the bike doesn't necessarily make it worse. Sometimes it makes it better," Cronin said.

The next bike racing event at the velodrome will be Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Summer flicks: What's worth watching and what isn't

by Wesley Dugle
Opinion Editors



Marvel's 'Avengers' hits theaters Friday. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com



The sci-fi film 'Prometheus' will be in theaters June 8. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com



'The Dark Knight Rises' is the last of the Batman trilogy. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com



The animated film 'ParaNorman' releases Aug. 17. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

MAY

Flick of the month: "The Avengers"

Release date: May 4

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth

After four long years of waiting and anticipating, Marvel and super hero fans alike will finally be able to see Earth's greatest super heroes Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor and Captain America get together on the big screen with Black Widow, Hawkeye, and Nick Fury in "The Avengers." The film is likely to be one of the biggest action films of the summer, if not the biggest, and fans should expect a great time at the theaters. So set a time this weekend for the first major action film of the summer, it's going to be a big one!

Dud of the month: "Battleship"

Release date: May 18

Starring: Taylor Kitsch, Rihanna, Brooklyn Decker, Liam Neeson

Everything about this movie screams "loud, annoying, cliché" action film. Based off Hasbro's board game "Battleship," yes you read that correctly, this film does not look good at all. While Liam Neeson is an excellent actor, I don't understand why he is wasting his time with this hogwash and nothing I have seen of Taylor Kitsch, the film's hero, has given me any faith in him. Plus when the main co-star of the film is Rihanna, that can't be a good sign either. Save your money and play the game of "Battleship" instead of seeing this garbage idea of a film.

JUNE

Flick of the month: "Prometheus"

Release date: June 8

Starring: Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron, Guy Pearce

It has been a while since Ridley Scott has ventured back to the realm of science fiction and if the trailers are any indication of the quality this film may have, then Scott is returning with a vengeance this summer. Supposedly a prequel to Ridley Scott's own "Alien" from 1979, the film details a science team that travels out to the far reaches of space to discover humanity's origins. Unfortunately, it looks like they will be biting off more than they can chew as mayhem ensues. The film features an all-star cast and is sure to wow science fiction and movie fans alike.

Dud of the month: "G.I. Joe: Retaliation"

Release date: June 29

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum, Ray Stevenson

Considering how bad the first film was, it doesn't make much sense to create a sequel other than to get more money. Oh wait, that's exactly what they mean to do. This time, Dwayne Johnson and Bruce Willis join the cast for this ridiculous turd of a movie and viewers will likely be treated to lots of explosions, cheesy action one-liners and some so-so special effects. In short, unless you enjoy cheesy action films, avoid this one as much as possible.

JULY

Flick of the month: "The Dark Knight Rises"

Release date: July 20

Starring: Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Joseph Gordon-Levitt

If you are not hyped to see this film, get hyped! Fans have been waiting four years for the epic conclusion to Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy since the ending of "The Dark Knight" and this summer, I expect fans to be greatly satisfied. Nolan is easily one of the best directors in the business today and with star actors Tom Hardy (who will be playing the villain Bane), Anne Hathaway, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Marion Cotillard joining the cast, this film is sure to be awesome. I see this film easily being one of the best, if not the best, film to come out this summer, so don't miss it!

Dud of the month: "Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D"

Release date: July 13

Starring: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Seann William Scott

Why we need another "Ice Age" is beyond me at this point. This film should go on the list of franchises that just needs to die already instead of taking film space at our theaters. Aside from the first film, "Ice Age" has been rather mediocre of late and to make another sequel just seems like a cheap money grab at this point. Take your little siblings and cousins to see something else this summer for your own sake.

AUGUST

Flick of the month: "ParaNorman"

Release date: August 17

Starring: Kodi Smit-McPhee, Casey Affleck, Anna Kendrick, John Goodman

Just because I'm 22 years old doesn't mean I don't have a soft spot for kid films or animation. In this case, a kids' animated film that has zombies in it screams "awesome" to me and I think movie-goers should give this a watch. From the director of the popular film "Coraline" (which I enjoyed), the film is headlined by great actors and looks to be a good time at the theaters for all ages.

Dud of the month: "Total Recall"

Release date: August 3

Starring: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel, Bryan Cranston

This is actually an "approach with caution" pick for me because I think this movie can be awesome. The problem is that the movie is called "Total Recall" and if you know of the original 1990 Arnold Schwarzenegger film, you can understand why I'm hesitant to see the new film. The original is a craptastic mash-up of everything cheesy about Schwarzenegger films (one-liners such as "Consider it a divorce" and "See ya at da party Victor" come to mind) and if the subject material is still the same, this new version with Colin Farrell might suck too. That said, though it has potential, I would approach it with caution.

Check out more on summer flicks online at SpartanDaily.com

BASSNECTAR

WITH **VIBESQUAD** AND **Mr. Projectile**
EVENT CENTER at **SJSU** • SATURDAY, MAY 5
7:00PM
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$29.50
SJSU STUDENT with ID: \$19.50 (while supplies last)
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE **EVENT CENTER BOX OFFICE** OR AT **TICKETMASTER.COM**.

LOFT BAR AND BISTRO

A CAPERS PLACE

Celebrate your Graduation

Loft strives to make your event perfect in every way

Terrific and Friendly atmosphere

Thursday is college night 2-for-1 margaritas

90 South 2nd St. Downtown San Jose
(408) 297-0677 • loftbarandbistro.com

SJSU helps you get Smart(er).
EVO² helps get you into that Smartphone you always wanted!

And not only do we have the BEST in service BUT also the BEST in prices!

\$25 OFF
any Smartphone
EXCLUSIVE for
SJSU students!

Plus, bring a friend with you and get a FREE accessory pack (car charger, screen guard and case) for BOTH of you. (2yr. activation required)

65 S. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113
408-572-8780
Terms and conditions apply. 2-yr contract required. See store for details.

Before homecoming show, Bassnectar breaks down the music scene

by Daniel Herberholz
Copy and Production Editor

For the first time since he started his career as a disc jockey, Lorin Ashton, known worldwide as Bassnectar, will play in his native San Jose this Saturday at the Event Center.

In a phone interview last week, Ashton said he was fresh off performing three consecutive nights in front of a cumulative 37,000 people.

Ashton said the biggest audience he imagined playing for was the 37 who came to his first show at the Cupertino Public Library.

On Bassnectar's website, Ashton's style is described as "a synthesis of intense, wobbling baselines and hypnotic soundscapes."

However, the DJ didn't start his career with that sort of music. Rather, Ashton said he began as the drummer in a metal band which performed at the local library.

Here is what Ashton said about his inspiration, an education and the value of donation:

Going from metal to electronic seems quite different, how did you change genres over the years?

"They're pretty similar to me, because both styles of music (are) underground, left-of-center, freakish not-of-the-norm. They're both high-velocity and high-energy. One is more focused on connection and community and one is focused more on abandoning connection. I moved from death metal into electronic music basically through the radio station at Stanford. When I was a kid, I used to set my tape recorder to record the death metal show, which was on late at night. I'd fall asleep and leave it recording. The show after it was this trans-ambient, techno, experimental show. I slowly got more and more into (that)."

It sounds like community is quite important to you.

"I grew up in a hippie commune in San Jose and my parents have been together since they were 16. Family has really been important to me and so has community. I'm just really into bridging the networks of people and bringing people together. I'm kind of like an anthropologist more than a musician."

What kind of music would you say you make?

"I'd say it's really difficult for me to classify



Lorin Ashton, widely known as the electronic/dubstep DJ Bassnectar, will be spinning at the SJSU Event Center on Saturday. Photo courtesy of greatfulweb.com

myself completely, because I feel genuinely like I really have a diverse and insanely eclectic taste in every kind of music, and film and whatever. I like the full spectrum, from the left to the right, forward and backward, hard and soft, hot and cold. I feel a lot of resistance to confining myself into any type of label or limitation. Musically, I combine every sound and influence that I like, and apply my own spin on it."

How did you first get into music?

"I'm really into percussion, that was the first thing I learned. My uncle built me a drum out of clay when I was a little kid (and) taught me how to play. I really like making percussive patterns out of random sounds. I used to take recordings of the 'Twilight Zone' TV show and cut up the vocals into beats, because it was fun, in the same way it's fun to play on a hand drum."

The music industry is changing, what's your take on it?

"People love to share, so if you give them things that they love, they're going to fucking share it. And that's my ethos with music, is make good music or share good music. It doesn't even have to be shit you make, just filter out the crap and find 10 songs you love and share them around, and people will appreciate that."

On "Inspire the Emphatic," you delve into truth behind media by looping together pieces of audio, including a section where it says it's important that ordinary people are able to share their opinions.

"People are very opinionated and very expressive, and it's not always a good thing — although I think it's important to encourage people to express themselves. But I think it's equally important to encourage people to educate themselves, because loud ignorance is annoying. Expressing yourself requires the modicum of educating yourself. It's just as important to do

your research. I don't think our culture promotes critical thinking and that's something I promote. I think a lot of people need to spend less time talking and more time listening, myself included. I'm really interested in what other people have to say. I'm always assuming I have a lot to learn. I think that's a healthy ethos to take when you're broadcasting something, to assume you're not the end-all-be-all. And I never do. So there's a lot of interactivity with my art, of wanting to take other people's influence and other people's opinion and reflect it back."

You've started the "Dollar per Bass Head" campaign.

"That's something I've pretty much committed to doing for the rest of my life — collecting a dollar for every ticket sold to a Bassnectar show, and contributing it to some kind of charity or community organization. I have very specific daydreams about what I want to do and how I want to make an impact, but I always just want to encourage my fan base to do the same. To, even in a small way, focus on giving back. Because if we're fortunate enough going to parties and dancing around to music we love, then we probably are fortunate enough to give a little bit back to other people."

San Jose is a diverse place, how did that affect your music?

"I lived in San Jose until I was 18, and then I moved to Santa Cruz to go to college. I never felt connected specifically to San Jose at the time, because I was so trying to be a little shock-value rebel. I just thought I was so crazy for loving death metal. So I'm excited to hit San Jose again, frankly because it's Cinco de Mayo. I know it's buck wild there. We're actually trying to get everyone to bring sombreros."

So you have two homecoming shows, then, right?

"Unless I'm forgetting, I don't think I've ever actually DJ'd or played a Bassnectar show in San Jose in 15 years of doing it. I do Santa Cruz a lot. In fact, that's where I got going with DJ-ing, in the woods. So I always kind of think of Santa Cruz as a homecoming, and I'm really excited I've gotten to the stage where I can go play a show of this size in San Jose and sell out and get to play to a bunch of people in my own home town, that's really cool."

SJSU ASSOCIATED STUDENTS Government

Follow us!  

SJSU STUDENT LEADERSHIP GALA
honoring those who make a difference

Awards Ceremony
May 3rd

6:00 p.m. | Morris Dailey Auditorium
Open to all

Student Organization Awards  Solidarity Network Recognitions

Brought to you by Associated Students, Student Involvement and the Solidarity Network

www.as.sjsu.edu/asgov

This event is wheelchair accessible. For other accommodations, such as assistance with vision or hearing, please call A.S. Government at (408) 924-6242 or visit online at www.as.sjsu.edu.

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

 **west valley college**

THE CLASSES YOU NEED!

- Fulfill Major & General Education Requirements
- Open Sections
- Online Classes
- Low Fees

For SJSU to West Valley College course to course articulation, GO TO: www.assist.org

Summer Session starts June 4 and June 18
Fall Semester starts August 27

westvalley.edu

Create your future!

14000 Fruitvale Avenue,
Saratoga, CA 95070 • 408.741.2001

BIKES: San Jose community rolls out love for culture

How to NOT get your bike stolen

Commentary and graphics by Leo Postovoi / Spartan Daily

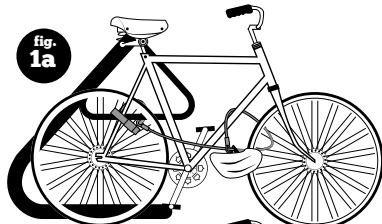
IT DOESN'T MATTER

if you ride a hot pink cruiser, a screaming green fixie, a rugged roadie warrior or an old mountain bike, correct bicycle locking technique is a crucial skill to protect your investment. **Without proper protection, you might as well wish sayonara to your bike,** or at the very least to one or more of the components that make it necessary to ride. Below is a guideline to help protect the precious bikes for riders on campus.

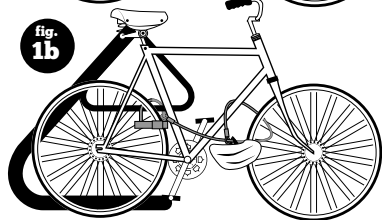
RULE 1 **Cheap locks don't work and don't last.** The more expensive ones do work. Two locks made by Kryptonite, the **Mini Evolution U-lock** and the **New York Fahgettaboutit U-lock**, are widely considered to be the best in security. The Evolution series is lighter, but the New York Series is higher rated. Know, though, that **if a thief really wants something, every system is only a deterrent and can be thwarted.** Slowing said thief is better than just letting them have it.

THERE ARE THREE BASIC TECHNIQUES TO USING A U-LOCK CORRECTLY:

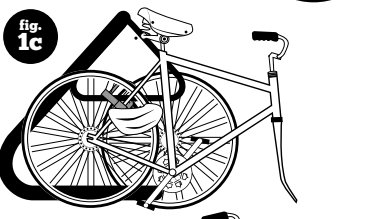
1. Lock through the back wheel around the seat stays and using a cable to link up the front wheel (see Fig. 1a)



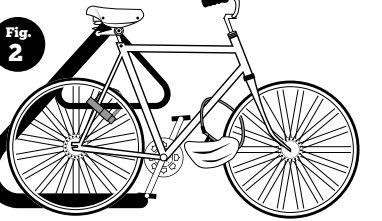
2. A more clever variant of the first — lock around the wheel inside the rear triangle and wrap the cable around the front (see Fig. 1b)



3. Or, if using quick release wheels, remove the front wheel and connect it to the back wheel and lock through together (see Fig. 1c)

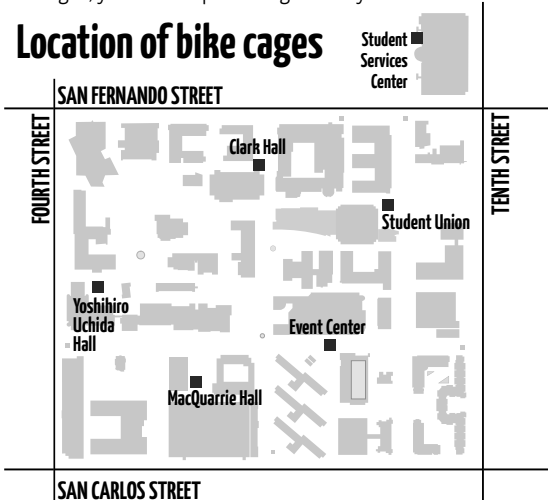


For further deterrence to thieves, you could also use a second lock to secure the front wheel (see Fig. 2)



RULE 2 **Lock only to fixed immovable objects, preferably a rack, in a busy visible area.** SJSU's policy says that bicycles can only be locked to bike racks, and every rack on campus is bolted into the ground several times over. Using the bike cages (free through the A.S. Transportation Center located in the Student Union after \$10 deposit for a magnetic key) is probably safer than just locking up to any rack. Bike cage users tend to monitor each other's bikes, and to enter or exit the cages, you need a special magnetic key.

Location of bike cages



Most especially, **don't hurt the environment by locking to trees.** When in Downtown San Jose, **don't lock to anything that isn't bolted or cemented to the ground.** Avoid places that seem sketchy and spend the extra minute to lock in a place that works. Parking meters and poles are two good things to find if bicycle racks are unavailable.

RULE 3 **Don't make things easy to remove; otherwise, say goodbye.** From quick release wheels to water bottles to front and rear lights, if it's easy to remove it just might not be there when you return to your bike. If you have quick release wheels or a quick release seat, consider changing the easy-to-remove skewers to a fixed bolt. Any bike shop will do it for a small fee, and you'll get to keep bike parts. **Most parts, like handlebars, baskets or carrying racks, unless valuable or rare, will not be tampered with.** Alternatively, many people will remove their seat when in class and put it back on when returning, a free solution that allows you to keep your seat.

RULE 4 **It's best to lock a 'beater bike' instead of a prized possession.** If you're riding a \$10,000 vintage 1960s Cinelli loaded with top-of-the-line Campy parts, you're a target. **But if your bike blends in, you'll probably be all right.** Ask your local bike shop if your bike would be okay to take to a university without being bothered. They'll tell you, honestly if your bike is worth a pretty penny or if it's a "beater bike" to completely forget about on campus.

Source: www.sheldonbrown.com article on Lock Strategy; Kryptonite.com site; interview with Chuck Gifford, owner of Bicycle Express, a local bike shop in Downtown San Jose; website for A.S. Transportation Solutions

FROM PAGE 1

FIXED GEAR BIKES BREAK INTO URBAN CULTURE

Every Tuesday night, about 20 bike riders meet up in front of iMinusD, a fixed gear bike shop located on Paseo de San Antonio.

Tanner Marcoida who organizes the Tuesday night rides, or "TNR," said the popularity of fixed gear bikes started with Mark Cosio, who established bike collective San Jose Fixed Gear (SJF) in 2007, a group that started with five riders who met up at SJSU for regular weekly rides.

"That core group of fixed gear riders that started meeting at San Jose State built up to 300 within one year," he said.

Cosio opened iMinusD in 2009, and Marcoida said the fact that a fixed gear rider opening a fixed gear store was, "all the difference."

"He was able to push something that he loved, but he was also able to provide that same love and passion to other people," he said. "It's a pretty good formula."

iMinusD employee Alex Trang said fixies originated from track racing, but made its way into urban culture through bike messengers, who "made their money off their bikes."

"Bike messengers used fixies mainly because it is made of less components," he said. "They are cheaper to maintain and didn't attract thieves because the bikes aren't as fancy."

Trang said he got a bike because he lived half a mile off campus and wanted faster transport.

"It all started with me getting a bike just to commute. Then I found it to be really fun, so I just went into it," he said. "I started Googling local bike communities and coming out to the Tuesday night rides, and I got hooked. And now I work at a bike shop."

Senior business major Kenneth Tadeo said fixies are popular because of their sleek look and endless customization capabilities.

"There's many different variations like color, rims, handlebars, seats, pedals," Tadeo said. "The whole bike is customizable."

He also said that there's more traction and a better feel for the road when riding a fixie, which can create a "connection with the road" and a rush.

Marcoida said that fixie riding is simple.

"With fixies, there's more of a connection with the bike," he said. "There's no coasting so when your feet are moving, the bike is moving."

For fixie culture, Marcoida said that the, "camaraderie is the culture."

"Tuesday night rides are like church for us," he said. "These people come out to ride because they want to ride their bike the best they can, while at the same time socialize with other people that have the same hobby as them."

BIKE RIDES FOR A PURPOSE

Every third Friday of the month, hundreds of bike riders meet up at San Jose Bike Party to ride through the city.

Inspired by Critical Mass, San Francisco's monthly ride where bike riders promoted the bike and anti-car movement, San Jose Bike Party is more about "having fun, meeting people and riding bikes," Trang said.

According to the event's website, Bike Party aims to bring all types of bicyclists together to "celebrate and build regular weekly rides."

Bill Kewel, one of the organizers of Bike Party, said that they want everyone on bicycles.

"We just want people to enjoy bike riding," he said. "It's a fun activity with very little carbon footprint on our ecology."

Kewel said that the number of riders that attend Bike Party has ballooned significantly within the first two years of its existence.

He said that in its first anniversary ride, only about 200 people attended Bike Party, but a year later on its second year

anniversary around 4,000 people were in attendance.

"The cool thing about Bike Party is that you can be biking next to some 'homeboy,' who is biking next to some corporate guy," he said. "There are all walks of life that come out here."

Each Bike Party carries a theme, which encourages riders to wear costumes, and decorate their bikes.

Senior psychology major Nicole Ackerman participated in Bike Party's April event, which was a "Sharks" theme in honor of the San Jose Sharks playoff appearance.

"It's just super high enthusiasm, super high energy," she said. "I feel like it's really based around community and giving."

Ackerman said that she hopes to participate in the AIDS/LifeCycle ride, a seven-day 545-mile ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles that raises money and awareness for to support the HIV/AIDS services of the LA Gay and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Kristine Kirkendall, assistant director of recreation activities at campus recreation, said she participated in the AIDS/LifeCycle ride for three years consecutively.

"I decided I wanted to do the AIDS ride and that's what got me into road cycling," she said.

She said riders were required to participate in training rides, as well as being educated in "etiquette of the road."

"When you're doing an organized ride with 2,500 people you have to obey the rules," she said.

Kirkendall said that the "road cyclist movement" has existed for around 20 years and the presence of various specialized companies "improve technologies in terms of road cycling."

Ackerman said that she started biking as a form of exercise because of her bad knees.

"Biking is the best form of cardio when you have bad knees," she said. "I've done spin class and that worked, but with biking I get to be outside. I get to enjoy the scenery and get fresh air. It's just really fun to ride everywhere."

SPARTAN
www.spartandaily.com
LIKE THE NEW DESIGN OF THE PRINT NEWSPAPER? THEN YOU'LL LOVE THE DESIGN OF THE NEW WEBSITE.

Summer Session 2012
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL AND EXTENDED STUDIES
Plan Your Summer Now!
Advance Registration Begins Monday, April 9*
*for matriculated students
summer.sjsu.edu
info@sjsu.edu or call 408-924-2670

Camera Cinemas
For showtimes, advance tickets and more, go to cameracinemas.com
Best Theaters - SJ Merc, Metro & Wave Readers
All Shows Before 12 noon Now Only \$5.00
Always Plenty of Free Validated Parking All Sites

Seniors/Kids/Students - \$7.50 (C12/C7) / \$7 (C3/LG)
\$7.50 (C12/C7) / \$7 (C3/LG) 4-6pm M-F & 4pm Sat-Sun
◆ Sony 4K Digital ◆ Final Week ◆ No Passes

CAMERA 7 - Pruneyard/Campbell • 559-6900
[Student Night Wednesdays - \$6 after 6pm]
◆ **THE AVENGERS 3D/2D (PG-13)** ◆ **D-BOX SEATS**
◆ **PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (2D/3D) (PG)**
◆ **THE 5-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R)**
◆ **CHIMPANZEE (G)** ◆ **HUNGER GAMES (PG-13)**
◆ **BULLY (PG-13)** ◆ **JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI (PG)**

LOS GATOS - 41 N. Santa Cruz • 395-0203
◆ **THE AVENGERS (in 2D) (PG-13)**
◆ **THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R)**

CAMERA 12 - 201 S. 2nd St, S.J. • 998-3300
[Student Night Wednesdays - \$6 after 6pm]
◆ **THE AVENGERS (2D/3D) (PG-13)**
◆ **THE RAVEN (R)** ◆ **THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13)**
◆ **THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R)**
◆ **THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (2D/3D) (PG)**
◆ **THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13)** ◆ **SAFE (R)**
◆ **THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13)**
◆ **CABIN IN THE WOODS (R)** ◆ **21 JUMP STREET (R)**

CAMERA 3 - 288 S. Second, S.J. • 998-3300
◆ **HEADHUNTERS (R)** ◆ **THE HUNTER (R)**
◆ **MARLEY (PG-13)** ◆ **MONSIEUR LAZAR (PG-13)**

Opens 5/11 | **DARLING COMPANION** | **THE ROAD**
BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL | **DARK SHADOWS**
DISCOUNT (10 Admits \$60) | **GIFT CARDS**
THEATER RENTALS - CALL 395-6465

You are invited to visit
LINCOLN LAW SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE

OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, June 26th
5:30 PM - 6:40 PM

Meet faculty, speak with students and attend a law class.
Prospective students and families welcome.

Explore the Reasons why Lincoln Law School is
an Excellent Choice in Legal Education

Lincoln Law School of San Jose is accredited by the
Committee of Bar Examiners
Of the State Bar of California

Have you ever thought about attending law school? Would you make a good lawyer? Now is the time to make your dreams a reality. Plan your future today. Rolling admissions allow you to apply any time and begin classes in May, August, or February of each year.

Please RSVP to admissions@lincolnlaw.sj.edu
One North First Street, San Jose, California 95113
(408) 977-7227 lincolnlaw.sj.edu

Money shouldn't be only driving force in choosing career path



by
Jeffrey
Cianci
A&E Editor

"You know you're never going to make any real money, right?"

This is what my girlfriend's father told me after I explained to him that I am going to college for journalism and aspire to be a food writer.

From the perspective of a successful business realtor, he likely has his priorities in earning an income to support his family and puts value on college degrees, often as others do, in their ability to earn such an income.

However, in my short career as a journalist I have found something I love doing and my experiences far outweigh any higher-paying career path.

I live by the thought to do what you enjoy and have a passion for — I think today's youth has the phrase you only live once, or some nonsense like that.

Recently, there have been articles floating around on Facebook that list "the most useless college degrees," and unfortunately I have seen my degree included on more than one of these wonderful lists.

I'll be honest, I am concerned about the job potentials that lie ahead of me, yet I have no reservations about beginning a career that brings me happiness.

My attraction to less-glamorous occupations for the sake of my own enjoyment didn't start with journalism.

When I started at SJSU, I was an industrial design student purely on the notion that I enjoyed sketching cars in class and, in my view, an industrial degree was the professional equivalent of math class doodling.

Unfortunately, while I enjoyed the idea of being an art student, I did not have the skill to make the degree into a profession.

Around the same time I was changing my major from industrial design, I followed another passion of mine and found an opportunity to work in a restaurant's kitchen.

At 19 years old I talked my way into working an unpaid kitchen position at a successful restaurant in San Jose.

I loved what I was doing and even though the chef didn't

offer me compensation for the first six months I worked there, the experience and lessons I took away were life-changing and have shaped my character.

In the fall I will have the honor of serving as this paper's executive editor and the opportunity has me reflecting on the experiences I have from college and what I consider to be a rewarding career choice thus far.

As a reporter, I have had the opportunity of meeting people and being in situations I would have never found myself in otherwise.

During the Occupy San Jose movement, I was assigned to camp out with protesters at City Hall as an embedded reporter, an experience that was both immensely exciting and memorable.

During the same month, I rode along with bicycle taxis late into the weekend nights when I met some truly unique characters of San Jose and made numerous pacts of friendship with people that had previously been total strangers.

Additionally, the people you get to meet and pick at their brains in this line of work are equally rewarding.

Besides the routine sources and general members of society one talks with as a reporter, I have interviewed a Michelin star award-winning chef, various members of San Jose's government, an anarchist vagabond named Cracker and a dancing homeless man named "WD."

I also have the ability with this career to combine my love of writing and food in the form of restaurant reviews.

In short, it's understandable (now more than ever) that students want to pursue degrees that will make them successful and well-paid after they graduate, yet students should aspire to careers they have a passion for and will bring them happiness, rather than focus on the payout.

I have found complete solace in my decision to go into what many consider a dying industry.

Sure, I would love to have a high-paying career, yet I also want to enjoy what I am paid to do.

With my graduation application nearing completion and thoughts of graduate school ahead of me, I have no reservations — only complete confidence that I have the best job in the world because I am happy doing it.



Bring on the body positivity for people everywhere



This column appears every other Wednesday

Ladies and gents, it's that one time that we've all been dreading ever since the weather started warming up — swimsuit season.

As a woman, I loathe the idea of swimsuit shopping because I feel I am exposing my flaws to the world, especially with hot supermodels prancing around in their skivvies.

Although I have a small frame, I get extremely self-conscious of my stomach, thighs and arms in a swimsuit because they are not fit or toned like a celebrity's body.

According to a recent news story from ABC News, a 21-year-old Ukrainian woman named Valeria Lukyanova modified her appearance to look like a Barbie doll.

With her voluptuous chest, tiny waist and full lips, Lukyanova's body looks as plastic as the infamous dolls

lining toy shelves across the nation — But why did she do it?

Sure, it could just be a horrible Photoshop botch but the image holds a more subliminal message to women everywhere.

On a daily basis, there are advertisements on television that tell women to become skinnier, prettier or to buy a certain product to feel better about their appearance.

In a 2009 statistic from the University of Washington, 40 percent of girls ages nine to 10 years old tried to lose weight and by age 13, 53 percent of girls feel dissatisfied with their bodies.

It also doesn't help that 56 percent of commercials targeted at women use beauty as a tool to persuade them to buy a product as opposed to 3 percent of these commercials targeted at men, according to a Kaiser Foundation study.

With this type of subliminal messaging presented in both broadcast and print media, people may succumb to low self-esteem and eating disor-

ders such as anorexia, bulimia or binge eating.

In a journal article from Academic Psychiatry, eating disorders are on the rise due to the media's portrayal of beauty with younger girls, and even men are being admitted to treatment facilities for these issues.

Words such as "fat" or "chubby" are thrown around as insults to people in a degrading manner, which forms self-loathing within the individual.

From personal experience, I have heard several nasty comments from my older relatives about how people deemed as "fat" aren't even human.

During Thanksgiving a few years ago, my family didn't dine on the traditional American fare such as mashed potatoes, roast turkey or pumpkin pie in fear of getting big like the majority of the American population.

While eating baked fish with salad and rice noodles, one of my aunts exclaimed, "I'm so glad the Vietnamese diet is so much better than the American diet! If any of

our family members were fat, I would totally disown them!"

On another occasion, my mother had watched an episode of Travel Channel's "Man v.s. Food" and she felt disgusted upon looking at the host.

"Why does he always have to eat so much?" my mom asked. "I'm surprised that he's not dead yet because he is so fat."

I've been made fun of from my family members about eating a bit too much during family reunions or ostracized for not exercising as much as I used to. It kind of hurts, I'm not going to lie.

On the other end, some of my peers gripe about me for being too thin and it feels as if I can never satisfy anyone.

Why the constant criticism about a person's body size? A person should be judged based on the individual's character rather than the number on the clothing tag.

So if anyone ever makes you feel ostracized for your body shape, forget them and strut your style for the world to see.



Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934

www.spartandaily.com

Opinion Page Policy

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

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

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

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

Editorial Board

Ron Gleason, *Executive Editor*
Brittany Patterson,
Managing Editor
Jasper Rubenstein, *Photo Editor*
Dorian Silva, *Photo Editor*

Section Editors

Nick Celario, *Sports Editor*
Scott Semmler, *Sports Editor*
Jeffrey Cianci, *A&E Editor*
Christina Molina, *A&E Editor*
Wesley Dugle, *Opinion Editor*
Margaret Baum, *Features Editor*
Leo Postovoit, *Tech Editor*

Production Desk

Nic Aguon, *Production Editor*
Daniel Herberholz,
Production Editor
Angelisa Ross,
Multimedia Editor
Matt Gerring, *Online Editor*

Copy Desk

Chris Marian
Cynthia Ly
Jeremy Infusino
Daniel Herberholz

Senior Staff Writers

Ashley Finden
Francisco Rendon
Danreb Victorio

Staff Writers

Samantha Clark
Rebecca Duran
Eddie Fernandez
Christian Gin
Alyxandra Goodwin
Ty Hargrove
Megan Mills
Julie Myhre
Gregory Nelson
Angelisa Ross
Boris Slager
Nina Tabios
Julie Tran
David Wong

Staff Photographers

Sierra Duren
Raphael Kluzniok
Derik Irvin

Contributing Photographers

Jack Barnwell
Jesse Jones
Brian O'Malley
Nick Rivelli
Jason Reed
James Tensuan

Advertising Staff

Amanda Fuller, *Ad Director*
Justin Acosta,
Assistant Ad Director
Laura Hulberg, *Creative Director*
Kristine Young,
Assistant Creative Director
James Coyle
Alexander de Leon
Shanique Flynn
Luis Marquez
Russell Soffiotto
Sandra Tam
Hang Tran
Susan Tran
Errol Villasanta
Tiffany Yang

Advisers

Mack Lundstrom, *News*
Jan Shaw, *News*
Kim Komenich, *Photo*
Tim Hendrick, *Advertising*
Tim Burke, *Production Chief*
Tim Mitchell, *Design*
Pat Wallraven, *Manager*

Distribution

DaMarlynn Wright
Thomas Trump

Students live a sweet dream by whipping up 'classy confections'

by Megan Mills
Staff Writer

Multimedia online



<http://spartandaily.com/74853>

Move over Sprinkles Cupcakes. The San Francisco Bay Area is home to two college students and dessert specialists at Classy Confectionz, a dessert bakery that whips up creative items such as raspberry cheesecake, Twix cupcakes and chocolate-hazelnut mousse.

Fatima Hussain, a junior child and adolescent development major, and Laila Khan, a junior occupational therapy major, began catering in March 2012.

"We both really like baking and the idea came to us one day that we should start our own dessert catering business," Hussain said. "We started fantasizing about it after that and made it a reality."

The reality turned into Classy Confectionz.

"Before, baking was just for fun," Khan said. "We would do it just for ourselves or close family but now people are coming to us asking for our desserts."

Hussain and Khan said the biggest dessert item in demand so far on the menu has been cupcakes, and lots of them.

"I have an upcoming order of 100 cupcakes, which has been our biggest cupcake order so far," Khan said.

A buyer can use their imagination when ordering because Classy Confectionz takes requests and adheres to food allergy or lifestyle requests, such as creating vegan desserts or using apple sauce for a substitute for various ingredients like eggs and butter.

"We have a menu but we do take requests," Hussain said. "If people request a certain item, we are more than willing to accommodate that."

The extended menu appears on their Facebook page as photographs.

Khan and Hussain's creations deliciously cover the page, tapping into the viewers' desire for chocolate, tiramisu mousse and easy-to-eat cake pops.

"We have three basic flavors of chocolate, vanilla and red velvet and then we have our specialty cupcakes," Khan said.

The specialty cupcakes include caramel apple, an apple cupcake with caramel frosting, s'mores cupcake, a chocolate cupcake topped with marshmallow frosting complete with graham cracker crumbs, and a Twix cupcake, a chocolate cupcake topped with shortbread and caramel.

"We love to experiment and try new recipes," Khan said. "We are always open to take requests."

The chocolate cupcake with Nutella butter cream frosting can satisfy any chocolate-lover's sweet tooth.

The frosting is shockingly light and flavorful as the Nutella and butter cream form a sweet relationship sitting on the chocolate cake.

Other items on the menu include cheesecake bites for \$25/dozen, cookies in various flavors for \$6/dozen, cake pops with the buyer's choice of cake doused in frosting for \$1.25 each and assorted brownies for \$10/dozen.

Both bakers of Classy Confectionz have their own specialty they bring to the dessert business.



Fatima Hussain, left, and Laila Khan, right, sample their cupcake creations for their business, Classy Confectionz, in Santa Clara. Photo by Sierra Duren / Spartan Daily



Top: Chocolate cupcakes with hazelnut icing and chocolate sprinkles Right: Fatima Hussain gently pries cupcakes from the pan to avoid ripping the tops. Hussain and Laila Khan's business, Classy Confectionz, specializes in baked goods. Photos by Sierra Duren / Spartan Daily



Hussain specializes in making cheesecakes and chocolate-covered strawberries while Khan is the main decorator of cupcakes and cakes.

"I think I like making cheesecake because I especially

like to eat it," Hussain said as she and Khan giggled with one another.

Khan and Hussain said they have been friends long before they decided to pursue the dessert catering business.

"We've known each other for years," Hussain said. "We met at our mosque when we were children."

This dessert catering business has brought the two closer as friends, Khan said.

Hussain said her favorite part about catering is that it gives her an excuse to bake.

"I enjoy letting my family, friends and co-workers try out my desserts," Hussain said. "Experimenting with different ingredients gives Laila and I an opportunity to bake for those that use our catering service."

Hussain and Khan said they like baking out of their homes because they aren't limited to making the same recipes everyday, but instead able to make customized creations for buyers.

The time management between school, work and baking can sometimes get intertwined, especially if you have a paper and an order due the next day, said Hussain, who also works as a tutor at the SJSU Writing Center on campus.

"On Friday mornings, she'll bring stuff in for us to try," said Andrew Tucker, one of Hussain's co-workers. "She made cheesecake bites for our last meeting and I could have eaten the whole box, but I had to refrain."

Hussain said people have been supportive, which is encouraging for the business as a whole.

"They've been ordering from us when they have other options out there," she said.

Hussain and Khan said they hope to continue their love of baking and own a bakery of their own in the future.

"We put some of the money we save from the catering right now toward owning our own shop," Hussain said.

Classy Confectionz has a Mother's Day special — for \$10 you can choose four of out five items: Mini cupcakes, cheesecake bites, cake truffles, cookies and chocolate-covered strawberries.

"I've always loved baking and now I have someone to bake for," Hussain said. "It's a good feeling."

CMT MAINSTAGE
Presents

It's like your life, only funnier!

AVENUE
s c h o o l e d i t i o n

May 4-13

MONTGOMERY THEATER DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE

www.cmtsaj.org 408-792-4111



\$3 Off opening weekend
tickets with promo code
WHATTHEFUZZ
redeem online or over the phone

THIS WEEKEND!