

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL BLOWS AUDIENCE AWAY, Page 4

Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934



Monday, February 8, 2010

www.TheSpartanDaily.com

Volume 134, Issue 6

Students march for freedom



Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily

Oscar Battle, founder of the African American Faculty and Staff Association, leads citizens and students through the campus on the MLK Freedom March on Saturday afternoon.

Marketing not in university's plans

Ashley Finden
Staff Writer

SJSU doesn't incorporate marketing in their techniques to gain more applicants, as opposed to other colleges that give applicants incentives to apply, said a representative of SJSU admissions.

"CSU doesn't have any type of marketing incentive," said Deanna Gonzales, SJSU Interim Director of SJSU Undergraduate and Graduate admissions.

Gonzales said that SJSU doesn't need to use marketing at this point.

"I don't think there is a need when we're getting out there to high school campuses and college fairs and parents' night for students," she said.

SJSU visits with many campuses and counselors to get

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Rally commemorates Martin Luther King Jr.

Ashley Finden
Staff Writer

Representing civil rights and equality was a risk that would have caused the ultimate sacrifice 40 years ago, said the president of the SJSU African American Faculty and Staff Association.

"There would have been several people shot for being in this march," Oscar Battle said. "Your houses would have been bombed

last night or tonight because you were going to be in this march."

To commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. and the struggles he encountered, a Freedom March was held Saturday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, on South Fourth and San Fernando Streets, from noon until 2 p.m.

"It's not a black theme, it's an American theme," Battle said.

Battle hosted the march that had more than 100 people in attendance for what he said were three reasons.

"Number one, it gives people a chance to physically get to-

gether, various races and ethnic groups, to participate in raising issues in some of the things that King was concerned about," he said. "Secondly, the march gives people a chance to have your banners up and tell the world 'I'm for women's (liberation),' 'I'm for equality.' It gives the community a chance to see your issues.

"Third point about the march itself is that it gives (the speakers) a chance to be activated based upon what (they're) doing at the beginning of the speech,"

See **FREEDOM**, Page 3

Medical marijuana debate continues

Andrew Martinez
Staff Writer

There was a call for action Jan. 27 at San Jose City Hall when advocates and critics of medicinal marijuana dispensaries assembled to encourage or dissuade an ordinance suggested by Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio that seeks to permit and tax medicinal marijuana dispensaries.

Marijuana for medical use is legal, according to the text of Proposition 215.

Proposition 215 passed with voter approval in 1996 and called for the legalization of the use of medicinal marijuana with 56

percent of the voters in favor. Santa Clara County supported this proposition with 64 percent. The California Legislature has since passed California Senate Bill 420, dealing with the implementation of medicinal marijuana, according to Oliverio's blog.

In October 2009, Oliverio submitted a memo to the city supporting an ordinance that allows the city to issue a permit to tax medicinal marijuana dispensaries, according to Oliverio's blog.

Oliverio suggested that the city refer to and emulate the existing ordinances of surrounding cities with some exceptions that

include the use of industrial land as the primary area for the cultivation of medicinal marijuana as well as a limit on the number of dispensaries within the city, according to the memo.

Oliverio also proposed a "cannabis business tax" with a minimum of 3 percent, a permit application fee of \$10,000 and \$1,000 fine for any unlawful sale of medicinal marijuana by patient or personnel for any other use outside of the intended, according to the memo.

At the heart of the debate surrounding this issue are belief

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'Civil Rights Resource Faire' enlightens locals of history

Daniel Herberholz
Staff Writer

Groups interested in human rights gathered in the King Library on Saturday morning as part of the Civil Rights Resource Faire, part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.

Event coordinator Deborah Estreicher said the faire, which took place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., was meant to give agencies for promotion of civil rights a place to share information with the general public.

"The faire is designed to let people know who to talk to if they have an issue (related to rights)," said Estreicher, who has organized the event for all four years of its existence.

Estreicher said she is also the coordinator for the library's Families For Literacy program, a part of the library's adult literacy advocate, called Partners in Reading.

The faire was coupled with a Freedom March, which began at noon, Saturday in the library lobby, Estreicher said.

"Having the Freedom March (here) is a wonderful springboard for bringing together groups interested in civil rights," said Judy Klikun, Partners in Reading manager.

Klikun said that the National Assessment of Adult Literacy counted 45 percent of Santa Clara County having "some sort of literacy issues."

Being able to read is a basic need for people to know they are getting their civil rights, she said.

Many other organizations were there to promote the value of giving information about civil rights to the public, Estreicher said.

"When people run into issues, they don't know they can do one thing or another," said Anne Henry, a volunteer with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Henry said the faire made it easier to tell

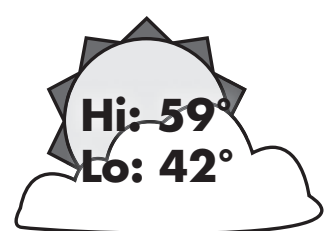
See **RIGHTS**, Page 2



Kibiwot Limo / Spartan Daily

Henry Cage Sr. speaks about the movement at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Saturday.

Weather



T	W
Hi: 55° Lo: 38°	Hi: 56° Lo: 42°

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Audio Slideshow: Freedom March commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Slideshow: Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" bursts in color and movement

News: 'Coffee for Albert,' an all-week breakfast event, looks to support alum's children after his death

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Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily

See www.spartandailyphoto.com

Car theft concerns campus police

Kristen Pearson
Staff Writer

The University Police Department has recorded an increase in vehicle thefts from the school garages this month, according to an e-mail from William Coker, interim chief of UPD.

"In January, there were three cars stolen," said Sgt. John Laws of the UPD. "Two were stolen from the Fourth Street garage, and one was stolen from the 10th Street garage."

Senior sociology major Ben Ingram said he's not surprised that there are car thefts in the campus garages.

"Desperate times call for desperate measures," he said. "My friend had his car stolen during winter session. Sucks for him."

The cars stolen have been early model Honda vehicles and it is unknown whether the thefts are related, Coker stated in an e-mail.

Senior art major Brian Estill said he doesn't know why the thefts might be happening, but it's probably because the cars are easy to steal.

"Even as a non-driver, I feel bad that this is happening, even for the people whose cars are getting broken into," he said.

Laws said the cars are usually older models.

"These cars are stolen more often because they tend to be easy to break into and easy to start," he said.

Sophomore dance major Amanda Lacro said people



Thomas Webb / Contributing photographer

A Honda sits in Fourth Street garage. Thefts have risen with less students on campus in the evenings.

think they can get away with stealing and don't care about the consequences.

"I don't feel safe, and it's sad when you don't feel safe where you live," she said. "I'm scared, and I don't want anything to happen."

Lacro said she does a lot of things to protect her car and herself.

Talking on the phone when walking alone helps, she said.

"The escorts take too long when you call for them," Lacro said. "They don't get to you fast enough, so you could be standing there waiting for 15 to 20 minutes. A lot could happen in 15 to 20 minutes. It would be good to spread the word, and

spread tips from the police. Knowledge is power."

To prevent vehicle thefts from occurring, some tips are: always lock your vehicle and make sure valuables left inside are out of view, Coker stated in an e-mail.

Use vehicle theft deterrent devices like "the Club" or car alarms if you have them and be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious persons tampering with vehicles or loitering in the garages immediately, Coker stated.

In an emergency, call 911 from any campus phone or pay phone or pick up a Blue Light phone on all garage floors and program (408) 924-2222 into

your cell phone to call UPD directly, Coker stated.

"Be on the lookout for anyone that doesn't look like they belong in a car," Laws said. "They would be driving into garages, getting out of their cars, and entering a different car."

Ingram said he'd be willing to help the university police out by not committing crime on campus.

Estill said that a bystander informed his roommate that his car was being broken into.

The bystander, who was on his cell phone during the break-in, did nothing, Estill said.

"If I saw a car being stolen or broken into, I would at least call the police," he said.

APPLY

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its name out, Gonzales said.

Some students apply to SJSU because of its location.

"I applied to San Jose State and Santa Clara University just cause they're local and I was wanting to go to a local school that was higher than a J.C. (junior college) that I could actually stay home for," said James Guinnane, a senior at Branham high school.

If anything, reasons why to apply to SJSU need to be promoted, but can be answered by many of its students, Gonzales said.

Job opportunities and name recognition in the Silicon Valley are good reasons why to attend SJSU, as well as being in an urban setting but not a huge city, she said.

"It's local and central to peoples homes," Gonzales said.

Jeannette Penyacsek, a senior child development major, said she didn't apply to San Francisco State because it was too far from where she lived.

"(SJSU) was the closest one to my house," Penyacsek said.

Marketing techniques would not have a made a difference to Penyacsek, she said, because SJSU was close to her home and she didn't want to attend a school further away such as San Francisco.

Mitchell Williams, a senior business management major, thinks that marketing is a good

tactic for universities to use.

"It's better once you get the little buzz in the kids ears cause I didn't have that, at least about (SJSU)," Williams said.

SJSU's application system has a requirement to be considered for acceptance, including transfers, according to the pamphlet "Admissions 101: How to apply to San Jose State University, and keep track of your admission."

"I think they should market because they can draw more attention to the applicants which may encourage their decision so that they choose this university over others," said Rahul Nadkarni, a freshman biological science major.

Nadkarni said he felt that the application process was a little tedious.

Guinnane said he thought that the application process to SJSU was easy.

"The hardest part was actually trying to pick out what college to go to," Guinnane said.

"I was pretty late in applying so I kind of (applied) last minute. I had a friend in administrations," Williams said. "Actually, I didn't know anything about the school."

For freshmen and transfers to be eligible to apply, there is criteria that must be met, according to the admissions pamphlet, which is available at the Student Service Center.

"There's a process that the student applies, it comes in electronically," Gonzales said. "There's basically a blind review as long as long as the applica-

tion goes through to the process and the student meets the criteria set up in the system."

Gonzales said the electronic nature of the application process means she does not physically look at the application, and that applicants will be accepted if they meet the CSU requirements.

"As long as the student is eligible based on CSU eligibility and they're a California resident, students will be admitted," Gonzales said.

Jennifer Halas, a guidance counselor at Branham high school, said she is satisfied with

APPLICATION PROCESS

The actual application process has four steps, according to "Admission 101:"

Step 1. Apply to SJSU at www.csumentor.edu

Step 2. 5 – 7 business days after applying, go to <https://futurestudent.sjsu.edu> to receive information to gain access to MySJSU.

Step 3. Activate MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu>

Step 4. Frequently check MySJSU for messages and notices.

After that, it is time to wait.

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Gonzales said the electronic nature of the application process means she does not physically look at the application, and that applicants will be accepted if they meet the CSU requirements.

"As long as the student is eligible based on CSU eligibility and they're a California resident, students will be admitted," Gonzales said.

Jennifer Halas, a guidance counselor at Branham high school, said she is satisfied with

everyone," said Nguyen, a senior history major.

The center gained her attention by making a presentation in one of her classes, she said, which shows how important it is to spread awareness about the budget.

Other organizations there include the Arab American Cultural Center, Asian Law Alliance and the Citizen Commission for Human Rights.

Klikun said that this faire had a larger crowd than in previous years.

Poetry series showcase talented students

MOSAIC center aims to end violence

Hannah Keirns
Staff Writer

The Market Cafe provided an intimate backdrop Thursday for students to showcase their creativity through poetry, short fiction, storytelling, improvisation and music for an audience of 60 during the MOSAIC WORD! Poetry Series.

"There is a lot of talent on this campus," said Jose Lopez, MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center intern and a graduate student in philosophy, at the start of the event. "Tonight we want to create a safe space to set the condition for the possibility of artistic expression at SJSU."

MOSAIC stands for Multicultural Opportunities and Student Awareness In Different Cultures, according to the center's Web site.

Lopez said MOSAIC's mission is to support and advocate for historically underrepresented groups through leadership opportunities and intentional programming focused on diversity, equity, social justice and cultural empowerment for the SJSU community.

"I brought the WORD! Poetry Series to MOSAIC three years ago," Lopez said. "It's an informal education for students

who don't learn about social and cultural differences."

Thursday's WORD! Poetry Series was headlined by 15 impromptu individuals who felt inspired to sign-up and perform at the event.

"Poetry is the device to better myself, to love myself freely," said sophomore sociology major Sandra Huerta during her poetry performance. "My tongue is my brush, my thoughts are my colors and this is my Sistine Chapel."

Huerta, who performed during MOSAIC's WORD! Poetry Series last semester, said she would encourage her peers to "be the change you want to see."

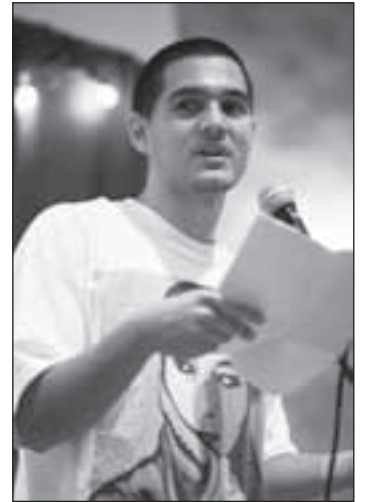
Fernando Marquez, a senior political science major, presented a timely and retrospective rap/spoken word piece titled "2009, a year in review," where he "personalized the news" by highlighting historically and politically poignant events over celebrity gossip news.

When asked to pick his top 2009 events after his performance, Marquez spoke on the "overlooked" U.S. drone attacks on Pakistani villages and the appointment of President Barack Obama.

"I was at the inauguration," Marquez said. "But public opinion has changed and views have toned down. Perhaps Obama didn't deliver hope and everything he promised in his campaign. People should now take the time to go back and reflect. We will see what 2010 has in store."

Thursday's WORD! Poetry Series was co-hosted by Denisse Mendez who promoted SJSU students' participation in the V-Day 2010 College Campaign through a benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" that is scheduled to premiere at Morris Dailey Auditorium on Thursday, March 4 at 8:00 p.m. and will continue on Friday, March 5 with two show times at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

At the Poetry Series, Mendez said that all proceeds of the student production will benefit women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as



Hannah Keirns / Spartan Daily

Fernando Marquez, a senior political science major, performs his rap/spoken word piece, "2009, a year in review," during the MOSAIC WORD! Poetry Word Series at Market Cafe on Thursday.

well as local nonprofit organizations including the Young Women's Christian Association and the Asian Women's Home.

Mendez and her "vagina crew" of student actors proudly adorned a wall of the Market Cafe with ornamented speculums and shirts that celebrated the upcoming benefit performance and its cause.

The self-proclaimed troupe of "vagina warriors" also hosted a series of chocolate chip muffin-eating contests for enthusiastic

and supportive audience members.

According to V-Day's official Web site, "The Vagina Monologues" is an episodic play by performer and activist Eve Ensler that is based on in-

terviews with more than 200 women and celebrates women's sexuality and strength with humor and grace.

"Just as the WORD! Poetry Series gives students the opportunity to voice their opinion on campus, V-Day, and in particular, 'The Vagina Monologues,' gives a voice to women all around the world who are not heard," said Fiza Najeeb, SJSU V-Day campaign coordinator and student intern at the Women's Resource Center. "It wasn't until I got involved with organizing V-Day that I learned in-depth about the sexual terrorism inflicted upon women, children and even men."

V-Day is a global movement founded by Ensler to end violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery) against women and girls where the "V" in V-Day stands for victory, valentine and vagina, according to the V-Day Web site.

"There are two reasons to go to the benefit," said senior psychology major Raisa Garcia. "One, to show your appreciation for women. And two, to break the statistics of violence against them by raising money toward organizations that are fighting for women."

A promotional handbill at Thursday's WORD! Poetry Series stated that tickets for "The Vagina Monologues" benefit performance will be available for purchase at \$8 for students and \$10 for general admission through the SJSU Event Center box office or via Ticketmaster.

"The event was off the hook," said Vy Nguyen, a freshman social work major, who came to the WORD! Poetry Series Thursday night in support of her friend Erik Aguas. "In general, the night was about giving back. I believe in being out there and helping ... step up even if it's not affecting you."

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people where they can go to get help meeting with lawyers and legislators.

Archie Moore, San Jose NAACP representative and Vietnam War veteran, said his organization's purpose at the faire was not only to give information to African-Americans.

"We're trying to get people

of other cultures involved," Moore said. "We'd also like to start a branch on campus."

Several immigration services were on hand, including the Services, Immigrants Rights and Education Network and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

SIREN representative Francisco Alvarado said SIREN is a nonprofit organization that tries to get people "engaged in citizenship."

Alvarado said the best part of being at the faire was that

one issue is everyone's issue.

Alvarado, who earned a degree in justice studies at SJSU in 2008, pointed to SIREN's immigration update text campaign and its postcard campaign to President Obama "to keep him accountable."

Volunteer Nancy Nguyen said the San Jose Peace and Justice Center focuses on stopping the war and fixing the budget crisis.

"I believe that because SJSU is a commuter school, (budget) awareness was not brought to

FREEDOM

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Battle said. "It gives you a chance to be philosophically grounded ... it gives a chance to be regrounded."

Lisa Perez, a junior behavioral science major, said she attended the march so her children could experience what it feels like to stand for something.

"To me it represents equal rights, a lot of us go through different things ... it just stands for that we're not going to be quiet about it, that we're actually going to stand up for something we believe in," she said. "We have a right to be equal."

Sophomore kinesiology major Sara Cortez said her freedom means equality for all.

Khaira Mohmand, who is from Afghanistan, is a 15-year-old high school student from University Preparatory Academy and was one of the speakers to begin the march.

While standing at the microphone with marchers surrounding her, Mohmand asked her audience members, with her voice shaking and tears

hesitantly falling down her cheeks, to hold their neighbor's hand and then look at one another and say "I love you," to show that love will always persevere.

Rain poured while the marchers held banners and signs representing what they stood for.

Throughout the march Battle yelled into his loudspeaker "I have a dream," and marchers would shout out "We are the dream."

"Who controls your future?" Battle asked, the marchers replied with "We control our future!"

Marching through SJSU and toward the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch in front of the A.S. Print Shop, Battle has the marchers stop walking and reminds them of what Chavez stood for and that without farmers, there would be no food.

"Those are the basic necessities of life that we need to pay tribute to," he said.

Battle said the significance of the Freedom March was the potential sacrifice people were asked to make in the early days of the civil rights movement.

"It wasn't just the time peo-

ple put into the march, but the sacrifices they made known if they contribute, they may lose their lives," he said.

After paying their respects at the arch, Battle led the marchers to the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue continuing to call out, "I have a dream" followed by the response, "We are the dream."

The two Olympic winners could have simply received their medals and walked away, but Carlos and Smith wanted to make civil rights known, Battle said.

The last stop ended where the speeches and the march began, at the King Library.

"I think it's important to hold these kind of occasions, to at least keep (African-Americans in mind)," said a junior pre-nursing major Loree Eduvala.

Battle said some people may say that King was just about black issues, but said look at King's behavior would reveal that he stood for freedom and justice for all and building relationships with everyone.

"We may look different, we may feel different, our injuries are different, but we're all American," he said.

CAMPUSIMAGE



Stefan Armijo / Spartan Daily

The Yellow River Drummers perform the opening act of the CNetwork 2010 Chinese New Year Gala, which took place in the Student Union on Saturday.

POT

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systems, said political science lecturer Fred Keeley.

"What are the community values?" he said. "They're gonna be different in the people's republic of Santa Cruz than in the city of Orange. That's why we have local government making local land use decisions."

Keeley said that while one person might see it as a criminal issue, another might see it as a health issue, prohibition issue or freedom issue.

"There's a lot of ways to see this issue," he said. "And they all are going to be manifested in a set of land use regulations."

The right way to go on this in terms of public policy is to recognize the legitimacy of the variety of points of view, because every point of view is trying to predict what the impact will be, Keeley said.

"A lot of the debate is predictive," he said. "It is based on 'if you do this, I believe it will cause that.'"

Lauren Vazquez, an attorney and director of the Silicon Valley chapter of Americans for Safe Access, said she is surprised at

the lack of support for medical cannabis patients in the South Bay. Many patients travel to Oakland or Santa Cruz to access medicinal marijuana.

"Patients are going to get their medicine no matter what," Vazquez said. "They're either going to travel to other cities and take their tax dollars there, or they're going to patron the black market, and I don't think anyone in San Jose wants to help drug dealers profit."

Dispensaries would be providing a safe outlet for patients to receive their medicine, she said.

"Patients don't want to meet strangers in dark places and

not all patients have the capacity to grow their own medicine," Vazquez said.

She said the city also benefits because it reduces crime and increases tax revenue.

The proposed 3 percent special business tax would apply to the gross receipts of the sale of medicinal cannabis, according to Oliverio's memo.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy are an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact of drug abuse and seek to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies, according to the group's Web site.

The organization's SJSU chapter is looking forward to influencing and educating the San Jose City Council, said chapter President Kraig Negrete.

"We're really hoping to get a lot of patients from San Jose State to come together for this issue," said Negrete, a senior behavioral science and psychology double major. "It gives us an opportunity to get involved locally."

He said that what worries people most are where the dispensaries are located, and said he wants to help bring successfully regulated models to San Jose.

"People need access to their medicine," Negrete said. "If we can do that locally, it would be a really good thing."

Keeley said that he would suggest that the city council make careful, thoughtful, respectful and incremental decisions, and if the voters decide to expand legalization, then the local governments can act in a corresponding way.

"There's a lot of beliefs out there," he said. "Maybe the most careful way is not to try to, in essence, pick winners and losers in the belief system argument beyond the boundaries of where the public policy is now."

EVOKE CHANGE

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From:
Associated Students (Scheller House)
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Application Packets are available beginning **Wednesday, February 3**

Completed application packets are due back to Student Involvement (Suite 140, Clark Hall) by **5pm on Monday, March 1, 2010.** Submissions will only be accepted via paper copy and in person by the candidate.

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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

Questions?
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'Cirque' rolls the right way



Andrew Martinez
Staff Writer

View an online
slideshow of
Cirque Du Soleil

at theSpartanDaily.com

The wind and rain that sprinkled San Jose on Wednesday did not stop folks from gathering under Cirque Du Soleil's signature blue-and-yellow big-top tent for the San Jose preview of its newest show "OVO."

The minute I entered the Cirque Du Soleil compound at the Taylor Street Bridge, everything was committed to the show's theme of the insect world.

Patrons with popcorn, champagne and Gerbera daisies entered the big top, called Le Grand Chapiteau and were greeted by the sounds of the insect world.

In the middle of the softly lit stage was a giant "ovo," which means egg in Portuguese.

"OVO" loosely revolves around a comical love story about a lonesome and curvaceous ladybug who is fascinated by a wayward fly, an interloper carrying an egg on his back.

The appearance of the fly and his egg fascinated the entire insect community and provoked an impressive demonstration of gibberish, the seemingly official language of the insects.

The show began with the soft and laid-back rhythms of a bossa nova played by a live orchestra.

This musical genre was referenced throughout the show and hearkened stridently to the essence of Deborah Colker, the writer, director and choreographer of "OVO," who is a native of Brazil.

The music was lively and made me feel as though I were at "Carnaval," an annual festival in Brazil.

The assortment of insects reflected the biodiversity of an ecosystem. The insects in "OVO" flew, crawled, contorted and climbed across the stadium-style venue.

"OVO" featured a cavalcade of jaw-

dropping performances from each insect group.

The team of red ants were brilliant as kiwi-corn-and-self-juggling dynamos.

Lying on their backs and using their legs, the ants spun and tossed kiwi and corn in perfect synchronization.

The pièce de résistance happened when they alternatively juggled one another, tossing bodies into the air while simultaneously spinning discs on their feet.

The butterflies of "OVO" were breathtaking. Prefaced by a luscious solo, a female performer wrapped in silks quietly captivated the audience.

Her languid solo incarnation of a butterfly emerging from its cocoon transitioned into a male-female duet of ballet, contortion and aerial flying.

The flying trapeze featured an all-male group of soaring scarabs, a type of beetle.

Launching from both edges of the net, the scarabs would twirl and land confidently on a platform in the middle.

The audience hardly seemed to breathe as they concentrated on the fearlessness of the six flyers careening 14 meters off the ground.



Photo by Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily
Cirque du Soleil performers debut their act in San Jose on Feb. 4 at the Taylor Street Bridge.

The second act featured a contortion act, one of Cirque Du Soleil's more classic disciplines. A spider web that sprawled across the stage was home to three very flexible female spiders.

Part dance, part contortion act, the spiders wove through the web, ultimately capturing a group of male crickets. It was magical.

The transition from the back-to-back physical feats of the first act to the continuation of the love story in act two resulted in an inevitable slowdown.

The first act was simply too stimulating for the second act to insert the love story between such high energy performances.

The master of ceremonies, known to the insects as the eccentric Master Flipo, facilitated the romance between the two lovers and had an amusing improvisational section with the audience.

Before the night was over, a male spider and his unicycle triumphed over a slackwire, an inverse of the tight rope, and the crickets and spiders united to tackle an eight-meter-tall vertical wall.

Although the love story seemed incidental to the program, any CGI-created film, even if viewed through 3-D lenses, is incomparable with the exquisiteness of "OVO's" live-action insect world.

New Mel Gibson film 'Edge of Darkness' not quite edgy



Marlon Maloney
Staff Writer

Mel Gibson made his return to the big screen, taking on his first lead acting role since "Signs" in 2002.

"Edge of Darkness," like several other hit Mel Gibson films, focused on the relentless pursuit for vengeance.

It's got the unspeakably helacious act that happens to a loved one, a moment of intense paternal sorrow, Mel's menacing stares and the vendetta that ensues.

There was too much story to

cram into the movie, as it was adapted from a six-episode BBC miniseries of the same name that debuted in 1985.

Anyone expecting an action-packed extravaganza will be sorely disappointed.

Action scenes were separated by long, irksome stretches filled with interrogations, reminiscent memories and strange run-ins with an unknown government entity.

Gibson played an old-time Boston detective named Thomas Craven.

Interestingly enough, the word "craven" is defined as cowardly, which is far from describing any character Gibson has ever portrayed.

The only family he appeared to have was his daughter Emma,

played by Bojana Novakovic.

The movie never made any mention of what happened to her mother.

Craven's complete loner status is signified by the opening of the film where he was shown having a flashback of himself raising his daughter.

These flashbacks continued throughout the movie during the portions where he was alone.

He was ecstatic when she came to visit him, but became concerned when she began to feel ill on the night of arrival.

At one point her nose began to bleed and she vomited, resulting in a trip to the hospital.

As they stepped outside to leave, a masked man emerged from a vehicle, yelled "Craven," and fired off a shotgun round

that ripped a hole through Emma's chest.

Everyone naturally assumed that the wrong target was hit and that instead Thomas was the mark of some disgruntled criminal.

Because it's believed that Thomas was the target, he was allowed to take the case rather than have the usual leave of absence that is required for crimes involving a family member.

Emma worked for a research and development company contracted by the government to work on top-secret projects as "a glorified intern," in her own words.

As a result, everything she did there was top secret.

As Craven goes about his investigation, he found that many

of Emma's friends and acquaintances fear for their lives.

It became clear that Emma was the intended target after a hostile interrogation with her boyfriend to whom he delivers the film's most memorable line, "You had better decide whether you're hangin' on the cross or bangin' on the nails."

Gibson still has the chops to be a leading man, but his 8-year absence left him decidedly less intense and likeable as in previous films.

The story leaves little mystery to the viewer as the unequivocal culprit for Emma's murder was evident almost the moment we met him.

After the two met, one could just sit and wait to find out why Emma was targeted and how

Craven plans to go about avenging her death.

The more the interrogations dragged on, the more inane they seemed to become.

The cast was what kept the film intriguing, especially the role of Jedburgh, played by Ray Winstone.

Jedburgh's mysterious motives left viewers wondering until the very end.

One never really knew who he worked for, what his intentions were or what kind of person he is until the very end.

Viewers could tell that he was even more alone than Craven.

The pace of the movie crawls at a lumbering rate rather than the intense, fast pace that is typically expected of a crime-thriller film.

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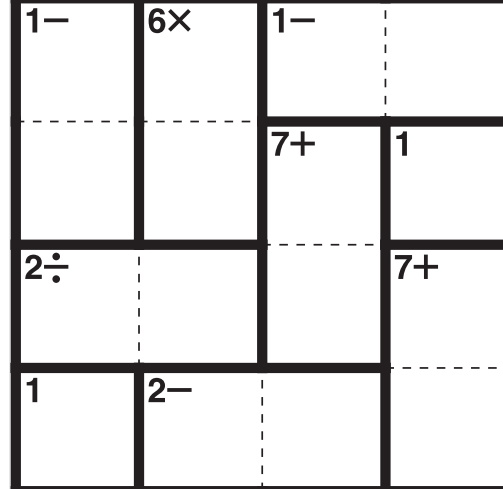
Rules for KenKen

- 1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
- 2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- 3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

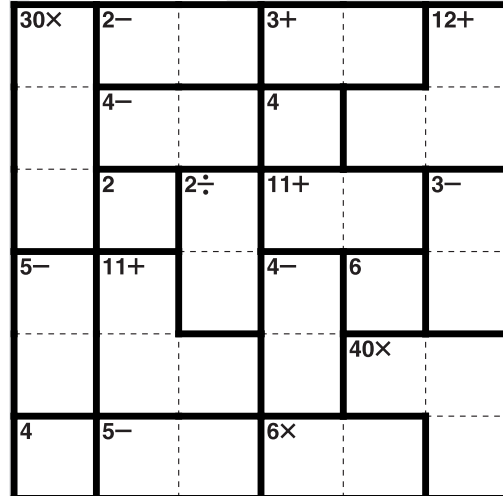
To our puzzle aficionados:
Our sincerest apologies for last Thursday's production error.
- Spartan Daily

KEN KEN

EASY



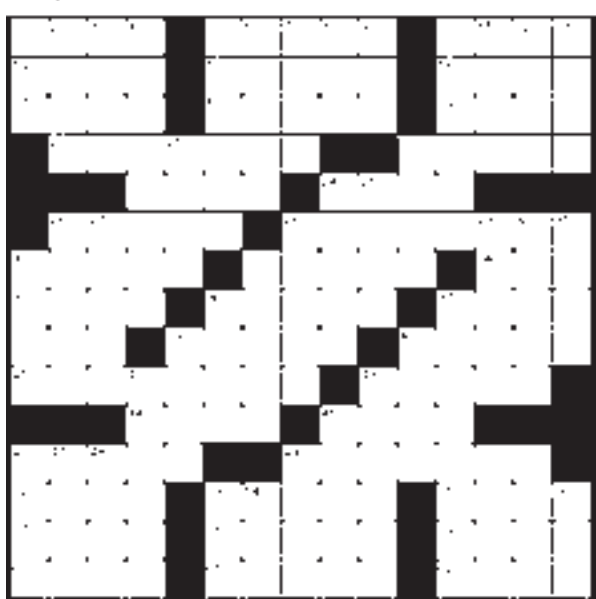
CHALLENGING



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ACROSS
1. Fancy apartment
4. Ocean lark
12. Ocean lark
14. Dazzling
15. Slyly malicious
16. ... appear
17. Sheeps' waiting
18. Resistant
19. Aerial display
20. Marshy region
21. Wading bird
22. Member of bird
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED
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The least interesting Sunday of the year The Super Bowl should be a national holiday, damn it

The Monday-morning quarterback should be in full stride today, and I can't see myself participating in some inane conversation about who did what in the big game yesterday.

I've grown more bored with American football for years now.

I can remember watching football during my youth and caring about players, stats and scores.

I was like that when it came to baseball season, too.

But I cared more for baseball, as I played it from age 7 to 16.

As I grew older, and I witnessed classmates become further and further entrenched in and defined by what football team they liked, I began to feel different about things.

My life wasn't defined by any sports team or player.

My life was defined by what band I was listening to, what concert I was planning on attending next and when I was going to jam with my band.

This is where football, and sports in general, began to leave my life and music became my world.

Don't get me wrong, I don't really follow sports, but that doesn't mean I don't care about how the A's or the Sharks are doing. I enjoy watching baseball and hockey with my friends and am open to going to a game if I have the time and money.

The exact opposite is true about football. I don't care how the Raiders or 49ers are doing. I've never been to a football game and don't plan on going to one anytime soon.



Kevin Hume
Staff Writer

to be nice and make small talk. I could go out of my way and try to have a discussion with the guy and ask him what went on in the game.

But I like being different. I'm glad I don't waste my time watching sports shows, with their smarmy hosts, hacks for announcers and former players or coaches providing analysis that anyone else could give.

This is where football, and sports in general, began to leave my life and music became my world.

I'm glad I don't live or die with a team's performance.

I'm glad I'm not always wishing it was football season. I wouldn't say a lot in me has changed, but football has moved out of my life, possibly for good.

You know, it always seems like crappy American beer and football go hand in hand.

Give me a real beer and an amazing album, and I'm set. My life is pretty good without football in it. I'm sure I'm not the only guy who feels this way.

Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving are great holidays, but they're nothing compared to my favorite holiday.

Super Sunday. On Super Bowl Sunday, I feel like a child on Christmas morning, opening my presents and expecting a shiny new green Power Ranger but ending up with a sweater that could make a porcupine itch.

That's because I have to deal with avoiding my work shift like it's H1N1.

I mean, why can't President Obama just issue an executive order and make it a national holiday?

It's not like Obama was pouring over health care bills yesterday. He probably had a "beer summit" in the Oval Office wondering when the Chicago Bears will win once again.

While I was working on Saturday, in the entertaining industry of retail, my co-workers and I couldn't stop talking about the big game.

We stopped talking about how much products cost and started talking about how expensive Super Bowl commercials are.

Driving through my neighborhood yesterday, the only people I saw outside were people on their way to someone's house for a Super Bowl party.

So why isn't the Super Bowl a national holiday? Why can't I make my annual pilgrimage to a couch with a



Husain Sumra
Husain in the Membrane

money into the economy.

Plus, because people watched all those fancy commercials, I'm sure millions of people would go purchase new services and products the day after.

We could call it "Pigskin Day."

Retailers would go crazy advertising special deals happening on the day after the Super Bowl.

Sure, that would mean more work for me, but it's for the greater good.

They could mention a tie-in with Valentine's Day, creating a smorgasbord of awesome, corporation-driven holidays ready to burn through the wallets of millions of people.

Oh, and there's the little thing about the actual game.

What if Obama were to invite foreign leaders over to the White House, or most likely Camp David, to celebrate?

I'd rather not read about Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown complaining yearly about American football being a barbaric sport, but it would be worth it if Obama and his boys decided to play a pickup game at the Washington Monument afterward.

The best part of all would be that I can relax and watch the Super Bowl every year without worrying about working.

For now, I'll just enjoy my leftover nachos.

"Husain in the Membrane," appears biweekly on Mondays. Husain Sumra is the Spartan Daily managing editor.

Bad news, bad books, bad business

It has occurred to me there is a comprehensive lack of customer service and general ethics in the capitalist nation that is the United States.

Crooked bankers? Ridiculous economic legislation? Please! I didn't need to head to Wall Street or Washington to seek scandal.

Allow me to illustrate a recent brush with poor ethical behavior at my neighborhood Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

On occasion, I've been known to have quiet Friday evenings to myself, and on said evenings I might make my way over to Barnes & Noble to buy the weekend issue of the USA Today — newspaper snobs roll eyes here. Barnes & Noble keeps this newspaper behind the counter.

So Friday night, I entered the store and went directly to the counter to make my purchase. When the sales lady retrieved the paper, I considered having a look around the store.

I mean, I had the time. "May I browse the store first?" I



Andrew Martinez
Staff Writer

asked as I was given the newspaper. "Absolutely," said the female staff person with a smile.

When I went to pay for the newspaper, I was beckoned to pay at a different register than the previous one where I had picked up the paper.

When I handed the cashier the newspaper he asked, "Where did you get this?"

"From behind the counter," I replied.

Without skipping a beat, he walked directly over to the female staff person and, from what I could

hear, reprimanded her for what I assume was allowing me to have the paper without first paying for it.

He returned, I paid and then proceeded to experience a succession of emotions.

I felt responsible for the lady's rebuke.

Then I felt embarrassed, and shortly after, I got angry.

One should never reprimand an employee in public.

The lady was in the process of providing me excellent customer service and apparently the manager did not value that. Instead, he chose to rob her of her dignity and victimize me, an observer and innocent party.

I don't use this term cavalierly — I was victimized. This was a scene I did not need to see and one I will remember in perpetuity.

The next morning, after I tried to enjoy my tainted newspaper, I decided to voice my dissatisfaction in a heated e-mail to the Barnes & Noble customer service Web site. I relayed that not only had they ruined my

consumer experience, but they also ruined my USA Today newspaper — again, newspaper snobs laugh here.

I told them that what we have here is unprofitable behavior. These are lean times for consumers as well as businesses. Millions of Americans are unemployed and great companies are struggling. The working and middle classes are returning to meeting their basic needs, and these needs don't include being subjected to unprofessional business behavior.

With the e-reader making progress, it will not do good for the mammoth book retailer to continue this demonstration in poor ethics.

Though my boycott of this particular Barnes & Noble may be unnoticed, I hope my call for better treatment of staff and patrons will be received.

Remember, even as students we are consumers.

Voicing your dissatisfaction is as important to our floundering university as it was to my encounter with Barnes & Noble.

Letter to the Editor

This letter is a response to 'Skipping the pill' that appeared on Jan. 28.

I really enjoyed Michelle Gachet's honesty with her piece on the contraceptive pill. Publishing such personal stories makes The Spartan Daily an interesting read for the students.

Many females are too embarrassed to reveal the symptoms they feel as a result of taking the pill and sadly, some do not even know that these symptoms can be attributed to this form of birth control.

I would have liked Gachet to have explored other options, besides the contraceptive pill, for those interested in changing their current methods or starting a method of birth control. Thank you.

Korin Harvey

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San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192-0149
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Melissa Sabile / Spartan Daily
Jessica Khoshnood warms up on beam prior to SJSU's quad meet on Sunday. The team came in fourth place with a score of 192.8. The Spartans are now 4-6 this season, and return to competition on Friday at 7 p.m.

Gymnastics team struggles

Melissa Sabile
Staff Writer

The Spartan Gymnastics team had a rough afternoon, finishing fourth at the quad meet against Sacramento State, Washington and Stanford at Stanford's home gym Sunday. Starting off the rotations on beam, the Spartans showed that they still have a lot of room for improvement, suffering two falls and scoring a team score of 47.175 for fourth place on the event. "We need to step it up on beam," head coach Wayne Wright said. "Beam in itself is a hard event. It can make or

break teams, and it's definitely held us back a little bit." Junior Katie Jo Merrit started off the event for the Spartans, scoring a 9.45, followed by Lily Swann who scored a 9.65, and then Jessica Khoshnood with a 9.575. Thomasina Wallace tied with Swann's beam score of 9.65. Holly Partridge finished off the event with an 8.85, having a fall on her mount. "We need someone who can compete beam," assistant coach Shella Martinez said. "We need consistency." At the second rotation, the Spartans had their highest score of the season on floor, re-

ceiving a team score of 48.825, placing second on the event. Tiffany Louie and Wallace led the team with a 9.80 each, followed closely by Swann, who scored a 9.775, and Gabby Tar-gosz with a 9.750. After floor came vault for the third rotation, where the team was aiming for a group score in the high 48 range, Wright said. Swann led the Spartans again with a 9.725, and close behind her was Merrit with a 9.70 and Aubrey Lee with a 9.60. Louie and Casey McCord each scored a 9.550 on the event, contributing to the team's score.

SJSU Football incoming class

Player	Position	Rivals.com ranking (five star max)
Sean Bacon	Defensive End	★★★
Keith Bendixen	Offensive Line	★★
Bene Bewikere	Defensive Back	★★★
Vince Buhagiar	Defensive End	★★
Jabari Carr	Wide Receiver	★★
Matt Faulkner	Quarterback	★★★
Rashad Gayden	Linebacker	★★
Forrest Hightower	Runningback	★★★
Marcus Howard	Tight End	★★
Blake Jurich	Quarterback	★★
Nick Kaspar	Offensive Line	★★
Akeem King	Wide Receiver	★★
Sean Linton	Wide Receiver	★★
Cedric Lousi	Defensive End	★★
Ahkeem McKinney	Defensive End	★★
Andrew Moeaki	Defensive Tackle	★★
Derek Muaava	Runningback	★★
Kyle Nunn	Wide Receiver	★★★

Source: Rivals.com

"The girls didn't reach their team goal on vault, but they weren't too far from it," Wright said. They placed fourth on the vault with a team score of 48.125. The Spartans then moved to bars where Wallace once again led the team with a 9.80. Swann's score of a 9.775 helped add to the team's total of 48.675 for third. Trailing behind were Khoshnood with a 9.725, Merrit with a 9.70 and Alyssa Telles-Nolan with a 9.675. Overall, Stanford took first with a 196.950, Washington scored second with a 194.075, and Sacramento State came

in third with a 193.225. The Spartans ended the meet with a team score of 192.8, just five-tenths lower than their previous meet last Saturday. "Ultimately, we did better," Wright said. "I'm always happy when we do well and we keep getting better every week. There's still a lot of room for improvement on each event." He said what the team needs is confidence on beam. The gymnasts' team mantra is "C3," standing for consistently committed and confident. "Consistently committed and confident inside and outside the gym," Louie said. "Picking our priorities, like

school and gym, versus hanging out with friends or going to parties. And being confident inside the gym in practice and when we compete." For Wright, the main goal is for the Spartans to stay in the top 36 so they can continue on in the postseason and progress to regionals. "Floor was the highest of the season, our bar group is doing well, vault is OK," Wright said. "For now, we will go back into the gym, regroup, and see what we can do to make it better." The Spartans compete again 7 p.m. Friday at the Spartan Gym.

Saints march home as Super Bowl champs

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — The ultimate underdogs, they ain't. Not anymore. The Saints are Super Bowl champions now. Who Dat? Try Drew Brees, Sean Payton and a team that has reversed its embarrassing past, carrying an entire city to the top with it. Put away those paper bags forever. Brees and the Saints rallied to upset Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 Sunday night in one of pro football's most thrilling title games. "We just believed in ourselves and we knew that we had an entire city and maybe an entire country behind us," said Brees, the game's MVP. "What can I say? I tried to imagine what this moment would be like for a long time, and it's better than expected." But not something many expected from these descendants of the hapless Aints, who were 5-point underdogs. "Four years ago who ever

thought this would be happening when 85 percent of the city was under water from (Hurricane) Katrina?" Brees said. "Most people not knowing if New Orleans would ever come back or if the organization and the team would come back. ... This is the culmination of that belief and that faith." Brees tied a Super Bowl record with 32 completions, the last a 2-yard slant to Jeremy Shockey for the winning points with 5:42 remaining. He was 32 for 39 for 288 yards. A surprise outside kick sparked the Saints' second-half comeback. Their 25th-ranked defense made several key stops, and Tracy Porter's 74-yard interception return on a pass from Manning clinched it. Manning tried to give chase, but was blocked by a New Orleans defender and fell awkwardly as the cornerback raced by. The four-time NFL MVP forlornly walked to the sideline as the Big Easy celebrations began.

"It's time for the Saints to celebrate," he said. "It's their field and it's their championship." An NFL also-ran for much of their 43 years, the Saints' football renaissance, led by Brees and Payton, climaxed with Shockey's touchdown and Lance Moore's 2-point conversion catch, originally ruled incomplete but overturned on Payton's challenge.

Porter's pick, just as dramatic as his interception of Brett Favre's pass to force overtime in the NFC title game, was the game's only turnover. It's one Manning will forever regret. The Saints (16-3) won three postseason games this winter after winning only two in the previous 42 years. They beat Arizona, Minnesota and Indianapolis (16-3) — all division winners — for their first title.

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