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Student gears up for racing career
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OPINION]

Don't take Zodiac signs too seriously
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Souls of Mischief CD review
Page 9

Living through tragedy



[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

Diana Marks, who suffers from bipolar disorder, has experienced many tragedies in her life. Despite all that has happened, she holds her head up high, living her life day by day. See photo story on Page 6.

Furloughs to continue next semester

By **Samantha Rivera**
Staff Writer

Those who have come to love or loathe furlough days will need to endure them for one more semester.

Furlough days are days in which SJSU employees are required to take off without pay, according to SJSU's Web site.

"The furlough was set up to span fiscal year 2009-10," said Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU. "So yes, there will be furlough days in spring 2010."

The furlough program has been in effect since July 1, 2009, according to SJSU's Web site.

Harris said the furlough program is expected to save SJSU around \$18 million.

"If it saves money, then I

guess they're (furlough days) OK," said freshman nursing major Kelsey Ramirez. "I'm not affected by them."

In a presentation preceding a town hall meeting on Sept. 17, President Jon Whitmore let everyone know about the future of furlough days for SJSU, Harris said.

Whitmore said there are no plans within the California State University system or SJSU to extend furloughs for a second year, she said.

"The furloughs were established for a one year time frame only, and are planned to end on June 30, 2010," Whitmore said.

According to the SJSU Master Furlough Calendar for the 2009-10 year, there are a total of 26 furlough days for the whole year, and 11 of them occur dur-

ing the spring semester while school is in session.

Among those 11 furlough days are two campus-wide furlough days and one furlough day that is only for faculty.

Whitmore said any movement toward the possibility of having furlough days after next semester would have to begin with discussions at the CSU level with the individual unions.

"In other words, the unions would have to vote for and approve a second year of furloughs before any furlough extension could take place," Whitmore said.

Sophomore sociology major Natasha Bradley said she thinks furlough days made the classes more difficult.

"You had to jam pack, and it's 10 percent less of class time,"

Bradley said. "It's stressful on both the faculty and students and you pay more for less when that money could've gone to rent or something."

Bradley said if furlough days are extended for another semester or a second year, it will cause students to be in school longer.

"They want to try to get us out of here, but that will just make us take longer," she said.

Freshman nursing major Lhienett Dizon said she does not like furlough days.

She said she thinks furlough days result in paying more for less education and doubts that furlough days will not be extended.

"I think they'll (furlough days) still be around," Dizon said.

Joe West fires remain unsolved

By **Jon Xavier**
Senior Staff Writer

Joe West Hall has been hit by multiple fires this semester, including several that did not appear to be accidental, said a university spokesperson.

Now the University Police Department has opened an investigation on two of the fires, and SJSU is offering a \$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible, said Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU.

"I don't know how often we offer rewards," Harris said, "but the reward, and the amount — which is no small amount, I mean, it's almost half of (a student's) fees for one term — that is indicative of how concerned we are."

"Yeah, I don't know if any-

one's going to come forward," said Samuel Wilborn, a junior African American studies major. "You know, there's that whole 'don't snitch,' kind of thing. But I think it's a good thing. These people deserve to get caught and they should be punished."

The two fires under investigation occurred on Nov. 12 and Nov. 26 in Joe West Hall, said Sgt. Michael Santos of UPD, who is heading the investigation in cooperation with arson detectives from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Unlike most alarms the department gets, these two fires were clearly deliberate, Santos said.

"Usually, when there's a fire in the dorms, it's usually in a

See **FIRE**, Page 5

Alumna lives to tell tale about accident

By **Samantha Rivera**
Staff Writer

Jill Mason, an SJSU alumna, is someone who prided herself on having an active lifestyle. She said she was a triathlon athlete who would swim about four times a week, bike ride four times a week and run five times a week.

She said she was an average 20 year old who enjoyed parties and hanging out with friends.

On Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004, Mason's life was changed forever as she and her boyfriend, Alan Liu, were hit by a drunk driver at around 11:26 a.m., she said.

"I only know that it was

Easter Sunday because that's what people told me. I couldn't remember," Mason said.

Mason and Liu were training for Wildflower, an important triathlon in California held at Lake San Antonio, as they biked at about 30 miles per hour in the bike lane of Highway 12 in Santa Rosa, she said.

"I don't remember being hit," Mason said. "I know that the only reason the driver stopped was because he couldn't see out of his windshield since we had shattered it with our bodies."

Liu died at the scene, she said.

See **SURVIVOR**, Page 3

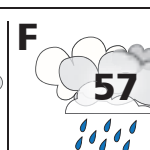
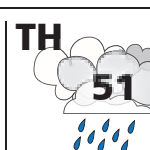
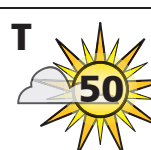


[Courtesy of the Jill Mason Web site]

Jill Mason was paralyzed in 2004 in an accident involving a drunk driver and now travels the country advocating against drunk driving.



Sagittarius



Air Force ROTC

AFROTC Online
Take an interactive
tour of the Air Force
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AFROTC Feature
Read the complete
feature online at
theSpartanDaily.com



[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

View the complete photo story by Dave Cabebe online at Spartandailyphoto.com.

Students find ways to relax before finals

By Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

Before students are allowed to enjoy the holidays, they have to endure the mental and physical strain of finals, which are usually cumulative or comprehensive exams that mark the end of a semester or quarter.

For students at Chapman University in Los Angeles, Calif., a company called Puppies & Reptiles for Parties has stationed Malteses, Pugs and Yorkies outside the university library so students can play with them to ease their stress, according to an article in a December issue of USA Today.

SJSU does not offer the same activity, but students are finding various ways to relax mentally and physically before finals.

Senior kinesiology major Demetrio Diaz said studying and remembering to take breaks makes him feel more prepared without feeling overwhelmed.

"After studying, though, I like to have a couple drinks at the bar and hang out with friends a little before the final," Diaz said. "Exercising also helps. I'm actually really into MMA and I try to lift a lot of weights at the gym because it gets out some aggression that I've been building up."

Timothy Nguyen, a junior behavioral science major, said he has 7:30 a.m. classes Monday through Thursday, so plan-

ning ahead helps him prepare and ease the stress of finals.

"What I do is I calculate the grades that I can possibly get from the classes first so I don't have to worry about it too much," he said. "You also got to make sure of what time your final starts, you want to check the traffic and you want to make sure you get here early, because that's just going to stress you out even more."

Nguyen said he is too busy to make it to the gym around finals week.

"Sometimes it seems like finals take up my exercise time, so I don't get to exercise that much," he said. "I just try to relax when I can. Studying takes a lot out of you."

Junior sociology major Manu Ngatikaura said eating is a large part in helping him relax before finals.

"I guess, for me, eating is one of my hobbies," he said. "When you're studying so much and you're overwhelmed with these numerous hours, sometimes, I think, eating food kind of rejuvenates you."

Ngatikaura said physical exercise is not one of his options when it comes to relieving stress before finals because he is a football player.

"As far as working out, I'm already pretty exhausted from working out at football practice every day, so there's not too much physical things that I do," he said.

Samantha Pitts, a senior stu-



[Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily]

Guriqbal Randhawa, a senior corporate finance major, takes a brief nap between studying sessions for his accounting final.

dio art major said living relatively far from the university helps her organize her thoughts.

"I guess it helps that I have a commute from Santa Cruz," she said. "I kind of go through everything I need to do in the car on my way over here, and I guess being next to the beach doesn't hurt."

Pitts said because she is an art major, a lot of her finals involve working on art pieces.

"Getting to work on ceramics and other artwork helps when I also have to write papers and do stuff like that," she said. "So it's nice having a balance."

Her weekly yoga class also

helps her with stress, Pitts said.

"It's only once a week, but learning how to deep breathe and kind of clear your mind really helps, especially when I have an oral presentation," she said. "Having a yoga class helps me calm down and stuff."

Yoga is a collection of spiritual techniques and practices aimed at integrating the mind, body and spirit, according to the Yoga Basics Web site.

Yoga Basics is an organization that contributes 10 percent of all its profits to their yoga scholarship program and to non-profit organizations, according to the Web site.

Alumni give back to where they started

By Samantha Rivera
Staff Writer

SJSU alumni find satisfaction in giving back to the campus that provided them with an education.

Most give through financial means, but some win the university money.

That's what Glen Wyatt and Eric Andersen, members of the SJSU student fishing club, did when they won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Western Division Regional, a three-day event that ended Sept. 21, on the California Delta, according to SJSU's Web site.

Wyatt and Anderson caught 17 bass, weighing nearly 38 pounds total, and won a boat worth \$25,000 — plus a \$25,000 donation to the university, according to SJSU's Web site.

Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations at SJSU, said Wyatt and Anderson are very young alumni who furnished SJSU's largest unrestricted gift from people of their ages.

Alumnus Charles W. Davidson donated \$15 million to the College of Engineering, according to SJSU's Web site.

Davidson's donation was the largest private individual gift that SJSU has received in more than over 150 years. It tied for the largest individual gift received by the California State University system, according to SJSU's Web site.

Davidson's donation helped fund programs and other things at the College of Engineering, like its newly opened Engineering Student Success Center, which offers industry-focused projects and leadership opportunities, according to SJSU's Web site.

His donation also allowed SJSU to rename the College of Engineering after him, according to the Web site.

Bay Area philanthropist Connie Lurie donated \$10 million to SJSU's College of Education, according to SJSU's Web site.

It is the largest individual gift ever given to a College of Education in the history of the California State University system, according to SJSU's Web site.

Lurie's donation will create new programs for student and faculty development, launching the university's first-ever independent doctoral program in educational leadership for K-12 administrators, according to SJSU's Web site.

The College of Education was named in honor of Lurie because of her donation, according to SJSU's Web site.

Harris said SJSU sometimes receives the money immediately.

"Often, especially with larger gifts, the money will come in installments," she said. "Other gifts come after the donor dies. This is known as planned giving."

Through planned giving, anyone can designate what they want to give SJSU in the future through things like their retirement assets or charitable trusts, according to SJSU's Web site.

Most donors designate uses for their gifts, all of which are managed by the SJSU Tower Foundation, an auxiliary of SJSU, Harris said.

Graduating seniors and their friends and family are also asked to give donations, Harris said.

Graduates this year can donate \$20.09 to a program that supports students such as the Student Emergency Fund or the Educational Opportunity Program, according to SJSU's Web site.

Interior design students earn honors

By Angela Marino
Staff Writer

Two SJSU senior interior design majors received awards in the 19th annual Planning and Visual Education Partnership Student Design Competition.

Fernando Djohan placed third and Chao-Chen Kao placed in the honorable mention category in the international competition, said Catherine Scott, managing director at the Planning and Visual Education Partnership.

The SJSU students received the awards in the category for overall store design, Scott said. The competition received a record number of 373 students for the search this year.

The competition consisted of specific requirements for a Macy's store layout in the company's women's shoe department, according to the Planning and Visual Education Partnership Web site.

The winner's department designs are under consideration for the women's shoe department at the flagship Macy's store in New York City, according to the Planning and Visual Education Partnership Web site.

Djohan said he wanted his design to guide the retail traffic flow with the curvature of the floor plan.

"The concept of my design is roughly a theater with contrast between light and dark," he said. "I named my design Diva, because I wanted to space to re-

flect as if a diva was performing on at the theater."

The design reflects the curved features with feminine rounded corners to reflect a woman's figure, Djohan said.

"I chose the colors red, black and white," he said. "Red represented Macy's current identity. The three colors are very feminine and are found throughout women's fashion."

The design captures the essence of Macy's but also captivates a diva mentality in the way the shoes are featured, Djohan said.

"The main display area is very flexible as the displays can come apart and seating is created," he said.

The design enables the store to uniquely arrange the floor displays in different circumstances that may come up, Djohan said.

Djohan was awarded \$1,500 dollars, Scott said.

Schools whose students placed in the top three were given money, according to the partnership Web site.

SJSU was given \$1,000 on behalf of Djohan's third-place rank, according to the partnership Web site.

"I was very surprised when I found out about the honorable mention," Kao said.

He said his design concept was built on the idea of support.

"Macy's supports our community as well as shoes support our feet," she said. "I was trying



[Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily]

Fernando Djohan, third place winner of the Planning and Visual Education Partnership student design competition, poses with a book of his work and a model of one his own designs.

to make the shoe factory into the design as the shoe factory supports the production of the shoes."

The main component to the design of his version of the Macy's women's shoe department was a conveyor belt, Kao said.

The conveyor belt wound around the department as shoes were placed on the belt and traveled throughout the department, he said.

"There was also a large col-

umn at the center of the shoe department that emphasized the theme of support as the column seemed to support the entire store," Kao said.

Kao was awarded \$500 with the title of honorable mention in the competition, according to the partnership Web site.

Kao and Djohan will be leaving today for New York City to attend a gala that will celebrate the winners of the competition, Djohan said.



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

A student stands in front of the Engineering building. Alumnus Charles Davidson donated \$15 million to the SJSU engineering program — the largest donation in recent history by any alumni.

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SURVIVOR

From Page 1

Mason said the driver was found with a blood alcohol level that was four times the legal limit when he struck Liu and her. He had no previous convictions of driving under the influence, Mason said.

Mason was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where she had both back and brain surgeries.

Her spinal cord was severed, and doctors determined she would never walk again, she said.

Mason said she remained in a coma for the two months after her accident.

"Comas are different for everybody, but mine was one where I gradually woke up," Mason said. "My eyes might've been open, but no one was home."

After Mason regained consciousness, she said she was sent to Santa Clara Valley Medical where she did rehab for three months.

"It must've been frustrating for my therapists because whatever they would teach me, I would forget," she said.

Mason said her brain injury left her with memory loss.

"The memory is a funny thing because my memory is spotty when it comes to remembering the six months before my accident, and I couldn't remember my accident," she said.

Mason said she was discharged from the hospital on Sept. 14, 2007, and moved in with her parents.

As therapists taught her how to dress herself and cook and do everything for herself, she said she ended up moving out on her own to Sacramento.

As Mason adjusted to her new life, she said she struggled

to remember the life she had.

Mason said she forgot Liu was her boyfriend, though she had dated him since October 2003.

"I think my memory was protecting me because we had become very close," she said. "I put it off for a long time until I came to terms with what had happened to me and then the grieving began."

Mason said she thinks her body had to come to terms with what had happened first.

"It was a constant dialogue in my head," she said. "I had to remind myself, 'You were hit and that's why you're hurt,' and it's interesting to be someone who had a degree and was on top of things, to not even remembering why you're hurt."

Mason said her parents and brother have been her support system.

"They have been phenomenal," she said.

She said she remains in contact with Liu's family and started advocating against drunk driving to elementary and high school students in 2006.

"I wanted something good to come out of what happened," she said.

Mason speaks at "Every 15 Minutes," a production put on by high schools around California where about 30 students are "killed off" by a drunk driver and the aftermath that ensues such as notifying their parents.

"It's very powerful," Mason said.

Mason's book, "Couldn't Happen to Me: A Life Changed by Paralysis and Traumatic Brain Injury," was published in October, chronicling her life from the day of her accident until now.

"I think regardless of what happens in your life, you have to keep pushing and trying," Mason said.

Google Apps may save university money

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

SJSU may save \$300,000 every year if plans go through to switch the campus to using Google Apps, which would give students, staff and faculty members a more efficient way of communicating, said a campus official.

"Part of my job as chief information officer is to negotiate contracts and try to find ways to save funding for the campus," said William Maguire, SJSU chief information officer.

He said the university would save money by switching to Google because there would be no need to pay for e-mail licenses and hardware maintenance.

Maguire said using Google Apps would allow the university to have a single system for exchanging messages, sharing documents and organizing events.

He said he wanted to make sure all users had access to basic applications, but that individual users would have to try out the various applications for themselves to see what they liked and found useful.

"We want to let the user community determine the apps they want," Maguire said.

Andrew Caine, a junior business marketing major, said he would support measures by the university to save money without cutting into the education of students.

"At this point, anything that helps us be more efficient and save money without cutting corners sounds good to me," he said.

Maguire said both Google and Microsoft were competing to offer similar services to SJSU. He said Google was chosen because its educational



[Courtesy of Google and GoogleFont]

package was more tailored for a university environment.

"Google had a publishing solution that's really good for publishing research and committee papers," he said.

In addition to the monetary savings, Maguire said the switch would help alleviate some problems students, staff and faculty members are encountering with lost e-mails.

"There are 23 different e-mail systems used on SJSU," he said. "One of the inherent issues from having so many different systems operating is that e-mails don't flow efficiently and sometimes get dropped. We have got to be smarter about how we communicate."

Maguire said a majority of SJSU's e-mails are sent through the IBM Lotus Notes system, while other e-mail systems include Microsoft Exchange, Unix and Hotmail.

He said switching over to Google would mean the university would rely on Gmail, Google's e-mail service, but SJSU e-mail accounts would retain the "sjsu.edu" domain.

"That's the beauty of it," Maguire said. "The engine is Gmail, but the domain stays the same."

Freshman anthropology ma-

yor Amanda Flynn said she has heard complaints from other students about e-mails not reaching professors, but has not experienced a problem herself.

"Still, it sounds like a good idea," she said.

Maguire said a pilot program is planned to start by the end of January 2010.

As part of the pilot program, he said about 100 to 250 volunteers will have their SJSU e-mail accounts transferred into the Gmail system.

Maguire said the pilot program, which will last about 30 to 45 days, will allow the university to test the applications.

"We can see if any 'gotchas' are there that we didn't see before," he said.

After the pilot program concludes, Maguire said preparations will be made to transfer staff members' SJSU e-mail accounts, followed by the migration of their e-mail boxes.

He said the conversions would likely start in late spring and that the switch would be made as quickly as possible to avoid having to pay license renewal fees for current e-mail systems.

"The real business driver here is to have a cohesive e-mail solution for the univer-

sity," Maguire said.

He said Google officials told him that other universities that have switched to using Gmail have taken about two to six weeks to make the full conversion.

Maguire said he did not yet have an estimate for the cost of the conversion.

He said students will be notified of the change beforehand, in case anyone wanted to make the switch before the rest of the university's general population.

Once the change is complete, Maguire said the equipment that was used to run the campus' former e-mail services would be repurposed for use by the computer labs in each college, enabling each college in the university to create its own network within the larger system.

"It'll let the colleges pick and choose the apps they want to put on the servers," he said.

Maguire said that maintaining the security of users' e-mail boxes is a high priority for Google.

"Security is every bit what you would find in a major corporation," he said. "Google has policies, procedures and tools in place to keep unauthorized people from your mailbox."

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SPARTAN SHOPS, INC. Statement of Financial Condition Year Ending June 30, 2009

		<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents:			\$ 3,121,471
Receivables:			
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,311,944		
Returned merchandise - vendors	411,055		1,722,999
Inventories			1,509,170
Prepaid expenses			128,372
		Total Current Assets	6,482,012
Noncurrent Assets:			
Notes Receivable			780,000
Long-term investment			97,732
Long-term receivable			24,512
Fixed Assets, at cost:			
Land	\$ 2,710,000		
Building	2,570,397		
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	5,153,967		
Leasehold improvements & construction in progress	5,516,398		
	Total fixed assets	\$15,950,762	
Less accumulated depreciation	(8,489,995)		7,460,767
		TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,845,023
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts payable			\$ 1,834,394
Notes payable, current portion			188,588
Accrued liabilities			918,206
		Total Current Liabilities	\$ 2,941,188
Deferred rent			5,829
Notes payable, less current portion			4,149,065
Accrued post retirement benefits			1,179,715
Net Assets:			
Unrestricted			
Designated	\$ 796,161		
Undesignated	4,463,065		5,259,226
Temporarily restricted			1,310,000
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$14,845,023

A complete set of the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009 may be viewed in the Spartan Shops, Inc. Executive Director's Office. Please call 408/924-1900 for office location and hours of operation.

ROTC Air Force reaches new heights

By **Mauricio Garcia**
Production Editor

Every Thursday evening during the fall and spring semesters, students can be seen gathered in formation before the flagpole in the courtyard between MacQuarrie Hall and Sweeney Hall.

Sometimes they wear simple gray sweats and sometimes they wear deep blue uniforms, buttons and lapels glinting silver as voices raised in command or in song reverberate off the stone buildings standing like sentinels.

Students drift along the edges of the formations, casting wary and curious glances at these students so seemingly different from the rest of the university.

They are the cadets belonging to the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or AFROTC, based out of SJSU.

"Air Force ROTC is an officer commissioning program that works in conjunction or jointly with a college curriculum for the students," said Lt. Col. Rick Moxley, commander of AFROTC Detachment 045 at SJSU and chairman of the aerospace studies department. "ROTC by far produces the most officers of any commissioning source in all the branches of the service, because the military likes liberal-minded officers. They like the fact that the students are going through a normal college experience like any other student in the U.S."

He said there are 75 students in the program. Their leadership laboratory is every Thursday at 4:30 p.m., their physical training is Thursdays after leadership lab, Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon, said cadet

Veronica Ramirez, a senior justice studies major and training support squadron commander.

"I think it has an image of just a bunch of wannabe military marching around and getting yelled at," said Mike Lambert, a senior business marketing major and cadet wing commander. "But every minute of our training that we have is planned out and is intended to meet a specific objective."

The AFROTC program is designed to work in concordance with the college experience, said Melissa Ingram, commandant of cadets and assistant professor of aerospace studies.

"We like to emphasize in the ROTC program that school comes first," she said. "We're meant to be a supplemental program, and as long as our cadets focus on school and then do what they need to do for ROTC they'll make it through the program."

All students are required to formulate an academic plan their freshman year and have it approved by Cadre, the advisory for AFROTC comprising of active duty officers and enlisted personnel, said Dave Bautista, the third aerospace studies professor and the unit admissions officer for the program.

"I've never had a time where I felt like they weren't caring about me and my needs as a student," said Stephanie Lord, a senior behavioral science major and public affairs group commander for AFROTC at SJSU. "The instructors will go out of their way to make sure that you are passing your classes, to make sure that you're on track to graduate, to make sure they can give you any help that you need."

Becoming an Officer

During their junior year, cadets compile a wish list comprised of their top six career choices and base assignments in the Air Force.

An assignment from the Air Force to an officer is called a commission.

AFROTC cadets receive their first commission the day after they graduate.

The Air Force has an 80 percent track record of approving cadets' first or second choices.

One of the factors that influence assignments is the number of job openings in specific positions during the year of commissioning.

Once commissions are approved by Congress, the certificates are signed by the President.

Twelve percent of the Air Force flies aircraft, 10 percent work in aircraft maintenance, 78 percent work in financing, benefits and other careers necessary to keeping the Air Force flying.

Pilots have a 10-year commitment to the Air Force with two years of undergraduate training.

Eric Chynoweth

Junior, Aerospace Engineering



Wish List

1. pilot
2. experimental test pilot
3. navigator
4. missileer
5. aerospace engineer

Criteria

- High grade-point average
- Physical Fitness Score
- Order of Merit Ranking
- Field Training score
- Commander's Ranking
- Test of Basic Aviation Skills

Information courtesy of Lt. Col. Moxley, commander of AFROTC, and Melissa Ingram, commandant of cadets.

Modern day 'Captain America' inspires excellence

By **Mauricio Garcia**
Production Editor

The sky is hard blue over Tower Lawn as the equally blue eyes of Mike Lambert stare across Air Force ROTC students standing at attention for their change of command ceremony.

A father of two, Lambert is used to responsibility, but as the new wing commander, he now has a squadron of 75 cadets under his care.

"He's a pretty good guy," said senior biology major Mohsen Boroujerdi-Reyes. "He's a hard worker. He's funny every once in a while. We call him 'Captain America.'"

Lambert is a senior business marketing major, fashion designer, family man, judo champion and was enlisted in the Air Force for two-and-a-half years prior to attending SJSU to obtain his bachelor's degree.

"I actually competed for a scholarship to get out of the Air Force, come back and get my diploma, because it would be so difficult to do when you're active duty, just with the training and the deploying overseas," Lambert said. "Also, I'm married with two kids and I wanted some time to hang out with them."

He said he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky, with the Army for a year before being deployed to Iraq.

"I was in Iraq for about five months, and they sent me back a month early so I could be here for my first child's birth," he said.

Lambert, who grew up in Modesto, said joining the Air Force was not something he'd planned.

"After high school, it was kind of a low point in my life," he said. "I wasn't on good terms with my mom and I ended up getting kicked out of the house, staying with friends at their parents' house — back and forth between couches, sometimes not being able to get in the house at the night and end up like sleeping outside of the house."

"It was about as close to being homeless without being homeless. I guess technically I was."

He said that after Sept. 11, he visited an Army recruiter's office, but was turned off by his experience and instead chose the Air Force.

"When I first went into the Air Force it was kind of a culture shock," he said. "It's meant to be, going through basic. You're meant to be uncomfortable."

Lambert said he did not know his biological mother, and his father left when he was a couple of years old.

"I was just recently reunited with him about a year ago," he said. "And I found out after the fact that he was actually in the Air Force for a few years, too, which is weird."

Upon his commission, Lambert said some of the friends he made will give him his first salute.

"Usually, we just have one of the enlisted people that work here, but I'm going to have some of my friends come that are in the Air Force."

Lambert said he was trained to help the Army target enemy soldiers, but his work in Iraq was different.

"Even though I was trained

to drop bombs on the bad guys, the job that I ended up doing was more of reconnaissance and surveillance," he said. "It was more of a peacekeeping operation than a search and destroy mission."

"You never want to kill people, but that's what our training involved. You want to say that you did something when you left for five months, but on the other hand, it's nice that it wasn't necessary to have to inflict any deaths."

SJSU

Lambert took command of the Air Force ROTC during the change of command ceremony on Thursday.

"Cadet Wing Commander is the person that is responsible for every cadet in ROTC," he said.

He attends school two days a week because the rest of the week, he is a stay-at-home dad for his sons, ages 3 and 2 years old.

"The transition between active duty and full-time college student-slash-caretaker was challenging," he said. "It's kind of like two different lives."

Number 9

Upon returning from Iraq for his son's birth, Lambert said he decided to begin his own clothing line, called Number 9 Clothing.

"I've always been into sports, specifically contact sports, and growing up I never really had the new clothing and the cool stuff," he said. "Once I got out of high school, that was something that I enjoyed, was fashion. So I kind of got into designing my own stuff"

He said he has produced some T-shirts and hats, which



[Photos by Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily]

Mike Lambert, a senior business marketing major, looks over the Air Force ROTC detachment as the new wing commander at the change of command ceremony Thursday.

are sold by his Web site, a tattoo shop in Gilroy and a fight shop in San Jose.

"Our motto is 'Fight for Something,'" Lambert said. "It's not about the physical fight, it's more about willing to dedicate yourself for something ... Just fighting for something more than what you have."

Lambert said the clothing line donates to Semantic Integrity, a martial arts-based mentorship program offered that fosters at-risk children. It is martial arts-based, meant to help them focus and teach them discipline.

"I want to inspire people to push themselves in whatever they do, whether it's working out or making more money, really anything."

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FIRE

From Page 1

trash can, and people are throwing cigarette butts or whatever, and something flammable in the can will get set off," Santos said.

"These were deliberately set, and caused a huge response from San Jose Fire Department and they ended up evacuating the building."

Harris said the threat to the buildings themselves from these fires was minimal.

"It's unlikely that any of our structures would burn down," she said. "They all meet fire code, they're all made of cement. Flammable materials are at a minimum."

"We've done everything we can to equip these buildings with what's needed to keep them safe," she said. "And at night, administrators and managers for the most part leave. What's left in these structures are the residents. It's going to be up to the residents to keep them safe."

The fires under investigation weren't the only incidents this semester. The dorms have been evacuated many times this semester, mostly for small, accidental blazes, Santos said.

"Especially for the Village, where there are kitchens, most of the incidents have been grease fires, things like that," he said. "In some cases, it's students smoking in their rooms. They try to disable the smoke detector and try to smoke marijuana in their rooms. That can actually also trigger the alarms."

Some students in the dorms were frustrated by the constant alarms.

"I'm getting really annoyed," said Lilly Went, a freshman liberal arts major who lives in Campus Village. "I mean, if it's real, I care, but if it's people being stupid then I'm really ticked off, because it's been a fire per

week, it seems. It's dumb ... I don't know if it's all related or what, but it's not cool. If people think they're being cool, they're not."

The constant alarms are a distraction from school, said Brandon Chapman, a freshman civil engineering major who was stranded outside the dorms by an evacuation when the fire alarm went off.

"I hope it's not people doing pranks, because it's a huge waste of time," he said. "Like, I have a paper I need to do right now."

Sgt. John Laws, UPD public information officer, said that investigations of this nature are an intensive, long-term process.

"Unfortunately, the public has gotten used to the fact that crimes can all be solved within an hour with four commercial breaks," Laws said, "and when we don't have it solved in an hour with four commercial breaks, they ask, 'what's taking so long?' Well, normally, with an arson investigation, it can take months or even years."

Complicating the matter is the impending winter break, which might make witnesses difficult to find, Santos said.

"With the semester ending, people aren't going to think about it until they come back next semester, and it may not be as important to some people," he said. "At this point, unfortunately, we don't have a lot of information as far as suspects, which is why we're trying to get the word out to let us know. It could take as much as a year, it just depends on what kind of information we're able to receive on our end and take action on."

Anyone with information regarding the fires should get in touch with UPD, Santos said. They can call the UPD dispatch line, or leave an anonymous tip on the anonymous tip line. There's also the UPD's on line reporting form at www.sjsupd.com.

New era starts at the Spartan Daily

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close and students prepare to make the transition from fall to winter, the Spartan Daily is undergoing its own changes.

Junior journalism major Joey Akeley is the incoming executive editor of the Spartan Daily for the Spring 2010 semester, assuming the position from the current executive editor, Hank Drew.

"I really wanted to challenge myself," Akeley said. "And this is the biggest challenge we have in the journalism department, running the Daily."

He said the three semesters he spent working for the Spartan Daily, first as a staff writer, second as a multimedia editor and third as a sports editor, were a learning experience for him.

"My first semester was as a sophomore and I didn't know anything about journalism," Akeley said. "Almost everything I needed to know about journalism, I learned in the last three semesters at the Daily."

One of the goals Akeley says

he has for the upcoming semester is to make sure the editors and the writers take their work seriously, working to the best of their abilities.

"It's a team job," he said. "If one person fails, everyone fails."

Akeley said he acknowledges the fact that he does not know everything about producing a newspaper, and said he is working to fill the gaps in his knowledge.

"I know I have much to improve," he said. "I'm an unfinished product. One of the biggest areas I want to improve in is newspaper design. I know we have someone who actually designs the paper, but it's still something I should know."

Associate Professor Richard Craig, co-adviser to the Spartan Daily, said Akeley's work ethic was one of the reasons he was chosen to fill the position of executive editor.

"Joey has put a large amount of effort into the Daily over the past three semesters," Craig said. "If there's one thing I know I can



[Stefan Armijo / Spartan Daily]

Incoming Spartan Daily Advertising Director Jenny Ngo and Executive Editor Joey Akeley.

count on, it's that no one's going to work any harder than Joey."

While Akeley handles the editorial aspects of the Spartan Daily, senior advertising major Jenny Ngo will be working on the paper's advertising needs as the incoming advertising director.

Ngo joined the advertising staff in Fall 2009, and said her time spent with the staff was a rewarding experience.

"I had fun and enjoyed my time here," she said.

Tim Hendrick, Spartan Daily business and advertising adviser,

said the decision to choose Ngo for the position was a "slam dunk."

"Jenny is very passionate about sales," he said. "She works with clients to solve their problems and shows leadership with the rest of the staff."

Ngo said she would be drawing on her previous management experience at the A.S. Print Shop as a guideline for her new position as advertising director.

"I didn't really have a title or anything (at the print shop)," she said. "But I did a lot of work, having people work at different projects and showing them how to do things."

In addition to managing and training her new staff, Hendrick, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said he anticipates that one of the challenges Ngo will have in Spring 2010 is to boost advertising sales for the Spartan Daily.

"She needs to motivate her staff to get on the street and boost sales," he said.

Students react to Lincoln University obesity policy

By Hank Drew
Executive Editor

You've got all your classes lined up for graduation, and you are ready to walk the aisle.

If your body mass index is not within acceptable limits, a new fitness program at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania could send you to the back of the line.

Rebecca Drieling, a master's public health student, said she does not feel that this would be an effective program.

"I think obesity is a complex problem, and offering incentives for people to lose weight have worked in some cases," Drieling

said. "But requiring people to lose weight so they can get something they ought to receive anyway doesn't make sense to me."

She said universities should approach the problem of obesity in a more holistic way, citing work by a local university.

"Stanford University has a Be Well incentive program," Drieling said. "They offer money incentives. They offer free health classes and coaching."

Kinesiology lecturer Carol Sullivan agreed that universities should work with students to improve physical fitness, but disliked the idea of the fitness requirement.

"I wouldn't say, 'Don't let them graduate until they lose weight,'" Sullivan said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines obesity as an adult with a body mass index of 30 or higher. An adult with a body mass index between 25 and 29.9 is considered overweight.

According to the center's Web site, overweight or obese individuals are at higher risk of Coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis and gynecological problems.

Kelly Bloom, a hospitality, recreation and tourism management

lecturer, said she is not convinced that forcing students to lose weight is a role of a university.

"I understand the philosophy behind it," Bloom said. "There are some places where the whole mission of the recreation department is tackling obesity — some in the Midwest."

But, I don't know that it's our role to make it a requirement for graduation."

Senior accounting major Jaemin Ko said he had not heard of this idea, but felt it was inappropriate.

"I don't think it is something (the university) has a right to do," Ko said.

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Day by Day

By Dave Cabebe
Staff Photographer



One of her pet birds, named Little One, often comforts her by saying phrases she has taught Little One to say. Little One can be heard whistling throughout her home most of the time.

Diana Marks is 45 years old. At age 24, she was diagnosed with manic-depressive disorder, also known as bipolar disorder. Since then, she has been in and out of mental hospitals, experienced homelessness, suffered deaths in her family and even more recently, the death of her boyfriend Chris.

The two met seven years ago when Diana's car broke down on Chris' street. Diana was afraid to ask for someone's help because at the time she was living in her brother's car and she feared that someone would call the police on her if she showed up at someone's doorstep asking for help. As she was walking down the street one late night, she heard the song "Any major dude will tell you" by Steely Dan playing loudly from someone's house. As she approached the house, her fears of asking for help subsided, and when she knocked on the door, Chris was there to invite her inside.



After Chris' death, Diana still cares for his home, which is walking distance from the house she lives in now.

Despite all of the tragedy in her life and her mental illness, she continues to live her life day by day thanks to her passion for music and love for animals. Through NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Diana found Kelly Tran, who not only helps her with chores around the house, but also has become a close friend.



Diana met Kelly through NAMI's "Peer Pals" program designed to help a mentally ill person connect with someone. Kelly visits Diana three times a week and helps her with chores around the house like cleaning or combing her hair after baths.

The two have formed a strong friendship over the past year and a half. Diana embraces Kelly, telling her "I don't treat you like a servant," reminding her that their relationship is more than that of just a helper. Diana not only talks to Kelly about her issues, Kelly also confides in Diana, reciprocating their friendship.



Diana lights candles all around Chris' house as there is no longer anyone there to pay for the electricity bill. She spends some nights sleeping on his couch with her dogs, saying, "This place is my home."

In Chris' home, Diana sings and plays the Steely Dan song on the piano, the song that brought them together on that fateful night.

The lyrics, "When the demon is at your door/ In the morning it won't be there no

more/ Any major dude will tell you" escape her lips as she plays into the night. People often ask her why she loved Chris, and she replies back, "Because he let me in the door."

AFROTC students handle rifles with precision



[Photos by Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily]

Eric Chynoweth, a junior aerospace engineering major, practices with senior aviation major Chris Garner, the commander for the Precision Drill Unit.

By Mauricio Garcia
Production Editor

The serene expression of junior aerospace engineering major Eric Chynoweth belied the dynamic movement of the rifle he somersaulted through the air, spinning it three times before deftly catching it with a click of steel and wood.

"PDU (Precision Drill Unit) is a tenant of our detachment of ROTC," said senior aviation major Chris Garner, commander of the drill unit. "Our goal is to support the detachment in developing future officers for the Air Force, and we also provide a color guard for the detachment and rifle teams for competitions and recruiting."

Garner said this is the first semester the Precision Drill Unit is recognized as an official student organization by Associated Students.

The team practices Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, Chynoweth said.

"I joined PDU because it was the first extracurricular section of ROTC I noticed my first semester in," he said. "I wanted to jump-start my knowledge about everything I knew I needed to know. The more I discovered of what PDU was capable, the more I liked it."

He said the program focuses on not only drill and ceremonies required of active duty Air Force officers, but also the more show-oriented rifle team.

"They're the ones who spin the rifle and normally hurt themselves

with it," said Melissa Ingram, commandant of cadets. "But they have a lot of fun doing it."

Garner said there are two parts to the Precision Drill Unit — the rifle team and the color guard, each with its own commander and purpose.

"PDU is kind of the tip of the spear of the detachment, and then within PDU is the rifle team, which is kind of the tip for the spear for PDU," he said. "Because it requires a lot of dedication, you get the more motivated cadets — the ones who truly want to excel and make themselves better."

Ingram said the 11-pound M1 Garands cannot be used for anything other than ceremony, because the firing pins have been taken out and the barrels have been filled, she said.

The rifles used by the Precision Drill Unit are remnants of World War II, said rifle team Commander Steven Cooney, a junior business major from Santa Clara University. Their serial numbers can be used to see to whom they were registered during the war.

"We prepare for Dining Out, which is our formal dinner in the fall," he said.

He said they also compete in the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet, in which AFROTC detachments from all over the country compete.

Garner said the next drill meet would take place on March 10.

"The other part of PDU is the honor guard, which is the

much more visible part of PDU," Ingram said. "They're the ones that go out to Stanford, San Jose, Santa Clara and the community to normally present the colors."

A four-man team from the color guard is at almost every home football game, standing at the 50-yard line bearing the American flag while in their uniforms, Garner said.

Sophomore economics major Erik Bearden, color guard commander, said he organizes the color guards, scheduling transportation and overseeing practices.

"There's a lot of history behind the color guard — goes back to when we used to march into battle with flags and the colors," Garner said. "In the fog of war all you could see was the flag."

Training for the Precision Drill Unit begins in the spring semester, requiring cadets to attend 80 percent of the training, which takes place every Friday from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., he said.

Along with the training, cadets must be familiar with drill and ceremonies, keep a minimum grade-point average of 2.5, pass a physical fitness assessment and at least be able to handle a rifle.

"PDU to me is just the bond that I've built with all the other trainees," Bearden said. "Getting up at 3:30 in the morning to be there 5 to 7:15 — getting yelled at really helps you become really good friends with people you're training with and build a good bond with them."



The color guard and rifle team hold their stance during the change of command ceremony Thursday at Tower Lawn.

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A heart for the hard of hearing

By Angela Marino
Staff Writer

Many individuals think the hearing impaired are limited in higher education, but if the hearing impaired utilize the services that are available to them, any goal is achievable, said a hard-of-hearing graduate student.

Tiffany Ghorso, a graduate student in social work, and Destinie Rawlings, a freshman child development major, are hard of hearing.

Tiffany Ghorso

Ghorso said when she was born, doctors thought she was deaf until a hearing test proved otherwise.

"My birth mother used drugs and alcohol when she was pregnant, which resulted in damage to my hearing nerves," she said.

Ghorso said the term, "hard of hearing" is difficult to define.

"In the hearing world, I am considered deaf, but in the deaf community, I am seen as hearing, because I can speak," she said. "I have some partial hearing, so I wear a hearing aid to assist my hearing."

Ghorso said she is fluent in American Sign Language, but she only signs when it is needed.

She relies heavily on reading lips to understand what people are saying, she said.

She said in the past, she attended a normal school in Monterey Bay.

"I felt I had to educate teachers on how to accommodate my partial hearing," she said. "I took it as an opportunity to teach people to understand where I am coming from."

Ghorso said she uses services on campus, such as a captioner and an interpreter, for class lectures.

A captioner is similar to a court recorder — the person types verbatim what the professor says and then the information is sent to her laptop, she said.

Wendy Lin, a coordinator at the Adaptive Technology Center at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, said the center offers many different support services for various disabilities.



[Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily]

Tiffany Ghorso, a graduate student in social work, outside the Student Union on Monday. Ghorso is hard of hearing and relies on her dog for sounds she can't hear, such as her alarm clock.

"Our staff organizes a training program to teach students how to use the software at the Adaptive Technology Center," she said. "We have a variety of programs such as a document reader that enables blind students to read text. The voice recognition software can type out spoken word for students who are unable to type."

Ghorso said she has a hearing dog to give her a more reliable sense of her surroundings.

"A hearing dog is trained to alert me to sounds that I may not hear, such as a telephone ring or alarm clock beep," she said. "My dog can go into stores, restaurants, anywhere I need her to be."

Ghorso said she is thankful that she is still able to hear slightly.

"I am very grateful to have some of my hearing rather than none," she said. "I don't think about my

partial hearing in a negative way. If you want to be grouchy and upset about your hard of hearing, be that way, but I don't see myself that way. It is important to be proud of who you are."

Destinie Rawlings

Rawlings said the transition into her first year of college has been a positive one.

"I have had to find my way around here on my own," she said. "I used to be very dependent on others around me to do things, but these few months at school have made me become more mature."

Rawlings said she was born premature with a viral infection that prevented her stomach from fully developing.

"Doctors gave me medicine to help develop my stomach and cure the infection," she said. "The side effect of the medicine resulted in hearing loss."

Rawlings said she didn't start speaking until she was five years old.

"I have a speech problem as well," she said. "The more I practice using the software at the Adaptive Technology Center's speech software, the more it is improving."

Rawlings said she was raised by her grandmother, who taught her how to deal with her hearing impairment.

"People are usually put off by my speech because it sounds so different than a hearing person's speech," she said. "I was made fun of at a young age as kids would constantly point out my speech."

Rawlings said she came to SJSU to become independent and learn how to live on her own.

"When I first started at SJSU, it was really hard, but I have changed a lot," she said. "I have learned to ignore people's negative comments and be happy with myself."

Lin said the Adapted Technology Center and other resources on campus are meant to allow students from all backgrounds and situations to succeed equally.

Late professor remembered for musical influence

By Jhenene Louis
Staff Writer

A memorial service was held Saturday in the SJSU Music building for Professor Joe Hodge, who taught drums in the jazz studies program for 16 years.

Trumpeter Eddie Gale, who has recorded songs with artists such as John Coltrane and Cecil Taylor, said Hodge died unexpectedly on Nov 21, 2009.

Hodge leaves behind two sisters and one brother.

"Students really cared about his well-being. Sometimes, he would have a little over 200 students in his class," Gale said.

Gale said that in his American Jazz history class, Hodge introduced his students to the format of jazz music and jazz culture.

"He has had actual famous jazz musicians come in and play for the students to get them motivation and excited about the jazz culture," Gale said. "It helps them get a mental, physical, musical and visual point of view about jazz."

Gale said Hodge toured and recorded with jazz artists such as Maynard Ferguson and African drummer Babatunde Olatunji.

Hodge also played drums in productions of the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

He toured throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

According to the SJSU School of Music and Jazz Web site, he received his Bachelor's of Music from the University of Tennessee, Martin, and his Master's from SJSU.

Gale said he remembered when he and Hodge took 50 students up to Douglas Beach House in Half Moon Bay, where such famous jazz artists Freddie Hubbard and Mark Isham played.

Gale said Hodge was always very interactive with his students, and he led by example.

Senior music major Eric Stabler said Hodge always had a pleasant demeanor and was respectful to his students.

"He was very passionate and had a lot of energy," Stabler said. "He was probably one of the more fun teachers I've taken. He knew what we needed — for him it was all about grooving and having fun with the music."

Stabler said he not only learned how to



[Stefan Armijo / Spartan Daily]

Joe Hodge

be a great musician but how to be a great listener.

Jim Thomas, music staff facilities coordinator, said Hodge was a hard worker and often played in rock 'n' roll shows during the summer of the fair circuit.

"He worked with Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Ray Charles and the Drifters," Thomas said. "That's how talented he was."

Thomas said Hodge was popular with his students because he was genuine in his work and in his music.

"Joe and I have been friends for 15 years," Thomas said. "What I'm going to miss most is how we used to talk to each other, and just his personality."

Gale said Hodge really wanted to lift jazz out of the shadows in San Jose, because San Jose is not known for its jazz background.

"It's truly a great loss for all involved in the arts — especially the jazz culture," Gale said. "We don't have a lot of musicians here at SJSU that have traveled the world and have had the experiences he has."

Gale said Hodge wanted young people to not have a superficial understanding of what jazz is and for students to be proud of it.

"Students should be honored to learn and play from people like Joe Hodge because he is a legend in his own right," he said.

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BRIANA ROMERO
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[Photo courtesy of Soul of Mischief's MySpace Web site]

The album cover for Soul of Mischief's "Montezuma's Revenge."

Old-school hip-hop seeks revenge

Review: CD

By Tommy Wright
Senior Staff Writer

After a nine-year wait, Oakland hip-hop group Souls of Mischief has released its fourth CD.

Since "Trilogy: Conflict, Climax, Resolution" came out in 2000, three of the four members have released solo albums, all four have released mix tapes, and they have toured extensively as a group and as solo artists.

The group is also part of a larger collective called Hieroglyphics, known for its three-eyed, straight-lipped face logo. Hieroglyphics has released two albums of old demos, two compilations, a live album and the collective's second LP in the time since the last Souls of Mischief album.

A-Plus, Opio, Phesto and Tajai, the members of Souls of Mischief, did almost everything besides release a new group album over the past

nine years. "Montezuma's Revenge," the title of Souls of Mischief's new album, was worth the wait.

Listening to the album took me back to the laid-back sound of rap in the late '80s and early '90s, thanks in large part to Prince Paul's production. Prince Paul produced all three of hip-hop group De La Soul's albums during this period, which is often referred to as the golden age of hip-hop music.

Souls of Mischief released their debut album, "93 'til Infinity," in the tail end of this era. The group and their sound have matured in the 16 years since their first LP. Their new CD shows the evolution of the group.

"Tour Stories," the first single off "Montezuma's Revenge," was released back in January. It was a fitting single that reflects the tone of most of the album.

The song tells the tale of the constant touring the group does all around the world.

The track isn't all that impressive on a lyrical or rhyming level, but it has the laid-back beat and flow featured on "93 'til Infinity" and the

group's tape-only release, "Focus."

"Postal" shows the evolution of the group. The song's lyrics deal with relationship issues in a mature manner. It discusses a girlfriend who always wants to get angry and make her boyfriend go postal. The rapping has harmonic segments and each emcee gets his turn to flow over the complex beat.

"Damn, you got some nerve miss / I'm thinking to myself, 'do I deserve this? / I mean I'm trying to be there with you, but honestly I'm lightweight scared of you / I just can't see myself without you, same time I can't be myself around you / Understand I'm a work in progress / All this fussin' just hurt the process."

"Fourtation" has the feel of a Jurassic 5 song to me. It is a playful song that jumps back and forth between rappers from line to line. It has the creativity of Blackalicious, where the lyrics revolve around a central topic, which in this case is the number four.

The album is hosted by the founder of Hieroglyphics, Del Tha Funkee Homosapien. He introduces the album, appears on "Hiero HQ" and does the "Outro" track. Del doesn't take away the spotlight, though.

"Proper Aim" has some of the best rhyming and flowing of the album, on top of a bass beat.

"The deadly pedigree, leaves little for editing / thoughts are dead in me, inevitably put you ahead of me / I'm steadily battling your chicanery with battery after battery, blast your smattering to smithereens."

The song's video has painter Steve Lopez creating the album's artwork in fast forward. Lopez has done snowboard illustrations, murals and CD artwork for other artists including Erykah Badu.

The album has skits in between songs, which is something different for the group. This idea was most likely brought in by Prince Paul, who has had comedy skits on both of his Handsome Boy Modeling School albums.

While the beats definitely have a Prince Paul feel, Domino also helped on the production to keep a Hieroglyphics sound.

In a news release, Tajai explained the title of the album has two meanings. The CD was recorded in the Montezuma house, near Point Reyes. The title also was a reference to the slang term for infectious diarrhea.

"The deeper meaning is this album will make you crap yourself," Tajai said.

This CD is the best hip-hop album to be released in years. It captures the old-school sound, but is complex in its beats and rapping. Any fan of underground or backpack hip-hop music should cop "Montezuma's Revenge."

Restaurant of the Week: Chill Factor

Flavor is 'Chill's' main factor

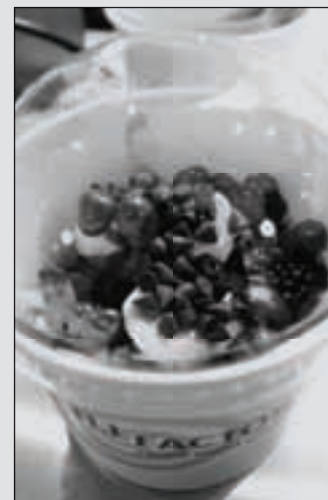
By Leonard Lai
Staff Writer

Despite walking to Iguanas to get food throughout the semester, I had never noticed the vacant building next to it.

Now, a frozen yogurt restaurant, Chill Factor, has filled the empty spot.

The interior was white with blue trim, exactly like the color scheme of their business card, which left the impression in my head that I was in some winter wonderland made up of cold and cool colors.

It's a self-serve style frozen



[Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily]
A cup of frozen yogurt from Chill Factor.

yogurt joint, where you can treat yourself to an assortment of flavors that will be changed out consistently to introduce new flavors.

I grabbed one of the cups offered to the right of door upon entering, and I was on my way to pick my flavors of choice.

There is a choice between a "normal" size cup and a "giant" size cup that was about double the size of the "normal" cup.

The flavors are divided into

two-per-serving cabinets with a pull switch in the middle to automatically dispense the fro-yo mixed together.

Watermelon, original tart, vanilla and coconut were only some of the flavors available from the 12 they currently have.

The combinations of flavors were a bit questionable — the mix-pull lever was not necessarily tempting for me to use.

Coconut and pumpkin? Cookies and cream and orange? Gross.

Once I got my combination — Vanilla and cookie dough — I was on my way to see the vast bar of toppings I would be layering upon my fro-yo mountain.

Small pieces of mochi, which are Japanese rice cakes, fruits, cheesecake crumbs and more cookie dough bits were only some of the toppings offered to the side of the cash register.

The real gem was turning around to find trays full of Oreo cookie crumbs, Kit Kat bar pieces, mini M&Ms, dried banana chips, toffee and many other dried treats offered.

Chill Factor charges 35 cents per ounce and gives customers control over the amount they want for their bowl.

The restaurant offers a 10 percent student discount to those who present their student ID upon purchase.

I went to the room next door, which had a lounge feel, with couches going along the walls of the room, facing a flat-screen TV.

Along the walls, there are iPod docking stations, so customers may play their own music.

With a cool interior I know I'll be back to see what new flavors Chill Factor will have.

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Student looks to accelerate hobby into go-kart racing career

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

Motorsports and racing have been twin passions for go-kart racer Matthew Weiss since he was about 2 years old.

"I've always been turned on to motorsports since I was really young," he said. "Dad used to just turn on the TV and we'd watch the Formula One races."

Weiss, a sophomore kinesiology major, started racing go-karts in 2008, having bought his first go-kart in winter 2007.

He said he bought the go-kart after spending years hearing from others that "karting" was too dangerous and too risky for a person who has a small chance of becoming a professional racer.

"I suppressed that want to do it for a long time," he said. "Then a couple years ago, I said 'You know what, I have the funding, I always wanted to do this, and no one's saying no.' And I went and bought myself a kart."

Weiss said he raced in a local series and won the championship, which he said inspired him to continue racing.

"I tried it, I liked it, and I was successful," he said. "Part of it was just seeing it on TV and thinking it was the coolest thing I had ever seen, and half is wanting to make a career out of it."

Poolside

Weiss said he works as a swim coach at the Stanford Campus Recreation Association branch of Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics, teaching children to swim.

Abi Liu, aquatics director for the association, said she met Weiss about four years ago when she became his boss, and has since found him to be a reliable, trustworthy and honest person.

"He's so committed to whatever he does, whether it's swimming or driving," said Liu, an SJSU kinesiology graduate. "But he invests a lot emotionally, and sometimes he lets his emotions

bother him outside of his work, because he cares so much."

Libra Hilde, an assistant professor of history at SJSU, stated in an e-mail that Weiss is a swim coach for her two children.

"Matt Weiss is a remarkable combination of fun-loving but serious," she stated. "He always has a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone, but there is a fierce determination that lurks beneath the surface of that easy-going exterior."

Body and kart

Weiss said race car drivers have to maintain a level of fitness comparable to that of professional athletes because of the stresses exerted on the body while driving. He said stresses include heat and extended periods of confinement. A driver's physical condition plays a role in his or her ability to focus and drive well.

"You need to put feedback into the car," he said. "You work the car hard, especially in karting."

Weiss said he primarily swims for his workouts, but that he also cycles, runs and works with medicine balls to improve his coordination.

He said his ideal workout period is about two to three hours per day with one day a week off, though his work and school schedule sometimes limit him to one-hour workouts per day.

"It makes driving easier and easier, the more I do it," he said.

When Weiss is on the track practicing — "testing" in racing parlance — he said he focuses on achieving consistent results with each set of laps he drives.

He said consistency establishes a baseline against which he can compare the results of changes he makes to either his driving technique or equipment.

"I'll do 10 laps, return to the pits, think about how I drove, talk to people and make one adjustment," he said. "Then I'll do 10 more laps and keep going

until I've optimized the set up of the car, so I can leave the car as it is until race day."

On-track mindset

Weiss said that before a race, he tries to be as mentally relaxed as possible, and tries to visualize himself doing laps — memorizing where he should be braking, turning and accelerating on the track — a mindset which he said he tries to maintain while driving.

"You never know what's going to happen," he said. "People are around you, they're trying to go fast, trying to jockey for position. I have to stay as cool as I can, making sure I'm looking ahead and around me."

On the track, Weiss said he looks for any advantage he can gain from a driver in front of him so he can move ahead, but also has to watch out for the drivers behind him.

"While you're looking for an advantage in front of you, someone is looking for an advantage behind you," he said. "You have to be able to hold off that person."

Hilde stated in her e-mail that she observed Weiss' ability to keep cool as he worked with children.

"I have seen him get annoyed with the kids when they are talking or misbehaving," she stated. "But I have never seen him lose his temper ... he is extremely calm and collected."

Weiss said he credits his ability to keep cool with the time he spent as a competitive swimmer and water polo player in high school and his early college career.

"It really allowed me to keep my focus, even though I'm super tired," he said. "It can get pretty rough out there, with the other



[Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily]

Student Matthew Weiss stands next to the go-kart he bought in 2007 that he began racing with in 2008. Weiss said he hopes to become a professional racer one day.

competitors sometimes banging on you.

"I try to not get frustrated, try to not lose control. I do the best I can with the car and just finish the race. It's something I've been able to do really well in my short career — finish races and not make stupid mistakes."

Money, money

Weiss said his primary obstacle is financial.

"Some of the guys I'm competing against have bottomless bank accounts," he said. "They can just buy the best equipment all the time, hire the best coaches and the best engineers."

Weiss said he is grateful for the support of his family, but the only support he has to fall back on is his income from his work as a coach.

"My income is very fixed," he said. "So if anything goes wrong, I could have a very hard time staying on the track."

Weiss said he is currently fundraising to help fund maintenance work and upgrades to his kart and hire support staff.

"I don't want to go out into the world and say, 'give me money,' because number one, I'm not going

to get anything, and number two, it'll turn people off big time," he said.

By making himself and his work known to local communities, Weiss said he hopes to find someone who is also passionate about motorsports and is willing to support him, whether financially or with experience.

Donald Durbin Jr., owner of Cambrian Go-Karts and one of Weiss' sponsors, said professional racing is one of the most difficult careers.

"You need a combination of luck — being in the right place at the right time, and you'll need a bit of money," he said. "You need to be able to fund your way on your own until you can get someone to sponsor you."

Beyond the next race

Weiss said that the Jim Russell Racing Drivers School offers scholarships that allow racers to move from racing karts to racing full-sized cars and potentially progress to testing vehicles for Formula One racing teams.

"I'm hoping to win a karting championship next year," he said. "That'll earn me a scholarship to be licensed in Formula Three cars."

"That license is a big deal. It means I'm viable to go and test, because I can't drive those cars without a special license."

Weiss said the preferred end result of his work would be his ability to make a living as a professional racer.

"It would allow me to express myself and make a living doing so," he said. "Professional motorsport is entertainment, like watching football. They make money by having people tune in with their TVs or with people going to their games — I want to be able to give that entertainment to people and have that pay my bills."

Weiss said he would always aim to advance himself as a competitor and said he would never give up an opportunity to race at the highest levels.

"Formula One is the highest level," he said. "And if it works out, then that's where I will go."

Weiss said his next race will be in March, which is the beginning of the 2010 racing season.

"Next season, I definitely can improve by making sure I have the latest, greatest equipment, and not giving any compromise," he said. "It doesn't matter how great the expense is, I'll find a way to pay it."

"I want to go into the season with everything in order and give myself the best chance possible to win that championship."

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

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	4-			4-	5
12+		3			4x
		3	40x		
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3÷				3-	

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Here's a preview of a new puzzle game appearing in the Spartan Daily next semester. Outsmart Sudoku smart with KenKen smart!

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Have a fun and safe winter break!
See you in the spring!

Say no to astrological profiling



Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

At the age of 13, my older cousin introduced me to the world of astrology by giving me a book that breaks down all 12 Zodiac signs in terms of personality, likes and dislikes, work ethic and relationships.

"This is game right here," she said as she handed me a paperback book with fancy writing and hearts. "Take it home, read it, and you'll own almost any conversation with anybody."

I was at a young, curious and eager age. I was starting to have crushes on boys, sleepovers with girlfriends and diary sessions, and I was overwhelmed with various emotions.

I was completely open to reading about anything that appeared to be a key to unlocking any type of social situation.

That night, as I lay in bed, I flipped through the pages.

"Cancer, the Sensitive One." "Aries, the Leader." "Gemini, the Talker."

I felt the book was a manual to each astrological sign, from teaching me what kinds of activities each sign enjoys, what types of physical ailments they may be prone to having, down to what day of the week is considered "lucky" for each.

From middle school until high school, I religiously checked my horoscope and referred to the "manual" every

time I found out the birthday of a new person of interest.

My interest in astrology grew so deep that I found myself using it as the only basis for determining one's personality.

For example, every time my friend was late for wherever we were supposed to go, I blamed it on the fact that he was a Leo.

I was completely open to reading about anything that appeared to be a key to unlocking any type of social situation.

"Oh you Leo, with your selfish king-of-the-world ways," I would think to myself.

When I found myself getting along with people really well, I would try to guess their astrological sign in my head before casually asking for their birthday.

I've been about 80 percent accurate up until this point.

Around 2006, however, I found myself a victim of my own demise.

I loaned the "manual" to a close confidant of mine, who began to develop the same interest in astrology.

An incident happened. There were misunderstandings, I apologized to my fullest, and made an offer of peace.

The other person did not accept and used astrological references to support the argument — because I'm a (astrological sign here), my apology is simply a form of self-satisfaction, and I'm straight up mean.

This is when I realized the dark side of astrology — astrological profiling.

Similar to racial profiling, in which racial or ethnic characteristics are used to determine whether a person is prone to committing a crime or action, astrological profiling uses the same argument based on a person's birthday.

I could not help but roll my eyes as I listened to this person's argument through the phone, because everything seemed so invalid and foolish.

I've laid off reading the horoscopes and books because, well, it got kind of old, and mostly because I realized that astrology isn't the only key to unlocking another person.

I grew older, wiser and more aware of the fact that referring to the "manual" when it comes to my relationships is stupid.

I must admit, astrology can be fun to read and it does create entertaining conversations.

But it's definitely not an answer to everything, and most definitely not a manual for dealing with other people.

Just say no to astrological profiling.

Comment online about any of the articles published in the Spartan Daily.

Visit us at theSpartanDaily.com

For a coherent point, please see column to the left



Angelo Lanham
Yes, I Have a Point

It's that time of year again. I'm not the first to say it, but I'm the one who's saying it now, at this precise moment. That cursed Christmas music is the barometer. Every day, increasingly disproportionate amounts of canned restaurant music are turning red and green.

Pretty soon, I'll be hearing "Jingle Bell Rock" 18 times a day, which is about 30 times too many, if you ask me (I figure then -12 incidents will cancel out some of last year's jingle rockage).

It's a little colder, now, too. But really, people, it's not all that cold. People from Idaho would be sunbathing right about now, and here we are, all scarfed shut with Uggs, convinced that the drop below 80 degrees is some precursor to the end of the world.

I had a nacho burrito today. While consuming it, I saw a woman walk in wearing a blanket. I get cold too, but you won't catch me walking around dressed up like a bed.

Trees are great. So tall.

You know who has the best anarchists? The Greeks. I read an AP story today about how a group of masked youths rioted everywhere, hurling firebombs at police, kicking them off their motorcycles as they passed and, when cornered, breaking into a university building and smashing marble objects from within the building, for lack of

destructive alternatives.

The protest had something to do with a cross between a backlash against the new Socialist government and the first anniversary of the police shooting of a teenager. Like I said, great anarchists. Our idea of an anarchist is a pimply, pale, underweight teenager in a black shirt drawing the letter "A" with a circle around it everywhere. These guys smash schools after capture is inevitable. No one riots like the Greeks. I'm allowed to say that. I'm Greek.

Still here? Wow. You know, if you don't like it, you can always turn the page.

I had a nacho burrito today. While consuming it, I saw a woman walk in wearing a blanket. I get cold too but you won't catch me walking around dressed up like a bed.

Don't stay here on my account.

I was watching Looney Tunes and I got a great idea for blog add-on. Everyone with a blog knows that it is the very nature of the blogosphere to be continually called a blither-

ing idiot by anonymous people who wholeheartedly disagree with you. OK, no one's really disagreed with mine yet, but I want to be prepared.

A simple hardware add-on to every computer to be sold in the near future and a line or two of HTML code will yield a nice brick enshrouded by a boxing glove, to accordion out at will at any persons online and logged on to comment on your blog. It'll really keep the biggest comments at bay, methinks. Consider: "Ha. OK, you think I'm a moron, but guess what? You've got a broken face. HA."

There is, naturally, significant margin for backfire. You have to break a few eggs to make an omelette, though, right? Besides, the possibility of a counter-strike would make blogging an adrenaline-soaked adventure.

"I wrote this blog about how great Michael Jackson's music is, and all of a sudden, some jerkwad named Angelo hit his button and my computer punched me with a brick. I got him back though. KO'ed the bastard. I can tell, 'cause all of a sudden, he typed a string of ddddddddddddddddddd ddddddddddddddddddd ddddddddddddddddddd ddddddddddddddddddd."

It could also be used to playfully jab friends and relatives. If my genius idea comes to fruition, the long sad history of communication will finally have reached a point at which on can literally reach out and touch someone.

This is the final appearance of "Yes, I Have a Point." Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

Is Obama acting Bush-like?



Tommy Wright
Senior Staff Writer

On Dec. 1, President Barack Obama made his long-anticipated speech about the war in Afghanistan. He announced his plans to send an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to fight the war.

On "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" the next day, Stewart noticed parallels between former President George W. Bush's troop surge in Iraq.

"What, is 30,000 troops the military equivalent of two Advil?"

After 7,000 were added to the original estimate, Bush's Iraq surge totaled 28,750 troops.

Obama tried to differentiate the war in Afghanistan from the war in Iraq in his speech. Yet he has the same prescription for a different war.

It has been disputed whether the surge alone calmed tensions in Iraq.

Obama was against the surge in Iraq. While he did give credit to the surge, he also said the Sunni Awakening and the ceasefire of a Shiite militia contributed to the

drop in violence.

"There is no doubt that the extraordinary work of our U.S. forces has contributed to a lessening of the violence, just as making sure that the Sadr militia stood down or the fact that the Sunni tribes decided to flip and work with us instead of with Al Qaeda — something that we hadn't anticipated happening," Obama said to Katie Couric in an interview aired on CBS Evening News in July 2008.

To be fair, Obama said the money and troops that went to Iraq as part of the surge should have been going to Afghanistan in the interview with Couric.

But that doesn't mean that the surge strategy will work in Afghanistan.

On Friday, a New York Times news analysis stated that some of Obama's aides and military commanders said the conditions that made the surge work in Iraq are not present in Afghanistan.

"We spent a lot of time discussing the fact that the only thing Iraq and Afghanistan have

in common is a lot of sand," a strategist deeply involved in the White House Situation Room was quoted as saying.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of the 30,000-troop increase in Afghanistan is a report stating that there are about 100 Al Qaeda members in the country.

An article from the ABC News Web site stated that a senior U.S. intelligence official said that American intelligence agencies and the Defense Department concluded that approximately 100 members of Al Qaeda are left in Afghanistan.

There was a response by an unnamed official in an article on the Fox News Web site. The official confirmed the number, but added that Al Qaeda's "center of gravity" is in Pakistan and they work closely with Afghan Taliban leaders. Obama should be working harder to get to that center of gravity in the tribal regions of Pakistan near the Afghanistan border.

Sending 30,000 troops to Afghanistan to fight 100 Al Qaeda fighters is nearly analogous to starting a war in Iraq because of whatever scant evidence the Bush administration used to justify that war.

Did you know ...

... a 1996 Roper-Starch worldwide survey showed that one out of every four adults in the United States believed in astrology?

... Astrologia was the title for both astronomers and astrologers up until 700 A.D.?

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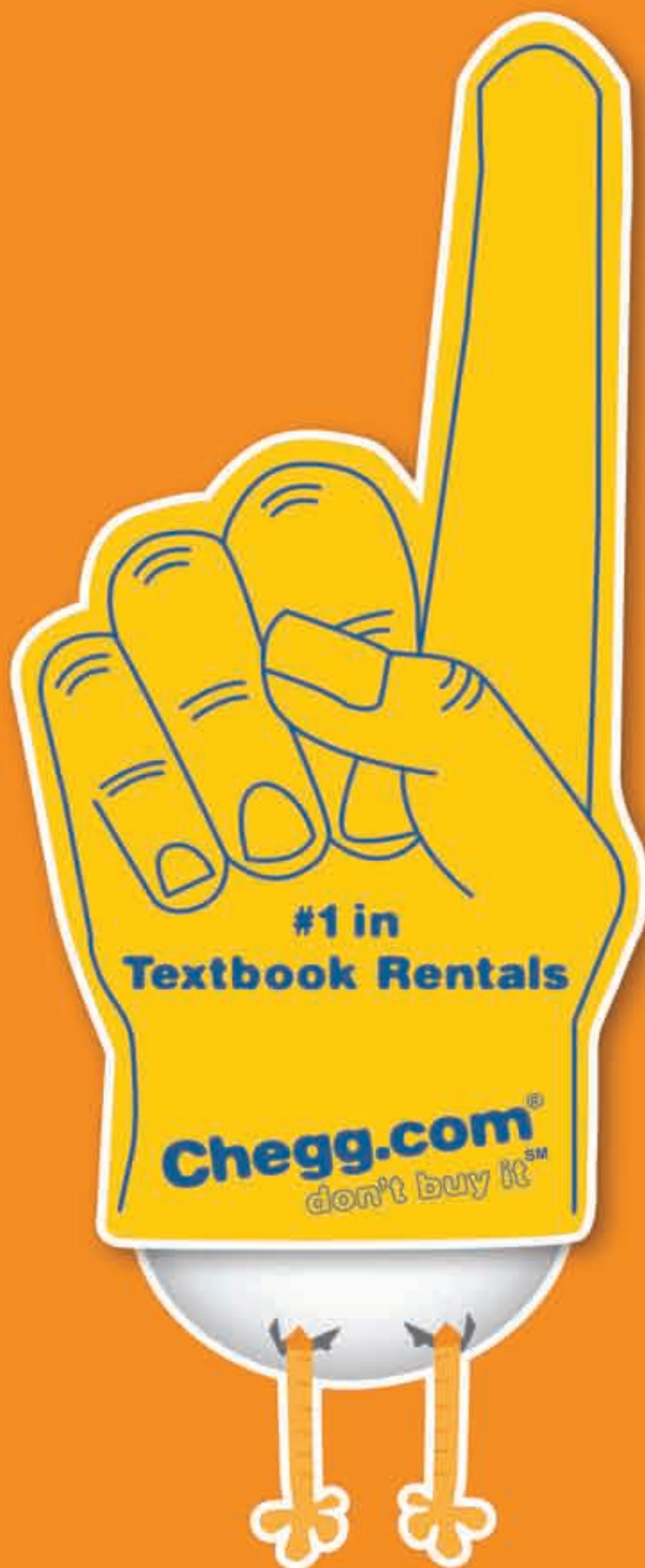
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