



OPINION

Different perspectives
on WikiLeaks

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A&E

Bhangra dance crew
impresses first lady

SEE PAGE 6



SPARTAN DAILY

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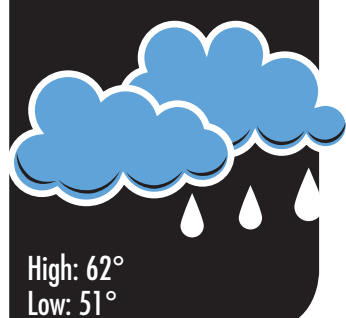
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OUTSIDE



High: 62°
Low: 51°

Fair displays student ingenuity

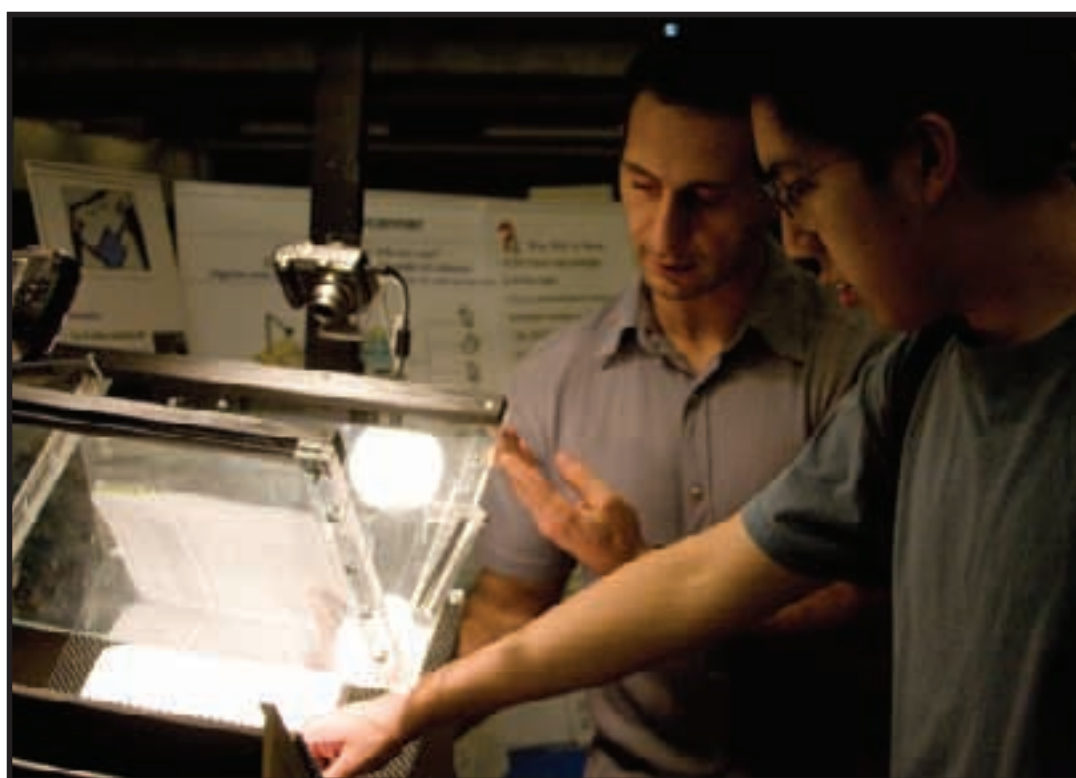


PHOTO: JACK BARNWELL | SPARTAN DAILY

Edvin Eshagh, a master's student in systems engineering, demonstrates his team's book scanner. The scanner is composed entirely of off-the-shelf parts and can capture 300 pages in under three minutes.

ERIC VAN SUSTEREN
Executive Editor

Students from several disciplines gathered Tuesday in the Student Union using poster boards, models and prototypes to showcase ideas they believed were marketable or socially applicable during the 2010 Neat Ideas Fair.

The projects included plans for a low-cost book scanner using digital cameras, a smart phone application that predicts parking availability and a stuffed animal drive for chil-

dren in pediatric emergency rooms.

"Students can take their creative and academic talents and apply them to real local problems," said Brad Maihack, a controller and finance director for Hewlett-Packard Co.

Representatives from companies and organizations such as HP, Cisco Systems Inc. and the Silicon Valley Law Group came to judge the marketability, creativity and presentation of the students' ideas, said Anuradha Basu, the fair's organizer.

"It's huge," said Maihack, a

judge at the competition. "It ties perfectly into the academic side and into the professional culture."

The fair, which was hosted by the Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship, started in 2004 and was meant not only to serve as a bridge between the professional and academic worlds, but as a chance for students to put their ideas under the scrutiny of executives and seasoned entrepreneurs, said

See **IDEAS** Page 2

Grant helps press in Afghanistan

KENNY MARTIN
Staff Writer

The U.S. State Department has chosen SJSU to receive \$1.2 million to be used to help train journalists and aid journalism education in Afghanistan, according to a journalism lecturer at SJSU.

The grant includes \$1.1 million for setting up the program, while the school is providing \$120,000 to help with the tuition and airfare for the project, said Peter Young, co-administrator for the Herat University Education Reform and Teaching Project in Afghanistan.

The project will take place over three years, he said. "We'll be implementing technologies in year 1, and teaching in years 2 and 3," Young said. "Students will be taking English classes and doing media internships."

He said over the course of the three years, six students from Afghanistan will make the journey to SJSU, although the actual students have yet to be selected.

William Briggs, the director of the school of journalism and mass communications at SJSU, said the students will likely be coming toward the second year of the project.

"The students will learn in an environment with a free press, so it will be easier for them to learn because they will see it every day," he said. "It will be interesting for our students to get to know Afghan students because they can learn firsthand about things they have heard on the news."

Richard Holbrooke, State Department special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in a statement that the program is a vital step in the modernization of Afghanistan.

"A free press and professionalized journalism trade is critical to the stable and vibrant Afghanistan that our Afghan and international partners are working so hard

See **GRANT** Page 2

Aviators get new wings on campus

ALEX SPICER
Staff Writer

Aviation students at SJSU can now take advantage of the state-of-the-art flight simulators located inside the Industrial Studies building.

The department's fleet of Redbird simulators, which includes a full-motion version with an enclosed cockpit and the ability to mimic the pitch, roll and yaw of an aircraft, allow aviation students to train between classes at no cost, said Randy Baudendistel, a senior aviation operations major.

"With the simulation lab now on the main campus and just down the hall from faculty advisers, students within the aviation department are now able to more readily use the equipment purchased for our benefit," said Tommy Ondrasek, a junior aviation operations major. "There is no longer an issue with finding someone available to be present out at the aviation campus to do this task. We are now able to make better use of our time by having the equipment at our fingertips."

The simulators were previously located off campus in the department's old home at the Mineta San Jose International Airport, he said.

This past summer the department moved to a new facility located on Swift Lane at Reid-Hillview

Airport, he said.

Glynn Falcon, the acting director of aviation, said three or four more Redbird simulators are still needed to bring the core aviation courses up to the level they need to be to achieve full accreditation from the Aviation Accreditation Board International, as well as provide flight simulation to all of the aviation majors seeking careers as professional pilots.

"They will be competing against other universities that offer actual flight training, so we need to be able to provide high-level ground simulations in order to offset that," Falcon said. "I decided it would be best to locate our flight simulation lab back on the main campus in the Industrial Studies building across the hall from my office, instead of at the new Reid-Hillview campus."

Falcon said this was because until the Reid-Hillview campus is fully operational and staffed, all of the full-time faculty and technical support are located in the Industrial Studies building at SJSU.

Ondrasek said the proximity of the simulators to the advisers is a great benefit.

Baudendistel said simulators are a cornerstone in the preparation pilots use to sharpen their skills and rehearse more advanced emergency maneuvers.

"They offer new pilots a pressure-free environment to gain comfort with systems and allow consequence-

free practice for more advanced pilots," he said. "Mistakes are a reality of being human and pilots are no exception. The one tool proven to combat mistakes is practice. By making a majority of our mistakes in the safety of a simulator, we become safer, more aware pilots in the skies."

Falcon said that if fully utilized, the students can log time in the simulators that is credited toward their professional pilot license and ratings — up to 50 hours.

"At today's aircraft rental and flight instructor rates, that can save them over \$7,500 by using our flight simulators to supplement their classroom and in-flight training," he said.

Baudendistel said the simulators are currently only available to aviation students, but will be available to all students in the future when the simulation lab has full-time technicians.

The department is working on training students to become lab technicians, he said.

Aviation alumnus Kevin Knecht said the new simulation lab is a good sign the department is moving forward.

"I have only been in it twice but from the looks of it, the school really threw some time and money into the place," he said. "Even students who aren't in aviation should go check it out."

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR FREE STUFF?

details on page 7



ILLUSTRATION: BRIAN O'MALLEY | SPARTAN DAILY

Herat is one of 34 provinces in Afghanistan and covers the northwestern region of the country. The province's administrative capital is also named Herat.

GRANT

From Page 1

to realize," he said. "Governments cannot do this alone, however, which is why I am truly inspired and heartened by this commitment by San Jose State University's journalism school."

Students in Afghanistan might use Skype to virtually attend the classes being taught here, and some students from SJSU might get to go to Afghanistan, which Briggs said would be an opportunity for SJSU students to get international experience and interact directly with Herat University.

The grant is paying for professors and students from Afghanistan to come to SJSU, and for two professors from SJSU to install equipment in Afghanistan, said Diane Guerrazzi, an assistant professor of journalism.

"We see value in helping an area struggling with free speech," said Guerrazzi, who will co-administer the program. "We hope to show students how important journalism is, no matter how much the government tries to suppress it."

Young and Guerrazzi will be the two professors making the trip to Afghanistan, with

Young going in February and Guerrazzi leaving in June.

Both said they understand there are safety risks involved, but neither is going to let these risks deter them from moving forward.

"I'm only going to Afghanistan for seven days," Young said. "We're not bulletproof, but if we act smart and go about our business, we will be fine — but I won't be going out dancing at night."

"We are going to western Afghanistan, which is considered safer," Guerrazzi said. "But it is still a volatile area."

To congratulate the school and the journalism department on receiving the grant, a celebration reception was held last Thursday at Dwight Bentel Hall.

Junior journalism major Kimberly Diaz said she came to the celebration because of the impact a grant can have on a school.

"It will affect the journalism major as a whole because it will give equal opportunities to students," Diaz said.

Briggs said he hopes that after the grant, there will be further opportunities to either extend or replace the grant, although he said that the school can't spread itself too thin.

"This is a big grant," Young said. "Good money begets more good money. People want to be with a winner."

fish to feed families in poverty-stricken areas, said Rumzie, a senior geography major.

He said he valued the different point of view of his partner, an international business major.

"It's been huge," Rumzie said. "He's seen it through his field and I see it through mine."

Basu said mixing specializations within project groups is key.

"Very few good ideas develop from one angle," she said. "For a really successful idea you need a group of different disciplines."

The judges also awarded groups based on the presentation of their ideas.

"In the professional world, one needs to be good at communicating and presenting their ideas to persuade and defend their proposal," Basu said.

Also featured were the elevator pitch competition, in which a speaker has two minutes to convince judges that his idea is worth backing, and the executive summary competition, in which judges rank the best written summary of the students' projects, she said.

Park It, the group that proposed developing the parking availability smart phone application, won the people's choice award based on votes from passers-by.

Basu said participants in the fair may choose to develop a business plan based on their neat idea to submit to next semester's business plan fair.

Applicants to that fair, which is judged by many of the same people who judge the Neat Ideas Fair, have a chance to receive the \$10,000 Wanda Ginner award, she said.

Ginner, an alumna and member of the Tower Foundation, said events such as the Neat Ideas and Business Plan Fairs are essential.

"What I really love and believe in is entrepreneurship," she said. "If we're going to compete internationally — that's how. If we don't, we're going to be a Third World country."

Staffers get crafty

KRISTEN PEARSON
Managing Editor

Students walking through the Student Union today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. might find tables filled with crafts ranging anywhere from cloth book covers with built-in bookmarks to festive reindeer pins made from painted puzzle pieces.

The prices at these tables range from 50 cents to \$100, according to the various crafty creators.

SJSU staff come together every Christmas to put on the Artique craft fair, said Phyllis Nakamura, an emeritus staff member in the psychology department.

"I've been doing the Artique since the beginning," she said. "I do a lot of knitting and crochet."

Guadalupe Espinoza, a sophomore health science major, said she had been passing through the Student Union really quick on her way home.

"I guess they're trying to sell things for Christmas," she said.

The artique is a time where staff can sell their own craft items, Nakamura said.

"Because of the construction there isn't much space available with chairs and tables lining the main floor of the Student Union," she said. "The crafters kind of got burnt out this year because of furlough days as well, so there aren't as many of us."

In spite of this, Nakamura said the fair had quite a few new people this year.

She said she works on things year-round and knits and crochets while she is watching TV with her husband. "That way I'm not as likely to be snacking," Nakamura said. "So I need to find outlets to be able to see my crafts."

Academic activities coordinator Michelle Liu said she sells the booklets she makes as well as the cards and paintings her mother makes for prices ranging from \$1 to \$100.

"It takes a long time to make these things," she said. "Some of these are things we have been accumulating, some of it carries over from



PHOTO: MATT SANTOLLA | SPARTAN DAILY

Sophomore biochemistry major Jocelyn Fuentesilla looks through scarves for Christmas gifts at the SJSU staff Artique.

before."

In addition to the crafts, there is a doorprize drawing to which vendors donate items, Nakamura said.

"People can fill the slips out and they will contact the winner after the artique is over," she said.

Cecilia Serrano said she sews scarves and blankets and buys the fabric from a place called FabMo.

FabMo, which is also called Fabric & More, rescues designer materials for creative use, according to the FabMo website.

"They are salvaged fabrics," Serrano said. "All I have to do is sew them into things. It takes about an hour to make something simple, but silk is hard. It takes about an hour and a half to square and sew the silk throws."

Administration Support Coordinator Alice Martin said she sells book covers with built-in book marks.

The prices on these covers

range from \$12 to \$15, she said.

"It's two for \$20 in the small size," she said, "and two for \$25 in the large size."

They take about three hours worth of work to make, but Marin said they used to take a lot longer.

"The money I get from selling them here doesn't even come close to covering the material," she said. "They've been going really quickly today though."

The scarves and festive pins were a draw for sophomore biochemistry major Jocelyn Fuentesilla.

"I've been walking around looking at the things they have set up," she said. "I'm planning on getting a fleece scarf. I'm mostly looking for scarves."

She said she was looking for Christmas gifts for friends and family and thought it was nice that these were handmade.

"It makes them more special," she said.

IDEAS

From Page 1

Basu, an associate professor in the College of Business.

"The students connect with not only professionals, but with mentors," she said. "Judges have become mentors to help write business plans or even sometimes to help fund them."

Dave Hadden, a judge at the fair, said it was a wonderful chance for students to try out new ideas.

"It's one of the first real-life opportunities while in school that very closely simulates real life," he said.

After interviewing the students about their projects, the judges awarded the students based on the ideas' practicality and creativity.

The winning team, Alternative Power Accessory, produced a cheap cordless battery that could be recharged using a laptop power supply.

"We've fulfilled a niche," said Daniel Bohannon, one of the project's team members. "There's this weird gray area between cords and power supplies. This isn't meant to replace anything, but to be a supplement to a collection of tools."

Bohannon, a senior business administration major, said he hoped to spend the \$1,000 award on securing a provisional patent for the accessory.

The team Eco-cycle Aquaponics and Habitat Systems won the social innovation award, which is given to teams which focus on solving social problems with their idea, rather than achieving commercial gain.

The team proposed building a zero-waste, self-sustaining fish farm, which fertilizes plants with fish excrement while continuously purifying the tank's water, said team member Michael Rumzie.

It is designed to accompany a 12-by-16-foot housing unit and grow more than 200

In the professional world, one needs to be good at communicating and presenting their ideas.

ANURADHA BASU
Fair organizer



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Lecturer explores her sexual identity

Kate Evans writes about her journey of self-discovery while teaching her students to embrace their unique qualities in their own written works

TYLER DO
Staff Writer

From straight to gay and gay to straight, the sexuality of one lecturer at SJSU is continuously evolving.

English lecturer Kate Evans said, as a white middle-class woman committed to feminism, it was different being in a societal category that she didn't fit in all the time.

"It was important to me to be out," she said. "People look at me and would never assume I was a lesbian. I love to fight stereotypes and fight for social justice."

Evans said she was married to a man in her early 20s. That marriage lasted about 5 years — she said being married at a young age, it just didn't work.

"At age 30 to 31, I went away to Japan, came back and that's when I met a woman who I fell in love with, which was a big surprise to me," she said. "I hadn't ever imagined that possibility in my life, but I wasn't afraid of it."

She said they met one another in a poetry class at SJSU and were together for 15 years.

"There's so many San Jose State connections in my life ... it's like this place is in my blood," Evans said.

The bonds of writing and sexuality are heavily connected in her life, she said.

"At first I didn't know she was a former lesbian, but I think she's great," said senior humanities major Laura Schmidt, one of Evans' students.

Evans said her teaching goes along with her free-spirited attitude toward life and she simply wants her students to grow.

Evans said her inspiration for writing and the realm of literature came at a young age because she had a lot of books in the house.

"My mom said that I was reading by four and she said she didn't know why," Evans said. "I was reading some of the books my older sister had and my mom could tell since I was reading whole pages to her at night."

As a writer, she said she writes fiction, non-fiction and poetry but she has also dabbled in journalism.

"When I was small, my friend would come over and we would actually create a newsroom in the bedroom," Evans said. "I had a typewriter and in a couple of days my friend and I would have a newspaper."

She said when she was a little girl she recalls requesting a tape recorder for Christmas to record different sounds because it was always about capturing different parts of life onto the page.

In addition, Evan said she has had the privilege of working for her community newspaper by volunteering for a year at Sierra College.

"Well, Kate Evans is a terrific teacher and a marvelous writer and poet," said English department Chair John Engell. "We're just delighted to have her here on the faculty and she gives so much of her time and energy to her students."

The Author

Evans said her first book, "Negotiating the Self: Identity, Sexuality, and Emotion in Learning to Teach," started out as a dissertation on the study of queer teachers but became a book after she graduated with a doctorate in educational philosophy and curriculum instruction.

She said the book deals with the fluidity of sexuality, focusing on the example of how a straight woman could turn gay and features the Kinsey scale of sexual responses.

"(The) theory behind this is the idea that we're always negotiating who we are at different venues and coming out is never something that happens once," she said. "It's an ongoing thing ... and it is heightened during schools, queerness in the schools."

Evans said the Kinsey scale indicates varying degrees of bisexuality and has a rating of zero to six with zero being completely heterosexual and six being completely homosexual.

"According to Kinsey, he said along our lifetime we drift back and forth along the scale of sexuality and it definitely applies to me and probably everyone," she said.

Evans said the book helped explain to others why she changed from one sexuality to another. "Some people thought it's like I was abducted by a cult of lesbians and turned or something," she said.

Evans said the book was an amazing part of her journey developing and finding sexuality.

"My sexuality, it kind of is not capable of being labeled because I am not a lesbian, I am not straight," she said. "Mine is, my sexuality is sort of evolutionary. I like that I am not afraid."

Her most recent book, "Complementary Colors," is a fictionalized version of a love story, which she said encompasses her journey into the lesbian world, including autobiographical

components of her personal life.

"The book answers the questions many straight people have had about my transition from a straight woman into a lesbian and falling in love," Evans said.

She said it was ironic that during the time she was doing book readings and promoting the ideals of the book, she was separated from her partner.

Evans is also known as the author of "For the May Queen" and "Like All We Love."

"I've read one of her books and I thought it was great," English lecturer and colleague, Tiffany Ballard said.

Ballard said she respects Evans and her teaching style and because she's a writer herself, she really understands the process to take her students along the writing journey, being positive and developing themselves as writers.

"She takes her students seriously but it's always a lot of fun and her books are pleasurable to read," Schmidt said.

The Teacher

Evans is a California native from a town called Auburn in northern California.

"I moved to the Bay Area in the '80s," she said. "I came to San Jose State in 1989 and have gotten two degrees at the university."

She said she received a master's degree in English literature in the '90s and a master of fine arts in creative writing.

"And between those years, I got a Ph.D. at the university of Washington in educational philosophy and curriculum instruction," Evans said.

Evans said she has taught in areas all over the world, from Washington to Japan.

According to the English department, she teaches an array of creative writing courses, composition and literature.

"She really gives you personal feedback and doesn't generalize things," said Ruel Galinato, a senior English major.

He said Evans is a really enthusiastic professor and he appreciates the interest she has invested in her class.

The Mosaic Cross Cultural Center stated Evans is also a supporter and works with the different lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups on campus.

She said she is also a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, which is an organization for students, parents, and teachers who work to create a positive change in schools.

Evans said what she considers most important as an instructor is to have her students tap into their own uniqueness.

"Their own personal power and ability ... whatever that means for them and to try to be expansive with that, playful with that, and compassionate with that and not be concerned with what people should say or say they should be," she said.

Evans said she really encourages students in her fiction class to try different things in their stories.

"Kate's teaching style lets the class ... run itself and she just pushes us in the right direction," said junior English major Robert Prince.

Judging by the way this semester is going, he said he would definitely take the course over again.

Evans said she doesn't like to grade stories based on a specified standard but on their content and required pages because you can't grade creativity.

"I don't want them to think, 'If I do this Kate will give me an A, or this and get a B,'" she said. "But I want them to be thinking about their own uniqueness and everyone has their own incredible special uniqueness — that's what voice is in writing."

She said she wants the students to be excited, to explore their own purpose for being on this planet.

"Once they've done that there is so much they can do for society and for yourself," Evans said. "I hope it's something I can do and open space for that, and I want everyone to have fun."

The Woman

Evans said she is currently dating a man because right after her breakup she felt that her life was a blank slate, and she could love anyone she wanted.

"It was a bit disorienting because I was so imbedded in this lesbian identity," she said. "Although I always called myself a bisexual lesbian because I was acknowledging I was with a woman ... the world saw me as a lesbian and I loved men and I figured that was still an option at some time in my life."

In the last year, Evans said, she has been on a journey that has involved continuing to explore her fluid sexuality.

"It's just been so interesting and exciting and surreal," she said.




English lecturer Kate Evans illustrates a point in her class Thursday afternoon.

PHOTO: TIM FERGUSON | CONTRIBUTOR

Keep Reading.

Traditionally, the phonetic alphabet was used by the military to clearly relay critical parts of a message or a call sign. In 1956, the phonetic alphabet was recognized internationally by the public as a way to transmit messages over telephone systems. Whether used for paintball call names, or military code, the phonetic alphabet remains the most effective way to communicate over the airwaves and through static and interference.

Passing on messages, since 1934.



SPARTAN DAILY

CAMPUS VOICES

BY: SONIA AYALA
AND ALEX SPICERWHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR WINTER BREAK?CHRIS
CHOWJunior
Computer science

I'm going to go work and maybe go to the Rose Bowl. We'll see — I'm trying to figure that out.

PAMELA
STONEJunior
Photography

Bottomlessly working, trying to do some extra photography projects hopefully. Spend time with the family for Christmas.

ROB
TOLOYJunior
Fine arts

I'm an employee for Associated Students so I'll be here until December 22, before I leave for vacation ... Until then, I guess I'll just be working and enjoying my time off free of finals.

RYAN
SULLIVANJunior
Anthropology

For winter break I just got a new snowboard so I'm going to try to make it down to the snow as much as possible and also work as much as I can to pay for it.

SAMANTHA
PAINESenior
Behavioral science

For winter break I'm going to stay at home with my kids just being a stay-at-home mom for six weeks. I'm looking forward to it.

TRANG
NGOFreshman
Biology

For winter break I'm planning just to hang out with my family all the way in Modesto — that's where my grandparents live. And it's kind of where we've gone since I was little.

Student group urges
bystander involvementALEXANDRA RUIZ-HUIDOBRO
Staff Writer

Toilet papering someone's house may seem harmless, but the act can be considered a crime and can violate the sense of safety of the homeowner.

If you knew this was going to happen, would you tell?

The workshop "To Snitch or Not to Snitch" discussed the importance of becoming an empowered bystander and taking a stand against what one thinks is wrong, especially while at college.

The workshop, which was held on Tuesday afternoon, was put on by the group Men Creating Change, an organization on campus that mobilizes collegiate men to break the chain of violence against women.

Speaking to a small group, senior marketing major Quacy Superville said he is a member of the organization and hopes to break stereotypes that state men can't cry and men can't be emotional.

"As men, we have a little more influence through presentations when talking with our peers to change those harmful traditional roles," he said.

Sophomore biology major Andrew Rogers attended the workshop as part of a requirement for his fraternity.

Rogers said he chose this workshop because of its content.

"You do see a lot of things going on around campus and not very many people do stuff," he said. "So it's good to know how to react about it."

The workshop covered topics such as taking initiative and outlined empathy.

The idea of the workshop was to empower students to be willing to intervene and choose not to simply be onlookers, according to the workshop's PowerPoint presentation.

A video titled "What Would You Do?" was shown to demonstrate the difference

between a bystander and an empowered bystander.

"Bystander intervention is extremely important because a lot of people a lot of times ... make up excuses for why they shouldn't intervene that ranges from 'It's not my responsibility,' 'There's someone else in the room,' to 'I'm sure somebody else will know what to do to intervene,'" Superville said.

The workshop listed reasons why people tend not to intervene, such as ignoring the situation or avoiding asking questions to identify whether someone is in trouble.

The reasons people choose to intervene in a situation were also listed, such as 'It is the right thing to do' and 'Friends look out for each other,' as well as being empathetic to the other person and acknowledging that all actions have consequences.

Junior sociology major Ysenia Sepulveda attended the workshop after finding herself in the bystander role and not knowing what to do next.

"It was very interesting because ... not a lot of people talk about this," Sepulveda said.

She said it was a good workshop that helped students understand how to handle these types of situations.

"Party-wise, there's always crazy things going on," Sepulveda said. "Just letting people know what they can do to help other people that are stuck in situations that they aren't able to help with."

Superville said empowered bystanders understand that silence and inaction add to the problem and therefore choose to be a part of the solution and not be silent.

He said when intervening, students should approach everyone as a friend and not be antagonistic.

Speaking honestly and directly to the person is also the best way to approach a situation, he said.

"I think it's just a lifestyle," Superville said. "You have to stay with it throughout and learn from the people around you."

HO HO HO

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Freshman garners conference honor

DANIEL HERBERHOLZ
Sports Editor

Spartan linebacker Keith Smith was named the Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year.

Smith led the SJSU football team with 116 tackles this season, the third most in the WAC and most among freshman in Division-1 — 30 more than the next highest, Boston College linebacker Kevin Pierre-Louis.

Smith said he was excited when he learned he had won the award.

“It was shocking to me because I didn’t know I was up for that, with all the good teams in our conference,” he said.

Smith was named to the All-WAC Second Team, joined by fellow Spartans freshman kicker Harrison Waid and senior guard Ailao Eliapo.

Head coach Mike MacIntyre said amongst the freshman in the WAC this year, Smith was deserving of the honor.

“Keith diagnoses (plays) real well,” MacIntyre said. “He doesn’t have a lot of false movement. He has a good nose for the football.”

After coming off the bench in the first four games, Smith started in the Homecoming game against UC Davis

to replace sophomore linebacker Kyler O’Neal, who suffered an injury.

“It’s just exciting, to start with (freshman linebacker) Vince (Buhagiar) and all the other freshman that were playing alongside me,” Smith said about the Homecoming game. “It was fun to go out there and play with them and get my first start.”

Smith had at least nine tackles in each of the remaining games, including a season-high 19 against Utah State.

“Smith was a backup really until the fifth game,” MacIntyre said. “So if he would have played from the beginning on ... I imagine he would have had 150 tackles instead of what he had.”

MacIntyre said Smith played in every snap of each of those games.

“Really I didn’t notice as much how many plays I was playing, it was just when Coach needed me to be in there,” Smith said. “I’ve just got to do what I’ve got to do and go with it.”

He also notched three sacks against Fresno State, earning him Co-Linebacker Performer of the Week of the College Football Performance Awards, with 4.5 tackles-for-loss in that game of his total 14.

Smith said he will continue to improve in every aspect of his game.



Freshman linebacker Keith Smith (31) takes down senior running back Jeremy Avery (27) in the SJSU 48-3 loss to Boise State on Oct. 16 at Spartan Stadium.

PHOTO: CLIFFORD GRODIN | SPARTAN DAILY

“Having the guys around me like Vince and (freshman defensive back) Bené (Benwikere) and all these other young guys around me, is going to help

me to keep ... wanting to get better,” Smith said.

MacIntyre said he is excited about Smith’s future.

“As he gets bigger and stronger, he’ll become a punisher and start causing more fumbles for our team,” MacIntyre said.

Brittany Johnson: Forward transfer adjusts in first season with SJSU women’s basketball team

KELSEY HILARIO
Staff Writer

For Brittany Johnson, a transfer from Independence College in Kansas, there is no place like home.

The junior kinesiology major said San Jose has been an ideal change of pace for her.

Johnson, who grew up in Tulsa, Okla., said a highlight video was her ticket out of the Midwest.

She said she was spotted on a teammate’s film and recruited by the SJSU women’s basketball team on a full-ride scholarship, though her teammate did not get the same invitation.

As a Spartan, Johnson is leading the team with 10.3 points per game.

Her mom and step-dad wanted her to stay active when she was younger, she said.

She said she needed something more than just school and recess so she began playing basketball in the first grade.

“I love sports, anything that had a ball, but basketball just seemed to be the one that I love the most,” said the forward.

Johnson said SJSU is quite different than her school in Kansas.

“There are things to do outside of just going to school and playing basketball,” Johnson said. “You don’t have to live in the dorms, you can live in your own apartment. The first thing I said when I came out here is that I was at a real university.”

Junior center Dominique Hamilton said Johnson is known as the “southern girl” on the team.

“I think she has adapted well, being so far away from home,” Hamilton said. “She has made the team her family, she is always looking out for people.”

Johnson said she is able to relate to all types of people and her teammate Monique Coble agreed.



Junior forward Brittany Johnson (24) drives past junior forward Heidi Anton (12) in the SJSU 71-59 loss at University of San Francisco on Nov. 15.

PHOTO: SJSU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

“Brittany is very outgoing off of the court, on the court she is the same way,” said the sophomore guard. “She is really goofy, but at the same time she knows when to handle business.”

Johnson said playing at SJSU has been a roller coaster at times — she loves her team but on the court things have not been easy as of late.

“Everybody is so different but we all get along, having to come from so far from home and being so comfortable with the

people that I am around everyday is nice,” Johnson said.

She said that communication has been her strength

on and off of the court.

Coble said Johnson’s strength on the court has been her consistency, and while she has had foot injuries, she gives the same effort every day.

“She is one of our main scorers, her numbers are consistent, she always shows consistency,” Coble said. “She always does her job and she does extra, talking and being positive.”

Hamilton said Johnson’s hard work has earned her the respect of her coaches.

“The coaches love her, they love her work ethic and her personality,” Hamilton said. “They like the fact that she works hard in everything she does.”

If everything were to go ideally Johnson said her first goal after graduation would be to keep playing basketball — maybe internationally.

She said if her basketball dreams do not work out she would like to be a nurse.

“She is really goofy, but at the same time she knows when to handle business.”
MONIQUE COBLE
Sophomore Guard

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Dec. 11	Denver	Denver, Colo.	1:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Cal Poly	Event Center	7 p.m.
Dec. 21	UC Davis	Event Center	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	Mount Saint Mary’s	Event Center	7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Santa Clara	Event Center	2 p.m.
Jan. 6	Louisiana Tech	Event Center	5 p.m.
Jan. 8	New Mexico State	Event Center	5 p.m.

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Extended SJSU Study Hours

Wed. Dec. 8 thru Fri. Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. to Midnight*
Sat. Dec. 11 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Closed to the public at 9:00 p.m. on Wed. & Thurs. and 6 p.m. on Fri. Tower Card required to remain for extended study hours.

24/7 All Night Study Hours During Finals

Sun. Dec. 12 1:00 p.m. thru Fri. Dec. 17 6:00 p.m.**

**24 hour open study period for SJSU students only. Tower Card required after 7 p.m. on Sun. and 9 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

Dec. 18 – Jan. 2, 2011

Sat. Dec. 18 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 19 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 20 thru Thurs. Dec. 30 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 & 31 and Jan. 1 & 2 for holidays.

Winter 2011 (Jan. 3 – 25, 2011)

Mon. - Wed. 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.***
Thurs. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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The Listening Post At SJSU

An Informal and Confidential Place to Talk About Anything and Everything For as Long as it Takes

First Floor in the Student Union

Bhangra Empire dances into the White House

TYLER DO
Staff Writer

The Bhangra Empire, a Bay Area bhangra dance group, have danced their way into the White House and have hopped out with national and international awards.

On Nov. 24, 2009, Bhangra Empire had the privilege of performing for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in the First State Dinner.

The event was in honor of Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India.

"It was just one of those experiences that you will never really forget," Captain of Bhangra Empire Omer Mirza said. "It's those once in a lifetime things and it's been the highlight of being on the team."

Mirza said the team was discovered by Michelle Obama and her staff through YouTube and then flew them over after contacting the group a few days ahead.

"We actually saw the gate-crashers," he said. "We didn't know who they were except we saw them with a man with a small camera and thought they were celebrities, but if they were celebrities wouldn't they have a bigger camera we asked ourselves, so no."

He said it was the first time the group had an opportunity to perform to an audience that was predominantly non-Indian.

According to chandrakanth.com, a website dedicated to the music of India, Bhangra is a form of folk dance that originated in Punjab, India, from Punjabi Sikh farmers to celebrate the forthcoming of the harvest festival of Baisakhi.

"We are currently changing the traditional forms of bhangra and making it more modern and entertaining and less rigid," said Poonam Jolly, a dance member of the group. "It's more of like a workout."

She said that in Bhangra there is a lot of jumping, gimmicks, stunts and upbeat dancing and it is taken into an entirely different level unlike Bollywood and classical Indian dances.

The team is known to perform myriad stunts, constructing the team members into shapes such as cars, flowers and animals.

Junior psychology major Parisa Farsi said when she leaves her biology and chemistry classes in Duncan Hall she sees the team practicing at night.

"They're really good and I see them like every Mondays and Wednesdays," she said.

Bhangra Empire is a coed dance team founded in January 2006 and is made up of 14 members from ages 18 to 29 — six women and six men, along with one drummer and a live instrument player.

The team has set an age limit based on travel requirements.

Members of the team are located from all over the Bay Area including San Jose, Fremont, Union City, Berkeley, Danville, Pleasanton and San Francisco.

In competition, members are costumed in articles of Indian clothing such as pag (turban), kurta (top), vest (vest), chadra (guy's bottom), shalwar (girl's bottom), kentey (necklaces) and chunni (fabric girls use to cover their heads).

The team has competed nationally and internationally in competitions including Bruin Bhangra, Dhol Di Awaz, Bhangra Fusion, VIBC and Best of the Best.

Bhangra Empire have shared the bhangra style of dancing in both competitive and non-competitive performances.

Recently, the team just returned from a competition in Boston called the Boston Bhangra on Nov. 14 where it competed against 12 other bhangra teams from all over the United States and Canada.

The collegiate competition consisted of schools such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and Boston University.

Bhangra Empire came in first place for the second time after receiving second place in 2009.

The dance team was recently featured on the fifth season of NBC's hit show "America's Got Talent" and made it's debut on national television with their first round audition in Portland, Ore.

The group was a crowd favorite but failed to please all the judges to go onwards from the Las Vegas audition.

However, their Indian dance brethren, Mona Sam-path Khan Dance Company, a Bollywood group, and Kruti Dance Academy, a classical group, made it to the next round.

"Bollywood and Bhangra are two different things, it's like comparing tap dancing to swing dancing," Mirza said.

Last September, the dancers were invited by First Lady Michelle Obama to be featured in the November 2010 issue of Harper's Bazaar for upcoming talent in the U.S.

In the featured spread,



Five bhangra dancers (dressed in Indian robes) joined First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in September 2010 during a photoshoot for the November 2010 issue of Harper's Bazaar magazine.

PHOTO: JASON SCHMIDT | HARPER'S BAZAAR

team captain Omer Mirza is positioned next to Michelle Obama, accompanied by four other members of the group, in a photograph.

"The country needs to be mindful that we have all these diamonds out there, and it would be a shame not to invest in those talents," Obama said in Harper's Bazaar.

"It's been exciting and challenging, but it's been really rewarding as well because we get to perform and travel to different areas," Jolly said.

The past weekend, Bhan-

gra Empire performed for an APPNA Charity event at Treasure Island Resort and Casino in Las Vegas to help fund the recent floods in Pakistan.

"That's great because my ethnic background is Persian and Pakistani and what they're doing really touches me," Farsi said.

Mirza said the journey of being with the group has definitely been an experience and he hopes to get more exposure for the dance form.

"We want to show people

what bhangra is, and it's one of those dance forms that is always entertaining and it's very contagious because it's a part of our culture," he said.

Currently, the team is taking time off from competing until the upcoming year, focusing on fundraisers and cultivating new bhangra seeds in their spare time.

Bhangra Empire holds classes at three locations — San Jose, Dublin and Fremont.

They will be opening another location in Milpitas

this coming year to promote Indian culture to both Indians and non-Indians.

The group currently has a junior team comprised of all boys from ages 10-11 called the "Empire Juniors" that perform at exhibition acts, fairs and shows in the Bay Area.

"Our inspiration is to spread our culture and entertaining people and we've gotten a lot of opportunities," Mirza said. "We were lucky just being at the right place and the right time."



A member of the Bhangra Empire performs a traditional dance during one of the group's competitions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF: BHANGRA EMPIRE

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'The Mumlers' perform for hometown crowd

KELSEY LYNNE LESTER-PERRY

AND CALLI PEREZ

Staff Writers

The Mumlers, a local band making a huge splash, were back in town once again for another raucous and soulful performance at Anno Domini, an art gallery on South First Street in downtown San Jose, on Sunday.

The peculiar gang that forms the Mumlers wrote on their website that most of the proceeds would be used to buy peanut butter and jelly.

The Mumlers are a five-man music machine, consisting of Will Sprott, Felix Archuleta, Andy Paul, J.F. Holmes and Müller.

About 75 people came to hear the sweet melodies and instrumental compositions of the Mumlers and their opening band, Corpus Calosum.

They charged a mere \$5 at the door.

Krystl Johnson came to see and hear what she described as soothing indie music from the band.

"They played a substantial amount of songs," she said. "My favorite song that they played was 'Tangled Up With You,' and I bought a poster. They said it was hand silk-screened."

"Tangled Up With You" is a song that exemplifies the smooth blues, indie rock and Cajun folk style that make the Mumlers such a popular local band.

The tune transports you to a New Orleans of the past, where guitars are plunked and not strummed, vocals are moaned and not sung and anyone within earshot would sway to the music.

Other songs in the set included "99 Years Ago," an eerie-sounding song with frontman Sprott cooing the lyrics, "gonna write my grandma a letter."

A man in the audience screamed for the band to play "Coffin Factory."

"With the Mumlers, Will writes all the lyrics and then the main part of it and then everyone else rushes to instruments and we just build it

“Will writes all the lyrics ... and we just build it up from there. He brings the skeleton, we throw on the flesh, and the hair, the eyelashes.”

FELIX ARCHULETA
Band member

up from there," band member Archuleta said. "He brings the skeleton, we throw on the flesh, and the hair, the eyelashes."

The Mumlers played at Treasure Island Music Festival in San Francisco for thousands of music fans last February.

They also opened for the band English Beat back in 2006 during a Music in the Park performance, according to Wes Rigsby, a West Valley College student.

"That was a great performance," he said about Music in the Park. "And it's cool being in here supporting arts, music and painting."

Returning to a smaller-scale, intimate setting this Sunday, Sprott said he enjoyed being back in San Jose.

"All of our friends came out, so we had a good evening seeing all these faces," he said. "It is different. Even just playing in a gallery as opposed to where there are tons of drunk people



PHOTO: KELSEY LYNNE LESTER-PERRY | SPARTAN DAILY

In a Homecoming performance the Mumlers entertained a packed room on Sunday at the Anno Domini gallery on South First Street.

It was good."

Anno Domini co-owner Cherri Lakey said she loved having the Mumlers play in the gallery.

"I wouldn't call them local bands because they are so far beyond that," she said. "I would put them up against anybody, anywhere. So this was amazing and they know they have a home here."

Lakey said both bands have played at her venue numerous times.

"We love their persistence of inspiring people, making incredible music," she said. "So they are such a fit for what we do here and kind of our purpose, I think. If that is not what we are doing, then what are we doing?"

Sprott said that it was strange playing at the gallery.

"I'll tell you what's funny, if not fun," he said. "I used to work here when this was a movie theater. I used to shovel popcorn in here and run the projector and movies so it is weird to be

here. So that makes it kinda fun — it's strange."

Sprott said he once had to kick a man out who was on steroids.

"He came in here and was trying to light the theater seats on fire," he said. "I had to talk the humongous, scary guy into leaving. It is fun to be back in San Jose."

Sprott opened up the show with a solo.

"I was nervous," he said. "I could barely play my guitar, my fingers were shaking."

After an ovation from the crowd Sprott anxiously brought the rest of his band members back on stage, as he joked that he would like to restore the band to visible and audible form.

The band carried on the night playing an eclectic range of music, each song a genre apart from the next.

"I think it went well," Archuleta said. "No complaints. Oh, well there is one complaint. I was sad about my guitar not being loud enough because I was going to go 'ellelleledo.' I wanted my guitar to go 'ellelleledo.'"



PHOTO: KELSEY LYNNE LESTER-PERRY | SPARTAN DAILY

Will Sprott (above) is the lead singer of the five-person indie band, who are locals to the San Jose area.

CONGRATULATIONS

Spartan Daily would like to thank everyone who participated in the Procter and Gamble care package giveaways and raffles to win tickets to The Tech Museum and Santa Clara Paintball.

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Sparta Guide is provided to students and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Entries can be emailed to spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu titled "sparta guide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

Dec. 9

Why Us America?
Place: Mosaic Center
Time: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 10

Study/Conference Day
This day is for studying

Dec. 11

Student Project Expo
Place: Barrett Ballroom
Time: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 13

Green Trade Show
Place: Barrett Ballroom
Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dec. 13-17

Final Exams
Place & Time: Check Your Green Sheets

Dec. 23

Winter Recess Begins
Spring semester starts Jan. 26

Afghan woman gives hope to many



KELSEY LYNNE LESTER-PERRY
Staff Writer

In a land where a man's worth is measured by gold, land and women, it makes sense that an Afghan female would want to set herself ablaze.

For years there have been stories written about unfortunate Middle Eastern women whose lives are ruled by tradition, and how freedom only seemed possible by self mutilation and suicide.

However, in this month's issue of National Geographic, New York Times writer Elizabeth Rubin described a more hopeful Afghanistan with the

help of photojournalist Lynsey Addario.

To me, this wasn't a story of sadness, but of perseverance. It's a story of a woman who has overcome generations of violence and forced submission through sheer courage and determination.

The life of a Pashtun is a hard one, according to Rubin, and women are rarely agents for themselves.

They are assets to be traded or fought over — until they can stand it no longer, she said.

Well guess what, a woman named Sahera Sharif could stand it no longer.

She did what many Afghan women are too afraid to do — she stood up to a Pashtun man, a man who valued his own daughter as nothing more than one-third of his honor.

This groundbreaking woman, who never seems to stop defying old Afghan customs, locked herself in a closet until her father agreed to let her go to school.

After receiving her education, she became the first female member of parliament from Khost — a town on the eastern border of Afghanistan — and the first woman to volunteer her time to teach a group of male and female students at a university, sans burqa.

This is groundbreaking in its own right. Rubin went on to describe an old Pashtun tradition of writing landlays — two line poems, cries from the heart depicting feelings of longing and love, feelings that, as children, women were taught to ignore.

That is exactly what they were, an outlet for her repression and nothing more.

This was the kicker for me — something that stands for freedom to a girl in Afghanistan stands for yet another hopeless memento of repression for a "liberated" woman from the Bay Area such as me.

Living in California, home to many a groundbreaking female, it's easy to write off a sto-

ry like Sharif's as just another repressed Afghan finally standing up for herself.

But Sharif is doing much more. She isn't selfishly ending her life to escape an abusive husband. She isn't writing dreamy poems about lovers she will never know because of an arranged marriage.

Instead she is taking a stand, and by doing so she is helping to create a safer environment for future Pashtun women and future Afghan women to live in.

By doing what she is doing, she is sending a strong message to the women of Afghanistan — writing poems is not enough. Helping yourself is not enough.

But Sharif has taken it one step further — she is using her plight to help women facing the same obstacles she has faced.

It gives me so much hope for the future of women in Afghanistan and women all over the world.

Editorial Cartoon



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE

COMIC: (MCT)

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

Previous Solution

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

Crossword Puzzle

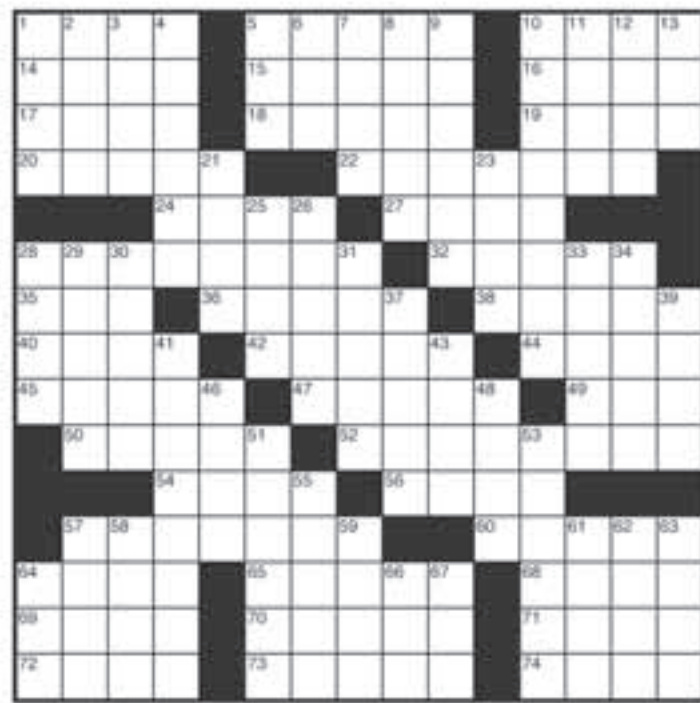
ACROSS

- 1 Mini-play
- 5 Intern
- 10 Double over
- 14 Autobahn vehicle
- 15 Vice —
- 16 Pentathlon event
- 17 Little chirper
- 18 Trouser feature
- 19 Polygraph flunker
- 20 Footlights
- 22 Finagled
- 24 Androcles' pal
- 27 Baby whale
- 28 Hinted at
- 32 — dot
- 35 Gas-station freebie
- 36 Chalet features
- 38 Motel staffers
- 40 Call for
- 42 On the up-and-up
- 44 Run slowly
- 45 Narrow squeak
- 47 Has status
- 49 — Wan Kenobi
- 50 Making ends meet
- 52 Pirate (2 wds.)
- 54 Monsieur's son
- 56 Former JFK arrivals
- 57 1920s style (2 wds.)
- 60 Valuable thing
- 64 Plaintive reed
- 65 Light bulb filler
- 68 Smoke-detector output
- 69 Fiscal period
- 70 Soprano — Callas
- 71 Plop down

- 72 Spyglass part
- 73 Upriver spawner
- 74 Somber evergreens

DOWN

- 1 Tools with teeth
- 2 Mr. Vonnegut
- 3 Suggestion
- 4 Prickle
- 5 Baseball award
- 6 Underwater shocker
- 7 Took a straw
- 8 Physicist Newton
- 9 Short snooze
- 10 Bombed, as a joke (2 wds.)
- 11 Mayberry kid
- 12 Go first
- 13 "The," to Wolfgang
- 21 Patrick's domain
- 23 Latch onto
- 25 Type of exam
- 26 When pigs fly
- 28 Fleming and Smith
- 29 Brother's daughter
- 30 Flip out
- 31 Impressionist painter
- 33 Russian ballet
- 34 Mud brick
- 37 Web locales
- 39 Blend
- 41 Aimless sorts
- 43 Herbal soothers
- 46 Oklahoma town
- 48 Mile, in Madrid
- 51 Flashes
- 53 Turn to bone



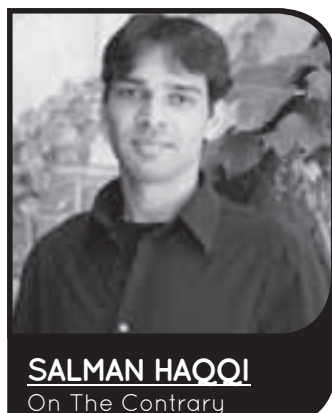
- 55 Vamoosel
- 57 What Ail stung like (2 wds.)
- 58 Chestnut or bay
- 59 Fiend
- 61 — amandine
- 62 Sufficient, in verse
- 63 Recipe qtzs.
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- 67 Natalie's father

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Previous Solution

Parsing the WikiLeaks debate

Leaked cables expose American diplomacy



SALMAN HAQQI
On The Contrary

The veil of secrecy has once again been drawn back and the machinations of our corrupt and overarching empire have been exposed.

The traditional checks and balances our forefathers envisioned are in unchallenged collusion with one another and the watchdogs of democracy act as guard dogs for the power elite.

In the midst of it all WikiLeaks has emerged to disrupt the agenda of the political oligarchs, acting as the disinfectant our rotten system direly needs.

The revelations so far have all but vindicated the erudite and iconoclastic muckraker I.F. Stone's belief that "all governments are run by liars and nothing they say should be believed."

The American government's vault of secrets has been raided and the dirty laundry of diplomacy has been aired across cyberspace for ordinary Americans to view.

Over the last several decades, we have regressed into a secrecy state, with more information hidden from American citizens under the spurious guise of national security.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has claimed that WikiLeaks has put the lives of "human rights activists, religious leaders, the critics of governments who speak to members of our embassy about abuses in their own country."

Such rhetoric feels like nothing more than sanctimonious spin, implying that under normal circumstances the U.S. government cares about the loss of life — tell that to the families of all the civilians who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The data that WikiLeaks has outed comes as no surprise, but is nonetheless revealing.

We now know the various tiny nations U.S. diplomats haggled with over the amount of money they would receive in

exchange for taking in a released Guantanamo prisoner.

There is the case of Khaled el-Masri, who was abducted in Macedonia as part of the CIA's secret extraordinary rendition program, in which suspected terrorists are taken by the U.S. government and sent to other countries where they can be subjected to torture.

El-Masri was tortured in a secret prison in Afghanistan for months even though the CIA had long established his inno-

called on to refuse assistance to WikiLeaks.

On Nov. 30 a State Department official and an alumnus from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs warned students applying for jobs in the federal government that any discussion of the leaked documents on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter "could jeopardize their prospects."

But Columbia university was quick to backtrack as Professor Gary Sick of the School of International and Public Affairs has stated in a memo that "If anyone is a master's student in international relations and they haven't heard of WikiLeaks and gone looking for the documents that relate to their area of study, then they don't deserve to be a graduate student in international relations."

Even in media circles, the vilification of WikiLeaks Julian Assange has been vociferous and unrelenting.

Charles Krauthammer, the reactionary columnist for the Washington Post, has opined that to prevent leaks such as these from happening again, "let the world see a man who can't sleep in the same bed on consecutive nights, who fears the long arm of American justice."

Krauthammer went on to say "I'm not advocating that we bring out of retirement the KGB proxy who, on a London street, killed a Bulgarian dissident with a poisoned umbrella tip. But it would be nice if people like Assange were made to worry every time they go out in the rain."

Leaving aside the moral cowardice of calling for Assange's assassination without quite doing so overtly, what the WikiLeaks episode actually reveals are not any juicy secrets, but that the enemy of the establishment is truth.

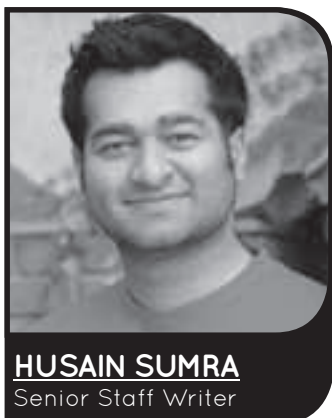
What we are hearing from the enraged officialdom of our western democracies is the petulant screaming of emperors whose clothes have been shredded by the net.

What they are defending here is simply the privilege to lie, and the right to keep their lies and hypocrisies from being exposed.

“The leaks have sent diplomats and leaders cowering in their embarrassment, while the establishment machine and its corporate colluders have gone on the offense.”

This is the final appearance of "On The Contrary." Salman Haqqi is a Spartan Daily A&E Editor.

Stop with all the WikiLeaks hatred



HUSAIN SUMRA
Senior Staff Writer

This past week there's been one subject on TV, on websites, on the radio, in newspapers, on the minds of millions of people across the world and even the cold opening of "Saturday Night Live": WikiLeaks.

And this one subject has brought me plenty of disappointment and sadness this past week.

Disappointment because of the things the leaked cables have revealed and sadness at how our government has reacted.

We've reacted in guilt, essentially. There's no way our government is going to apologize to the American people when it's easier to paint WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange as a "high-tech terrorist," as Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell has.

I thought America was supposed

to be a symbol of freedom and democracy to the rest of the world, not what these cables have made us out to be.

“I do believe labeling WikiLeaks a terrorist organization, and proposing that there should be laws to take it down, as Mitch McConnell did, is restricting the free flow of information.”

These cables, written by U.S. diplomats, make us the opposite of what we preach.

If you wanted to know why the rest of the world hates us, look at the cables because it's all there.

One of the most depressing ones

has to be the claim from Germany that the U.S. military is charging a 15 percent handling fee on donations from governments to raise the Afghan military, according to the UK's The Guardian.

That's not the worst part though, because Germany wants to know where its money has gone.

All week, government officials have been denouncing WikiLeaks, which is a whistle-blowing organization that provides documents to news organizations, and its founder.

But yesterday, the State Department announced that it will host "World Press Freedom Day" in 2011, according to its website.

Joy, absolute joy. Tell me State Department, what's the theme for Press Freedom Day?

"The theme for next year's commemoration will be 21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers," the website states. "The United States places technology and innovation at the forefront of its diplomatic and development efforts."

New frontiers? Technology and innovation?

This sounds like the Internet, State Department. Please, tell me more.

"New media has empowered citizens around the world to report on their circumstances, express opinions on world events, and exchange

information in environments sometimes hostile to such exercises of individuals' right to freedom and expression," the website goes on to state. "At the same time, we are concerned about the determination of some governments to censor and silence individuals, and to restrict the free flow of information."

Whoa, hold on a minute there State Department. Have you not paid attention recently?

News sources have reported that Amazon, Visa, MasterCard, PayPal and other services have dropped their support of WikiLeaks because of government pressure.

I do believe labeling WikiLeaks a terrorist organization, and proposing that there should be laws to take it down, as Mitch McConnell did, is restricting the free flow of information.

In fact, according to Reporters Without Borders, this is the first time the group has seen the international community attempt to censor a website dedicated to transparency.

If WikiLeaks is guilty of anything, it's showing the American people true transparency and allowing us to look at our government objectively.

Too many times the talking heads on cable news regurgitate the words of politicians. Now, we're watching our politicians scramble and it's still depressing.

We're watching them resort to a tactic that has defined the past 10 years in politics: fear.

To the politicians who say this will hurt diplomatic relations and cost lives — stop.

Just stop and listen to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who said that the impact of the leaks is fairly modest and that other countries don't deal with us because they like us, or trust us, they deal with us because they have to.



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