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Students may receive fee refund in class action suit

Lawsuit certified in January claims CSU breached contract with those enrolled in 2009

by Nick Celario
and Brittany Patterson
Staff Writers

CSU students who were enrolled in 2009 may be eligible for a reimbursement of some student fees pending the outcome of a class action lawsuit filed earlier this year.

The California State University Board of Trustees is being sued by CSU students for being billed for additional fees after students had already paid their original fees for the fall of 2009.

Students are suing to be reimbursed for the fees that were passed, which in some cases were billed after the original deadline for some campuses to post fall semester fees; they also claim that in doing so, the CSU breached a contract held between CSU students and the university.

Last week, students who could be eligible for a fee reimbursement received an email summarizing the case and stating the options students have regarding participation in the lawsuit.

Senior financing major Johnson Ly said he received an email from the university stating he would be one of the students represented in the case.

"They're just representing a bunch of schools other than San Jose State, and if they win (the CSU) will reimburse us," Ly said.

He said those who would be represented have the choice to take part or remove themselves from the lawsuit.

According to the document, students may choose to do nothing and be represented in the lawsuit or they may choose to contact the courts to opt out.

"It's kind of a hassle to exclude myself because I have to send in a bunch of letters when I have to do midterms and I have to study for all these other things so I might as well be part of it," Ly said.

The suit centers around fee increases enacted by the CSU Board of Trustees, the first being a 10 percent increase to the State University Fee for the Fall 2009 term that was approved May 13, 2009, according to court documents issued by the Superior Court of California in the County of San Francisco.

The five CSU students involved in the lawsuit — Honora Keller, Samantha Adame, Caitlin Seandel, Vivian Kwak and Xuelian Xie — filed a class action suit and are representing themselves and about 200,000 CSU students who paid the additional fees for the Fall 2009 term, according to the court order.

According to a July 21, 2009, press release from the Chancellor's Office, the CSU Board of Trustees voted to increase fees for the 2009-10 academic year to address a \$584 million budget deficit and decreasing financial support from the state.

The May 2009 fee increase amounted to \$306, according to the press release.

According to the court order, the CSU Board of Trustees also created a new Graduate Business Professional Fee that would be charged to students in certain graduate business programs in the Fall 2009 term.

Ly said at SJSU he pays a separate fee that all business majors have to pay and with the fee increase, he said it's at least an additional \$100 per class, per semester.

Liz Chapin, a public affairs spokeswoman from the CSU Chancellor's Office, said the key rationale behind the Graduate Business Professional Fee was to be able to hire competitively for the CSU business programs.

"Additional revenue was needed in order to recruit and hire key qualified faculty for business specialists for the CSU business programs," she said. "The CSU business programs were having a hard time hiring full-time faculty because other universities could offer them more competitive salaries."

The court order also stated the CSU Board of Trustees voted on July 21, 2009, to impose two additional increases, one being a 20 percent increase in the State University Fee, and the other being an increase in Nonresident Tuition Fees.

The 20 percent increase amounted to an additional \$672 for undergraduate students in addition to the 10 percent increase that had already been approved in May.

Nicole Szito, a junior international business major, said it's a good thing students are fighting to take back the additional fees.

"They kicked people out of their housing," she said. "At least we can get something back, especially if tuition is raising and classes are being cut."

Judge Jon Munster granted the lawsuit class action status on Jan. 5 of this year, according to

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 5

Flying high



Freshman Krista Walton attempts a dive in the 1-meter springboard competition during the swim meet against UC Davis at the

SJSU Aquatic Center on Saturday. Walton finished second behind Spartan junior Amy Kilby. Photo by Nick Rivelli / Spartan Daily

SEE SPORTS PAGE 4

Oakland Mayor Quan under fire over protest

McClatchy Tribune
Wire Service

Oakland Mayor Jean Quan has experienced poverty, racism and gender discrimination. As a student she went on strike at UC Berkeley in support of ethnic studies and boycotted grapes to support farmworkers. She fought to prevent the eviction of poor Asian seniors from the International Hotel in San Francisco, and she considers Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., her heroes.

But after Tuesday's pre-dawn raid on the Occupy Oakland camp at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, followed that night with police in riot gear shooting tear gas, bean bags and rubber bullets into large crowds of protesters, Quan finds herself in an unusual position.

After less than year in office she is being criticized and booed by the working class, underemployed and unemployed — the so-called 99 percent she has supported, fought for and defended her entire life.

"I'm pretty sad, and obviously it's very painful," she said Friday. Somebody in the national media "said I should have resigned. But I don't have time to think about politics. I have to keep people safe."

"I've been able to organize the communities and balance the budget. It's

painful to have all your work defined by one thing. The city probably did make some mistakes. That's why I apologized to the family of Scott Olsen."

Quan, Interim Police Chief Howard Jordan and City Administrator Deanna Santana made the decision last week to remove the Occupy Oakland camp from Ogawa Plaza because it had become a public safety hazard and efforts to communicate with the organizers had failed. Jordan said he needed five days to make the arrangements.

Quan said everyone's priority was for the safety of the police officers and the campers. She said the discussions centered mostly on timing, and the use of force did not come up.

"We had been handling the Mehserle protests without less-lethal (ammunition)," Quan said.

She flew to Washington, D.C., Sunday for a prearranged series of face-to-face meetings with White House administration officials to secure money for the Port of Oakland. She said she was just about to go to bed Monday night when she got a call telling her the raid was going to happen.

She caught a red-eye flight back the next day.

Quan said she did not tell the chief to hold off, though she said she wished it had happened while she was in town. She said she got an update before she

boarded the plane and was told it had gone smoothly and there were no problems.

But by the time she landed at 9:40 p.m., her daughter was texting her to "stop the tear gas."

She drove directly to the Emergency Operations Center and learned that Olsen, 24, a former Marine who survived two tours of duty in Iraq, was struck in the head by a tear-gas canister and knocked unconscious. He was rescued

by other protesters who rushed him to the hospital where he underwent brain surgery.

Jordan, Quan and Santana have since tried to justify the city's use of force. They have launched an investigation to determine if it was used properly and whether law enforcement agencies called in to provide mutual aid during the protest followed Oakland's policy

SEE PROTEST PAGE 5



Occupy Oakland supporters stretch during an impromptu yoga lesson at Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland Saturday. Photo by Ray Chavez / MCT

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■ **APP REVIEW**

Pulse flows information into the palm of the hand

by Leo Postovoit
Tech Editor

I've spent nearly a decade working on various forms of printed media, becoming a soldier in the ink-on-fiber crusade.

Very rarely, though, something comes about which does it better than the printed form.

The news aggregator application Pulse is one of these few exceptions.

It gathers hundreds of sources and displays them all in one place in one elegant form — something that simply has not been done well in the time of the web.

Developed by Alphonso Labs in Palo Alto, it is the most useful feed app I've ever seen. Feature-laden, well-built and constantly improving, Pulse is one of my favorite smartphone apps ever.

The beauty of this app is that it simplifies the complex beast of the web. Instead of having to sort through dozens of websites to read the news, it lists the articles in an intuitive horizontal list with pictures.

Download and install it on your Android smartphone, iPhone or iPad and follow the instructions to add a pre-selected pack, such as fun, fashion, games, sports or news, and you'll get a quality premade list of relevant sources on a selected topic.

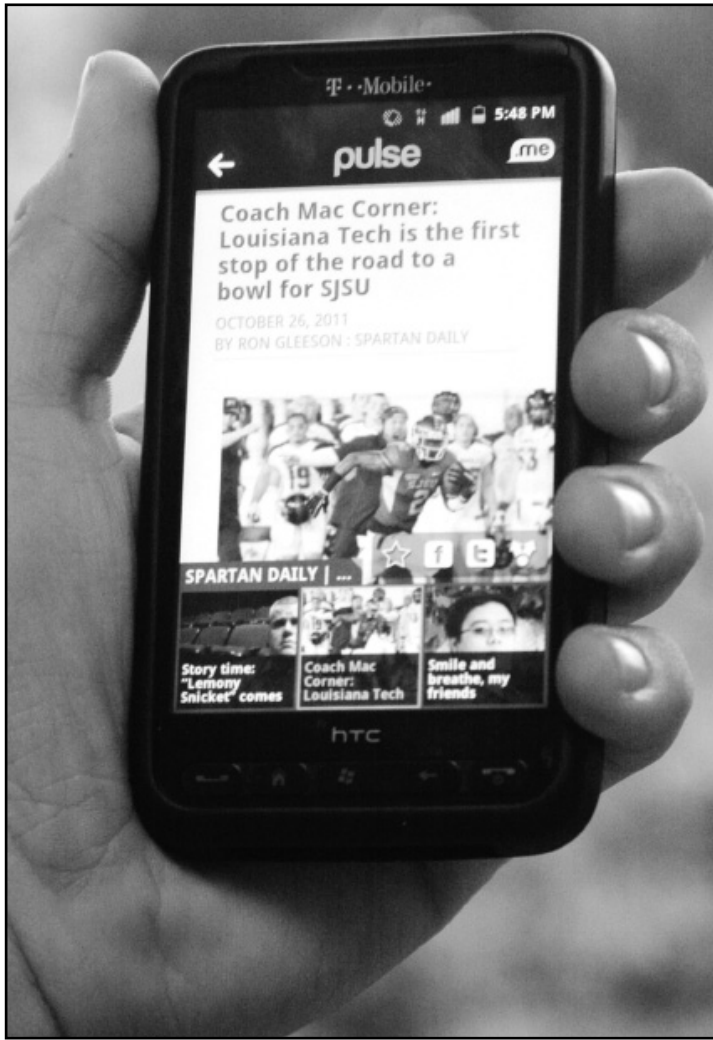
The sources are clustered as "pages" and allow for easy organization of topics.

If you want to change the listing on a given page, just hit the "add sources" button and edit the listing for a given page. Just about every website that produces news, including the Spartan Daily, gives a listing of stories that works with apps like this.

This nifty technology, dubbed RSS for "Really Simple Syndication," has been around for a long time. The hardest part about RSS feeds before apps like this was the lack of a central database of sources.

Instead of having to hunt down the feed address, all you have to type in the name of the site and it'll appear. Also, if you want only one part of the feed — say, just the Science feed of Wired.com — you can add just the one group of stories.

If you use Google Reader, a web-based aggregator, you can carry over your sources by



Sites using RSS feeds, including spartandaily.com, are easy to read with the smartphone app Pulse. Photo by Jack Barnwell / Spartan Daily

logging into your Google account and selecting the feeds you wish to bring over. It's not perfect — those who use Reader concurrently can't mark seen stories. Even though Android is powered by the Google account, you have to log in separately and authorize Pulse to access your account.

That said, Pulse is a great improvement over the standard Google Reader app due to the app's kinetic interactivity.

The animations don't distract from the experience — in fact, it's what makes it a better way to read. Its intuitive nature makes reading blogs, newspapers and magazines fun.

Other cool features that extend this interactivity include playable embedded Flash videos on Android, the ability to view the actual site in the app, the ability to read stories offline, and a dark mode for reading at night.

Pulse also pushes updates to feeds, notifying users when their sources publish stories on the web.

However, it's not clear how much the process running in the background is contributing to battery usage. To abate this, the interval is adjustable

from hourly to daily, a feature common to feed and weather apps that constantly sync in data.

Furthermore, the app allows for syncing across devices via its website, Pulse.me. I use Pulse on my Android phone when on the go and on my iPod touch at home, and it removes stories I've already read.

Like a story or want to read it later? Hit the star and it'll send it to Evernote, Instapaper and Read it Later.

Want to read what your Facebook or Twitter friends are posting? Instead of fussing through individual sites, it also aggregates what your friends posted. You can also read your Facebook wall posts and friend's status updates.

If you want to do just the opposite — share a story with your Facebook or Twitter friends — there is also direct integration for that.

You could also email or text a friend a short link to the article you've read in Pulse. It gives news reading a further dimension of interactivity.

There are hundreds of RSS reading apps and sites, but alas, none do it as well as Pulse.

■ **WEBSITE REVIEW**

Google Reader unifies websites into one convenient home page

by Scott Semmler
Staff Writer

I wake up every morning and check the same mix of my favorite informative websites and blogs, ranging from what is going on in the news to who won that game last night.

It keeps me up-to-date on current events while keeping me ahead of the game when it comes to breaking news.

In an age where we need everything quick, easy and in one place, it was almost a burden for me to manually check every website and blog — that was until I found Google Reader, which is Google's easy-to-use RSS and Atom feed reader.

The application from Google Labs takes the hassle out of keeping up-to-date on the latest news in my respective interests, organizing all the latest news from my favorite websites in one sidebar.

Instead of searching for the latest news, the latest news now comes to me, as Google Reader notifies me of each and every new post or piece of breaking news out there.

In a world of complex gizmos and gadgets, things do not get much easier to use than Google Reader.

"Home," "Your Stuff," "Shared Items," "Trends" and "Subscriptions" are all the functions you need and all Google Reader gives you to work with, which is more than enough to accomplish

the goal of keeping yourself informed on the latest news.

Searching for a specific subscription is even easier. Clicking the "Add Subscription" button at the top of the page opens up a search bar in which the reader can type in the name of a website or a few keywords to get started.

The subscriptions, once selected, pop out in a reader-friendly viewer page in which the reader is able to see the entire list of headlines for that specific website.

Google Reader then updates the reader on new posts for those subscriptions with a simple number in parentheses to the right of the website name once news is available.

At the moment, the social news aspect is also accessible with the ability to share news on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, etc.

For a journalism major like myself, it does not get much more journalistic than being notified of breaking news and Google Reader assists with that.

Also, as a sports fan, Google Reader may be one of the best applications available, despite its non-flashy, non-sports-affiliated format.

Google Reader allows me to organize my subscribed list of sports websites and blogs in one corner of the page.

A breaking news-junkie like myself can appreciate receiving a notification when a player is injured, trades occur or what just happened in that one game.

My favorite part of Google Reader is its ability to subscribe to websites and blogs, but also writers as well.

I am able to subscribe to the latest posts from my favorite sports writer or blogger, as well as subscribing to my favorite team, which allows me to keep up-to-date on their newest press releases and such.

However, there must be more Google can do with this.

Since Google Reader's inception in 2005, the application has seemed rather unchanged in the way it functions.

That can be a good or bad thing, but with competitors like Pulse News, a sleeker and more functional feed reader mobile application by Alphonso Labs, it would seem that Google Reader has fallen behind by keeping itself basic.

That may be changing as Google announced last week that it is planning to disable Google Reader's sharing features in an attempt to integrate the application with Google's social network Google+, which has seemed to gain some traction in the social networking world within the last few months.

With today's companies promoting the latest and greatest, Google should leave Google Reader untouched. Although that seems unlikely, Google Reader was as basic as it gets, which is why people were so drawn to it and continue to be drawn to it.

In that sense, some things may be better left unchanged.

How to take control of your social media

McClatchy Tribune
Wire Service

It may be a common joke, said Bill Handy, but it speaks to the notion of managing our online lives.

With emails, texts, Tweets and Facebook requests, many are starting to feel that their hand-held devices and laptops have bombarded their lives.

"With the Internet, time no longer matters," said Handy, a principal for H3 Strategic Communications and a lecturer on social media at Oklahoma State University. "But you have to remember that social media is not destroying your productivity. Your inability to manage your time is destroying your productivity."

Managing the use of the Internet or activity on hand-held devices can not only save time, but also can help relieve stress and anxiety.

Handy offers these ways to help maximize your online life.

1. Have a purpose.

"Quite often when you immerse yourself with these technologies, you can get into a very passive use of them — you look at Facebook and Twitter or RSS feeds and we let that information flow over us," Handy said. Knowing what it is you want to find before you start surfing can help you manage your time spent online. "Don't let the rest of the world tell you what you want."

2. Be proactive.

"Don't assume the world is going to tell you where to go or what to do. Search out information for yourself," Handy said. But he reminds us to be aware that websites — such as Google — might be noticing where you search if you are logged in to a Gmail account, for example. Logging out of Google before you search and clearing your cache keeps them from sending you more unwanted information.

3. Be selective with tools.

"To be everywhere online is to be nowhere," Handy said. "Pick and choose where you want to exist. You don't

have to be on every social media site, choosing one or two might be the right choice. Don't forget that basic email is still a great platform. You can communicate with everybody via email."

4. Designate online time.

To keep up with all of your communication, surf away — then shut it down. "When you log on and launch that screen, spend a half hour or 45 minutes, some predetermined amount of time, then close it. Then get back to work," he said.

5. Use a personalized dashboard.

Many online tools allow a user to display several sites as widgets, all on one screen. Handy recommends NetVibes. "It has a wonderful interface and it allows you to log onto all your secured sites at once," he said. "In a single browser, you can bring in a widget for your Facebook stream, one for Twitter and you can bring in your email, even project management tools. It gives you a bird's eye view of what's going on in your social circles."

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■ COMMENTARY

What is your favorite horror film of all time?

'The Exorcist' delivers realistic terror

by Ron Gleason
Sports Editor



"The Exorcist" opened in 1973 and starred Max von Sydow. It has an 8.0 rating on IMDb.com. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

In a film world that produces horror films involving such characters as vampires, a man who attacks victims in their dreams and another guy slowly chasing you with a machete but always seems to be right behind his victim, one word comes to mind — phony.

Why be scared by a made-up murderous monster that does not exist nor has likeness to any human being in Earth's existence?

"The Exorcist," the scariest movie of all time, is based on something real and brings terror to followers of many religions — the devil.

The film's main character, Regan MacNeil — played by Linda Blair — becomes possessed by a demon spirit, turning her into a terrifying being that somewhat resembles a human.

MacNeil's face turns gangrene green, her teeth become rotten and she acquires a deep, deathly voice that scared the hell out of me when I watched it the first time.

Aside from the looks of the main character, the film's beginning scene captures a truly bone-chilling entrance to the plot like no other horror film.

The scene shows the priest the family has chosen to conduct an exorcism on the possessed girl being dropped off in front of the house. He's in the middle of an eerily dark street with a single lamppost glaring down upon him as he prepares to enter the home.

He has no idea what is to come his way, and with every single frightened step he takes, it becomes more and more obvious this film will keep you up at night.

This brilliant opening scene is only one of many that effectively captures the effect of true horror throughout the film.

The reason why I believe "The Exorcist" is the scariest film of all time is because I believe in the devil and its ability to possess a human being.

Although there have never been instances of recorded footage of someone becoming possessed to the point they crawl down the stairs while bent backwards or spin their head a full

180 degrees, it is a real phenomenon that I believe happens.

The Bible says the devil exists and he can take over any body he chooses.

A horror film that depicts something real, even in extreme form, is much scarier than a character or being only imaginable in the venue in which it is portrayed — the movies.

Imagine how frightening it would be if you or one of your loved ones became possessed by the devil, all of a sudden completely losing all control of your body.

The evil portrayed in the film through the possessed girl is absolutely bone-chilling.

Her voice and the shrieks that come from the room in which she is barricaded are some of the most horrible sounds you will ever hear.

The image of this girl suddenly becoming possessed by a demonic spirit is much more terrifying than monster-based films because it embodies something that I believe can truly happen to a human being.

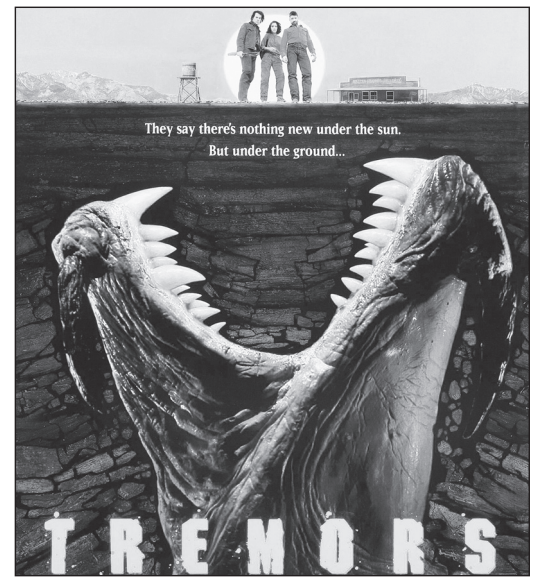
How many stories have we heard of a guy chasing people with a machete?

Or even better, who has the ability to live and murder you in a dream?

Imagining the scenes in "The Exorcist" is much more plausible in my mind than a fictional monster chasing after me throughout an entire film.

'Tremors' gives both chills and thrills

by Angelica Valera
Staff Writer



"Tremors" was released in 1990 and starred Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward and Finn Carter. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

Give me subtle horror over in-your-face guts and gore any day. No other horror films disturb me more than ones with bloodbaths, unseen entities and those creepy crawlies we call spiders.

Aside from psychological thrillers, I'd go with a movie that has terrifying creatures attacking people sans the grotesque gore.

One such film that comes to mind is one of my favorite horrors — the first "Tremors" that came out in 1990, a comedy-horror starring Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward.

I eventually came to realize that every time I checked the TV listings and noticed "Tremors" was showing or would be showing, I immediately clicked to that channel or put a reminder to watch it at the designated time. Sadly, it's rarely on.

Just to recap in case you weren't aware of this film, "Tremors" revolves around strange, obese underground worm-like creatures that eat the natives of a small isolated town called Perfection, one by one.

At the very beginning, handymen Valentine "Val" McKee, played by Bacon, and Earl Bassett, played by Ward, are shown near the edge of a canyon, taking a break from driving.

Meanwhile, graduate student Rhonda LeBeck, who is played by Finn Carter, is in the desert part of the town investigating possible earthquake readings with a seismograph.

Val and Earl see her and introduce themselves. She mentions to the two how her seismographs are getting odd readings and asks whether they know of any construction work happening nearby as an explanation for the random activity.

Val and Earl are clueless, then leave her to head back to town.

Soon after, the scene cuts to Rhonda around an area in the desert where a lump of dirt slightly pulsates, indicating one of the creatures is underneath waiting to kill.

Naturally, Rhonda gets away. However, it was a close call.

What causes me to watch this particular hor-

ror movie repeatedly is the mystery of who will be next, alongside the chemistry of the entire cast, the comedic timing of Bacon and Ward, and how they end up killing the creatures.

The first scene that showed the creature in its entirety made me emit an "Oh my God! What is that?" They're nasty with their mushy red-orange insides, the long claw-like teeth in their mouths, and the tentacles with heads that shoot out when they attack.

It gives me the shivers just describing them. The music is especially effective when it cuts to a scene of an impending doom.

The creatures' plan of attack is fit for being underground — sneaky and quick. The camera is tilted at an angle then becomes straight again when the creature is about to kill. Because the creature is gargantuan, the dirt bulges up in a reverse domino effect as it moves through the ground.

The way the movie keeps up the mystery of who is next to die, and how Val, Earl and Rhonda actually use their brains to figure out ways to outsmart the creatures always entertains me.

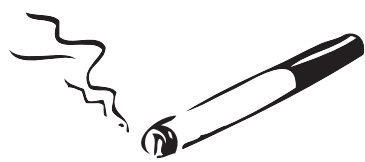
The little twist toward the end took me by surprise and is the best part of the movie. I can actually sleep after watching it.

IMDb's Top Horror Films

Movie Titles	Year	Rating
Psycho	1960	8.7
Alien	1979	8.5
The Shining	1980	8.5
Diabolique	1955	8.3
The Thing	1982	8.1

Information compiled from IMDb.com

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...It's About Building Relationships For Life

Five turnovers bury SJSU football team in self-inflicted loss

Twenty-eight unanswered points too much for Spartans to handle

.....Staff Report.....

Five turnovers committed by the SJSU football team, including four interceptions by senior quarterback Matt Faulkner, were converted into 17 points by Louisiana Tech on Saturday, heavily aiding the Bulldogs' 38-28 win over the Spartans.

"We have way too many turnovers," said head coach Mike MacIntyre in a post-game press conference. "We keep doing it; we can't stop turning the ball over."

SJSU (3-5, 2-2 WAC) held the lead twice in the game, the first coming after a 1-yard touchdown run from senior running back Brandon Rutley.

The Spartans' second lead of the game came with 8:29 left in the first half, and could have been SJSU's biggest highlight of the game — a 60-yard touchdown pass from Faulkner to sophomore wide receiver Noel Grigsby, putting SJSU up 14-10.

Louisiana Tech one-upped Grigsby's 60-yard catch with a 90-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Colby Cameron to junior wide receiver Quinton Patton.

That score began a streak of 28 unanswered points by the Bulldogs in a span of 11:25 in

parts of the second and third quarters.

Another touchdown pass from Cameron to Patton — a two-yard completion with 18 seconds left in the second half — sent the Bulldogs into the locker room at halftime leading 24-14.

Louisiana Tech would start the second half as strong as it played all game.

Senior running back Lennon Creer finished off a 12-play, 60-yard drive to begin the third quarter.

On SJSU's drive following Creer's touchdown, Faulkner would be intercepted by senior linebacker Jay Dudley, who returned it to the end zone to cap the 28-point run and put Louisiana Tech ahead 38-14.

"Today, a lot of my mistakes are really what hurt us the most," Faulkner said.

MacIntyre expressed his disappointment with the amount of turnovers.

"We turned it over for 21 of those points, and they only had one drive," he said. "We got too far behind and shot ourselves in the foot with turnovers."

Faulkner would mount an SJSU comeback with a five-yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Chandler Jones in the third quarter and a 20-yard



Senior quarterback Matt Faulkner sacked by New Mexico State linebacker Boyblue Aoelua during SJSU's 34-24 win over the Aggies on Sept. 24 at Spartan Stadium. Faulkner was sacked twice in the

38-28 loss to Louisiana Tech and finished with 327 yards on 33 for 49 passing with three touchdowns and four interceptions. **Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo**

score to junior tight end Ryan Otten in the fourth quarter.

Jones caught a season-high nine receptions for 90 yards and the single touchdown on the night.

"It seems like San Jose State loses all the time here," MacIntyre said. "I thought we could put an end to it but we couldn't. If we didn't turn the ball over, we would have had a chance in the game."

Faulkner finished with 327 yards on 33 for 49 passing with

three touchdown and four interceptions.

The Spartan running game was near nonexistent, recording a season-low 12 yards on 17 attempts.

"They just stuffed us," MacIntyre said.

Faulkner also noticed the struggles of the running game.

"They did very well defending the run," he said. "They've done that all season. They showed that today. We're normally good

at running the ball. Today was a funk, just an off day."

SJSU gained a turnover for the seventh game in a row when sophomore punter Harrison Waid recovered a fumble by kickoff returner Andrew Guillot.

However, the Spartans followed a six-turnover performance against Hawaii before its bye week with a five-turnover game against Louisiana Tech, combining for 11 in its last two games.

"You have to learn from it then come back and go play fearless again. You can't be hesitant," MacIntyre said.

Faulkner said Louisiana Tech's defense was very well coached and created great havoc for the SJSU offense in the first half.

"Sometimes, things aren't happening the way they normally do," he said. "In the beginning of the game and at the start of the second half, it definitely showed. Whatever was going on, we finally settled in and just started moving the ball, relaxed and playing loose like we know we can."

"We have way too many turnovers. We keep doing it; we can't stop turning the ball over."

— Mike MacIntyre, head coach

Information and quotes compiled from SJSU Athletics.

Women's swimming team delivers UC Davis its first loss of the season



Sophomore Ashlyn Acosta, who finished first in the 200-yard butterfly, performs the butterfly stroke during the SJSU swim team's win on Saturday at the Aquatics Center. **Photo by Nick Rivelli / Spartan Daily**

.....by Jeremy Infusino.....
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's swimming and diving team defeated UC Davis, outscoring the Aggies 178-122 in overall team points Saturday afternoon.

The Spartans came in first for 11 of the 16 events against the Aggies.

Junior diver Amy Kilby placed first in both the one-meter dive and the three-meter dive, scoring 18 team points for the Spartans.

"I was really happy with how I did," she said. "I was proud of my teammates and the swimmers did really well too."

Against UC Santa Cruz on Friday, Kilby shattered the record for a six-dive format score in the one-meter dive with a score of 294.75 — the record was previously held by teammate junior Jessica Holden at 209.70.

"I knew we were both diving really well," she said. "I had a feeling it was up there if it wasn't broken."

Senior swimmer Kirsten Trammell, who was named Western Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week for Oct. 10-16, placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke and was a part of the Spartans' 200-yard medley relay team, which also placed first.

"We all really stepped up and did the best job that we could," Trammell said. "Everyone raced really, really hard, which is exactly what we wanted to do coming into today."

Head coach Sage Hopkins said he thought the team's performance was hard-fought.

"We just couldn't be happier with how we performed as a total team," he said.

Hopkins said the breaststroke and 500-yard freestyle were the events that could swing the meet for either team.

"I couldn't be more proud of how our breaststrokers and 500 swimmers stepped up," he said. "Actually, it's not just them, it's everybody — but those were definitely some key events."

SJSU (178) vs UC Davis (122)
October 29, 2011

100-yard Breaststroke:

1. Kirsten Trammell, SJSU
2. Darcie Anderson, SJSU
3. Liliana Alvarez, UCD
4. Morgan Lee, UCD

200-yard Breaststroke:

1. Darcie Anderson, SJSU
2. Kirsten Trammell, SJSU
3. Grace Benefield, UCD
4. Morgan Lee, UCD

One Meter Diving:

1. Amy Kilby, SJSU
2. Krista Watson, SJSU
3. Christine Rommel, SJSU
4. Katherine Gonsalves, UCD

Three Meter Diving:

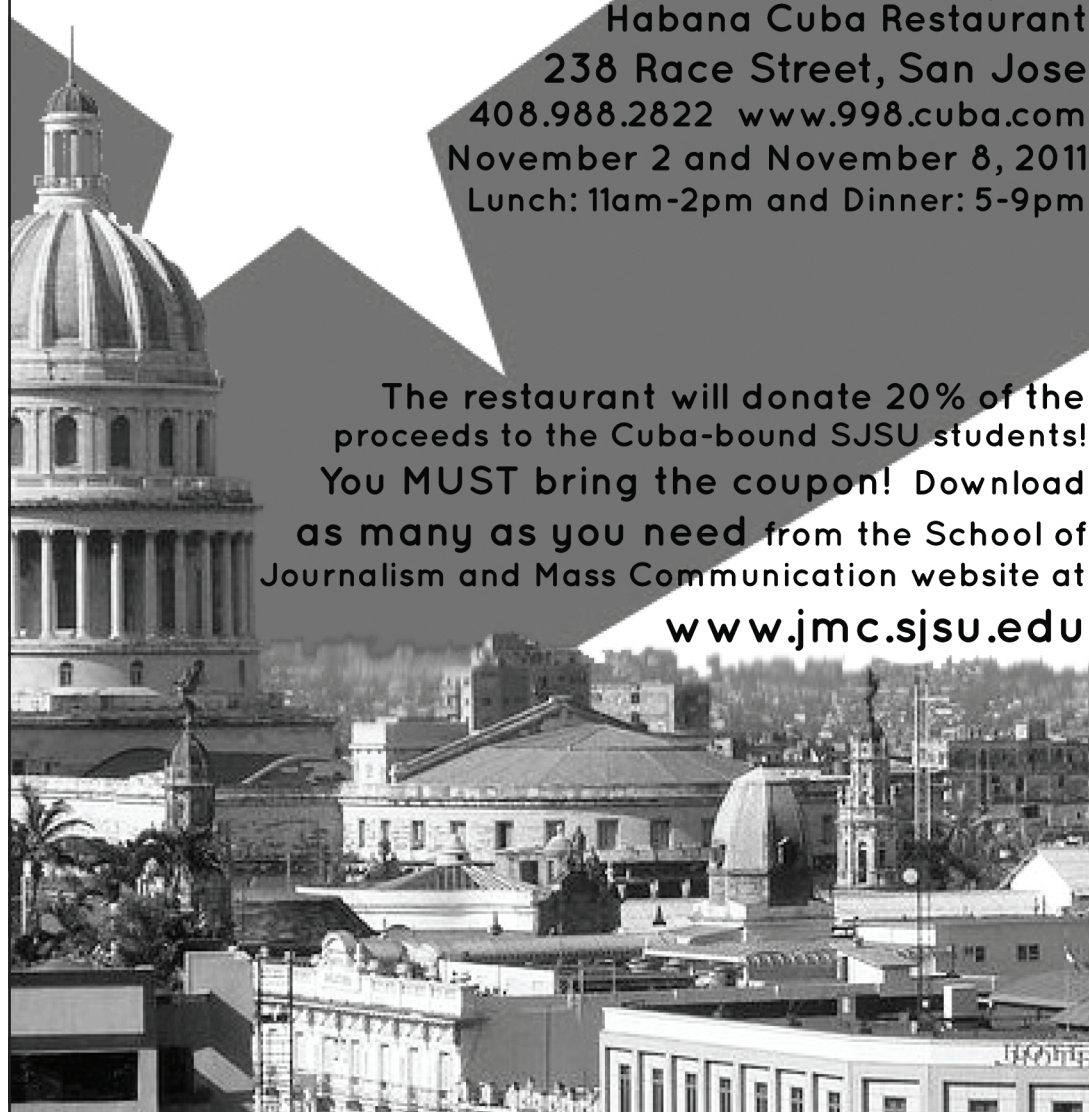
1. Amy Kilby, SJSU
2. Krista Watson, SJSU
3. Katherine Gonsalves, UCD
4. Christine Rommel, SJSU

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Student counselors teach art of landing jobs

by Jackson Wright
Staff Writer

Just a few small things can hold a student back from the career they really want, said Evelyn Duran, a graduate student in Mexican American Studies. For her, that thing was interviews.

"When I first started I was horrible," she said. "I'd be biting my nails, I'd start stuttering, if the chair was a wheel-chair I'd be spinning around and the whole time there would be this squeak, and it was just a sign of my nerves."

Since becoming a peer adviser last spring semester at the Career Center, however, she has been able to get a better handle on her skills as she helps her fellow students with similar skills.

"I think just seeing when people come in and they have interviews, or how they practice, that's been something that's helped me," Duran said.

The peer advising system has been in place in the Career Center for at least the last 10 years, said Career Information Specialist Evelyn Ramos, an SJSU alumna and former peer mentor who now runs the program.

Six to eight peer advisers are chosen each year, as well as two graduate interns who work with the program, Ramos said. All advisers work for at least one academic year, learning the ropes of advising during the first semester and progressing to utilizing those skills the semester afterward.

She said peer advisers act as the "first touch" for those seeking aid in finding employment, welcoming students and graduates and introducing to them the services that the Career Center offers, ranging from setting up a Sparta Jobs account, to drafting a resume, to guidance in the application process, which can take upwards of six to eight months.

"We find that peers learn better from other peers — they trust them a little bit more, and that's understandable," Ramos said. "Peers know the resources a little bit more. They're on campus, they know the teachers, they know the process."

Advisers also help with the many events the Career Center puts on each semester, such as job fairs and hosting recruiting companies that come to the school to provide information and conduct interviews with students on campus.

"In most campus jobs, you think that you're expected to just sit at a desk and you can do homework, but this job, you don't have time to do homework," she said. "There's always something going on."

Through their assistance, advisers take care of much of the set up for those looking to use services, spreading out the workload as well as providing an easily relatable first face of the center to students interested, Ramos said.

"Things like that definitely take time," she said. "So if you only have five counselors and



Public relations major Alexis Petersen speaks with Career Center staffer and student Judgebir Singh, about the Coca-Cola internship on Tuesday, Oct. 18, in the SJSU Career Center.

Photo by Dorian Silva / Spartan Daily

you think about the number of students we have, how many could they really see to do the basic work with? All of their day would be spent working on the basics."

Ramos said with every case, the Career Center advisers and counselors stick to a three-step theme in planning out a student's career path: explore, experience and launch.

In the first step a typical student will explore their career path, researching majors and careers.

Students in the second step set about solidifying their resumes, both in form and by taking on internships and gaining experience.

The eventual outcome sees students launching into a job search by going to fairs and in-

terviews, getting their names and skills out to be recognized by potential employers, Ramos said.

Once a student graduates, she said the services provided by the center are pushed just a little bit further from their grasp — alumni are charged a fee of \$50 for 50 minutes of a counselor's time.

Ian Waples, a graduate student in English, first came to the Career Center this year, seeking advice on changing his career path, but said he probably won't return to the center once he leaves SJSU to avoid the fees.

"The Career Center has been really helpful for me so far because I'm sort of lost at this point," he said. "I don't know how I would make my decisions without coming here. It's a great resource."

LAWSUIT: Students sue board over fees

FROM PAGE 1

the document sent to CSU students.

In his decision, the judge cited a similar case, *Kashmiri v. Regents of the University of California*, in which the California Courts of Appeal ruled that the University of California had to refund last-minute fees imposed in 2003.

According to the court decision documents, the court found that a contract is made when a student accepts a university's admission offer and the university breached this contract with students when it raised educational fees after students received bills charging them a set fee.

In an Oct. 25 news conference with student media, SJSU President Mohammad Qayoumi said the fees had to be raised because the state is withdrawing support from the CSU.

"The trustees had set up its budget in way that the state had the option to buy (back the increases)," Qayoumi said. "If you look at the recent increases that happened this year, the CSU budget was cut by \$650 million."

He also said the current CSU budget could possibly be cut another \$100 million and because the state cannot provide more financial support, the CSU Board of Trustees is left with no option but to increase fees for students.

The five student plaintiffs in the lawsuit claim the May and July fee increases, as applied to any CSU student who had been charged a specific fee for the Fall 2009 term prior to these increases, is a breach of contract between the students and university and these actions, "breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing," according to the court document.

The court document stated that by July, many CSU students were already billed and had paid their fees for the Fall 2009 term, and payment deadlines had already passed at some campuses.

Chapin said the reason this happened is because each campus has a different billing cycle.

"Some of them were able to include that first fee increase in that initial billing cycle and some of them had to do it after

the fact," she said.

According to Chapin, the CSU believes it does not enter into contracts with students.

"The CSU-student relationship is statutory — it's governed by state statutes and regulations," she said. "It's not a contract."

If the students were to win the lawsuit, Chapin said the cost of reimbursing about 200,000 students would amount to millions of dollars.

"Unfortunately, the burden will go to the CSU," she said. "We're already in real financial trouble, so we're going to have to compensate by either increasing tuition or having to cut CSU budget."

Ly said since he already paid the money, he's not too concerned about the lawsuit.

"If I win, I win," he said. "If I don't, it doesn't really affect me that much."

Oz Vassilian, a junior business management major, said while it was wrong that students were abruptly charged additional fees, he isn't convinced suing the CSU Board of Trustees to get their money back is the solution.

"Let's say the students do win and they get money, who is going to pay in the end — just more students," he said. "Even if you can place blame, in the end we're all screwed."

Fast facts about the Honora Keller, et al. vs. Board of Trustees of California State University:

- According to SJSU's Office of Institutional Research, there were a total of 31,280 students enrolled for the Fall 2009 semester — 24,273 were undergraduate students.

- According to the CSU website, tuition fees for the 2009-2010 academic year totaled about \$6,800. Also, changes in tuition fees can only be enacted after gaining approval by the CSU Board of Trustees.

- "Statewide CSU Student Subclass: All students enrolled at one of 19 CSU campuses" --> The four not included are East Bay, Stanislaus, Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Information compiled by Cynthia Ly

PROTEST: Critics claim Oakland police 'overreacted'



Filmmaker and activist Michael Moore spoke to Occupy Oakland protesters outside City Hall in Frank Ogawa Plaza on Friday, Oct. 28, 2011 in Oakland. Photo by Jane Tyska / MCT

FROM PAGE 1

on less-lethal ammunition.

The city adopted a crowd-control policy after many innocent bystanders were injured by less-lethal ammunition during

an April 7, 2003, anti-war protest at the Port of Oakland.

Clearly the city violated its own policy, said civil rights attorney Jim Chanin, who helped forge the agreement and said he

was shocked that once again, it appears that Oakland overreacted with violence against people exercising their First Amendment right to go to a march.

He said the police department needs to be held accountable.

"Quan still has time to show some leadership and hold the police accountable and let the chips fall where they may," he said. "This has obviously been a big problem for her. I think there will be time for judging her when it's over. But this is still happening, and she needs to step up. She has to balance the actions of the police and the rights of the protesters."

As far as leaving the camp be, Quan said the city is continuing to reach out to the protesters to try to make sure that area is

clean and safe. She said inspectors walked through the small camp on Friday and, other than one propane tank, there were no problems.

"Today it did not seem to be unsafe, we have to make it day to day," she said.

Dwight McElroy, president of the Service Employees International Union chapter in Oakland, said he was concerned about Quan's leadership and was very upset about the use of tear gas on the protesters. He said his members support the Occupy movement and were distressed that they were required to participate in dismantling the camp.

When asked if she would be able to prevent a repeat of Tuesday's events, the mayor said "I'm going to try my damndest."

SpartaGuide

Inside the Egyptian Revolution: From Occupy Tahrir to Occupy Wall Street
Middle Eastern Studies Program and Student Association for Middle Eastern Studies
Tuesday, Nov. 1

7 p.m.

King Library, room 225/229

Poe Fest

English Department

Tuesday, Nov. 1

7 p.m.

Spartan Memorial

Yaakov Katz: Israel's Security Needs in a Changing Middle East

Spartans for Israel

Wednesday, Nov. 2

12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

King Library, 5th floor, Cultural heritage Room

Growing a Garden City in San Jose, presented by Jeremy Smith

Departments of Environmental Studies and Communication Studies

Friday, Nov. 4

12 to 1 p.m.

Clark Hall 240

Disability Sport Expo 2011

Adapted Physical Activity Club and KIN 159

Sport and Adapted Activity Class

Monday, Nov. 7

4 to 7 p.m.

Spartan Complex 44B Gym

Career Center presents Drop-In Interviews

Career Center

Tuesday, Nov. 8

12 to 3 p.m.

Career Center, ADM 154

Leadership Today: Social Justice Immersion Leadership Retreat

Student Involvement

Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 3 to 5, 2012

All day

Redwood Glen, Loma Mar

Applications now accepted through Nov. 3

and are available in the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center, Clark Hall 140, or at www.bitly.com/lt2012. Participation is free.

Letters to the editor

Safety drills may be disruptive, but they are necessary.

While reading an opinion piece on safety drills written Oct. 12 in the Spartan Daily I couldn't help but disagree.

Safety drills can be annoying when you have a paper to write or when you're studying for an exam, but they have a lot of uses. We may see these drills as just something that is time consuming but when it comes time for an actual emergency we will be prepared.

These drills are in place so we know where to leave from in a building and know where is a safe place to go so we don't get caught in any trouble or put ourselves in any danger.

A perfect example where safety drills had a positive effect was on 9/11 — without those drills, a lot more people would have been killed because they wouldn't have known what was the safest route out of the building.

The people, while being extremely scared, were able to get out of the building in a quick and orderly fashion.

Safety drills are in place for a reason — if they weren't, then when an actual emergency happens we wouldn't know what to do. We would all want to leave the building as quickly as possible, which can cause injuries because people will be pushing, but safety drills help people to be calm or at least a little calm in these situations.

While we may feel that we are too old for safety drills and that we already know what to do, that actually may not be the case.

Not every building is going to have the same exit routes, so drills help us to learn where they are and which can lead us out of the building safely.

I would gladly lose a bit of study time for a safety drill if that meant being able to keep myself safe in the event of an actual emergency.

Shacori Poole,
Communication Studies

Appeal of Macs is more novelty than innovation or performance.

A response to "What's the big deal about Apple's products?"

I would not say I hate Apple, but instead ask why it's so popular and praised for its "innovation."

In the world of computing, PCs are 98% of the market share, they support a wide array of software and hardware and can be updated and changed with ease. These products are generally cheaper than Macs as well.

There is no Apple computer that can even come close to the processing power or graphic abilities of a PC.

My first computer was a Mac — I was dazzled and amazed by the text-to-speech function, but as I got older I realized that was just a novelty.

I have since moved on to building my own PCs and never gone back. Most Apple products seem to be for show, or just cool little gadgets.

On the iPhone for example, how many people really use FaceTime? The iPhone was a huge success but from a technical aspect it is not impressive.

When Android phones finally got moving two years after the release of the first iPhone they were trounced by the new competition. The Droid X came out at the same time as the 3GS — its technical specs were much higher: 8MP camera versus 3MP, HD video in 720p versus VGA video in 480p. It also had a faster processor, a larger screen and a better carrier, Verizon. It had all of this for a reasonable price of \$199.

Now Apple is playing catch-up with the Android phones. Android phones continue to gain market share and are predicted to dominate the market in the years to come.

In three words, I'd say my Android is faster, stronger and smarter.

Matthew Brix,
Business, management information systems

Interviews misrepresented true intention of newly passed act.

In your recent article, "Students have mixed reactions toward Dream Act," when touching on the subject of the Dream Act, I feel as though the article did not reflect on the real aspects in which the Dream Act is intended for.

Your interviewee, David Norman, reflected on ideas that are misleading to the true purpose of the lawfully passed Dream Act. His ideas will persuade others who do not have any knowledge of the act to believe it is truly going to negatively affect our recent economic standing.

The Dream Act is truly intended to offer an opportunity to immigrant students, not just any immigrant, who is recently going to attend a four-year institution in the United States, by first

meeting a list of requirements so that the outcome of earning a bachelor's degree guarantees permanent residency.

The Dream Act should not only be seen as an opportunity to receive financial aid help — financial aid is already difficult to receive as a legal citizen and as a student going to college it is not our only incentive to attend school.

The legislative act has a more meaningful purpose behind it that offers change for our diverse economy, offering a chance to those who had no choice when they were brought to the United States as minors, to participate in our economy with well-earned bachelor's degrees.

When asked about how one feels about the Dream Act being passed, one should not only take into consideration more financial problems for our economy and schools, but instead take into mind that it is a step into offering a student the right to show a business manager or children's hospital that they are qualified for their job position with a degree they have earned lawfully.

Blanca Arce,
Business administration, concentration in management

Apple products stand head and shoulders above the competitors.

On your article (What's the big deal about Apple products?, 10/17/11) you mention that owning an Apple product makes life so much easier. I'd like to agree with you, and mention my experience with Apple as a student.

I was introduced to Macintosh when I was about 6 years old. My mother bought a Macintosh Classic desktop computer, and it blew my mind.

Now I have a MacBook Pro that I use for college, and I'd like to say the best thing about it, besides reliability and customer support, is that it's virus-free. A brand new Hewlett-Packard comes with a 30-day trial antivirus software already pre-installed. A Mac comes with peace of mind knowing that you won't need an antivirus.

Moreover, I recently acquired an iPad 2 and my mind was blown away once again. I don't have to carry a notebook for every class that I have. I can just take notes on my iPad — it's amazing.

Also, the device feels natural, and its light weight makes it really portable. After all, carrying all those books, textbooks, and binders was really annoying. Luckily most of my textbooks can be viewed online and I can read them on my iPad. I don't have to carry the textbook anymore

and my backpack feels lighter than ever.

Needless to say I am a big Apple fan, and I'd like to end this letter answering your question "Who doesn't want their lives less tangled in this fast-paced world?" And my answer is every Apple fan. They don't want their lives less tangled because they already are thanks to Apple. I guess it's true what they say: "Once you go Mac, you never go back."

Pablo Dominguez,
Corporate Financial Management

Spartan Daily blew recent crimes on campus out of proportion.

Recently, there's been an increase in crime coverage by the Spartan Daily. The latest article, "Security gurus plan for university's future" is aimed at assuring students and faculty that the administration and police department are working diligently to address the ostensible crime concerns on campus. While this may be true, it is rather interesting that this is portrayed as though this is not what they do on a regular basis.

The fear of crime always seems to yield extreme security measures. I have come to expect the media to focus on crime coverage, but I am honestly surprised that a university newspaper has fallen victim to the similar conventions that we see from newspaper and news stations outside of the academic sphere. It is quite clear that crime excites the Spartan Daily, too.

Should students be more cognizant of their surroundings and take the appropriate measures to minimize the potentiality of becoming a victim of a crime? Of course, but because most of these crimes are impulsive which yields reactionary police actions, it seems frivolous to solely rely on administrators and "security planners" to prevent crime on campus. Furthermore, shouldn't we be aware of our surroundings anyway? Whether we are on campus or off campus, being cognizant should just be common sense.

Crime is not increasing, it has always been a part of society, and it will always be a part of society — yes, functionalism. Let's not forget that being college educated is still a rare privilege. Thus, we should be able to think beyond superficial interpretations. Let the people that do not have access to a college-education be consumed by the media crime scares — we, however, owe it to ourselves to think above that.

Luis Escamilla,
Sociology

Classifieds

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Sudoku

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

How to Play

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

Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Just about
- "What ____, chopped liver?"
- He walked "The Line"
- Save specialist
- Domain of 14-Across
- SeaWorld attraction
- Corrigenda
- Mil. decoration since 1918
- Red herring
- Household pest
- Remain undecided
- Folk song refrain
- Use an epee
- The Jets or the Sharks
- ___ gratias (thanks to God)
- Deep soup dish
- Unlikely to get excited
- Make more meaningful
- French composer Louis-Hector
- Level of command
- Wipe out electronically
- It joins the Rhone at Lyon
- Toy dog
- ___-equipped
- Social outing
- Bitterly pungent
- A friendly look it isn't
- Doe fancier
- Misnamed writing tool
- Aired out one's pipes
- Equip
- Put skin on sausage, e.g.
- "Bus Stop" playwright
- Tome or Tiago
- Brought up
- "Schaum" or "kat" start
- Ft. Worth campus
- Naval construction worker

DOWN

- "... and children of all ___!"
- Singer of "Footloose"
- Fertile earth

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14						15			16				
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35					36			37			38	39	40
41						42			43				
44	45	46				47		48		49			
50						51			52				
53						54				55	56	57	58
59						60			61				
62						63			64				
65						66			67				

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Apathetic population needs stricter driver's license training



By
Chris
Marian

I've seen a lot of bad things out there on the road.

After more than a decade behind the wheel and nearly 150,000 miles of busy city streets, winding country roads, and five-lane superhighways driven on a daily basis at all times and in all weather, I've seen some of the worst that our national transportation system can offer.

Thankfully I've only been involved in one accident, though fortunately it wasn't much of one since I was stationary at the time — I got rear-ended in traffic by a spaced out soccer mom.

I've been witness to plenty of others, a few of them of them fatal, both in-progress and in the aftermath, and of course I've seen many hundreds of potentially deadly near-misses.

It's hard to generalize what leads to these episodes.

Poor road design is an occasional factor, as is weather, while stupidity

and irresponsibility on the part of one or more drivers involved is probably the biggest.

There is however, another factor

“We take driving very much for granted in this country, leading to rushed and inadequate initial training...”

which I think people rarely address at the public level, and which in one way or another is at least a contributing factor to most accidents: Incompetence.

We take driving very much for granted in this country, leading to rushed and inadequate initial training, and the unchecked atrophy of those few skills in the years after.

The solution to this is more extensive and demanding driver's training, which would of course help to address the skill issues, and have benefits for driver behavior as well.

I come from an odd background in which I learned to fly a light aircraft before I could drive myself, and I can

tell you from experience that getting that kind of training at a young age imparts not only skill, but also a serious mental attitude.

I believe that the same training model that helped make me a proficient pilot can be applied to producing safe young drivers.

Good training starts early, and ideally I would envision driver's training for teenagers to start a bit earlier, so as to not risk being too rushed at the end.

I would envision driver's training, instead of being one or two sessions with an instructor, as being more like a full high school class, with weeks of both classroom and practical instruction behind the wheel.

I would also envision it being a lot more demanding, with significantly higher standards of quality and preci-

sion, in both the practical and classroom settings.

When something is difficult enough that you take it seriously from the outset, the training and behaviors learned tend to stick better.

Licensed pilots must demonstrate that their skills have not atrophied after their initial training by essentially taking their licensing test over again every two years in what's called a "biennial flight review," and I believe a similar model of periodic retesting should be applied to drivers as well, to ensure the skills that made them safe to begin with, remain with them years later.

Beyond the simple how-tos and what-not-to-dos, drivers training could also benefit from the piloting model in teaching emergency recoveries as well.

As a student pilot, more than half my training was not how to take care of things normally, but how to save your own life when things go wrong: Engine failures, instrument failures, structural failures, storms, low visibility, air traffic conflicts and even medi-

cal emergencies were all part of the repertoire.

I think young drivers should be put through a similar process, including supervised spin outs, driving at night in unfamiliar areas and in bad weather, and navigating heavy traffic, so they know how to handle these things safely when faced with them in the real world.

I know they teach a lot of this stuff now as part of the written test, but reading about it isn't the same as having experienced it.

Having more time to train would also allow instruction to address less potentially fatal, but no less aggravating, issues like precision parking and basic maintenance.

This all might sound pretty extreme, but there is no nation, or environment, on this planet for which this kind of education would be more appropriate.

We are a nation of drivers. Our geography requires it, our infrastructure permits it and our national psyche demands it.

We should take our cars and our roads a hell of a lot more seriously than we do, and I for one think we shouldn't have to live and die solely by how well our airbags are designed.

WESSIDESTORY

by Wesley Dugle
Movie scores make fantasies come alive



Wes Side Story appears weekly on Mondays

Advertisement: While Academy Awards are handed out every year to composers for their work, I think in large part people overlook how the soundtrack affects a film.

Take another John Williams score for instance: "Jaws."

Can you imagine how different certain scenes in that movie would have been without the stalking, predatory soundtrack that Williams created?

Since "Star Wars," film soundtracks have been my favorite genre of music more than anything else because of the way it not only reminds me of a movie but also the kind of feelings that I associated with them.

You see, unlike a book, a movie can't use descriptive words or language to describe the mood, so a director must use music instead.

Without a good score, the audience can be left not knowing how to feel during a scene.

A good score can help the audience better connect with a film's story and with its characters.

One of my favorite films is Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight," largely because the music by Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard power the film during many of the scenes.

I'm sure most of you may remember how every scene in "The Dark Knight" where the

Joker appeared there was an eerie electronic string instrument being played in the background.

The way it just kept playing and gave this feeling of being strained and pulled but never breaking added to Heath Ledger's Joker performance. It described the insanity of the character perfectly.

You see, music is a powerful medium through which directors channel the mood and feeling of their films.

A movie with good music can do wonders for an audience.

It can make our hearts race when the protagonist is in danger, as it did with the shark in "Jaws" when it was circling Quint's boat.

It can make us cry as it did when we see all the dead bodies to the sad violin playing in "Schindler's List."

It shows us a character and his determination to succeed as it did with Frodo and Sam in "Lord of the Rings" as the triumphant score hits the crescendo when the ring is finally destroyed.

And it can make a simple scene, where a character named Luke Skywalker watches a sunset, go from good to great in a single moment as it did in "Star Wars: A New Hope."

Film music is a powerful art and though you may not know it, we all appreciate what it does for the movies we love.

Nothing infuriates me more than waiting for moronic drivers inside the parking garages



By
Jeffrey
Cianci

It's kind of absurd, and frankly annoying.

Everyone knows it. Students love to complain about the difficulty of parking, but regardless everyone still drives as though they have removed portions of their brain.

Your troubles are over though — I'm going to offer you all advice on how we beat the big, bad parking garage once and for all.

My plan to solve parking is simpler than a pizza delivery economic policy — drive to the top.

"Drive to the top" is just what it says — instead of wasting away your and my precious minutes, slowly creeping through the garage in search of a spot, please just drive to the top of the garage.

At the top of the parking garages, there are many more spaces that often can accommodate the masses of people who were stuck behind the new student who slowly rolled through the first four levels.

Instead of wasting hours every semester stuck in the parking garages, you could actually be out walking calmly through campus instead of

jogging to lecture with two minutes until the beginning of class.

Instead of screaming into your steering wheel, questioning the brain matter of those drivers around you, you could be strolling to class without a care, casually reading your school's daily paper.

Students already deal with too many stresses in their life — finishing procrastinated assignments, keeping up with San Jose's homicides and looking for a job in a world that isn't hiring.

So really, on top of that, can't we expect to find a parking spot when we get to school?

If everyone focused on just heading to the top of the parking garage we would get through the garage quickly and everyone could find a spot, rather than act like a conga line in a coma that inches painfully and slowly through the garage behind the moron looking for a nonexistent parking space.

So please, do me and my blood pressure a favor — stop holding up the damn line looking for a space you will never find and just go to the top.

“My plan to solve parking is simpler than a pizza delivery economic policy — drive to the top.”



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

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

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Federal Pell Grant boost arrives at expense of grad students

McClatchy Tribune
Wire Service

WASHINGTON — Graduate students will pay more for loans taken out next July, and recent graduates will lose rebates for on-time repayment under a law Congress passed this summer to keep the federal deficit in check while protecting Pell Grants for low-income students.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the changes will save the government \$21.6 billion — meaning students would pay that much more or borrow less — over the next 10 years.

Another change that a key Senate committee voted to include in the 2012 federal budget would “save” an additional \$6.1 billion by getting rid of a grace period subsidy for undergraduate loans.

The elimination of repayment rebates and loan subsidies for graduate students was included in the bipartisan deal reached in July known as the Budget Control Act, the law that set 10-year spending caps while raising the federal debt ceiling.

Financial aid departments at colleges and universities are now starting to notify graduate students that Stafford loans they take out next summer will no longer include a subsidy that keeps interest from accruing while they are in school.

“This was one of the few federal subsidies provided to graduate students,” said Haley Chitty, communications director for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. “It is a pretty significant blow.”

Under the new law, students seeking advanced degrees will start owing interest immediately on loans issued after July 1, though they will have the option of deferring payments until they finish school.

“They can defer it but it adds to what they owe, and we always encourage students to pay as they go so in the end it’s not so expensive,” said Ivon Nunez, financial aid director at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

Exactly how much the subsidy is worth depends on how much a student borrows and how many years he or she is in school.

Nunez said a student borrowing the federal maximum of \$65,000 could end up owing an extra \$200 a month over 10 years.

Chitty said an analysis by NASFAA found that a medical or dental student taking out the maximum subsidized loan of \$8,500 a year for four years got a \$4,624 subsidy while in school.

Even if it’s a much smaller amount, however, students are worried about the impact.

“Students can barely make it now,” said Jacqueline Velastegui of Kearny, who’s seeking an advanced degree in industrial engineering at NJIT. “We don’t live. We survive.”

Evan Toth is working full time as a teacher at the Community School in Teaneck while pursuing his master’s degree in English at Rutgers University in Newark. He said he’s borrowed nearly all of the roughly \$20,000 in tuition and fees, and “it was really helpful” not to have to pay interest while studying.

“I looked at that as being a great benefit,” Toth said. “An extra \$1,500, or whatever it would end up being, would be a great financial burden.”

He expects to finish his coursework next semester, so the change in the law won’t hit him. But he said that in the future, it will hurt “the self-driven

student who lacks independent wealth.”

“This is exactly the kind of student that our country must encourage to stay in the classroom,” Toth said.

Congress also voted to end subsidies, starting with loans issued next July, that reward graduates who pay back their loans on time.

Under the program that is ending, borrowers who signed up for automatic debit repayment got a bonus equal to half the loan origination fee they paid, said Vincent Tunstall, financial aid director at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Borrow-

ers could keep the rebate if they made their first 12 payments on time.

From the \$21.6 billion the two changes to loans are expected to save, Congress applied \$4.6 billion to deficit relief and \$17 billion to the Pell Grant program, which benefits lower-income students.

A spending bill for 2012 approved last month by the Senate Appropriations Committee would end another interest subsidy, this time for undergraduates. Right now, there’s a six-month grace period after graduation during which

subsidized Stafford loans do not have to make loan repayments.

Under the current system, the government pays the interest during those six months, but that would end under the proposal that the Senate committee said in a report it adopted “reluctantly.”

If the proposal becomes law, there will still be a six-month grace period on loans issued after July 2012, but interest will accrue during those six months.

Over the next 10 years, the change is expected to save the government \$6.1 billion, according to the office of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who is

chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that controls education funding.

From that amount, \$1.3 billion would go to fill a shortfall in Pell Grants in 2012 and an additional \$1 billion would go toward Pell Grants in 2013.

A draft bill in the House Appropriations Committee would leave the grace period alone but make changes to Pell Grants eligibility to cover the shortfall. Harkin’s office said the House changes would make 500,000 current grant recipients ineligible.

The different approaches taken by the House and Senate

committees would have to be reconciled before a final spending plan for 2012 is adopted.

Anabell Polloni, a senior at Rutgers in New Brunswick and former state board chairman of the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group, said most students are not aware of the changes Congress is making to loan programs.

“I had no idea about this and I’m extremely well-aware of what’s going on. Everyone knows about the six-month grace period, and no one knows it’s a possibility it might end. That’s a complete shock,” she said.

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