



Spartan Daily

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Tuesday
October 13, 2009
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inspires confidence**
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was awarded too early**
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by zombie hordes**
Page 3

Protesters invade oil tax rally on campus



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

By Suzanne Yada
Staff Writer

A group of conservative students protested a rally Monday that was designed to drum up support for an oil tax to fund higher education.

The students silently held up signs in front of Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico as he was speaking to about 400 people at the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch.

The rally was in support for Assembly Bill 656, which would charge oil companies a 9.9 percent severance tax to help fund higher public education in California, according to the text of the bill.

About seven students, many of whom said they were with the College Republicans at SJSU, stormed the podium when Torrico took the stage and held up signs that read "Don't think you won't pay this tax" and "Tax cost 9,000 jobs."

Others with signs supporting the bill quickly rushed the stage to counter the protesters.

Aaron Neighbour, a junior civil engineering major, held up

Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico is surrounded by supporters during the "Fair Share for Fair Tuition Rally" in support of measure AB 656 in front of the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch on Monday afternoon

See **RALLY**, Page 2

Bicycle riding, sharing focus of workshop

By My Nguyen
Staff Writer

Nelson Mandela once said, "You can never have an impact on society, if you have not changed yourself."

More than 40 students, staff and faculty attended the first in a series of six monthly workshops on sustainability issues in Dr. Martin Luther King Library on Friday.

The workshop focused on international and local bicycle-sharing programs and speakers discussed, the benefits of riding a bike.

The discussion started with presentations by a group of pan-

elists including Rod Diridon, executive director of Mineta Transportation Institute; Corrine Winters, executive director of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition; John Brazil, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program coordinator of the city of San Jose; Lilia Scott, transportation planner and bike share program expert; and Andy Chow, commute specialist at SJSU Transportation Solutions.

Katherine Cushing, SJSU director of sustainability, said the workshops provide people with tools that they can use to reduce their impact on the environment and lower their ecological footprints.

"The goal of these workshops is to help create a culture of sustainability at the university and bring together all the different factions of the university — faculty, students and staff — around shared interests of sustainability," Cushing said.

Candice Carbonell, a junior environmental studies major, said she attended the workshop to promote Bike to School Day, which will be Thursday, and learn more about bike sharing.

"I'm leading the transportation development group within the Environmental Resource

See **BICYCLE**, Page 2[Briana Calderon /
Contributing Photographer]

SJSU President Jon Whitmore addresses the audience during a workshop focused on local bicycle sharing programs.

First storm of season could lead to flash floods

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer
Leonard Lai
Staff Writer

Students should be careful while weathering the coming storm.

Eugene Cordero, assistant professor of the department of meteorology, said he was excited for the storm.

"We haven't had much rain in a while," Cordero said. "This has

been our third year of drought."

Wind speeds could reach 60 to 70 miles per hour, with four to five inches of rain in the mountain areas, he said.

He said he was a bit surprised hearing that a storm would be occurring in October.

"Californians aren't used to this weather with water on the road — it takes much longer to brake," Cordero said.

See **STORM**, Page 2

Video conferencing system blurs boundaries

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer

SJSU students are going to class without coming to San Jose.

Students are using web conferencing to attend classes and professors' office hours without even being on campus, said a school of library and information science official.

"More than half of the faculty in the department use Elluminate," said Debbie Faires, assistant director for distance learning at the school of library and infor-

mation science.

Elluminate is the web conferencing client the university has licensed, she said.

She said the conferencing service allows students to chat with each other online and listen to lectures from professors.

Faires said lectures can be recorded.

"Students can look at the lecture online whenever they want," she said.

Anurag Damle, a senior software engineering major, said students in other departments should

be able to test out the service.

"I would like to try it out," he said.

Faires said the technology is licensed by the university and that other departments have also used web conferencing.

She said the business and nursing departments have used web conferencing, but not as much as the department of library and information science.

"We're among the biggest users of Elluminate," she said.

Faires said the department has students in 40 states and in 12

countries using web conferencing to attend classes.

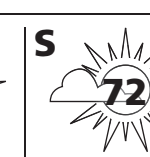
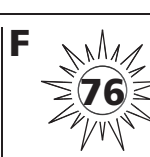
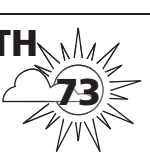
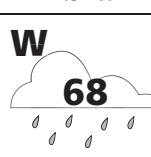
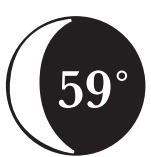
"Geography doesn't make a difference," she said.

She said students aren't the only ones who can attend class from a distance.

"We can have a guest lecturer from New York," she said.

Faires said any potential guest lecturer would just need to go to Elluminate's Web site and log on to the classroom.

Christopher Vu, a freshman

See **VIDEO**, Page 6

theSpartanDaily.com

Slideshow

- The living dead drank more than blood at Thursday's Zombie Crawl

Audio Slideshow

- See the work that earned an animation/illustration major a \$2,000 scholarship

Spartan Daily Blogs**spartandailyphoto.com**

- Students rally at Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch
- Photo editor's weekly column

spartandailynews.wordpress.com

- CSU budget news roundup



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

SJSU theater students and staff put on a drama presentation illustrating the effects the California State University budget cuts during the "Fair Share for Fair Tuition" rally Monday. See a slideshow on the photo blog at spartandailyphoto.com.

RALLY
From Page 1

his anti-tax protest sign from the crowd, and he said the cost of the tax would trickle down to others. "Companies don't pay taxes," he said. "People — consumers — pay taxes."

Andrae Macapinlac, vice president of Students for Qual-

ity Education, said the rally was a success.

He said he gathered 450 signatures in support of the oil tax. "There will always be people on an ideological side that would oppose any new taxes," Macapinlac said. "There were only a few of them compared to the 450 people we've got."

The bill
State lawmakers slashed

the California State University budget by \$584 million, and SJSU is dealing with a \$42 million shortfall, said President Jon Whitmore during an Aug. 20 news conference with student media.

The 9.9 percent oil severance tax was proposed to help fund the state's higher education, Torrico said.

Sixty percent of the tax would

be given to the CSU system, 30 percent to the University of California system, and the remaining 10 percent would go to the state's community colleges, according to the text of the bill.

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said he fully supported the bill.

"It's time for the oil companies to start paying for the century they've had it for free," Garamendi said.

California is the only oil-producing state without an oil severance tax, Torrico said.

"George Bush in Texas charges the state, and so does Sarah Palin in Alaska," he said. "It's not a partisan issue."

But Leigh Wolf, a recent San Francisco State graduate, said he confronted Torrico and cited a study from the LECG consulting firm which estimated 9,000 jobs lost if the bill were to pass.

"Let's assume it's going to cost 9,000 jobs," Torrico said. "I'm willing to cost 9,000 jobs in the state if it means educating young people and making sure access to higher education is not limited to the few people that can afford to go to college."

Kyla Christoffersen, a policy advocate with the California Chamber of Commerce, said her organization is opposed to the bill.

"We think it would result in higher gas prices for consumers," she said. "What oil companies are dealing with is the product they're selling, the expenses and the cost of running business is very costly. They will pass that onto the consumer."

"The only economists that suggest that are those employed by the oil industry," Garamendi said. "Economists have said repeatedly that cost of oil is international."

Max Goldberg, a freshman industrial design major, said he could see both sides.

"I am a progressive person," he said. "I am a Democrat and I am in favor of AB 656. However, what I've heard from the conservatives has me concerned about what could happen."

But Goldberg said he is still behind the bill.

"Even if we have to repeal it in a few years in order to attract business, I think it's something that needs to be acted on now," he said.

BICYCLE
From Page 1

Center, so I really wanted to get a broader view of what a bike share is and what the people in the community have to say," she said.

Carbonell, who rides her bike every day, said the workshop was informative and that she learned a lot of interesting things.

"There are a lot of problems, especially with bike lanes, that I am more aware of now," she said.

President Jon Whitmore said he attended the workshop, because he supports the sustainability efforts.

"I do try to bike to work a couple of days a week if I can, so I thought I'd learn something," he said. "And I also wanted to support the efforts of what's going on, and I donated the folding bike that was going to be given away here, so I wanted to see who got it."

SJSU Bike Ridership

Bike ridership at SJSU has increased from 1.3 percent in Fall 2004 to 2.5 percent in Fall 2008, but is relatively low compared with UC Davis or Stanford, Andy Chow said.

He also said SJSU is a bike-accessible campus.

"One thing we did last year and this year is place additional bike racks," Chow said. "Older racks have been replaced, and new racks provide improved security and neatness."

He also said SJSU is accessible by bike lanes that are connected with bike trails.

Whitmore said it is good that the bike ridership has increased, but things must be done in order to keep it increasing.

"I think (ridership) will continue to grow, and I think we have to organize ourselves to make sure that bicyclists are not bumping into pedestrians, and we have safe places for people to keep their bicycles," he said. "So, I think we're going to have to provide more bicycle parking spaces as the ridership increases or people will find it too frustrating and won't be willing to do it."

Cushing said she hopes SJSU can implement a bike sharing program on campus.

"I think a lot of people who attended today were really interested in starting something like that, and hopefully when we get the list of attendees, we'll get a group of people together that can cooperate and share resources, so we can try making something like this on campus," she said.

The benefits of riding a bike includes environmental and health reasons, Whitmore said.

"You're not burning any carbon fuel, and I do it partly because it's good exercise, and when I bike to campus, I am a little more energized than when I don't, because I have been actively getting my body working," he said.

There are also economical benefits, Ron Diridon said.

Bikes are inexpensive to buy, operate and maintained, he said.

"Cost-benefit analysis to buying a bike over a car, bike wins all the time," he said.

Local Bike Sharing Programs

During the workshop, John Brazil talked about a San Jose Pilot Bike Sharing Program, which is an employee bike fleet that is not accessible to the public, but to employees of the Bike/Pedestrian Program of San Jose.

He discussed the history and funding of the program, as well as the implementation, benefits and future plans of the system.

Whitmore said it would be great if San Jose could institute some type of bike sharing program.

"The city is trying to do what it can," he said. "We all have extremely limited or negative budgets right now, so the idea of being able to invest a lot of money into some special projects surrounding this (issue) will be difficult, but I think people are trying to do the best they can."

Paris Bike Sharing Program

Lilia Scott introduced the bicycle sharing program in Paris called Velib during her presentation.

Velib, which means free bicycle or bicycle freedom, has been running for two years, Scott said.

It cost \$115 million to implement the program, and it is primarily used by young men, but has become more mainstream, she said.

According to the TreeHugger Web site, a Web site dedicated to green issues, there are almost 1,500 bike stations around Paris, with more than 20,000 bicycles and 3 million subscribers who have saved about 6 billion miles of car trips.

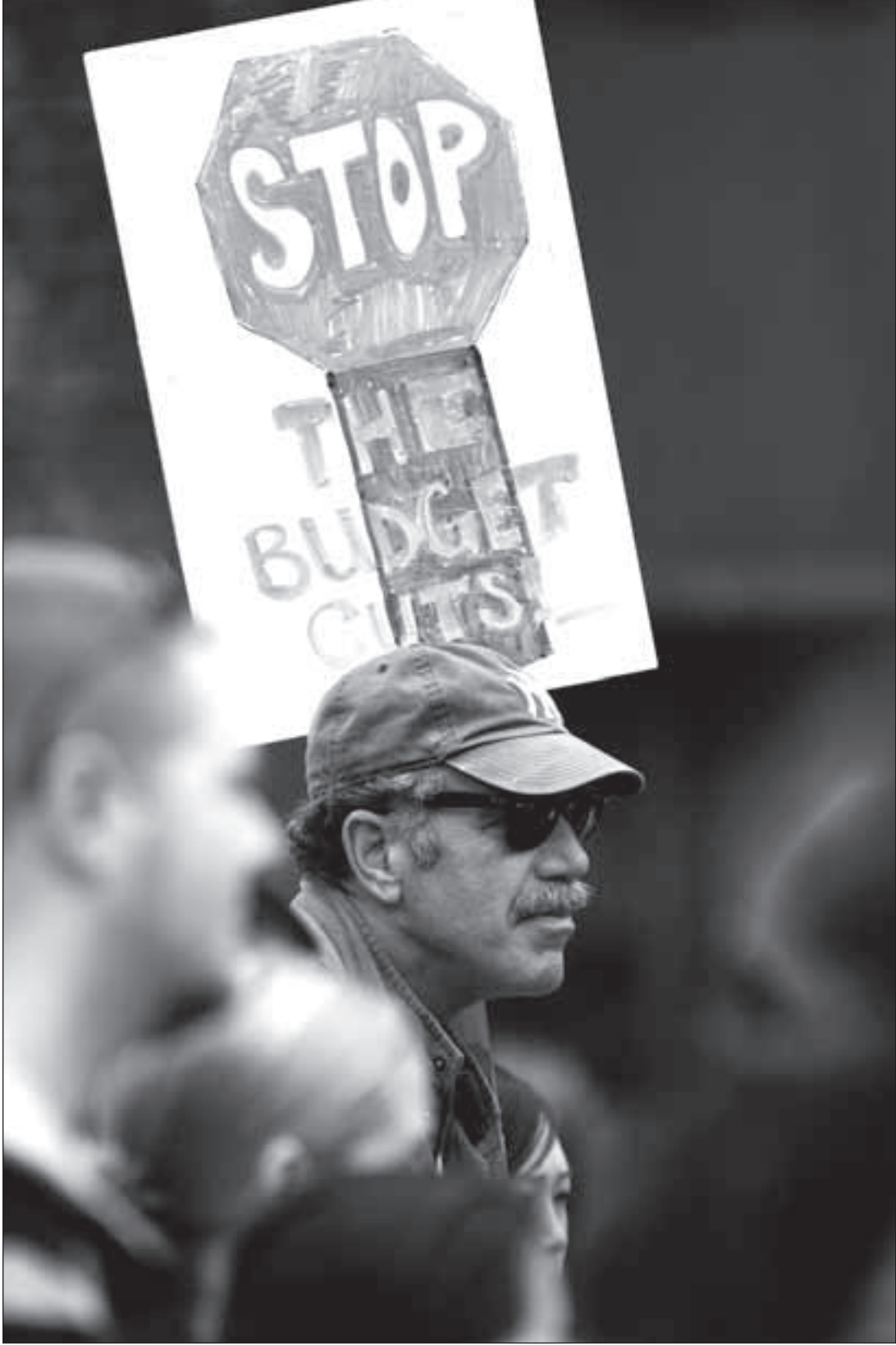
Whitmore said these sustainability workshops will make SJSU a greener campus, because they will inform and inspire people to change their lifestyles.

"I think if we do these workshops through the year, it will encourage people to do more things like biking," he said. "I'm sure there will be some people who will respond to that and maybe start doing that."

"We're 33,000 people — if a lot of us do a couple of better things in terms of protecting the environment, then we would have made some progress."

This is the first of six workshops being held this academic school year, Cushing said.

"We're trying to provide this kind of education to all faculty, students and staff, because at the end of the day, we're all the same — we eat, we generate waste, we drive to and from campus — so we're trying to unite around these common themes," she said.



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Thompon Sharkey, a San Jose resident and parent of a community college student, shows his support of ending the budget cuts during the "Fair Share for Fair Tuition Rally" on Monday afternoon.

STORM
From Page 1

Students should be concerned about driving, he said.

They should drive slower and more carefully, Cordero said.

Dylan Wondra, a junior behavioral science and anthropology double major, said he uses a motorcycle to commute to school and that traveling would be harder for him.

"I'm going to have to drive to school with a car and then pay for parking," he said.

Cordero said students should plan ahead when there are storms.

"High winds will knock trees down, so give yourself more time

to get here if you commute — especially if you have an exam," Cordero said. "We're going to have accidents."

It has been six months of dry weather, and it gives time for leaves and debris to accumulate clogging drains, he said.

He said clogged drains make it more likely for a flash flood to occur.

University Police Department Sgt. John Laws said there are currently no plans for UPD to change what they're doing during the storm.

"We'll still respond to calls and have on-call managers to the facilities department," Laws said. "People will be on staff. They can be reached to board up windows and secure doors,

they're just a phone call away."

Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations at SJSU, said the university doesn't have specialized plans for storms.

"I'm not aware that we really do a lot differently when there's a coming rain storm," she said.

Laws said the most frequently made calls in past semesters concerned leaks, and that the campus usually doesn't receive a lot of storm damage.

Senior biology major Julia Kamoroff said she commutes to school by bicycle, and said she would have to walk to school during the storm.

"Normally, it takes me seven minutes to bike to school, but it's going to take at least 30 minutes for me to walk to school," Kam-

oroff said. "I don't mind getting wet too much, though."

Rizalene Acosta, a senior behavioral science major, said she commutes to school by riding her motor scooter, and said she would be commuting to school using the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) during the storm.

"I'm going to have to take more time walking to the station," Acosta said. "Normally it takes me six minutes by scooter, and the DASH will take me 20 to 30 minutes to get to school."

Acosta said she has ridden her scooter in the rain before, but it's not worth doing.

"It's scary, you can slide, and it makes it more treacherous," Acosta said.

Sparta Guide

Today

Faculty Jazz Ensemble
from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Doors open at 12:15 p.m.
at the Music Building Concert Hall. Sit and enjoy "Something old, something new" Jazz standards and original compositions.
For more information, contact Joan Stübbe at (408) 924-4649.

Finding Your Strengths
at 12 p.m. at Clark Hall, Room 118.
For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

Tomorrow

Buddhist Lecture
1:30 p.m. in the Costanoan Room in the Student Union.
For more information, contact Michelle at myoung430@gmail.com.

15 Thursday

Conflict Free Living
at 1:30 p.m. at Clark Hall, Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

Scandinavian Art Songs
from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Doors open at 12:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall.
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[Photos by John Sebastian Russo / Contributing Photographer]

Anastasia Flores (left) jokes with Katie Briggs while standing in line at O'Flaherty's Irish Pub on Thursday.

Zombies roam downtown in search of booze, bodies

By Samantha Rivera
Staff Writer

Zombie victims cautiously walked through downtown San Jose on Thursday as zombies were ready to attack at the second annual Zombie Crawl.

It spanned five bars in five hours, starting at 8 p.m. and ending at 1 a.m.

The crawl line-up was Cinebar, Smoke Tiki Lounge,

O'Flaherty's Irish Pub, Dive Bar and Mission Ale House.

The zombies were creative with their attire and makeup.

"I like to dress up and am really into the zombie culture," said Melissa Hyer, a senior creative writing major. "Zombies are popular and evolving into a new trend."

About 30 zombies and victims, identified by red tape in the form of an "x" on their backs,

started the crawl, but the amount tripled by the end of the night.

Nurse zombies, zombies on rollerblades, rocker zombies and any other kind of zombie imaginable eagerly socialized and bonded with each other throughout the night.

"I love zombies," senior business major Cody Arredondo said. "They're not dead, and they do whatever they want. How could you not like them?"

The zombies played their part, attacking any victims in sight.

Passers-by stared at crawl participants as they trekked to the different bars.

"I'm a victim," said Gordon Bean, a graduate student majoring in biology-psychology. "I got too lazy to put makeup on. I'm here for the drink specials."

Kristin Silver and Jaime Jachetta, founders of PartyMonstersEvent, were the ones who put together last year's and this year's zombie crawls.

"We love doing theme parties, and it's fun to slap on blood," Jachetta said. "It's a good way to kick off Halloween."

They were also the ones who yelled through a megaphone, signaling the time to move on to the next bar.

Silver and Jachetta handed out sheets detailing zombie etiquette, such as not bleeding on the furniture and attacking victims — not innocent bystanders.

They also sold \$3 wristbands at every bar that were good for VIP drink specials, such as \$2 domestic beer and \$4 zombie shots.

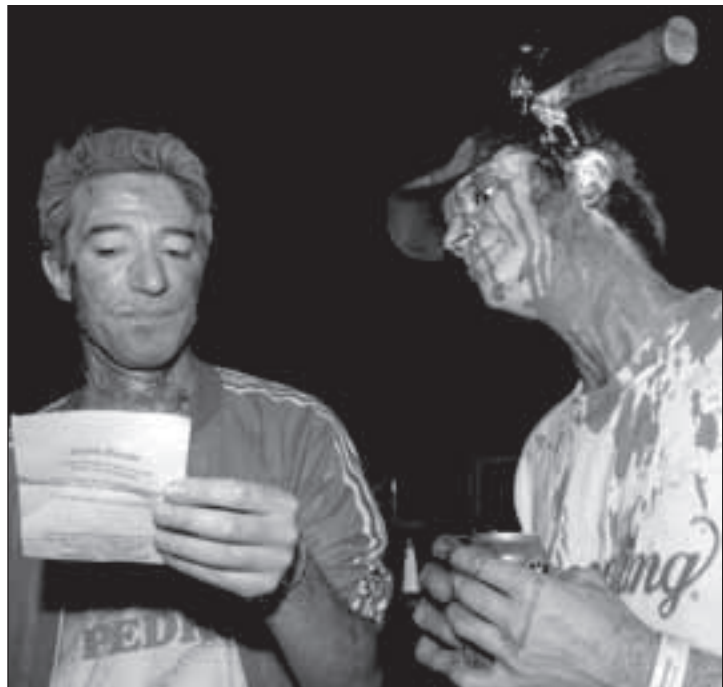
Silver and Jachetta said the money from the wristbands went toward advertising and the best zombie costume contest held at the end of the night.

The band Grimace and the Takers performed at the end of the night at Mission Ale House.

Silver and Jachetta said that they were happy with the turnout and hope to have more zombie crawls in the future.

Angelique Geiger, a senior behavioral science major, said she had missed last year's zombie crawl, so she knew she couldn't miss this one.

"I wanted to meet people who are dressed up," Geiger said. "Getting to dress up is so fun, and you get to do it before Halloween."



Tim Nelson (left) and Jeff Reinik review "Zombie Etiquette" while having a drink at Smoke Tiki Lounge on Thursday night.



Kristen Silver, coordinator of the Zombie Crawl event, leads the pack of zombies through San Jose's streets from bar to bar Thursday night.

Review: The Colored Museum

Colorful play exhibits stereotypes

By Jennifer Hadley
Staff Writer

Talking hair pieces, a girl giving birth to a giant egg and a drunken drag queen were all part of the creative production "The Colored Museum," a play that addresses racial issues.

It is worth viewing, although parts were unclear.

Nearly 150 people attended the play directed by Ethel Walker, a television, radio, film and theatre professor, Friday night in the University Theatre.

The play was made up of 10 vignettes, all telling different stories. Each vignette was an exhibit in the museum and represented a different stereotype, which tied them all together.

A screen hung over the stage and a projector flashed pictures of black people throughout history. Behind the screen, fluorescent-colored material attached to strings hung from the ceiling. I never understood how this decor was relevant to the play.

The costumes in the play were plain and not memorable, for the most part. The emphasis of the play seemed to be mostly on the dialogue.

There was a lack of creativity with the settings and props — those looking for a play with elaborate sets will be disappointed.

The play specifically addressed black stereotypes and did so satirically, comically and seriously. One minute the theater was filled with laughter, and the next minute there was terse silence.

A scene in which a woman is getting ready to go out for the night while her hair pieces argued over which one the woman should wear was one of the most comical and memorable scenes.

One actress was an afro, and the other was straight hair.

They had the audience roaring with laughter as they shouted profanities at one other and took turns exchanging sassy head shakes.

The play also acknowledged stereotypes against women and homosexuals.

There was a bizarre part in the play in which a young woman gives birth to a giant egg, and said she got pregnant from a mail or delivery man.

The actress who played the young woman used a high-pitched voice for her character that was annoying and unsettling.

Whether it was necessary, it was distracting from the monologue she was delivering.



[Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily]

Sheryl Sims practices her part during rehearsal Wednesday.

The message seemed to address the stereotype that women are meant to have sex and bear children. The scene was so weird — I'm still not sure what the message was.

A quick mood swing in the play came from a dramatic performance by a drag queen named Miss Roj.

She was comical and edgy when she flirted with a bartender, but then launched into an intense rant that grabbed the audience's attention by the neck. She talked about locking her father in the closet for three days after her father had been calling her a "faggot."

The laughter quickly turned into silence. Miss Roj's direct eye contact with the audience was haunting and sent chills throughout the theater.

Each vignette in the play is a different story, but the thread that tied them all together at the end was the flight attendant who opened the play.

In the beginning, she involved the audience and told everyone to "Fasten your shackles," and "Don't play your drums."

In the last vignette, an actress told the audience to not forget to play its drums. Then, the wide-eyed flight attendant popped out onstage and ended the play saying, "Any baggage you don't claim we'll trash."

The play ended on a note that left me thinking about what that line might have meant.

Showings of the play will be on Oct. 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m. in the University Theatre.

Student admission is \$10 and general admission is \$15.



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This story has an Online Slideshow theSpartanDaily.com

'MovieFest' features student films



[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

Audience members watch the top 16 short films created by SJSU students at the Campus MovieFest Finale in Morris Dailey Auditorium on Friday night.

By Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

Moments of laughter filled Morris Dailey Auditorium on Friday night as student films hit the big screen during the 2009 Campus MovieFest Finale for SJSU.

More than 150 people were in attendance for the 16 films that were shown.

Winning films for the night were "Conversations on Salinger" for Best Drama, "FunScare" for Best Comedy and "Le Glouton Rouge" for Best Picture.

Freshman nursing major Adrielle Morante said he came to support some friends who made movies.

"A lot of the movies were pretty interesting, graphic-wise," he said. "I liked how there was a lot of support from family members and friends out here. One movie that stuck to me was 'Out of the Box.' It was pretty deep, and it

reminded me of other movies, like 'The Grudge.'"

Campus MovieFest is a student film festival that began eight years ago when four students at Emory University provided students with everything they needed, such as camcorders and laptops, to make movies in one week, according to the Campus MovieFest Web site.

SJSU alumnus Justin McGowan, who worked on Campus MovieFest last year in the film "Tighter Than You," said the competition is getting better.

"There's more good movies," he said. "Like last year, some parts were kind of rough, but everything tonight was great ... It's really exciting, and everybody is getting a lot better."

Arash Shokouh, also an SJSU alumnus, was featured in the film "Resistance," and said he has been participating in the student film festival for three years.

"The difference is this year, I

thought they had a lot more comedies than they did last year," he said. "It's pretty obvious that the comedies tend to do a lot better with the awards, and audiences like to laugh a lot more than watching something serious."

Freshman communications major Ansel Modesto said this was his first Campus MovieFest, and he really enjoyed it.

"The movies were really cool — some were really funny, some were controversial," he said. "I thought 'FunScare' was really funny. I liked how they interpreted the statues in front of Clark Hall."

JP Rastrullo, a freshman biological sciences major, said he heard of Campus MovieFest through word-of-mouth.

"It was really new to me, and I liked what I saw," he said. "There were some films that I didn't understand, but some of my favorites were 'Death Cup' and 'Out of the Box.'"

The winners for Best Drama and Best Comedy won Final Cut Studio 3 and iPod Shuffles, and winners for Best Picture also won Final Cut Studio 3 and iPod Shuffles, plus entrance into the Campus MovieFest Western Regional Grand Finale, which will be held in San Francisco on Nov. 14, according to the Campus MovieFest Web site.

More than 250,000 students have produced films since Campus MovieFest started, receiving all the necessary technology and training for free because of corporate partners and schools, according to the Campus MovieFest Web site.

Mosaic event discusses the cultural importance of using hyphens

By Jennifer Hadley
Staff Writer

Julie Kasomo said she is "hyphenated."

"I am Congolese-American," said Kasomo, a diversity advocate intern. "I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but was raised here in California."

Kasomo said being "hyphenated" means a person grew up with a foreign background or from a foreign nation, and also identifies oneself as being American.

Students who identify as "hyphenated" and "nonhyphenated" gathered in the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center on Thursday night for a lively discussion.

Kasomo organized and hosted the event called "Growing Up In-Between, ???- American."

"I was starting to wonder if I was the only person having these issues of duality," she said.

The point of the whole event was to explore whether the hyphen is significant, Kasomo said.

Kasomo started the discussions by asking the group questions such as, "Hyphen or no hyphens?" and "Who ultimately gets to label us?"

One student from Pakistan said the hyphen is not necessary.

"As far as myself, I don't really identify with any hyphen, honestly," said Billal Ashar, a senior health science major. "First of all, we're all humans, and I feel like you can learn more if you don't identify with anything."

"We're living here in California, and we're already surrounded by so many different cultures and so many different people that we can live in that, and I think learn more than just our culture."

Another point Kasomo said to the group was the idea of

the melting pot versus the salad bowl.

The salad bowl is the idea of America acknowledging different cultural backgrounds, and the melting pot in the idea of everyone blending together and calling themselves American, Kasomo said.

Gunjan Malekar, a senior business management major, said she believes how people identify themselves is up to them.

"I have a different perspective on things, considering I am not American," Malekar said.

"I'm actually an international student here, so as of now, I am just Indian, but I feel that just the concept of having 'hyphenated' identities is very subjective, and it really just depends on how you identify yourself," she said.

Senior pre-med student Isabela Robinson said she comes from more than two different backgrounds.

"When people ask me where I'm from, I don't know what the hell to tell them," Robinson said.

She said she identifies herself as a human and a citizen of this world.

"If anyone happens to ask me on my ethnicity or heritage, I will tell them I am Brazilian nationality-wise, I am from the United States, I have dual citizenship, and I also happen to be African, Latin and white," she said.

Robinson said she believes other people should decide how they want to identify themselves.

"If you feel that you're in the United States, and you're American, that's fine," she said. "If you feel you have some pride toward your original country of origin, that's fine."

VIDEO

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mechanical engineering major, said web conferencing would allow students to see different points of view.

"Students would be more open to other suggestions and find out about people from other nations," he said.

Sophomore psychology major Ruhi Walia said students shouldn't abuse the ability to chat.

"It's really important not to chat but to focus," she said.

Leon Fernando, a graduate student in library information and

science, said he's used web conferencing and has seen students abuse it.

"I've noticed people have side conversations," he said.

Fernando said it's up to the professors to make sure students are paying attention.

"That kind of technology is dependant on the user," he said.

Fernando, who has taught as a teaching assistant with the technology, said it's easy to use but has some drawbacks.

He said it could be problematic if students throughout the world aren't able to attend a lecture at the same time because of different time zones.

Fernando also said there are more positives to using web conferencing.

He said it's a step beyond Blackboard, in terms of communication.

Blackboard is a Web site that allows professors and students to have an online classroom presence with message boards and online tests.

He said web conferencing helps him, as a student who works full time.

Fernando also said it could help students in their futures become familiar with web conferencing.

"We're already using web conferencing at work," he said.

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