



Spartan Daily

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Tuesday
November 3, 2009
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Card debt doubles by graduation

By **Angela Marino**
Staff Writer

College students usually have two credit cards at the beginning of college, and by the time they graduate, they may have around six, said a co-founder of an educational credit Web site.

Adam Levin, co-founder of Credit.com, said that by the end of college students' freshman year, they have \$1,600 in credit card debt, and by the end of their senior year, it doubles.

"During their time at college, students are introduced with easy access to credit and without the proper management knowledge of

credit cards, they become a very dangerous financial tool," he said.

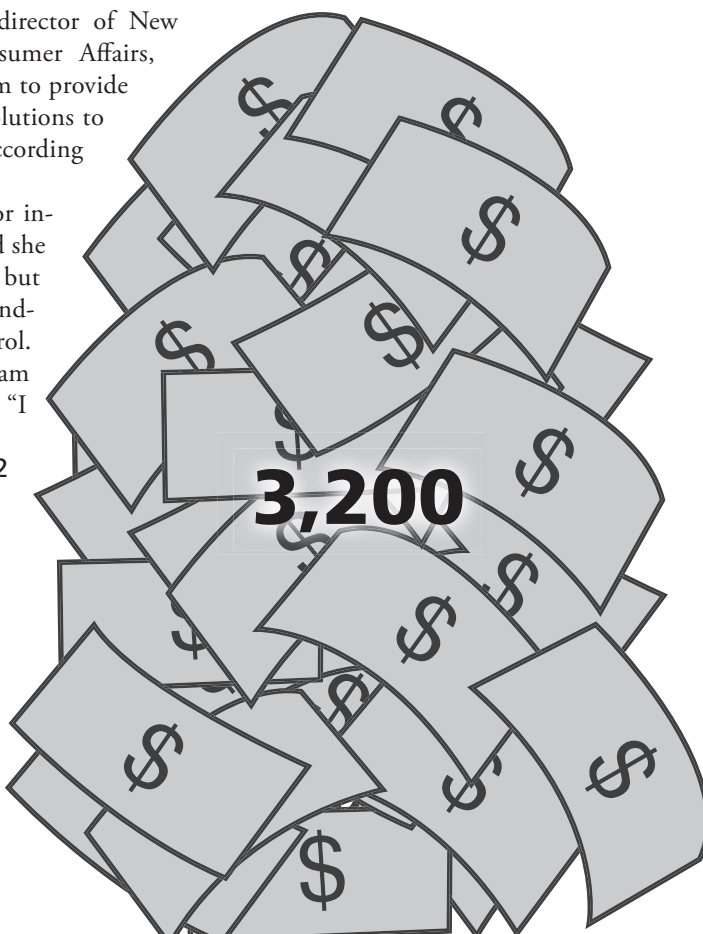
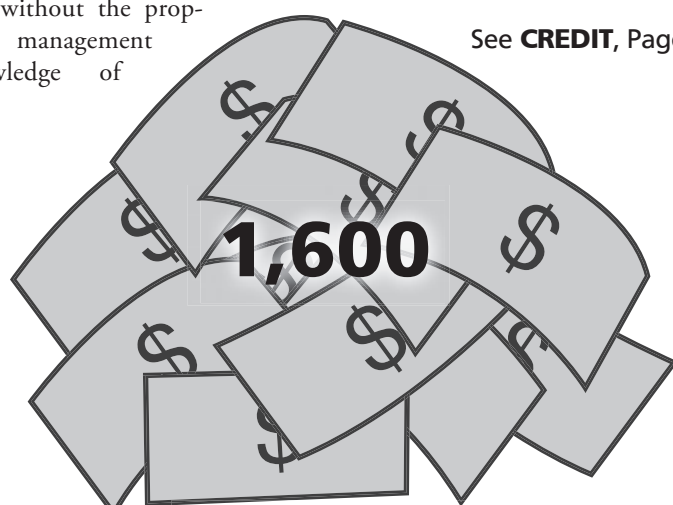
Levin was a former director of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, and he created Credit.com to provide online information for solutions to financial management, according to Credit.com Web site.

Abrir Abboud, a junior industrial design major, said she doesn't have a credit card but can understand how spending can spiral out of control.

"I shop when I am stressed," Abboud said. "I

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Dollars in debt



[Information courtesy of Adam Levin / Credit.com]

[Illustration by Rachel Peterson / Spartan Daily]

Spartan Shops provides discounted Windows

By **Husain Sumra**
Staff Writer

Microsoft's next operating system may be too costly for some students.

The suggested retail price of Windows 7 is \$199.99 for a full version of Windows 7 Home Premium at most retailers, and Microsoft and Spartan Shops are taking measures to reduce prices for education.

Ben Johnson, a junior mechanical engineering major, said

he would get Windows 7, but that price was a deterrent.

"If I had the money I would upgrade to 'seven,'" he said.

According to Microsoft's Web site, college students can get a \$29.99 version of Windows 7 Home Professional on their Web site with a valid college e-mail.

Windows comes in three versions — Home Premium, Professional and Ultimate, according to Microsoft's Web site.

All three versions have most

of Windows 7's new features, such as improved performance, but Professional and Ultimate come with Windows XP Mode, which allows the user to run older XP programs, according to Microsoft's Web site.

Ultimate comes with BitLocker, which is data encryption software that can prevent the theft or loss of data, according to Microsoft's Web site.

After inputting their e-mail addresses, students will receive an e-mail from Microsoft and

may then download the upgrade version of Windows 7 Home Professional, according to Microsoft's Web site.

Spartan Shops is selling versions of Windows 7 at discounted prices, said Jersei Chau, the department supervisor of the computer department at Spartan Shops.

Chau, a senior business marketing major, said Spartan Shops will be stocking a Windows 7 Professional upgrade for \$49.99.

He said the store didn't know when it would receive shipments of the upgrade discs, but that demand from some faculty was high.

Chau said the \$49.99 upgrade version of Windows 7 Professional wouldn't work with Windows XP.

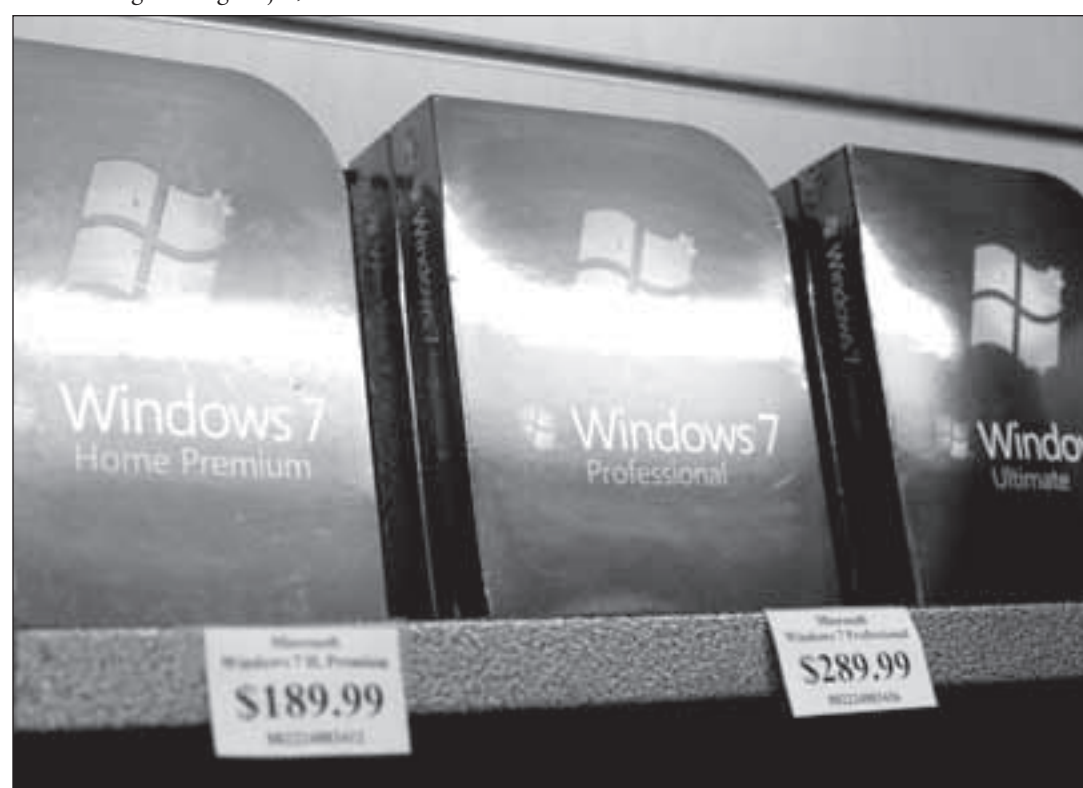
Chau said any full version of Windows 7 would work with Windows XP.

He said the store is also considering ordering another version of Windows 7.

"We're thinking about bringing an OEM version," he said.

Chau said an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) version is the result of a second party company, such as Dell, buying Windows 7 and reselling it at a lower price.

Chau said the original equip-

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[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

The latest version of Microsoft Windows is on sale in the Spartan Bookstore.

Winter session offers 12 days for three credits

By **Marcos Blanco**
Staff Writer

The winter session at SJSU beginning in January is set to warm up, with an increase in attendance and more class sections offered.

Registration for the winter session will begin on Dec. 18, and it will be open to students and nonstudents who aren't officially enrolled at SJSU, according to the SJSU Web site.

According to the Web site's flier, students and nonstudents can earn three units within 12 days during the winter session.

The Winter Session Web site also shows the tuition fees as \$210 per semester unit for lecture classes, \$220 per unit for activity classes and \$295 per unit for lab classes.

Steve Zlotolow, associate dean of international and extended studies, said reaching nonstudents who come in during

Laptak Lee, a senior com-

puter science major, said he was worried about the winter session possibly having a lack of upper division courses students need to graduate.

Zlotolow said 70 more classes have been added for next year's winter session and that students will have more opportunities.

"Those are departmental decisions," he said. "The goal of the winter session is to accelerate. The departments were thoughtful of where they can be helpful."

Zlotolow said the California State University budget cuts have affected his department, but not by a lot.

"It is affected by salaries," he said. "We are affected like everybody else."

Chris Dandan, a senior electrical engineering major, said he doesn't think open enrollment to nonstudents is a big problem for current students who need to graduate.

"I can't see it being bad for

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Event aims to offer insight into disabled sports

By **Angela Marino**
Staff Writer

Disabled Sports Day is an attempt to bring awareness to SJSU students about a topic usually forgotten by able-bodied people, said a student involved in planning the event.

David Salles, a junior double major in adapted physical education and kinesiology, said the event is planned by the Kinesiology 159 class.

"The Disability Sports Day event is planned to bring awareness and to show others that the disabled are capable of doing sports," he said.

Disability Sports Day will be held Nov. 9, between 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Spartan Complex Room 44B.

Nancy Megginson, a kinesiology professor and Disability Sports Day adviser, said the event will be set up in an educational setting to not only allow participants to have fun with the sports, but to learn something as well.

"There will be a variety of sports, such as wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball,

wheelchair table tennis, bocce ball and speed stacking," she said.

Throughout a period of the three hours, organizers will introduce a particular sport, then have the participants play that sport, Megginson said.

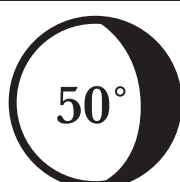
Once the game is finished, organizers will clean up and move onto a new sport, Megginson said.

"During the clean-up time, organizers will have raffles and free food for the participants," Salles said.

The event is organized by the adapted physical activity club, and money is raised from sponsors for Disability Sports Day with profits going toward the club.

Cynequa Caldwell, a senior kinesiology major and president of the club, said not many people know that disabled people can perform in sports.

"Of course, we have to modify the sports to enable them to play them, but like any athlete, they have heart and drive to perform," Caldwell said.

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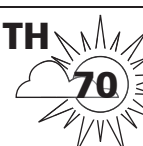
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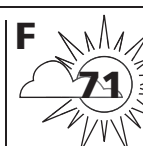
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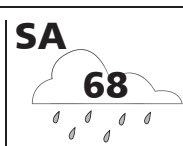
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theSpartanDaily.com

• Slideshow: Women's soccer team clinches division in win over Fresno State

Spartan Daily Blogs**spartandailyphoto.com**

• Photoblog: Photo Editor Joe Proudman's weekly column

spartandailysports.wordpress.com

• Slideshow: Women's volleyball team hosted the Rainbow Warriors on Monday



[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

The Spartans faced the best team in the Western Athletic Conference on Monday. See a slideshow at spartandailysports.wordpress.com.

Web site allows students to learn about potential teachers

By Jhenene Louis
Staff Writer

Thanks to the Rate My Professors Web site, shopping for a teacher is as easy as picking out new shoes — but some students admit that the Web site is nothing more than a popularity contest.

Rate My Professors is a Web site on which students can comment and rate professors from different universities.

Though it is an American Web site, Canada and Britain also have access to it.

Students can rate professors on a scale from one to five based on the difficulty of their courses, how helpful they are and their clarity.

"The Web site is not that efficient," said Rosa Nguyen, a junior electrical engineering major. "Students just based their ratings on whether or not they have a good grade, and not on the teacher's actual teaching abilities."

According to the Rate My Professors Web site, it has more than a million ratings.

Ruth Wilson, chair of the African-American studies department, said she believes that the Rate My Professors Web site is a great way to get to know teachers before registering for their classes.

She said it is important for students to make their own assessments first.

"I think it is useful for students to have access to information about teachers," Wilson said. "However, they should consider other sources, such as other professors."

"From a professional standpoint, 'liking' the professor is not as important as being able to access the most comprehensive body of knowledge or skills from the instructor."

Nguyen said she has never rated a professor before, but she does use the Web site to read the reviews and said it is a great fea-

ture for students.

"Students are curious, especially if they don't have a friend who has taken the class," Nguyen said. "They just want some type of information about what teachers they need to take to graduate."

"They also want to know whether or not they are good or bad, even if the information is not reliable."

What Instructors Think

John Trifari, a teaching assistant in foreign language, said looking at his ratings is a good thing.

He said that he is curious to know if his students are actually learning something, but as teacher, there is always room for improvement.

"It's just another form of evaluation, like the evaluation forms we hand out at the end of the year," Trifari said. "It's good to know what the students think."

He said professors don't care about a popularity contest.

It's more about students learning the material, he said.

"The purpose of being a teacher is not to make people like you," Trifari said. "It's to teach, and there is always going to be some form of criticism from anyone."

Wilson said the Rate My Professors Web site is a great way for students to evaluate teachers, but said the comments submitted by students are not accurate.

"It is best to have a system that collects data from a large group of students taking the course," Wilson said. "Not all students participate in ratemyprofessors.com, thus the results tend to be skewed and biased."

Associate sociology Professor James Lee said students base their ratings primarily on satisfaction, not just the quality of teaching.

"We have to remember that evaluations of teachings are not always just about learning is going on in the classrooms," Lee said. "They're typically more about satisfaction. If it was primarily a

satisfaction survey, then it's probably not a bad way to evaluate classes."

He said that in his research, there seems to be validity in some of the findings, but there also seems to be a correlation in how "hot" a professor is considered.

The "Hot" Rating

Students can also rate their professors based on their looks.

When identifying a professor as "hot," a chili pepper will be displayed next to his or her rating.

"People will probably be more satisfied with a class because someone is attractive rather than because they are actually learning stuff," Lee said.

Victoria Aman, a junior electrical engineering major, said that since tuition is higher for students this semester, she wishes that the Web site was more helpful to students, so they could be more selective about their classes.

"Since I'm taking more of my major classes, teachers are limited, so ratemyprofessors.com is not really helpful for me to use," she said. "If I was a freshman taking regular general education classes, then I would be more selective."

Wilson said that though it is great that students can comment and voice their feelings for their professors, it's still important to remember that teachers are not perfect.

"If students have complaints, they should voice those complaints to their instructor or chair of the department, and seek ways to have a more fulfilling education experience," he said. "They should also voice their praise."

"Equally important, faculty should seek to engage students in discussions about how to make the classroom a more insightful and educational experience. Most teachers want their students to feel good about the classroom experience."

The Rate My Professors Web site was founded in 1999 by John Swapceinski.

Something has to be there for disabled athletes, Caldwell said.

Otherwise, he said, it can be a depressing lifestyle if their hearts are in sports.

Senior kinesiology major Kenneth Cummings said Disability Sports Day brings awareness to a topic that is otherwise not recognized.

"A lot of students with disabilities aren't exposed to stu-

dents with disabilities," Cummings said. "They don't know a lot of sports that are specifically for disabled athletes."

The event usually raises just enough money to cover operating costs, Cummings said.

"It would be great to have students participate in this event to help raise awareness for disability sports and to educate themselves on the topic," he said.

Credit.com Web site.

Thomas Moschetti, an accounting and finance lecturer, said students don't consider the cost of the items they purchase when using a credit card.

"It is important to never have a balance on a credit card," Moschetti said. "The banks encourage students to use their credit cards at all times, but it is also the students' responsibility to monitor their spending."

Currently, the average interest rate for credit cards is 11.51 percent, according to the Bankrate Web site.

Bankrate was established in 1976 as a print publisher for the banking industry, according to the Bankrate Web site.

Juana Ramirez, a junior behavioral science major, said she would use her credit for necessities such as food and rent.

"Students get their needs and wants confused when they are using a credit card," Ramirez said. "It is important to use a credit card properly."

Kathy Nguyen, a manager at the Santa Clara Street Chase Bank, said Chase Bank's application for a credit card requires verification of an annual income and other expenses.

"The credit card limit varies depending on the applicants' income," Nguyen said. "The lowest limit I have seen is about \$500, and the highest is about \$2,000."

EVENT

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The club also supports practical and theoretical endeavors in physical activity and recreation for people with disabilities to promote appropriate active lifestyles, according to the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation Web site.

CREDIT

From Page 1

like getting something new, and it relieves stress when I buy it. College adds a lot of new stress, and having a credit card is a way for students to be able to relieve stress and think about the cost later."

Marco Pagani, an accounting and finance assistant professor, said it is important to understand how to recover from debt.

"If students are in debt, it is important to arrange your cards by the highest interest rate," Pagani said. "Then pay off your debt the fastest with the cards that are going to receive higher fees."

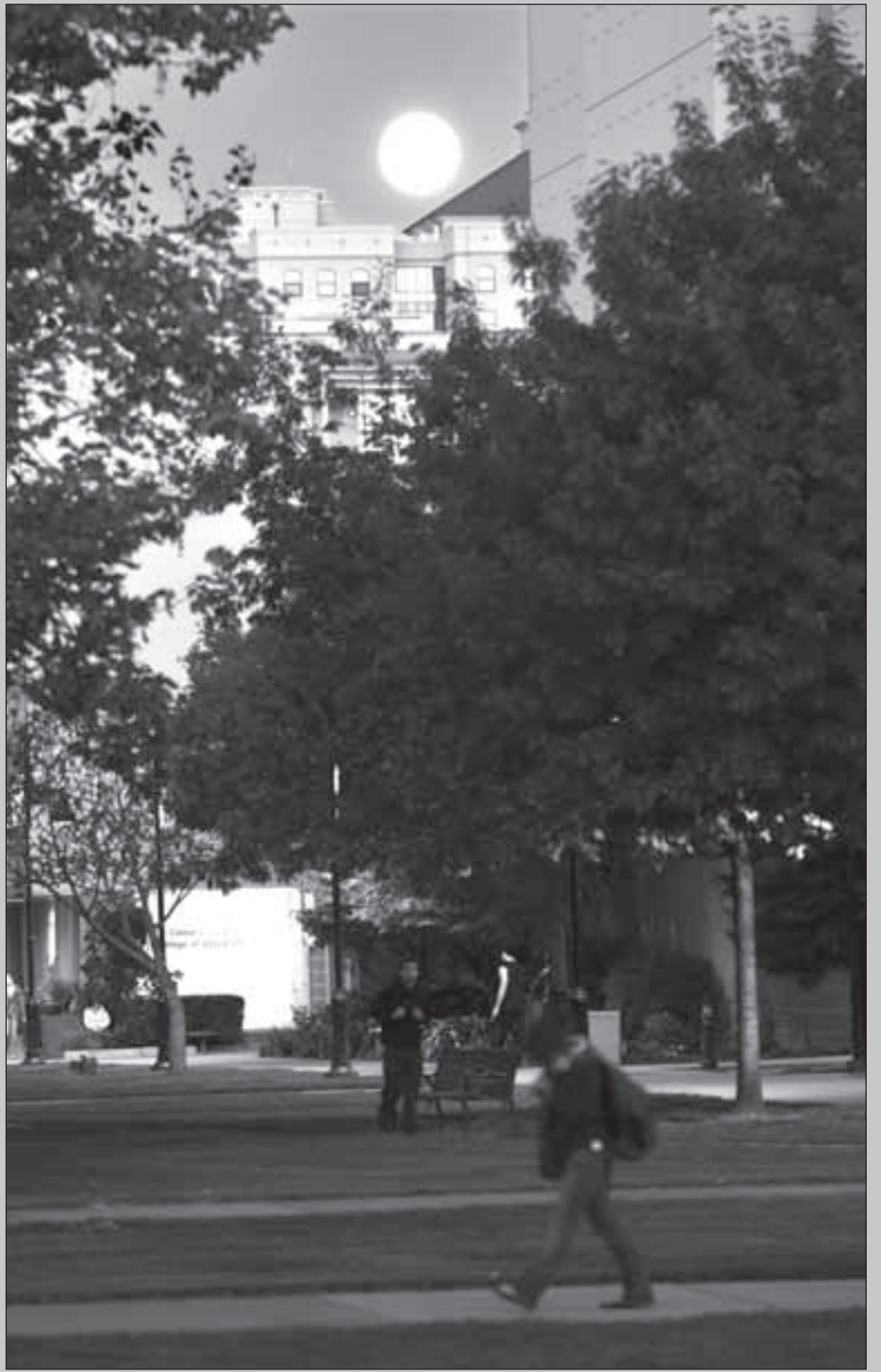
Credit cards should be cautiously used to establish credit history, Pagani said.

"Never be late with a minimum payment on credit cards, because that will cause more fees to be added onto the card," he said.

In 2009, 91 percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card, up from 76 percent in the same study conducted in 2004, according to the Credit.com Web site.

In 2009, 92 percent of undergraduates use credit cards to pay for educational expenses, and 30 percent admitted to using their credit cards to pay for college tuition, according to the

CampusImages



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Students walk through the SJSU campus as a full moon rises over Campus Village on Monday evening.

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Review: Movie

Odd twists and lack of depth disappoint in 'New York, I Love You'

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer

New York is great, but the film "New York, I Love You" isn't.

The film is an anthology and features the works of 11 directors, 21 writers and about two dozen actors, in stories about the people of New York City.

The 10 stories, with one intertwining story that connects them all, attempt to shock or surprise with their endings.

However, the majority of the stories fail to shock, and the writers sometimes seemed to be trying far too hard by inserting plot twists for the sake of plot twists.

The movie does feature a stellar cast, with the likes of Bradley Cooper, Shia LaBeouf, Andy Garcia, James Caan, Natalie Portman, Rachel Bilson, Ethan Hawke, Orlando Bloom, Hayden Christensen and many more, all giving solid performances.

The transitions between stories are seamless, although they probably should be, since one of the directors focused solely on transitions, combined with the separate story of a girl filming around New York to tie all the stories together.

The only story that didn't mesh with the movie was the segment directed by Brett Ratner, because the main charac-



[Photos courtesy of Vivendi Entertainment]

Ethan Hawke and Maggie Q co-star in a segment produced by Yvan Attal in "New York, I Love You."

ter narrated his story.

A segment in the middle of the film that switches narration styles and has the main character thinking out loud is a bit jarring, when the rest of the segments had a more traditional storytelling style.

It's almost as if Ratner didn't consult the other directors.

None of the stories have actual titles, and are instead named after the director who helmed the segment.

In that way, the film again attempted to be a seamless experience of walking through the streets of New York and overhearing the random conversations of passers-by.

Ratner's segment, despite the jarring change to the overall flow of the film, is the most fun to watch and is similar to the movie "Superbad."

The story deals with a boy who takes

the wheelchair-bound daughter of his pharmacist to the prom after his girlfriend can't make it.

Director Mira Nair's segment on a soon-to-be Jewish wife, played by Natalie Portman, and her conversation with her Indian jeweler about the differences between their cultures is fairly interesting, but ends in an odd and unsatisfying way.

Portman's segment is her directorial debut and the cutest story of the bunch. The interactions of a man and a little girl as they romp through Central Park made me say "aw."

The most raunchy segment comes from director Yvan Attal, starring Maggie Q and Ethan Hawke, is about Hawke's character's sexual obsession with Maggie Q's character and his pursuit to woo her.

It is the most entertaining segment,

with a comedic payoff at the end.

An intense and erotic segment comes from director Allen Hughes, starring Bradley Cooper and Drea de Matteo, about a second date after a one-night stand.

Joshua Marston's segment about an old couple taking a walk through the city is the most touching, and probably the best overall segment, as the charming small talk between the couple keeps you interested.

Shia LaBeouf stars in the most chilling and cold segment, directed by Shekhar Kapur, but might leave some viewers confused at the end.

With a couple of exceptions, the majority of the film's segments are flawed, shallow and did not impact me much.

The film left me wanting to visit the Big Apple, but had me regretting spending \$10 on a movie ticket.



Natalie Portman plays a soon-to-be bride in "New York, I Love You."

Review: Album

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

Meg and Dia Frampton's latest offering to the world of music, an album titled "here, here and here" — yes, all in lowercase — is a study in contradictions.

Meg & Dia debuted on the mainstream music scene about three years ago with the album "Something Real."

"here, here and here" is the band's second album.

I'll admit that I wasn't expecting much out of the album, thinking it was just another compilation of generic pop-rock recordings.

It took a few playbacks, but I discovered a series of deep and surprisingly bittersweet lyrics about loves lost, lives wasted and breaking free from expectations, all concealed within the album's fast and upbeat tracks.

The first song, "Going Away," has a beat that is bright, bouncy and catchy, in a retro kind of way. It had me bobbing in my seat until I realized the lyrics were about a girl running away to start a new life, and supporting herself as a prostitute.

I can only hope I misinterpreted those lyrics, because the meaning of the song's title had clearly eluded me.

I had previously been prepared to shut my brain off and enjoy the music for the poppy, mindless and fight-the-urge-to-stand-up-and-dance-lest-I-embarass-myself experience I was originally expecting.

Upbeat sounds accompany ironic lyrics



The album cover for Meg and Dia's, "here, here and here."

As with many other occasions in my life, I was happy to have my expectations defied.

Nowhere else in the album is that ideal exemplified than in "Hug Me," the second track.

The opening was reminiscent of many country and western songs I've heard, and I was ready to dismiss the song as such until I heard the lyrics: "I can't lie, I was brainwashed to be honest / In this brave new world that slowly passes by / I'm a girl learning to act as planned / I was programmed to be Catholic

but I ran."

When I heard those words, I knew this song was going straight into my iPod.

Finding new music that I like is a big deal to me, since my little iPod shuffle only holds about 250 songs.

I figure it's better to have 250 songs I know I'll listen to every time, rather than have to scroll through 10,000 to find one

that matches my mood at the moment.

Unlike "Going Away," "Hug Me" didn't inspire me to get out of my seat and dance. Instead, I was tempted to lip-sync — an activity that's far more embarrassing and much more difficult to resist.

Another highlight of the album is "Bored of Your Love," a bittersweet duet with lead singer Dia Frampton singing along side guest Tom Higgenson, of the band Plain White T's.

The song is about lovers whose relationship is going in a downward spiral.

The album closes with the title track, "Here, Here and Here," apparently based on a quote by Mozart.

It is a relatively low-key song and

is a quiet departure from the rest of the album.

It's a worthy endnote to the frenetic energy displayed in nearly every other song.

The album is a paradox of up beats and down lyrics that was thoroughly enjoyable.

Each track tells a story that is bleakly inspirational, giving listeners a dose of hope in a world that only exists to tear them down.

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CampusVoices

Feature and Photos by Suzanne Yada

How effective was the Alert-SJSU emergency notification system after the shooting 2 a.m. Sunday at Seventh and San Salvador Streets?

Lauren Lewis
Freshman, Biochemistry



I thought it was pretty effective. I got it pretty promptly, but it was four hours after it really happened. It's good I knew about it, but I would have liked to have been notified about it earlier.

Cottrell Hill
Junior, Kinesiology



It's pretty effective. My parents got two calls from the system at 4 in the morning. They heard it as soon as it happened, because it's electronic. It rang on a cell phone and a house phone, so everyone was awake in my house.

Brooke Lawson
Freshman, Nursing



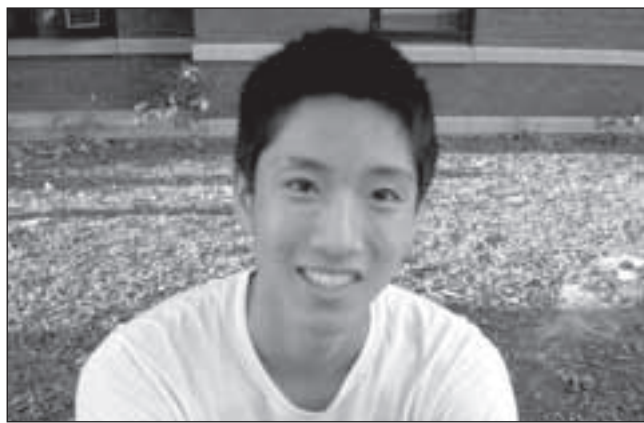
It's not that effective if I didn't get the text. I signed up for it. I want to know. I'm in Joe West. I'm on that side. I definitely should have got first dibs.

Bonnie Yip
Freshman, Nursing



I think it was pretty good. It was in the middle of the night, and I was still awake, and it gave me a warning not to be in that area or be out at that time.

Nick Png
Freshman, Mechanical Engineering



I guess it's pretty good. I've never really experienced it though. I never got the text message, and I was off campus at the time anyways, so it wasn't really important to me that I got the message.

Anthony Nava
Junior, Microbiology



It was good to know. That's something that people really need to know about, especially because it was Halloween. But if it was a little more immediate — three hours late is pretty late for me to decide not to walk down Seventh Street.

WINTER

From Page 1

us," Dandan said. "It's not that big of a problem, unless it starts affecting actual students. It seems like a way for the school to make more money."

He said he was more worried about nonstudents having priority registration instead of students who are already attending SJSU.

"If there is space, let them in, but they should never give priority to the other people," Dandan said. "That way, the students get what they need."

Zlotolow said people who are coming in as nonstudents won't hinder the chances for students who need classes to graduate during the winter session.

"We focus our marketing on the students here," Zlotolow said. "We don't really do much marketing off of campus."

Zlotolow said the course material students absorb in such a short amount of time depends

on how the sections are designed and taught.

"It takes a lot of preparation on the part of the instructors," he said. "One of the keys to learning is good, powerful instruction. We have a good faculty to give good instruction. It is a challenge, from a learning standpoint."

Zlotolow said he expects more than the usual 2,000 people to attend next year's winter session.

"It's a little window that demonstrates opportunity," he said. "It's our job, so to speak."

WINDOWS

From Page 1

ment manufacturer prices for full versions of Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Ultimate are \$149.99 and \$199.99.

Undecided freshman Sukhdev Bariana said he's planning on buying a new laptop equipped with Windows 7.

"Since it's the latest, I might as well get that," he said.

Bariana said he's currently using Windows Vista and doesn't

understand why it gets a bad reputation from critics.

"I don't have any problems with Vista or anything," he said.

Johnson said that although he'd like to upgrade to Windows 7, he's in no rush to do so.

"It's not really that big a deal to me," he said.

Carlos Fernandez, a junior business management major, said he's had Windows 7 for the past couple months and has enjoyed it more than Windows Vista.

"It's substantially better," he said.

He said Windows 7 hasn't been as stable as Windows XP, but that stability comes with time.

Fernandez said his favorite feature was the improved firewall capabilities.

He said he would opt for the student version on Microsoft's Web site if he hadn't had gotten it for free at work.

"I wouldn't pay the full 100-something dollars," he said. "That's a lot of money."

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Previous Solution

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

SUDOKU

(Initially 4x4)

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

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Fun to "stair"
4. Percentage
6. "Star Wars" heavy
13. "Alo"
14. Meters up
15. Sea urchin
16. Dice purchase
17. Dance movement
18. Vegetarian
19. Week-end
20. "We Are the World"
22. Banning state
24. Address
25. Co. branches
26. Related
28. Fishing pole
31. Major news
34. Don't parable
35. "Water for" pop group
36. Laugh-acting
37. Sea soldier
38. Movie spoof
39. Out of work
40. Horse head
41. Chicago drink
42. Chain
43. Inching bird
44. Cactus
45. Flipbook chair
47. Mappers to
51. Old houses myth
55. That means
56. Seed coverings
57. Trademark
58. Zoo transport
59. Address Jessica —
60. Cattle farmer
61. Range hats
62. Absorbent
63. Soaps
64. Vaccine units

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

EDGE	SLUSH	PHOG
COLL	HOSTAL	TIAGO
AVID	ESSSEN	ALFO
DEBONE'S	MOISTEN	
RAP	ING	
SPIRIT	PLAS	DONOR
RTID	RA	ALOR
COCONUT	MAR	CARCON
KWH	AD	IFHE
SLEEK	ADE	JESSE
JST	ILP	
HOPED	NEBULA	
EPIC	WORG	LENA
LEH	EMA	LLEN
ARTS	SAL	S YAWS

DOWN

1. Type of knit
2. "Aloha"
3. "Dinner" song
4. Unit
5. Swallow letters
6. Latin
7. Softball
8. Hardwood
9. Fruit vegetable
10. Homestead
11. Pro singer — Adams
12. Full heart
13. Unpaired heat engagement
14. System myth
15. Under myth
16. Add the a day
17. Prince Valiant's "A"
18. Legumes
19. 100 as told
20. Water safety
21. Game show prize
22. Verb process
23. Batch up
24. Toddler's friend
25. Wrestling
26. South American
27. "The Office"
28. Food
29. Working birds
30. "Aloha" comes with
31. Start
32. "My Only Words"
33. Scraps
34. Soccer ball size
35. "Aloha" hat
36. "Aloha" hat
37. "Aloha" hat
38. Patient's regret

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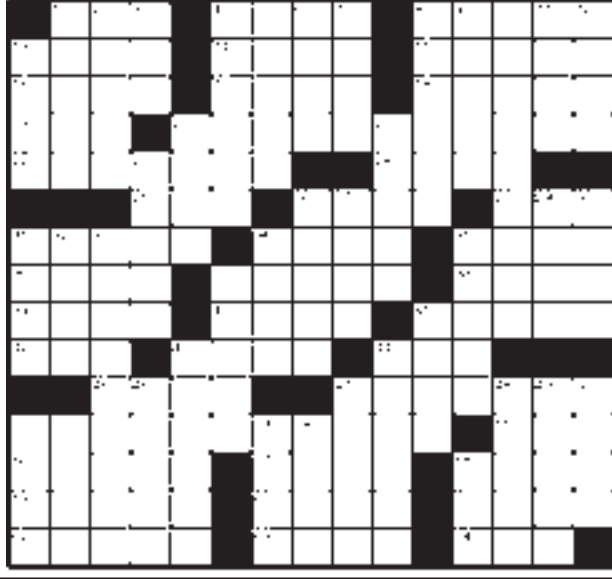
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Cracking down on capitalism



Adam Murphy

Murphy's Law

Winston Churchill once remarked, "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried."

I agree with him on this. Democracy is the only form of government that gives its citizens any kind of protection against a tyrant.

Democracy isn't perfect, but it's a lot better than any of the alternatives.

People are more equal in a democracy. Boiled down to its core, democracy is one vote for one person. It is the fairest form of government.

Capitalism and democracy have long been looked at as going hand in hand — freedom to vote, and freedom to work and spend.

Churchill had some thoughts on capitalism as well.

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

Again, I agree with Churchill's assessment of the two different economies. The blessings of capitalism aren't 'equal,' unlike the miseries of socialism, but at least people have a chance to change their blessings.

If I work hard, I will get ahead in a capitalistic economy — at least that has been the train of thought for some time now.

But more and more, it seems as if this line of thinking is wrong. The gap between those "sharing the blessings" and everyone else seems to grow every year.

Economies ebb and flow, boom and bust, and the people hurt the most are the people at the bottom of the ladder.

Job losses and falling home prices mostly hurt those who are just getting by.

Our current bust is still being felt worldwide. Unemployment is around 10 percent right now.

Yet somehow, there is optimistic talk of the beginning stages of a recovery.

The same companies that threatened to send the world economy into a depression are tracking record profits.

Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase & Co. each posted profits of more than three billion dollars.

The fat cats on Wall Street get fatter, while the rest of us tighten our belts.

Those who controlled everyone else's currency lined their pockets by making bets with everyone else's money. When their bets turned out to be wrong, the market crashed.

People still don't have jobs.

But Wall Street is making money again.

Democracy and capitalism are supposed to go hand in hand. Democracy works, for the most part.

Capitalism is increasingly becoming a story of the haves and the have-nots.

I can't say for sure what Winston Churchill would say about capitalism today if he was alive, but I can take a pretty good guess that he wouldn't say anything at all.

He would be shocked to see what it had turned into.

Adam Murphy is a Spartan Daily sports editor. "Murphy's Law" appears every Tuesday.

Weighing the importance of perfection



Jhenene Louis

Staff Writer

OK, I admit it. I have never been a size 4 since before I was 13.

I have always tried to stay in shape, until my freshman year of college. That's when I became all too familiar with the dreaded "freshman 15."

The summer of my sophomore year, I decided to head to the gym to try and shed some extra weight.

Weight gain has always seemed to sneak up on me every winter when the holidays come around.

It's like I go into hibernation mode.

Some of my girlfriends and I were sitting at my apartment, talking about the issue of weight and why we are so obsessed with having a body like Halle Berry or Jennifer Lopez.

Yes, it is true that the media have unrealistic standards of what beauty is — and makes it impossible for women to achieve

these standards.

Is the media really responsible?

Why does weight matter?

Three bags of popcorn and two bowls of ice cream later, we all came up with our own theory, such as, women want to compete with other women for men's attention, and men like women who are slim and in shape.

As we went around the room, I realized that none of our answers had anything to do with us. It's like we want to stay in shape, because it makes us feel better, not because it is healthier.

Every answer had to do with men and what we think they want.

I told myself the next time I go to the gym it was going to be for me, not because I want to impress some guy with my new abs.

So my friend Gio and I decided to go to 24 Hour Fitness. When I first walked in, I im-

mediately felt out of place, with my oversized SJSU sweatshirt and the black sweats I've worn a million times, spotted with bleach.

The girls in the gym wore tight Nike Razor back tops with spandex bottoms. They were fit and toned.

My friend Gio, who is gorgeous and has the metabolism of a 10 year old, felt right at home.

Since when do I have to get in shape before I get into the gym?

As I made my way to the elliptical machine, with my pouched out tummy and flabby arms, the most humiliating thing happened.

A woman who had just spent 45 minutes on the bike beside me got off, touched my stomach and asked me when I was due!

I almost passed out.

I was so horrified by her question, so I went along with it and said in six months.

I was convinced that I was never going to the gym again.

I would just do my workout at home on Comcast On Demand "15 min workouts."

The following week, I decided to get a checkup from my doctor.

As I sat on the hospital bed waiting for my doctor, I started reading a poster on the wall that said the average woman, who is between 5 feet, 7 inches and 5 feet, 4 inches should weigh between 135 and 140 pounds.

If that's true, me and just about every other girl I hang out with is overweight.

I decided to unload all this stress about diet and weight on my uncle, who is a counselor and a retired firefighter, and is in pretty good shape.

He told me that a person has to be realistic in setting goals for weight loss.

Then he told me a shocking statistic. He said in the U.S., almost half of American children between first and third grades say they want to be thinner, and four out of five 10-year-old children are afraid of being fat.

This is absolute craziness. Ten year olds should not be afraid of gaining weight. They should be enjoying childhood.

I know I'm not alone when I say how frustrating this issue of weight can be. Still, it's impossible to deny that this issue is everywhere.

One hundred forty eight pounds or bust.

Online bullying won't get your face broken



Angelo Lanham

Yes, I Have A Point

How about 13 words of wisdom?

"If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Your mother said it. Mine did.

And we both ignored that little gem, didn't we? Because it's just not fun to say nice things.

Typically, though, Mums gets around to telling you this one back when you were a wee tot.

Wee tots tend to go to elementary school, and elementary school students have the luxury of the most efficient and self-perpetuating pecking orders known to all humanity.

Basically, you pretty much know who you can and cannot mouth off to.

If you're the skinny kid in the corner, with thick glasses that sport a chic roll of tape bonding two halves at the bridge of the nose, you mouth off to no one.

The percentage of students you have the privilege of picking on increases with your weight class, and you quickly learn to punch your weight.

The kid belonging to the weight class above "taped-up glasses kid" gets to harass him, but not the slightly overweight kid who washed his mom's car with rocks — who is, conversely, picked on by the heavy kid who has his first tattoo at the age of 10, produced by his 12-year-old friend's tattoo gun, constructed by way of combining a cassette player motor and a guitar string.

That kid picks on everyone, and this pecking order sticks with us to the end.

You know not to mouth off to your boss, people of a stature more intimidating than your own or people who freak you out.

Methods of picking on those around you, arguably, become more sophisticated.

Instead of throwing rocks, we toss out thinly veiled passive-aggressive insults. We gripe about people we are too scared to tell off while standing around the proverbial water cooler.

Occasionally, "taped-up glasses kid" shows up to work with a violin case and ends up be-

ing more feared than "big bossman," but other than that, elementary school sets up the template that leads to the pecking order we, more or less, abide by until the day we die.

It's not the happiest arrangement.

The 10-year-old with the crude skull and crossbones tattoo becomes a bouncer, who has at one point gained eyelid tattoos and become even scarier. "Taped-up glasses kid" owns the company you work for, but you could still kick his ass. Everyone in between stays in between.

How about 20 more words of wisdom? Not Mumsy this time, but my good friend who is, more or less, wise beyond his years.

"I love reading comments on the Internet," he said. "But with that said, anyone who comments on a Web site is a loser."

I think that's a bit harsh, but he did go on to make a more concise point, not quoted above — that those who comment on a Web site are anonymous.

Communication has advanced more in the last 20 years than it has in all the years before it — if I'm going out on a limb by saying that, it's not a very far out one. Internet criticism is safe.

If 300-pound, chain-dragging Biff, who enjoys things that go "crunch" when smashed and has an extensive collection of cro-bars and cricket bats, posts a recipe for pot roast on his cooking Web site that you think is bullocks, even you, yes you, with your taped-up, thick-framed glasses and 80-pound stature, can write a comment telling him off.

If, on the other hand, Biff handed you the recipe in person, you would thank him in a calm, collected voice, making no sudden motions and avoiding eye contact.

I'm not saying the cyber loss of a pecking order is a shame. On the contrary, the pecking order becomes more cerebral, and that would seem like a positive.

The trouble is that brains don't think in positives. We are a negative people — something about being a well-fed nation with electricity and running water really makes us a cranky bunch of piss-ants.

In the old days, a scrawny, cranky piss-ant would go home, kick the dog and be done

with it.

The dog is safe these days, because said piss-ant will instead scour the Internet, looking for opinions he or she doesn't agree with, involving issues as mundane as movie reviews, or issues as stalemated as the middle east.

Then, using varying levels of articulation depending on the piss-ant, he or she really let the author have it.

It's not just people who comment.

Web zines and blogs have removed a certain integrity thought to be contained in the likes of old-world, hard-copy movie reviews.

Constructive criticism is old hat.

The new way to do it is to wait with baited breath for a real stinker of a film, then dig out the old thesaurus and start dusting off and re-working the arsenal of your snidest comments.

It's good to have an alternative to the press, but what are we supposed to do with a bunch of snide lemmings coming up with the meanest turns of phrase possible? And what to do, for that matter, with the even meaner lemmings who comment on their articles?

Cripes. Perhaps it's time we all started listening to Mother.

Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor. "Yes, I Have A point" appears every Tuesday.

Ruminations

illustration by Carl Evans



Learning to cook in college.

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Letters become property 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.

SJSU students, faculty and staff organizations may place items in Sparta Guide free of charge. Submissions must be placed in the Sparta Guide box at the Spartan Daily by noon and three days before publication. Space limitations may require light editing of material. No phoned-in items will be accepted. There is also a form at this.spartandaily.com.

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usatoday.com

Women's volleyball team crushed by Rainbow Wahine

By Angela Marino
Staff Writer

The Spartan volleyball team lost three consecutive sets to Hawaii 25-12, 25-15 and 25-15 on Monday in Spartan Complex.

Hawaii showcased an array of strong hitters highlighted by Kananani Danielson, who led her team with 15 kills.

"Hawaii definitely has some big hitters on their team, but we did show them that with blocks we can slow them down," sophomore middle blocker Kylie Miraldi said.

During the first set, Hawaii junior setter Dani Mafua set the ball to middle hitter Amber Kaufman, who smashed it for a kill, giving Hawaii a four-point lead. The Rainbow Wahine kept the momentum for the remainder of the set, winning it 25-12.

During the second set, the Spartans started strong, taking the lead with a kill from Miraldi. But at 7-7, Hawaii went on a 6-2 run, and eventually won the set by 10 points.

During the third set, the Spartans gained control at the start and led 8-7. Hawaii once again took over toward the end of the set.

Senior libero Kristal Tsukano said that despite the loss, the Spartans fought throughout the match.

"It is always nice to play tough teams, especially (the Rainbow Wahine), who are number three in the nation," she said.

Sophomore setter Asia Casino, freshman outside hitter Katie Turner and Tsukano tied for the lead with six digs.

The Spartans started a new way of defending opposing hitters against Hawaii, Tsukano said.

"We could have executed it better, but we did a pretty good

job with (the defense)," she said. "Our changes for the front row were different as well, so we did well for trying out a new set up."

Miraldi said the Spartans did well adjusting to the aggressive play from Hawaii.

"It was going to be a difficult

"They are solid attackers all the way around, and they are an extremely strong team."

- Oscar Crespo
Head Coach

match no matter what," Miraldi said. "We continued battling and as long as we don't lose our competitive edge that is what is going to keep us winning games."

Miraldi led the Spartans with 10 kills and one ace.

Freshman setter Caitlin An-

drade led the Spartans with 15 assists.

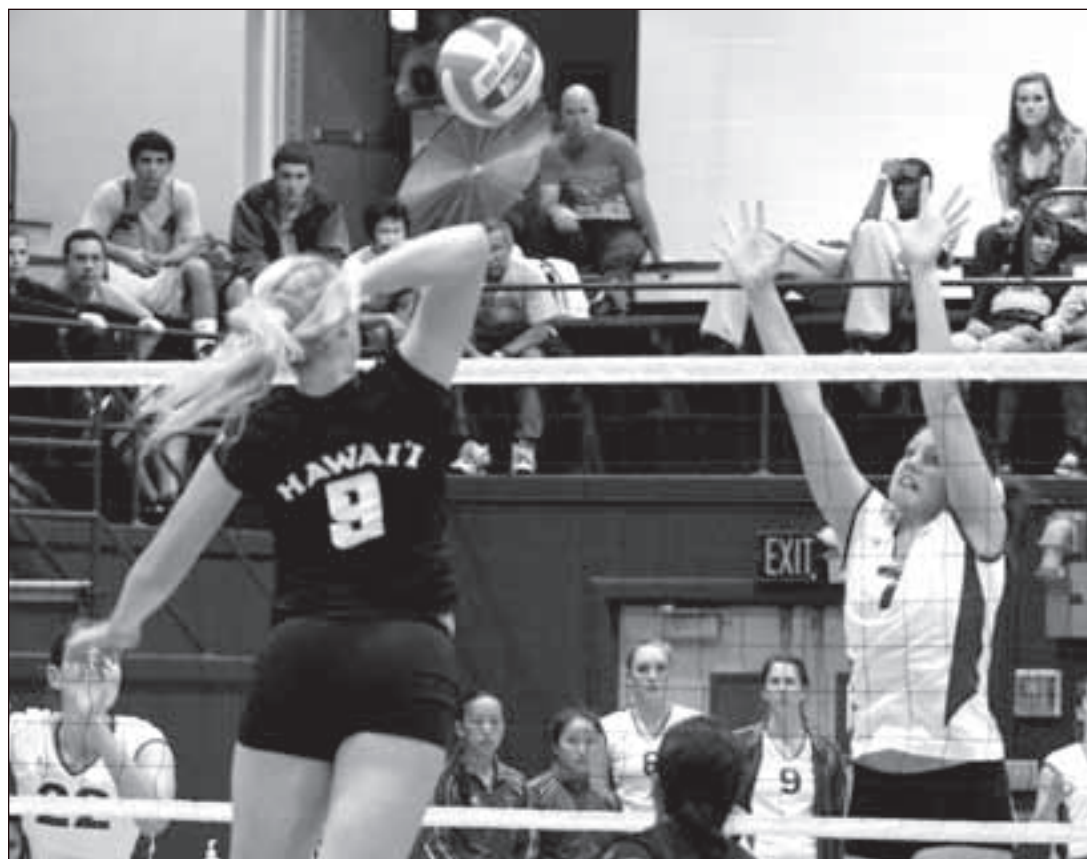
Danielson was named the Western Athletic Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. It was the fourth time she was named player of the week this season, according to the WAC Web site.

Head coach Oscar Crespo said Hawaii is a team that is a lot stronger than he has seen in the last 10 years of his coaching career.

"They are solid attackers all the way around, and they are an extremely strong team," Crespo said.

He said many of the things that the Spartans have been working on are beginning to pay off, in regard to blocking.

"When we block, we are then able to bring the ball to the middle, where tonight Miraldi, our middle blocker dominated in kills," he said.



[Photos by Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]



Above: Hawaii's Alexis Forsythe, No. 9, winds to spike the ball as SJSU middle blocker Kylie Miraldi, No. 7, jumps to block it. Left: SJSU outside hitter Taylor Japhet spikes the ball in the Spartans loss to Hawaii in straight sets. Japhet leads the team in kills this year with 207.

Team	1	2	3
Wahine	25	25	25
Spartans	12	15	15

WAC Volleyball Standings

Team	WAC record	Overall record
Hawaii	11-0	21-2
New Mexico State	9-3	14-8
Idaho	8-3	12-12
Fresno State	5-6	12-11
Boise State	5-6	5-18
Nevada	4-7	8-16
Louisiana Tech	4-8	14-14
Utah State	4-8	13-12
SJSU	1-10	1-21

Sports Blog

Check out the Spartan Daily Sports Blog. Sports Editor Adam Murphy will break down the San Jose Sharks' recent surge in the Western Conference. He will also delve into some of the performances of key players. spartandailysports.wordpress.com

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Denis Johnson is the author seven novels, one collection of stories, five books of poems, and numerous plays. He has been the recipient of a Lannan Fellowship and a Whiting Writers' Award. His novel *Tree of Smoke* won the 2007 National Book Award and was a Finalist for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. His fiction and poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *GQ*, *Esquire* and *Playboy*. He lives in Northern Idaho.

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