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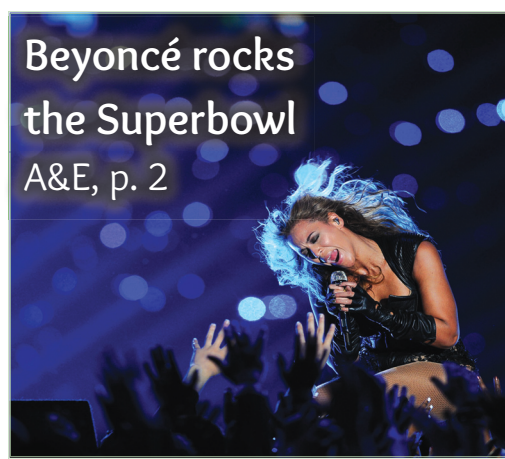


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COMMUNITY

CommUniverCity offers growth for community

By **Christiana Cobb**
 @christianacobb

CommUniverCity engages students and the neighborhoods surrounding SJSU in gardening and garden education.

Elizabeth Figueroa, project coordinator for CommUniverCity, said the program helped get its start in 2005 by Terry Christensen, a former SJSU political science professor, as executive director.

Figueroa said the goal is to create a collaborative partnership between the city of San Jose, SJSU and neighborhoods within a 1.5 mile radius of campus.

She said the program tries to build social capital, a concept that involves connecting community members to each other to promote safe neighborhoods, to educate on gardening, and provide after school reading programs.

"We want to know how well people know their neighbors because it creates trust in the neighborhood and makes safer neighborhoods for both adults and kids who are walking to school," Figueroa said. "Do they feel safe in the neighborhood?"

Figueroa said if the children in the neighborhood feel safe, they are able to focus on school.

She said with CommUniverCity, students involve themselves with programs such as the fruit tree mapping project.

According to Figueroa, students participating in the fruit tree mapping project locate fruit trees in neighborhoods within a 1.5 mile radius of SJSU and with the permission of homeowners, they glean or collect the fruit to donate it to the Olinder food program, which gives to needy families.

"Fruit gleans is a way for us to fight food insecurity in San Jose by donating



Bags of fruit are collected and weighed as the CommUniverCity volunteer group helps pick fruit from a local family's backyard in San Jose on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013. Photo by Carolyn Seng / Spartan Daily

to local organizations," said Cesar Esquivel, CommUniverCity worker and Silicon Valley HealthCorps (AmeriCorps) member, who promotes garden education.

Imelda Rodriguez, community director for CommUniverCity, said a couple has benefited from educational workshops such as soil maintenance, how to use pesticides and gardening, as well as the fruits CommUniverCity donates to the Olinder

food program from the fruit gleanings.

Zach Lewis, project coordinator for CommUniverCity, said another project the organization offers is Garden to Table, which is an urban agriculture project where students and the community plant fruit trees and build gardens.

He said this gives students an opportunity to build a food system by rolling up their sleeves, digging with

their hands in the ground and planting gardens.

Lewis said he enjoys the overjoyed faces of the gardeners when they see the outcome of the garden they have worked so hard for, but it has been frustrating to work with students who take a lackluster approach to the program.

He said students wait to be told what to do rather than taking up responsibility to help the community by gardening and collecting fruit.

Students interested can contact CommUniverCity.

"You can just go to college and learn all the theory you want ... but when you have that active engagement component and you're actually able to take what you're learning and go use it in the community, I think it provides an experience that is kind of unparalleled," Lewis said.

Christiana Cobb is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

ONLINE

Provost talks about Udacity benefits

By **Sydney Reed**
 @SydNee_Daily

San Jose State and Udacity came together to pilot test massive open online courses at SJSU in hopes of helping students learn and succeed toward graduating.

"There's been a lot of interest about our newest partnership with Udacity," Provost Ellen Junn said.

Junn held a Teaching and Technology Update and Provost Forum Thursday along with faculty to further explain SJSU's partnership with Udacity, which is being called SJSU Plus, to staff and students.

Udacity is a Silicon Valley-based online education startup and SJSU is the first university to partner with it to pilot test interactive online courses with a real faculty, she said.

Through the Udacity partnership, SJSU Plus offers three online courses: Entry-Level Mathematics, College Algebra, and Elementary Statistics, which started on Jan. 30, Junn said.

According to Junn, half of the students taking courses are SJSU students and the other half are non-SJSU students and all will earn college credit.

She also said students will pay \$150 per course compared to the typical course fee of \$372, or they can go to Udacity.com and take courses for free.

According to Udacity's website, individuals who sign up for the free course will not receive college credit but will earn a cer-



Provost Ellen Junn gestures while speaking at the Provost's Forum on Thursday Jan. 31, 2013. The forum focuses on the SJSU's partnership with Udacity to create online courses particularly in classes where there is a low pass rate.. Photo by Codi Mills / Spartan Daily

tificate of completion as soon as the course ends.

Julie Spitzer, professor of mathematics, said she's been interested in online education for a long time.

"When I met with people at Udacity, it was truly inspiring," she said.

According to Spitzer, who teaches the College Algebra course, it's a great deal of work upfront preparing for a developing online course while making sure she is attending to the needs of students.

"I'm really glad I have a team of people at Udacity that I can trust to help me out but ultimately I'm responsible for this class," she said.

Sean Laraway, associate professor of psychology, said preparing for an online class requires more work than a regular class.

According to Laraway, he has spent more time preparing for his online course than he would his physical Elementary Statistics course but once the class gets going he anticipates the same amount of work.

Laraway, who teaches the Elementary Statistics class, stated in an email the Udacity model of teaching has required him to think differently about how he presents material and to reform lesson plans to fit the model.

SEE COURSES ON PAGE 3

GREEK

Delta Gamma gives back to community for the last 65 years

By **Rochelle Beckel**
 @rochellebeckel

Delta Gamma, a nationwide Panhellenic sorority known for its continual philanthropic work with the Service for Sight and Aid to the Blind foundation, will be celebrating its 65th anniversary at SJSU later this month.

Delta Gamma will be hosting the celebration on Feb. 24, according to Barbara McAtee, SJSU's Delta Gamma house corporation president.

McAtee said Delta Gamma's primary charitable focus has been to prevent blindness before it starts and improve the lives of those with vision impairment.

"All the money we raise goes to organizations like that," said Rachel Bonnin, SJSU's Delta Gamma president and a third-year major in pre-nursing.

Bonnin said Delta Gamma members like to spend time helping out preschool and kindergarten-age kids at Chandler Tripp, a school for the blind and visually impaired.

Delta Gamma's annual philanthropic fundraiser, Anchor Splash, is another way the sorority supports its national foundation Service for Sight and Aid to the Blind, according to Bonnin.

McAtee said this is the most successful fundraiser for not just SJSU's chapter, but every Delta Gamma chapter across the nation.

"When we do Anchor Splash, that one's our big week-long philanthropy,

that goes directly to the Delta Gamma foundation and from there they donate the money we raised to Service for Sight," Bonnin said.

According to McAtee, Delta Gamma's selection of Service for Sight and Aid to the Blind as its philanthropy was based off a request from one of its members who was blinded from a childhood accident in 1936.

Delta Gamma members across the nation have worked to fund schools for students with visual impairments, allowing them to learn in an environment accommodating to their needs, according to McAtee.

"They (Delta Gamma sorority members) actually go out and help with the schools and do eye exams, and read books on the tape for the blind so they can actually listen to them," McAtee said.

McAtee said there are two schools, one in Los Angeles and one in Colorado, strictly for blind kids that Delta Gamma supports.

According to Bonnin, Delta Gamma members also volunteer at the Santa Clara Valley Blind Center by helping the visually impaired put on events as well as spend time hanging out with them.

Bonnin said although Delta Gamma's main philanthropic focus is dedicated to Service for Sight and Aid to the Blind, members do volunteer for causes outside of the project.

"This semester we're going to do a blood drive with another

SEE SORORITY ON PAGE 3

COMMENTARY

'Queen Bey' reclaims her throne for 2013

By Christina Molina
@ms_cmolina

The Super Bowl may have been disappointing for many Bay Area football fans, but for enthusiasts of pop diva Beyoncé, the night was nothing short of a 13-minute phenomenon of sensational talent showcased by the one woman who never disappoints.

She graced the stage Sunday evening, as she always does, in one of her famous leotard get ups, with her electrifying dance moves and divine singing voice, all to reclaim her spot center stage and into our hearts.

I, like many others, will argue that this is not a comeback.

She did pause her career to start a family with renowned Hip hop mogul and husband Jay-Z.

However, her fame alone kept her in the public's interest, as well as actively participating in the campaign for President Obama's re-election.

And if that wasn't enough for fanatics like myself, the "Irreplaceable" singer launched her Instagram account, raking in more than 2 million followers in a matter of three short months.

The photo-sharing social network revealed hints of Beyoncé's current and future projects.

This was an exciting change in the musical icon's nature, seeing how she is known to be more of a

private citizen, compared to other attention-starving celebrities.

Aside from fashionable photo spreads, Beyoncé shared images of her in the studio working on album number five and prepping for her highly anticipated Super Bowl performance.

If the Super Bowl revealed anything besides how superb her showmanship is, Beyoncé exuded her well-known humble stature, as she stood side by side with group members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child, who are excitingly back together and hotter than ever.

The group launched their first single in eight years "Nuclear" in early January and are now celebrating the release of their new album "Love Songs."

In between that, Beyoncé did a profound job at President Obama's inauguration, prerecorded or not.

Additionally, it was already reported that she had begun her \$50 million Pepsi endorsement, which attracted more controversy due to her supporting an unhealthy soft drink.

Regardless of the good or bad press, the superstar remained focused on the production and re-emergence of her musical career.

Just when you and I thought she had done more than most of us in the last few months, HBO announced the collaboration of the network and Beyoncé, which will feature rare access to the singer's



Destiny's Child reunited at the Super Bowl Halftime Show Sunday for Beyoncé's performance. The trio released their new album "Love Songs" Jan. 29. Photo by Lionel Hahn/Abaca Press/MCT

personal life in a special documentary called "Life is but a dream," airing Feb. 16.

Some of the intimate and intriguing topics that will be brought to light in this special film include Beyoncé's marriage to Jay-Z, the miscarriage she endured two years ago and mothering baby Blue Ivy Carter.

The star's momentous month doesn't end there either.

Following her enchanting Super Bowl show, which jokingly "shut down" the power at the Superdome, Beyoncé confirmed her 2013 tour, romantically called "The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour."

The public will be granted access to purchase concert tickets on the morning of Feb. 11. The tour itself begins in April but will hit North America in late June.

It is safe to say she has accepted her title as "Queen

Bey," because she has rewarded fans with an advertisement in the UK for her tour, where she is featured as royalty, dressed in an elaborate piece with a royal purple robe and crown on her voluminous hair.

Although no new information has been reported regarding the title or release of her fifth studio album, you can only imagine the world's, and my own, anticipation with the tour being just around the corner.

The diva herself could not have re-emerged at a more perfect time.

As we welcome the second month of the year, a time of reflection and achievement of the African-American community, it is commendable having someone as elegant and poised, on and off stage, as Beyoncé in an industry where millions idolize and replicate these prominent individuals.



Beyoncé sang the National Anthem at President Obama's inauguration. Photo by Brian Cassella/MCT

Even though every one may not be a fan of Beyoncé, I will argue that the prolific artist radiates the entertainment scene in the most profound way and let's just say she is no where near finished with her reign as the queen.

Christina Molina is the Spartan Daily A&E Editor and Communications Director.

CINEQUEST

Annual film festival shoots for new angle

By Melanie Martinez
@meltinez

The Cinequest Film Festival will return to San Jose for its 23rd straight year and will showcase both Hollywood actors and international films.

According to Halfdan Hussey, co-founder and executive director of Cinequest, the festival will span 12 days beginning Feb. 26 to Mar. 10 and will premiere films from more than 48 countries.

Hussey announced the film lineup at a news conference Jan. 29, and said this year's attendees have much to look forward to: not only in the terms of films, but also audience interaction through groundbreaking technology.

"It is truly amazing to see how far this festival has come," Hussey said.

More than 700 presenters are scheduled to attend during Cinequest, and will speak on a multitude of festival categories that range from love and inspiration to thrills and innovation.

Students who are looking to catch a glimpse of a celebrity, see a new film or just poke around the festival can scope out a few of this year's highlights.

Technology

This year's Cinequest festival design will incorporate new technology to allow for audience interaction and feedback. Many of the theaters will also use Sony 4K innovations, a technology that provides maximum illumination, resolution and contrast quality to enhance many films. The California Theatre, Camera 12 Cinemas and the San Jose Repertory Theatre will all host films that will be shown to visitors with the Sony 4K technology.

Maverick Spirit Award

Students looking to spot a famous celebrity can attend the Maverick Spirit Award ceremony this year, which will honor both actor Harrison Ford and author Salman Rushdie. Ford will be in attendance to receive his award in celebration of his work and impact on cinema. The Maverick Spirit Award will be given to Ford in the California Theatre Mar. 3 at 7 p.m.

Opening Night


"Ginger and Rosa" will kick off the festival film screenings on opening night and will feature widely known actors Christina Hendricks and Elle Fanning. The coming of age story deals with issues of young adulthood while living through political conflict. The film was produced in Ireland and directed by Sally Potter. Students can buy tickets now for the showing of "Ginger and Rosa" at the California Theatre on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

Picture the Possibilities


The Picture the Possibilities event highlights short films created by children and will offer an Artist and Innovator Forum to facilitate discussions between youth and leaders in the industry. Short films created from children in China, Mexico, New York, Los Angeles and East Palo Alto will be screened. The California Theatre will host the Picture the Possibilities event Mar. 3 at 3 p.m.

Student ticket prices for regular screenings can be purchased at a discounted price of \$5 as long as a valid student ID is presented at the box office.

Melanie Martinez is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor.



Major Authors





JAYNE ANNE PHILLIPS

THE MARTHA HEASLEY COX LECTURE

February 6
Reading and Book Signing. MLK 225/229. 7pm.


February 7
In Conversation with Cornelia Nixon.
MLK 225/229. 12pm.


Author of four novels, including *Lark & Termite*, winner of the Heartland Prize, and a National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and Prix Médicis Étranger finalist; and two story collections, *Fast Lanes* and *Black Tickets*. Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA Fellowships, the Sue Kaufman Prize, and an award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.






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INTERNATIONAL

Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani girl shot over education, vows to keep battling

By Saeed Shah
McClatchy Tribune

ISLAMABAD — The Pakistani schoolgirl whom al-Qaida-linked militants shot last year for campaigning for girls education, said Monday that she was prepared to risk her life again for the cause.

In her first interview since a Pakistani Taliban gunman shot her in the head last October, Malala Yousafzai, 15, told Pakistan's Geo News channel from Great Britain that she'd recovered her eyesight and was able to talk and walk again. Attributing her improvement entirely to the prayers of well-wishers, she said she was getting better "day by day."

The shock that the Pakistani Taliban would target a teenage girl as she sat in a van waiting to go home after school had caused an outpouring of sympathy across the country and helped cement public opinion against the Taliban, even among those who for years had excused their behavior by saying they were fighting America or reacting to U.S. drone attacks.

Indeed, the Taliban turned to threatening Pakistani media personalities because of their sympathetic reporting of Malala's story. Hamid Mir, the country's best-known news anchor, narrowly escaped a car bomb.

Malala's face showed the scars of the reconstructive surgery she underwent in Britain, where she was flown for treatment after the Oct. 9 shooting. She's been through

months of rehabilitation at a hospital in the city of Birmingham that specializes in war injuries.

"Men, women, children have all prayed for me. And because of these prayers, God has given me this new life. This is a second life. I want to serve the people," Malala said.

Only on Saturday, Malala had undergone further surgery, a five-hour operation to mend part of her skull and help restore lost hearing. Doctors have been impressed by her spirit.

"I am ready to sacrifice myself, again. I want every girl, every child, to be educated. And that in our whole country for there to be peace. And for peace, I will sacrifice myself," Malala said, speaking in Urdu, in Pashto, the language of the northwest, and in English.

Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, who's also in Great Britain, has said he's determined to take his family back to Swat. But the Taliban, who issued a detailed justification for the assault on the girl, have made clear they would attack her again.

The airing of the interview came a day after the Taliban offered to open peace talks with the government, though many were skeptical that it was a serious proposal.

The offer came in a video of Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan, who demanded "solid guarantors" for talks, proposing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads a mildly Islamist party, and two hard-line Islamist politicians for the job. Sharif's party is unlikely to



Malala Yousafzai, seen in this handout photo at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, London on Oct. 26, 2012, said Monday that she was prepared to risk her life again for the cause. **Xinhua/MCT**

take the role. Interior Minister Rehman Malik said Monday that the government was ready for negotiations but that the Pakistani Taliban had to enter the talks unconditionally.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for two recent attacks, one Saturday on an army post in the Lakki Marwat district in northwestern Pakistan that killed 23 people, including 10 civilians, and the other Friday outside a Shiite mosque in Hangu, also in the northwest, that killed 30.

Courses: online classes a concern for some faculty

FROM PAGE 1

"The main difference is the time I would usually spend lecturing I will now spend interacting with students online," he stated.

He stated that teaching the course this way will make it more exciting for him.

Angelica Godinez, a graduate student in the Human Factors and Ergonomics MS program, is participating in the Elementary Statistics class and also attended the Provost's forum.

Godinez said she is taking this course along with Advanced Statistic course and Human Factors Experiments class.

"I plan to get a good refresher of elementary statistics while evaluating the usability of the site," she said. "Furthermore, I plan to experience and form my opinion of an online course."

During the forum some staff members expressed concern about students not getting enough interaction with their professors as

well as not experiencing the social side of college.

However, some professors said they believe the Udacity courses are very interactive and help form relationships between students and their instructors.

"I've invited my online students to come see me in my office during my office hours and we're going to encourage students to form study groups so that they can build those social ties," said Sandra Desousa, a lecturer in the mathematics depart-

ment who also teaches the Entry-Level Mathematics course.

According to Laraway, he and fellow instructor Ronald Rogers who teaches the course with him will also have regular online as well as physical office hours and will drop in on the online discussion forum to answer any questions students have.

Udacity has also set up a system in which instructors can write and draw on their computer and the

students will be able to see what they write, he said.

According to Udacity's website students will learn by doing highly interactive project-based exercises and students will also learn through bite-sized videos instead of drawn out lectures.

"We want to make it clear to the world that we have commitment to helping students of all walks of life make it through to succeed at San Jose State," Junn said.

Sydney Reed is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Sorority: charity is group's concern

FROM PAGE 1

house, so we do try and give to other types of people that need help," Bonnin said.

McAtee said the media's portrayal of sororities and other people's perceptions of what it's like to be in one often frustrates her.

She said she wishes people would take the time to take a closer look at the productive benefits of being in the Greek system.

"One of them (the benefits) has to do with our philanthropy and the amount of money and time and effort that we put into raising money for our philanthropies," McAtee said. "It isn't just our philanthropy, we put time and money into raising for other Greek philanthropy organizations also."

Bonnin said Delta Gamma supports other sororities' and fraternities' philanthropies by participating in their fundraising events when possible, and if members are unable to do so they donate money to the cause.

"I know some houses will just donate if they can't participate if they don't have time," Bonnin said. "That's the same thing with our chapter, we'll participate in others' philanthropies but we'll try and support them if we can't attend or actually be in them just so that we can help them raise money for their causes."

Rochelle Beckel is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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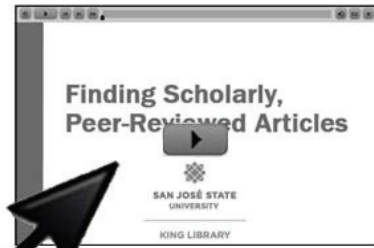
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BASEBALL

New coach, new beginning for Spartan baseball

By Sydney Reed
@SyydNee_Daily

With a new coach at the helm, the San Jose State baseball team is looking toward the new season.

According to SJSU Athletics, the baseball team had an overall record of 22-29 with a 5-13 mark in Western Athletic Conference play.

When it comes to getting prepared for the upcoming season, which starts Feb. 15 at home against the University of the Pacific, new head coach Dave Nakama said his goal is to play the game correctly and get better every day.

"We try to set a tempo at practice everyday," he said.

Junior first baseman Matt Carroll said the players this year have been working hard and the coaching staff has been a lot of help.

"Our coaches this year were really helping us with our swings offensively and defensively we've been making a lot of progress in the infield," he said.

According to Nakama, the players spend two and a half hours in practice working on their skills.

"We try to go as hard as we can as fast as we can" he said.

Nakama, who came to SJSU from the University of Washington, was hired as head coach last September and is beginning his first season for SJSU.

He has 20-plus years of college coaching experience

with 13 seasons in the Pacific-12 Conference divided between the years he coached at Washington (2010-12) and Stanford University (1997-98, 2002-09), according to SJSU Athletics.

Nakama said he decided to come to SJSU because of the location and most importantly his family factored into his choice.

"The Bay Area is a great area," he said. "This is a school that's located in a good recruiting area ... and obviously it's my family."

Nakama, who has three children, said he also gets to spend more time with his youngest son who is now a senior at Saint Francis High School.

He said he's looking forward to playing Stanford this year, while the team is pretty excited about playing the defending College World Series Champions University of Arizona Wildcats.

"You always look forward to playing Stanford because they're one of the premiere programs in the country," he said.

Carroll said he believes Arizona is really going to test the team's skills.

"Hopefully we go down there and be very competitive and come out with a couple wins," Carroll said.

Sophomore center fielder Andre Mercurio said he is also excited about traveling to Arizona but he is also looking forward to playing University of Texas and Pacific in the home opener.



Junior infielder Jacob Valdez waits for a pitch against the UC Davis Aggies during a game at Blethen Field in the 2012 season. Photo by Derik Michael Irvin / Spartan Daily

"Our coaches this year were really helping us with our swings offensively and defensively we've been making a lot of progress in the infield."

Matt Carroll
First baseman

"Every team we play is going to be a challenge," he said.

Going back to last season, Carroll and Mercurio recall their rivals at Santa Clara University as being one of the toughest teams they've played, but also the most memorable.

"The hardest teams last season are always our cross town rivals Santa Clara," Carroll said.

He said the atmosphere is always different when it's time to play them.

"It's always a different atmosphere when you come to the ballpark," Carroll said. "We get a lot more fan support those days."

Mercurio said it was one of the most memorable games of the season.

"One of the most memorable moments would be

when we had two different walk-offs last year both against Santa Clara," he said. "I would say those are the most memorable ones and I hope to make better ones this year."

According to the SJSU Spartan Baseball preseason guide, the top returning starting pitchers are junior Johnny Melero, and seniors David Wayne Russo and Kyle Hassna.

Nakama said when you come into a new season with a new staff, the coaches keep every position open.

"It's an open challenge. I think we're going to play a lot of people early to figure out our best nine players," he said.

Nakama said the best nine players don't necessarily play, but the best nine that will help SJSU win would play.

Carroll said thinking about all the hard work and time spent in the batting cages with his teammates and, "just being able to go out there and give all I have for the guys next to me and my coaches," has him excited for the upcoming season.

Mercurio said it's his teammates energy that gets the team going.

"One person can bring all the energy and excitement and all of a sudden there goes the whole team," he said.

Sydney Reed is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

SUPER BOWL

Mixed performance at best for CBS in Super Bowl telecast

By Barry Jackson
McClatchy Tribune

Musings from a Super Bowl Sunday on the couch:

This was hardly the way CBS wanted its Super Bowl telecast to be remembered — for a stadium power outage that briefly silenced its game announcers. But the network handled the 35-minute delay competently and then caught a break when the 49ers turned a blowout into a compelling game.

CBS is the only NFL carrier that doesn't use sideline reporters during the regular season. But Steve Tasker and Solomon Wilcotts, assigned to the role Sunday, did good work updating viewers during the delay.

After the outage disabled the microphones for Jim Nantz and Phil Simms, CBS went to break before Tasker reported what was happening. After another break, CBS' studio team returned, but without Boomer Esiason, who was working the game on radio.

"Immediately after the power failure, we lost numerous cameras and some audio powered by sources in the Superdome," CBS said in a statement. "We utilized CBS' backup power and at no time did we leave the air."

There were a few unanswered questions, though: 1) Why would no NFL official go on air to explain this mess? 2) Why was Shannon Sharpe confused by the 28-6 score? First he said it was a 21-point margin, then said it was 17. 3) Why did Ravens coach



The San Francisco 49ers take the field at the start of Super Bowl XLVII. Photo by Christian Carrasco / Spartan Daily

John Harbaugh unleash an expletive-filled tirade at an NFL suit, and why didn't CBS explain that?

Simms explains the game in simple terms, but this wasn't one of his best performances. He wasn't entirely accurate when he said early on that the 49ers "don't give up that big pass plays down the field." They usually did not in the regular season but permitted three touchdown passes of 20 yards or more in

their first two playoff games, and had major issues Sunday.

Notably, Simms did not criticize the 49ers running on two third-and-long situations or the Ravens attempting a fake field goal when up 14-3. But he questioned the 49ers for challenging the spot on a fourth-quarter play, then admitted it was a smart move after the 49ers won the challenge.

And after asserting the referees were correct in not calling defensive holding on

the 49ers' incomplete pass on fourth-and-goal late in the game, Simms admitted he was "confused" after watching the replay again.

After Joe Flacco's first touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin, Simms said he heard all week that Baltimore would look for Boldin in that situation. But he should have said it before the play.

CBS picked up audio of Flacco saying "(expletive) awesome" after the game.

Credit Sharpe for asking two pointed questions to Ray Lewis about his involvement in the stabbing deaths of two men in 2000. (Murder charges were dropped against Lewis, who accepted a plea deal and admitted at the time to giving misleading statements to police.)

Sharpe asked Lewis what he would tell the families of the two victims, who recently have accused him of knowing more than he has ever shared.

His answer would have been unsatisfying to those families. "If you really knew the way God works, he doesn't use people who commit anything like that," Lewis said.

That answer also didn't appease Esiason, who snapped: "He knows what went on there. He doesn't want to say. He paid off the families."

CBS said on air that Sharpe didn't ask Lewis about an allegation that he used deer-antler spray because the interview was conducted before the Sports Illustrated report surfaced.

CBS delivered three exceptional pregame features: on Ravens front-office official and former player O.J. Brigrance (who explained that Lou Gehrig's disease prevents him from speaking and moving but doesn't diminish his cognitive skills); another on Colts coach Chuck Pagano's battle with leukemia (CBS smartly had one of his daughters, Tori, narrate the segment); and an emotional piece on two Gateway High students — one who died, one who survived — the Aurora, Colo., theater shooting last summer.

Thankfully, CBS did not subject us to any of those inane red carpet interviews that polluted the Fox and NBC pre games the past two years.

CBS Sports allows sponsors to infiltrate its editorial content more than any other network, and that continued with a cheesy segment (no pun intended) in which Sharpe and Esiason asked fans to shout "hut, hut!" in exchange for food from Pizza Hut.

NATIONAL

Republican, Democratic lawmakers will meet separately on looming cuts to federal budget

By David Lightman and Kevin G. Hall
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers for both major political parties will huddle separately behind closed doors starting Tuesday, plotting strategy for the coming fight over how to prevent deep, across-the-board automatic federal spending cuts scheduled to begin on March 1.

That the parties are meeting separately and sometimes far from Washington says much about the current mood. Unless an alternative is adopted, some \$85 billion in automatic spending cuts take effect in 24 days because of what's known as the budget sequester.

As members of Congress head for the congressional retreats, which traditionally are intense, private sessions that aim not only to set the agenda for the coming year but also to promote party unity, they also appear headed on a path for familiar, intractable battles later this month.

The automatic cuts are part of the 2011 debt ceiling deal, which mandates the spending reductions unless lawmakers agree otherwise. The thinking had been to join the parties at the hip, and that they'd reach some sort of compromise because the cuts would be so politically unpalatable.

Instead, as \$109 billion in automatic cuts were due to take effect on Jan. 2, Congress passed a compromise postponing the cuts until March 1 as part of a deal that raised taxes on the richest 1 percent of Americans. The deal lowered the sequester figure to \$85 billion, still a number that, if cut out of federal spending this year, would drag against an already anemic economic recovery.

But with the sequester deadline looming, it's still Groundhog Day for rhetoric. Each side appears stuck in the same themes of the November elections and the New Year's deal that avoided steeper tax hikes on 99 percent of Americans.

Democrats again are calling for higher taxes on big corporations and the wealthy to raise revenue and avoid deep spending cuts that would slow the economy. Republicans insist that the nation faces a spending problem.

"There are a lot of things we can do out there, and we're going to make an effort to make sure that ... sequestration involves revenue," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Part of it, the American people agree, should be the wealthiest people in America paying a little bit more, and there should be a balance of spending cuts and revenue."

On the Senate floor Monday, Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky criticized the Democrats' approach.

"If you were to listen to the Democrats, you'd think all of our ills could be solved by raising taxes on private jets or energy companies," he said. "These aren't real solutions.... They're poll-tested gimmicks."

The sequester has the potential to have more immediate impact on constituents. The cuts would affect a wide range of popular policies involving education, the arts, transportation, housing and other domestic programs. And the Pentagon is warning that the effects could be felt immediately.

Senate Democrats plan to meet Tuesday and Wednesday in Annapolis, Md., and House Democrats will meet for three days, begin-

Deadlines for Congress

Upcoming deadlines on important spending issues that Congress has postponed or delayed:



March 1 Spending cuts
Automatic government spending cuts for defense (7 percent) and domestic programs (5 percent); these cuts, also called "sequester," were put off until now with the December "fiscal cliff" deal

March 27 Government funding runs out
A quick-fix, called a continuing resolution, that okays government spending expires on this date; if CR is not renewed, government agencies shut down

April 15 Budget deadline
Both House and Senate must pass budget plans with tax and spending priorities or paychecks for Congress members will be withheld; Senate has not passed a budget resolution in four years

May 19 Debt ceiling deadline
Debt ceiling was suspended by Congress Jan. 31 until this date; government can continue to borrow money to its pay bills

Source: AP, Washington Post
Graphic: Judy Treible

ning Wednesday, at a Virginia resort. President Barack Obama is expected to address both gatherings, and Democrats are expected to discuss raising revenue through loophole closing, as well as possibly capping income tax deductions.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., is circulating a memo among colleagues that would seek to raise new revenues by closing some tax loopholes for energy companies, going after multinational corporations that shield their foreign earnings, and doing away with a tax break that allows hedge fund owners to skirt paying ordinary income taxes on their income; it permits them to pay the lower rate at which capital gains are taxed. Democrats are likely to dis-

cuss the Levin memo at their meetings this week.

Senate Republicans will meet Tuesday at the Library of Congress. House Republicans met last month in Williamsburg, Va.

Republicans have been adamant that revenue should not be part of the mix. They support spending cuts and want to look beyond the immediate problem to find a long-range solution.

"The biggest concern I have, frankly, right now, is the uncertainty, the budget uncertainty on Capitol Hill," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told CNN on Sunday, "because if the sequester is allowed to go into effect, I think it could seriously impact on the readiness in the United States, and that's a serious issue."

TECHNOLOGY

Homeless connect in virtual community

By Johnny Diaz
McClatchy Tribune

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — At times during her day, Daletha Brown feels like any typical 23-year-old.

She catches the bus to Broward College for class. She calls or sends texts on her smart phone. She boots up her laptop to log into Facebook where her profile page states that she lives in "Hollywood, Florida."

But many of her 173 online friends probably don't know she's homeless.

"People are shocked when I tell them," Brown said from the Homeless Voices shelter in Hollywood where she collected some bottles of shampoo and soap recently. "I don't tell them until I know I can trust them. They are shocked at first because you don't normally see a homeless person going to college."

Or posting on social media.

Whether they're in shelters or on the streets, some of South Florida's homeless say they've found a cyber home and a sense of belonging and community through social media.

They log into their accounts so their friends and family can keep track of their whereabouts. They share information on where to find shelter and a shower.

Mostly though, these homeless folks find they can escape and temporarily forget that they're homeless through Facebook, Twitter and other online social networks.

"They are still trying to maintain certain parts of their life," said Mike Long, chief development officer at the Broward Partnership for the Homeless in Fort Lauderdale, which has a computer lab with 30 monitors.

The proliferation of cell-phones and smart phones also has made it easier for the home-

less to stay plugged in. The devices help them look for jobs and social services while allowing them to stay connected to friends and loved ones.

"Having a cellphone can give them at least a little bit of access of what we consider social media or social norms," Long said. "I do believe the cellphones are important, social media as a whole is important especially if they are teenagers ... They do their best to avoid getting in a conversation of where-do-you-live-kind-of-thing."

Chris McNeil lives with her 16-year-old son at The Lord's Place family shelter in West Palm Beach, where she is training to become a chef. Her son encouraged her to create a Facebook account as a social outlet.

A self-described recovering opiate, cocaine and alcohol addict, she uses Facebook to connect with other recovering homeless people and to share homeless-related news from her native Washington, D.C.

"You don't know what somebody is going to say to help you get through the day," she said of the 38 friends on her page. "I have friends that I am talking to that kind of disowned me 20 years ago because of my life choices. Now we are friends because of Facebook. It's a motivating thing."

Mark Targett, co-director at Homeless Voice in Hollywood, agreed, adding that social media can help bring a sense of normalcy to transient lives.

"It may be the only time they feel a part of society without being looked at differently because of their living situation. It's a way of escape," said Targett, who sees clients arrive with laptops and Android smart phones. On Facebook, he has friended some of the 182 clients in this crowded and dank two-story facility off North Federal Highway.

As he scrolls down his own iPhone, Targett rattles off some of their recent updates: how they answer quizzes on the New England Patriots, play Farmville or wish one another Happy New Year.

"Just normal stuff that you would kind of see on anyone's account, just like we do," Targett added.

Websites also have emerged to help people become social media savvy. One, called WeAreVisible.com, provides tutorials on how to use Facebook and Twitter.

Yet some people may ask: How can a homeless person afford cellphones or even smart phones? Where do they find Internet connections?

"The stigma of carrying a smart phone or cellphone when you're homeless pisses the public off a great deal," said Sean Cononie, who runs Homeless Voice. "They use the cellphone for safety. It's also a good way to look for a job."

Some qualify for a free cellphone and up to 250 minutes a month through the government's Lifeline Wireless program, which is associated with TracFone's Safelink Wireless and Virgin Mobile's Assurance Wireless.

Others carry phones they owned prior to plunging into poverty. A friend or relative may pay the service.

For free Internet access, they visit McDonald's, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts or a library.

For power, they recharge at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, 7-Eleven stores and electric outlets found on lamp posts along the New River. And of course, there are the homeless shelters themselves.

Merritt Thomas shares a Dell laptop with a friend at the Homeless Voice. During the day, he helps gather clothing donations. But he's also checking his Facebook for updates from his 254 friends, some from his native Jacksonville.

"I get to keep in touch with a lot of people from home," said Thomas, 52, who has been homeless since 2004 since moving to South Florida. He said he receives monthly disability checks for chronic back issues.

On Facebook, he also enjoys reading posts from gay political organizations and President Barack Obama. And, "I also get updates from the Kardashians. They are bourgeois," he said with a grin.

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A9. Fried Tofu.....\$5.95
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A10. Fried Squid Ball.....\$6.15
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— SAN JOSE DIRIDON STATION/ALMADEN BLVD —

SOCIAL

Celebrity autographs are passe — proof for fans is in the picture

By Yvonne Villarreal
McClatchy Tribune

LOS ANGELES — Like hundreds of fans lining the red carpet at the Screen Actors Guild Awards this past weekend, Karalee Miller was determined to memorialize a celebrity moment. From behind the velvet ropes, the 35-year-old Burbank woman screamed and screamed for actor Bradley Cooper's attention.

When the "Silver Linings Playbook" actor finally approached her, she drew out her trusty point-and-shoot camera and at arm's length snapped a strained cheek-to-cheek photo with Cooper. It was just the beginning of an evening of such pictures for countless other fans and performers.

"A photo is proof that I was near the people that, before this, only existed on my TV screen or in the movies," said Miller, who earlier had managed to snag a shot with "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston. "A photo can show a smile or an outfit to your friends; a signature can't."

The time-honored scrawl that once was the gold standard artifact of a brush with greatness has lost some of its glow in the age of social media. Taking a photo of oneself for Web posting has become so popular that it has added a new word to the lexicon — "selfie."

And a selfie with an A-lister is among the most prized postings of all.

A photo with a famous person, said Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, an associate professor at University of Southern California and author of "Starstruck: The Business of Celebrity," "supports the larger belief that we are just like them because we are standing right next to them."

Indeed, celebrities, whether at a restaurant or on the red carpet, report they are spending far more time posing awkwardly close with fans than scratching off their names. The shift has left some longing for simpler days.

"I would actually prefer signing more autographs," said Zoey Deschanel, star of Fox's comedy "New Girl." "That's not to say I don't like interacting with fans, but I want the freedom to

go about my day without having to worry, 'Gosh, maybe I shouldn't wear this sweater because someone will see it on someone's Facebook wall.'"

For the younger generation, asking for an autograph often isn't even a consideration. Eddie Bautista, 21, of Montebello, had a chance encounter with Jaime Foxx and didn't bother to ask for the "Django Unchained" star's John Hancock.

"It was almost a reflex to ask for a photo when he walked by," said Bautista, who posted his photo with Foxx on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. "Nowadays, friends don't care about a scribble-scrabble. They think you did it yourself."

Sometimes, celebrities even get in on the action. During a recent interview, "Hunger Games" and "Silver Linings Playbook" star Jennifer Lawrence couldn't help showing off a photo she took with Lionel Richie.

An extreme example of the photo-seeking fan is the 17-year-old Toluca Lake teenager known on the Web only as Sarah M., who explained she doesn't reveal her last name for fear of online predators. Affectionately known as "Stalker Sarah," the teenager has amassed more than 6,000 photos with Hollywood stars including Oprah, Justin Bieber, Brad Pitt and Miley Cyrus — that she posts to her Flickr account and tweets out to her nearly 65,000 followers.

"Autographs never really meant anything to me," she said. With a photo, "you see how stars are real people."

Or at least the people fans want them to be. NeNe Leakes, who stars in "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" and NBC's comedy "The New Normal," says photo-seekers expect her to display her larger-than-life persona.

"People want to show all their friends, 'Hey, I'm chilling with my girl, NeNe!'" she said. "It's cute and I like it, but they got me looking ridiculous sometimes."

Between the shift in celebrity culture and the ease of Web technology, postable photos are squeezing out the importance of an autograph.

"Our celebrities today seem to be much more accessible than previous celebrities," said Richard



Actor Darren Criss, bottom right, gives fan Coby Hillborne, 16, of Woodland Hills, an autograph photo at the 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, Jan. 27, 2013. Robert Gauthier/MCT

Austin, who researches the value of signed items for Sotheby's in New York. "You can get a picture of Scarlett Johansson when you're at a club. It used to be that people would commemorate their experiences meeting a celebrity by getting them to sign something."

But it's not as if signing autographs is a completely lost art among celebrities. Plenty of autograph hounds, clutching 8-by-10 glossy photos, still seek a star's squiggly signature, usually for profit.

If the star signs a relevant item — a movie poster, a piece of clothing, official documentation — the signature piece can still fetch huge sums at auction. Prominence and context are key.

"If someone has importance in their field — whether in the arts or science or literature — there's still going to be a market for their signature," said Michael Hecht, president of the Universal Autograph Collectors Club — the largest nonprofit autograph collectors' association.

The original contract signed in 1976 by Apple co-founders Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald

Wayne, for example, fetched \$1.59 million at auction in 2011.

One of Beverly Hills-based Julien's Auctions' top-selling signed pieces was Michael Jackson's famed "Thriller" jacket, which sold for \$1.8 million, said its founder and president, Darren Julien. Less iconic pieces, like a signed magazine, brought in more than \$750.

He added that celebrities like Elvis Presley, the Beatles and Marilyn Monroe have held onto their handwritten value. Something signed by Monroe can still nab as much as \$20,000.

In comparison, modern starlet Kristen Stewart's autographed photo can be bought on eBay for under \$15. Indeed, autographs from contemporary celebrities flood the pages of eBay (warning: experts say fakes are rampant) and are not as high in demand because, well, the stars are still alive.

"I had a celebrity ask me one time, 'What can I do to increase the value of my items?'" Julien recalled. "I said, 'Die.'"

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SOLUTION:

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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Today's Crossword Puzzle Universal Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
			20						21	22				
23	24	25						26						
27						28	29							
30						31					32	33	34	
35						36	37					38		
39						40					41			
						42	43				44	45		
46	47										48			
49									50	51				
52												55	56	57
58												60		
61												62		63

ACROSS

1 Causing no problems for coppers
6 Body part some macaroni resembles
11 Pictured
14 Shorelines do it
15 Brownish gray
16 TV Tarzan
17 Legendary Greek ruse
19 Spy org.
20 Anxious
21 Gold
23 It moves through a machine
26 First among progeny
27 Keynote speaker, e.g.
28 Pull from the ground
30 Organic necklaces
31 Carpet cleaner's target
32 A quick study
35 Rural hotel
36 Diminishing
38 Have a stroke?
39 Curiosity victim, in a saying
40 Lugged, as a large shopping bag
41 Like some circumstances
42 Runaway bride, say
44 Make something
46 Accessories
48 1776 battle site
49 Greek penny
50 "Little Red Book" follower
52 Area 51 craft
53 Classic horse tale
58 Word with "marked" or "masked"
59 Shop tool
60 Amid the waves
61 Chester White's home
62 Swords used in the Olympics
63 Conduct the class

DOWN

1 Rent
2 Commit a faux pas
3 Baby's first and second word?
4 Fiddles with
5 Shanty
6 Allen of the Green Mountain
7 Country abutting Vietnam
8 Repress in memory
9 Goddess of abundance and fertility
10 Seven-day 1973 Triple Crown winner
12 Word on a wanted poster
13 First name in Tomestone lore
18 Within shouting distance
22 Hullabaloo
23 Acute infant condition
24 Trade-show site
25 Equine in a Blood, Sweat and Tears song
26 "I go brag!"
28 "That's non-sense!"
29 Rendered, as a compliment
31 Fill beyond full
33 _____Novo (African capital)

34 Adolescent, almost
36 Expiable Conks on the head
41 Having toothlike projections
43 Universal workplace
44 First bed
45 Do an ushering chore
46 Reunion attendees
47 Make lean, in a way
48 Pulls from a pipe
50 Aussie's friend
51 Lumbago, e.g.
54 PC perch, perhaps
55 "God Bless the _____" (Lee Greenwood hit)
56 Gumshoe, briefly
57 "Boo" follower, in a triumphant shout

Book publishers are ripping us off

Every semester, students haul their load of expensive textbooks back to the bookstore they bought them from in hopes that they might sell them back for a measly fraction of what they paid for it.

As students, how many of us have heard “I’m sorry we are not buying that one back because it is an old edition.”

Personally, I have had it up to here with this racket, which is nothing more than a way to milk every last dime out of college students who are already spending exorbitant amounts of money on tuition that seems to religiously go up every semester.

When did California lose sight of the dream that a college education should be free to anyone who had the desire and ability to excel?

The devil is in the details and the problem is marketing schemes the publishing companies come up with to sell new editions of books to schools, but if you think there is nothing in it for the school you are mistaken.

I would expect my professors, as professional faculty to put my education first, not take kickbacks from publishing companies.

There have been several instances where I was told by a college professor that I needed to have a specific edition of a text book only to find out the bookstore was sold out.

So guess what I did? I bought the older edition only to find out half way through the semester by comparing books with classmates that there was no difference in content between the two.

This is not always the case and often times publishing companies will change one or two small things in the book to justify requiring a new edition.

So why do so many professors demand that you have the latest edition of a specific book?

One answer is that they do not bother to take the time to actually look at the book and tell students they are wasting their money because after all, teachers are busy and I am sure they do not have time to review every text book they use.

The other answer is that the school is receiving “kickbacks” from the publishing companies for pushing the newest edition — sound familiar?

How about large financial firms and lobbyists throwing money at politicians in return for votes or pharmaceutical companies giving large “gifts” to doctors who prescribe their brand-name drugs?



Follow Bryan Delohery on Twitter @Delohery

The textbook racket is really no different.

One tactic many publishing companies have resorted to is publishing school-specific textbooks to cut down on students’ access to on-line books.

Another tactic is to use access codes which allow teachers to use an online forum which is owned by the publishing company.

Students are then prohibited from accessing course materials and online books unless they purchase the access code which is required for each student.

This means no sharing or selling of used textbooks.

According to a report published by the California State Public Interest Research Groups, entitled Ripoff 101, the price of college textbooks is increasing at four times the inflation rate for all finished goods and wholesale textbook prices charged by publishers have jumped 62 percent since 1994.

They also found that some textbooks cost as much as 47 percent more when they are bundled than unbundled and the average price of a new textbook is 45 percent more than a used copy.

One fact I found really interesting about the report was that textbooks sold in the United States were on average 20 percent more expensive than the same textbook sold in the United Kingdom and other countries.

... if you think there is nothing in it for the school you are mistaken.

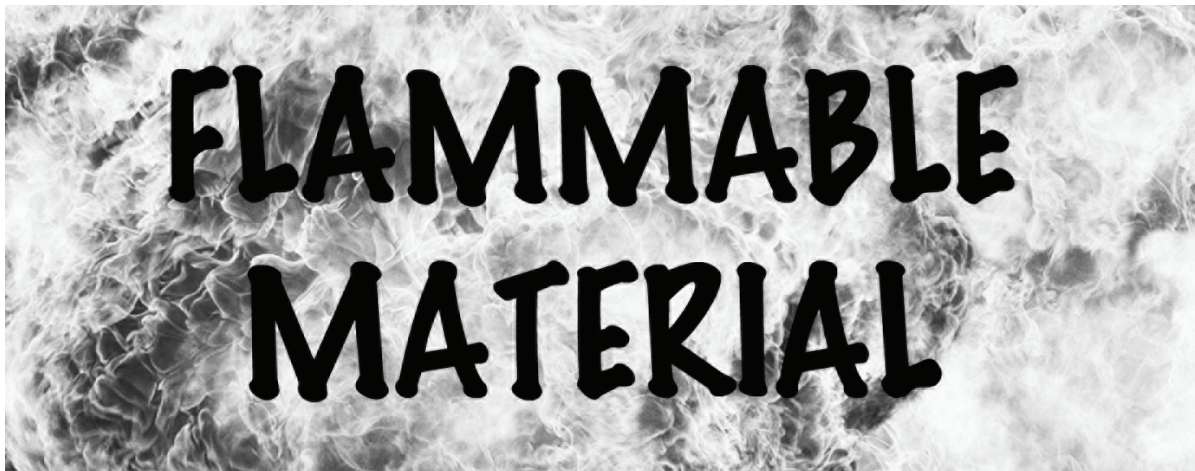
I wonder why?

How many of us have walked into the bookstore only to find that the textbook we need is bundled with supplemental materials like CDs that never get used?

One possible solution is to remind schools of the Higher Education Opportunity Act Textbook Provision which states “A publisher that sells a college textbook and any supplemental material accompanying such college textbook as a single bundle shall also make available the college textbook and each supplemental material as separate and unbundled items, each separately priced.”

The rest of the HEOA textbook provision can be found at their website.

Bryan Delohery is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Dress for yourself, not for others

This may surprise some people, but when I’m not slumming my way around school in jeans, a hooded sweatshirt, inch-thick glasses and a mop of frizzy hair. I enjoy exploring new sartorial and makeup choices.

I’ll sport nearly any new trends during nights out with friends, from floral pants and leather jackets to blood red lipstick and teal eyeliner.

While not every new outfit is a complete success in the world of fashion, being able to express myself through my clothing has always been a hobby of mine. Regardless of my age, playing dress-up will always be fun, and people should be encouraged to dress in a manner that provides self-confidence.

However, not everyone agrees with my outlook. Even more shocking was the realization that some women dress not for themselves, but for the approval of men.

If I had a dollar for every time I’ve heard a woman say to a pal, “I can’t wear lipstick, my boyfriend hates it,” while I was at the MAC counter picking out a new shade of burgundy lipstick, I’d have at least 20 new tubes of Russian Red in my makeup kit.

If I had a buck for every time I’ve overheard a woman at a shoe store lament, “If I wear heels, my man complains because I’m taller,” I’d be donning a killer pair of Louboutin heels right about now.

Wearing an outfit a woman knows her significant other may appreciate on a special occasion is acceptable. Changing personal style to obtain ap-



Melanie Martinez’s column appears every other Tuesday

proval is never acceptable. Really, ladies, why are we so overly concerned with what men think of our fashion choices? Shouldn’t we as individuals be concerned with how our fashion choices make us feel rather than how other people perceive us in public?

According to a 2012 article from thefashionspot.com, some men took to judging women’s fashion, which answers the aforementioned question with a resounding “no.”

When the men were asked about their opinions on peplum dresses, Chris, a 24-year-old IT consultant said, “Are these women fat/pregnant and trying to hide it?”

Hey, Chris, I don’t know you, but you’re looking at a picture of Emma Stone wearing a peplum dress — are you insane? Please, tell me when this beautiful human being has ever looked even slightly pregnant.

Kenny, 28, a nightlife enthusiast (whatever that means) was not shy to remark on a woman’s top knot hairstyle and said, “hate them. They look too uptight.”

Is it possible that the only women who rock a top knot have just given of’ Kenny the cold shoulder because his occupation of enthusiastic nightlife dwelling is unimpressive at best?

Regardless of what these men think, the fact that women are reading articles like these and are altering their fashion choices thereafter is very upsetting.

Take for instance a commenter on the site with the handle “Dressz,” who you know must have a solid sense of

style based on the ‘z’ that just screams “I’m sassy.”

Dressz left a comment that read, “good read,” which leads me to sadly believe that she took the criticisms to heart. Poor Dressz may never know the joy of a top knot again, now that she’s read Kenny’s remarks.

We are about 60 years past the era of the submissive housewife, ladies. We can wear what we want (we can even vote!).

We are about 60 years past the era of the submissive housewife, ladies. We can wear what we want (we can even vote!).

Whether a woman wants to wear a neon bandage dress or a granny sweater is irrelevant. She should feel free to make that choice based on what makes her feel empowered as an individual, and not on what kind of sexual validation she will receive.

People can critique my personal styling all they want. I’m still rocking a mean top knot. Maybe someday I’ll even pair the hairstyle with a peplum top. Heads may roll, but mine will be smiling.

Melanie Martinez is the Spartan Daily managing editor. Follow her on Twitter @Meltinez

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CLUB SPORTS



One of many SJSU badminton club players, Stanely Ooi (left), warms up before practice. The badminton team has 50 players and is a popular club sport at SJSU. Photo by Basil Sar / Spartan Daily

Club goers: Club sports give students competitive outlet

By Christiana Cobb
@christianacobb

With 21 diverse teams, club sports give students the opportunity to take on team leadership and responsibility in an athletic environment.

Alexis Haire, program assistant, said club sports are student-run sport teams similar to organizations or clubs that compete against other schools.

“Personally, I play women’s lacrosse here (and) you see a lot of leadership roles develop especially when people aren’t willing to step up right away,” Harie said. “You see a lot of people who step up for leadership, but then also you see the responsibilities that someone would require in the workforce with communication and working well with others.”

Caryn Collopy, recreation facilities manager, said as student organizations, the clubs manage themselves and are responsible for balancing a budget, game and practice locations, hiring of coaches, sign-ups and much more.

“Club sports also brings out the ability to meet new people, develop friendships,” Collopy said. “We also have students that come and ask us how to start a sport because

they have a strong interest in a particular sport and there isn’t a club that exists for that.”

Part of being a club sport includes team dues and fundraisers from cookie dough and popcorn sales to selling apparel and dance classes, in order to support the team, Collopy said.

According to Collopy, one of the largest club sports is badminton.

“You see the responsibilities that someone would require in the workforce with communication and working well with others.”

Caryn Collopy
Recreation facilities manager

Kelly Ros, badminton president, said there are 50 members on the team this year, down from previous years.

Ros said the team aims to play in eight team competitions a year, but that hasn’t been going very well.

However, he said the team plays a lot of tournaments, including the one they will be hosting at SJSU from Feb. 16-17, which are more individualized.

As president, Ros said he is basically the role model of the club and demonstrates responsibility.

“Being president, I have a lot of pressure because I don’t want to make the wrong move or say the wrong thing but more importantly, it cuts into school,” Ros said. “It helps me with time management.”

Collopy said another club sport is the Division 2 Hockey team.

Eric Jones, Hockey president, said the team plays at Sharks Ice and pays \$5,000 per season in dues just to break even to help support rink costs of \$385 an hour for their 32 game season.

However, he said tax deductible donations and sponsors help ease the costs.

Similar to the great amount of money that goes into the hockey team, Jones said much time and dedication is also required.

“There is a huge time factor and commitment,” Jones

said. “I have to cut back my hours working and free time to make sure there is a balance with school.”

Jones said he encourages students to come and see the

team’s last home game.

“Come out to our game Friday Feb. 8 against Santa Rosa,” Jones said. “It’s senior night.”

According to the club sports team list provided by

Collopy, other club sports include bowling, men’s and women’s lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, wrestling and boxing.

Christiana Cobb is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



SJSU student Albert Jo warms up before practice officially begins Friday, February 1, 2013. Badminton is one of many club sports at SJSU. Basil Sar / Spartan Daily

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