



**PIZZ'A  
CHICAGO**  
SEE PAGE 6



**Women's  
Rugby**  
SEE PAGE 4

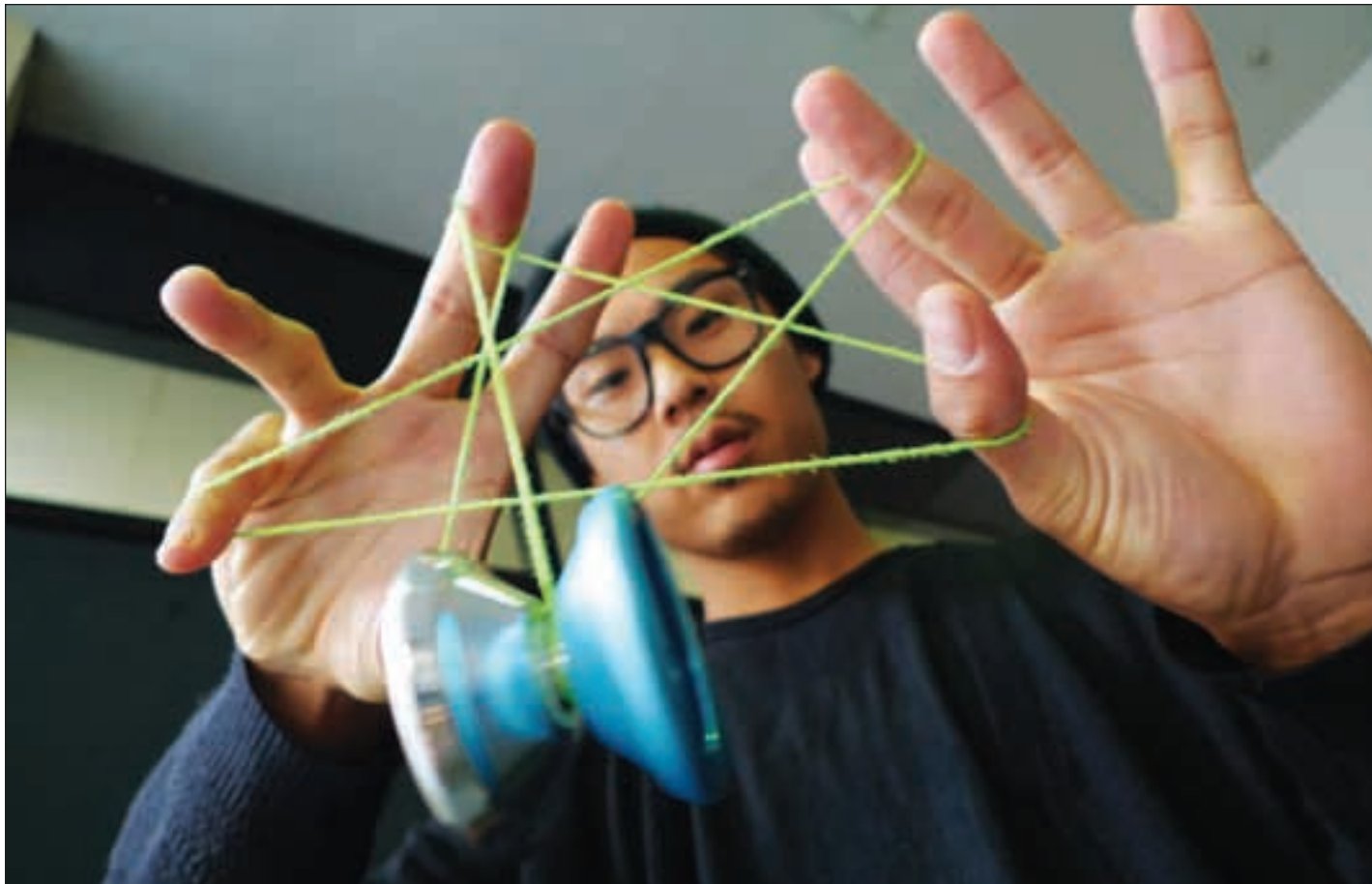
# Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

www.TheSpartanDaily.com

Volume 134, Issue 36



A posed photograph of Paul Han, a six-time Bay Area regional champion yo-yoer, performing the "star" trick in downtown San Jose on Monday. Han has been yo-yoing for 15 years. JUSTIN ALBERT / SPARTAN DAILY

## A master of tricks

SJSU student  
a six-time Bay Area  
yo-yo champ

**Justin Albert**  
Staff Writer

To most people, yo-yos are little more than children's playthings.

To Paul Han, they represent something different.

"Yo-yos used to be Ameri-

ca's favorite toy and everyone knows what they are, but I always tell people that there is so much more to yo-yoing," said Han, a junior advertising major.

A professional yo-yoer, Han has been described as having an extremely quick, dynamic and consistent yo-yo style, which has led him to several outstanding achievements, including taking first in the 2006 U.S. National Yo-yo contest, according to his profile page on

the YoYo Factory Web site.

A six-time Bay Area regional champion, Han said he is currently in the process of creating a co-brand with his current sponsor, the YoYo Factory, in addition to being a full-time student at SJSU.

### Early Years

Han said he began yo-yoing at the age of 10 as a form of recreation and leisure.

"I started yo-yoing because at the time I was the only child and it was my only form of en-

tertainment," he said. "I had friends who yo-yoed too, so it was like our little hobby."

Han said his main early influences were yo-yo legends Dale Myrberg, a National Grand Master, and Bill de Boisblanc, a yo-yo world record holder and member of Team YoYoJam.

"Their skill level was so high up there it was just ridiculous," Han said. "I wanted to

See YO-YO, Page 2

## Faculty voice remains absent from CSU board

**Lidia Gonzalez**  
Staff Writer

As policies with wide-ranging effects on the university are discussed and adopted, it is important the California State University system has a faculty member on its board of trustees, said a CSU media relations specialist.

"Faculty trustees are recommended by the Academic Senate and appointed by the governor," Erik Fallis said.

Since the board met in May 2009, there has been an open seat, said John Tarjan, chair of the Academic Senate.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger communicated to the senate, Tarjan said, that he would like more diversity on the board of trustees.

"There are lots of different dimensions to diversity," said junior marketing major Anthony Hue.

He said if the board of trustees is doing the work it needs to do, it shouldn't matter.

"Having diversity means various areas of the school system," Hue said. "I don't care if they're all white."

He said having a faculty member on the board of trustees will be helpful because he or she knows more about where the money from the budget needs to go.

A faculty perspective, Tarjan said, helps other CSU board members understand the more than 20,000 lecturers employed by the CSU, similar to how former educators, lawyers, community business leaders and other trustees give another perspective to the Academic Senate.

"The benefits come from both sides," Tarjan said.

President Jon Whitmore said having both a faculty voice and or a student voice on the board of trustees is important because

they both are major constituents of the university.

"Having direct input from people in those two key positions that are service providers and are service receivers is a fairly normal practice and good practice," he said.

Having a faculty representative on the board is important, said Samantha Cozen, a sophomore social work major.

"It gives a faculty perspective and voice," she said.

Having someone represent a different community other than a business perspective will avoid the chance of people always going along with the chancellor's view, said Elizabeth Cara, an associate professor of occupational therapy.

"If they can function without someone, fine," Cozen said. "But if it's hurting our system, by all means, fill it."

Cozen said she agrees that it is a great idea to have more diversity, but doesn't think the nominees should

be overlooked if they aren't "diverse."

The two nominees, Barry Pasternack, a chairman and professor at Cal State Fullerton, and Henry Reichman, a history professor at Cal State East Bay — are white men, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The Academic Senate has been frustrated because the senate would rather have a voice sooner than later, Tarjan said.

It's part of the governor's constitutional responsibility, he said.

"Since the provisions are that there be someone sitting in that chair then all the positions should be filled, in general, at all times with a fairly short gap between openings," Whitmore said.

Kyler Bakhtiari, a junior criminal justice major, said diversity

See CSU, Page 2

“There are lots of different dimensions to diversity.”

**Anthony Hue**  
Junior marketing major

## Professor helps foil attempted bank robbery

**Donovan Farnham,  
Salman Haqqi**  
Staff Writers

An attempted bank robbery failed at the Wells Fargo San Jose main office near campus Monday, and an SJSU assistant professor said he had to restrain suspect.

Sgt. Amir Khalighi of San Jose Police Department said two men and one woman were

taken into custody after the 3:30 p.m. incident at the bank, located on San Fernando and Market streets, he said.

Khalighi said further details from SJPD were unavailable because of the ongoing investigation.

Kim Komenich, an assistant professor of journalism and new media at SJSU, was at the scene during the attempted robbery and said the suspects

came in after him while he was waiting in line.

One of the men stood in line, appearing to be inebriated, while the other man and woman sat down in the bank waiting area, he said.

"The guy next to me starts having what I thought was a normal transaction with the teller, and then his voice went up and I started paying attention to him and it was 'Give

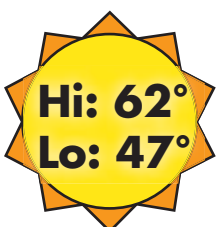
me your money,'" Komenich said. "I looked down and he had a note too, a note that says, 'I have a gun, give me your money' on a Wells Fargo deposit slip."

Komenich said he didn't notice a gun, but as the man went for his pocket, Komenich proceeded to restrain him.

"I figured if he did have a

See ROBBERY, Page 2

### Weather



**W** | **TH**  
Hi: 65° | Hi: 68°  
Lo: 48° | Lo: 48°

### THE SPARTAN DAILY.COM

Sex workshop informs about sex education in the LGBT community as part of "Breaking the Silence Week."

### SPARTAN DAILY BLOGS

Six-time Bay Area regional champion Paul Han divulges his passion for yo-yoing.  
[spartandailyphoto.com](http://spartandailyphoto.com)

There's more than just books at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Check out some of the events happening this month at the King Library by visiting  
[spartandailynews.wordpress.com](http://spartandailynews.wordpress.com)

### TWITTER



Follow us at @spartandaily for headlines straight to your phone.

### FACEBOOK



Become a fan and get the latest headlines straight to you.  
[facebook.com/spartandaily](http://facebook.com/spartandaily)

### Online: YO-YO



JUSTIN ALBERT / SPARTAN DAILY

[spartandailyphoto.com](http://spartandailyphoto.com)

**EVOKE CHANGE  
BY VOTING TODAY**

@ these locations

1. Student Union
2. Clark Hall (front patio)
3. Campus Village Quad
4. Online @ [mysjsu.edu](http://mysjsu.edu)

Online from 10 a.m. on April 13th through 8 a.m. on April 15th  
Polling locations are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. of April 13th and April 14th



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

## ROBBERY

From Page 1

gun that's where there was going to be a gun," Komenich said. "So I clamped a big bear hug on him from behind and held him."

The man, who Komenich said was in his 40s or 50s, didn't resist until the police arrived.

"It took a few minutes for the police to arrive and then two officers showed up immediately and then I let go of him and they immediately put handcuffs on him as I let go," he said.

Komenich said he didn't

feel he was in danger because the man seemed intoxicated, while the woman in the sitting area was reacting to the scene as if she too had been caught.

"It was kind of sad because you could tell they were down on their luck and they'd been drinking," he said.

Wells Fargo employees were unavailable to comment on the attempted robbery, but an employee said the branch was scheduled to re-open later in the day.

Shawnte Santos, a closing manager at Specialty's Cafe & Bakery located near the bank, said she was on break at the time of the attempted robbery and didn't see anything take place.

## CSU

From Page 1

is important, but it should not be an excuse for why the governor has not appointed someone to the board of trustees.

"We have such a big problem with the education system and it would be nice to have someone trying to get something accomplished to help improve it," he said.

Bakhtiari said a faculty voice on the board will be helpful because they have first-hand experience in the school system.

Tarjan said he is hopeful that a nominee will be chosen by the next Academic Senate meeting, which takes place May 11 to 12.

## YO-YO

From Page 1

be at their level and then take it further than what they were."

In 1997, the year he began yo-yoing, Han said he had accomplished his goal when he took first place at the Hawaii State Yo-yo Championship and was discovered by his first sponsor.

"A company called HPK Marketing that did work with Bandai toys and Yomega found me at the competition and began hooking me up," he said.

Han said he attributes his success to his overall presentation of himself.

"Doing big tricks and making up my own style to certain kinds of music have helped me to set myself apart from the crowd," he said.

Erik Deringer, a friend of Han, said seeing Han's yo-yo abilities in person was nothing short of mind-blowing.

"I'd known Paul was really good at yo-yoing, but when I had finally saw him, I was stunned," Deringer said. "He makes it look too easy."

Han said the initial perks he received from Yomega were plentiful.

"My perks included free trips around the world, paid vacations, and \$300 to \$400 a day for wearing the company T-shirt and representing the brand," he said. "Not to mention the free product whenever you want."

Han said his first official job with the company included a flight to Japan to do demonstrations.

"Things just fell into place," he said. "I was doing what I was doing, just playing and trying to progress."

Having since competed in numerous competitions, events and demonstrations, Han said he has developed an understanding and relationship with yo-yos that is entirely uncommon to those unfamiliar with the activity.

"At first, it started as a hobby, but it's slowly becoming a sport where people practice for years to compete at the world level and form teams," he said.

In 2006, Han said he was

featured on the ABC's show "Master of Champions" where he performed his heavy-hitting yo-yo moves on national television in conjunction with two other teammates.

Performing in yo-yo competitions is something of an art form, he said, where every movement is scrutinized and judged before a final consensus is met.

"Yo-yo performances are judged similar to the way ice-skating is judged," Han said. "Like figure skaters, yo-yoers are judged on a number of factors including showmanship, technicality and the overall impact of the routine set to music."

Han said he designed his first professional yo-yo in collaboration with the YoYo Factory.

"I have a blue and orange 1986 Dyno BMX bicycle, which they wanted to incorporate into a yo-yo color way, which we eventually named the Winston edition, which I designed," he said. "I felt pretty honored I could have a yo-yo made with them."

Han said the yo-yo was released in 2009 in limited quantities to select stores around the world and sold out in a matter of minutes.

"We retailed the yo-yo for \$130, but I've seen people on eBay reselling the yo-yo for up to \$350," he said.

Han said he has worked on numerous collaborations linking the yo-yo community to other outlets in pop-culture, including work with the clothing brand Fatlace and TiVo.

"Yo-yoing is moving toward a different direction," he said. "It's not just a dorky toy anymore. People are into different hobbies, so I've been doing yo-yo collaborations with companies that suit my lifestyle."

### Current Plans

Currently, Han said has a number of yo-yo related plans in the works in conjunction with his sponsor, the YoYo Factory.

"2010 is a big year for us at the YoYo factory," he said. "We're running a big campaign with Bandai toys in Japan, which includes doing demonstrations and running commercials and advertisements to get the word out."

In addition to continuing

marketing and advertising work for the YoYo Factory, Han said he has a personal co-brand that he will be launching in May dubbed the "BombSquad."

Junior advertising major Hector Diaz said he is excited for his friend's newest endeavor.

"Knowing Paul, he is destined to do great things and I believe that his brand will do very well in the future," Diaz said. "He's extremely talented and has his head on right."

Han said the idea of him starting his own brand was derived from his personal blog.

"I started this blog that I used to post up whatever I like, from things like skate videos to profiles on yo-yoers that I'm into," he said. "Eventually, the blog started to have a large following, getting 600 to 1,000 hits per day, and from there my company approached me and asked if I wanted to turn it into a full-blown brand."

A plethora of yo-yos and yo-yo-related accessories will launch with the brand in May, including T-shirts, beanies, cases, stickers and possibly skateboards, Han said.

"Paul definitely has a way he carries himself, and if his brand is any representation of that, it will not only look cool, but sell well," Diaz said.

Han said the brand will also release its own signature set of yo-yos under his name, which will be distributed in limited quantities to specific stores.

Han said BombSquad will debut at the 2010 Bay Area classic competition on May 29.

In addition to creating a co-brand under the YoYo Factory banner, Han said he has also been contributing to the local yo-yo community by hosting a class that meets every Sunday at Barefoot Coffee in Santa Clara.

"I wanted to basically have a weekly gathering of people who want to come and learn, hang out or just mingle and meet new people," he said.

Han said he attributes his passion for the class to the idea of giving both new and old members of the yo-yo community an outlet to develop the motivation to continue yo-yoing and hone their abilities.

"Yo-yoing is just like any

## CORRECTION

In Monday's issue of the Spartan Daily, Paul Yula and Tomasz Kolodziejak were misidentified. Below they are correctly identified.

## A.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Domingo Castellanos



Paul Yula



Tomasz Kolodziejak

PHOTOS BY KIBIWOT LIMO

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



On April 13, 1989 the Spartan Daily reported that ...

◆ (Above) Adrian Manns, a junior justice administration major, speaks to other students about why plastics pollute the Earth's water.

◆ Former Gov. Jerry Brown was planning to visit SJSU as a part of an eight-college tour.

◆ Santa Clara County records showed two graphic and contradictory stories of alleged gang rapes on the top floor of the 10th Street garage.

other sport," he said. "It's like a discipline. If you want to get better at something, you work hard at it."

Han said that as the advent of his new brand slowly approaches, he hopes to continue doing what he has always done

for more than 10 years.

After college, he said he plans to continue his work with the YoYo Factory, as well as marketing and maintaining his own brand.

Reflecting upon his hectic lifestyle, Han said he has no

qualms about the life he has lived thus far.

"I get to travel all around the world and do it for free. There's really no downside," he said. "I'll be yo-yoing for the rest of my life. It's my passion and it's not going to stop with age."



Paul Han demonstrates a complex maneuver while fellow yo-yoer Kenny Chow follows along in their friend's Cupertino home on April 4.

JUSTIN ALBERT/ SPARTAN DAILY

## SPARTAGUIDE

### TODAY

#### Gatorade Pong Philanthropy Event

5 p.m. at the Delta Upsilon house, 201 S. 11th St. Contact Mike Mattoon at (805) 558-6992 for more information.

#### Associated Students elections

Vote from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Clark Hall, the Student Union, and Campus Village housing complex.

#### Tim Wise on Privilege

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 225/229.

### TOMORROW

#### Spring Job and Internship Fair

12 p.m. in the Barrett Ballroom. Meet with employers who have upcoming summer internship and career opportunities. Open to all majors. Contact Lisa Trikofski at Lisa.Trikofski@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-6016 for more information.

#### David S. Saurman Provocative Lecture Series

5:15 to 6:45 p.m. at the Morris Dailey Auditorium, contact Jack Estill at john.estill@sjsu.edu for more information.

12 to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall Rm 304, contact Marcia Laughrey at 924-2490 and laughrey@slis.sjsu.edu for more information.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

# Smartpen puts note-taking to rest

## REVIEW

**Matt Santolla**  
Staff Writer

Students who find themselves too busy taking notes to pay close attention in class should definitely own a Livescribe Pulse Smartpen.

The Smartpen allows people to take written notes and record audio of a person talking at the same time. The Smartpen connects the audio and written notes, so a person can place the pen on a special notepad and the audio will go directly to what was being said at the time it was being written.

This is great for students because the pen can record a teacher's entire lecture. A student can then click on the part of

the notes where something important was being written down. Jumping through the audio is quick, easy and simple.

As a device intended for college students, Livescribe made the Smartpen too expensive, with a 2GB Pulse Smartpen costing \$149.95.

I don't care what a pen can do, no college student will spend \$150 on a pen.

The pen is six inches long and an inch in diameter, but is too light for its size. It feels like you're trying to take notes with a highlighter. I would have made the device heavier and more solid.

The Smartpen is made from titanium and looks slick, with a small, light-up screen that allows a user to easily navigate the pen's menus.

Though the pen will work on

normal paper and record audio, it requires special "dot paper" to make full use of its electronic capabilities. "Dot paper" looks like a normal spiral notebook, but at the bottom of every page is a menu bar for jumping through recorded audio.

The "dot" paper has pages with different commands and menus used to operate the pen. To issue a command, the user simply has to press the tip of the pen to a menu button.

This device requires a software download from the Livescribe Web site, which will allow the user to create a myLivescribe account.

With this account, the user can perform many convenient actions unique to the Smartpen. When a person uploads recorded content to the account, a PDF file and a podcast are auto-

matically created. Podcasts are online videos of recorded audio and handwritten notes.

This allows people who have Smartpens and accounts to share their notes from class on the Internet.

It is really cool that a person can upload written notes and audio recordings to his or her computer. For storage purposes, I like being able to access all of my notes from a computer.

The pen is easy to operate. A user can get it to work right out of the box without much difficulty. I am not a tech savvy person, so it's great if I can just take something out of the box and get it to work.

The Smartpen is a useful and helpful device, but wait a year or two to buy this device. Hopefully, it will be much cheaper by then.



The Livescribe Smartpen  
CLIFFORD GRODIN / SPARTAN DAILY

## FEATURED TWEET

What's your favorite smartphone app?

Daryll\_ @SpartanDaily The Chase Mobile Banking App for iPhone so I can keep track of how much money I don't have.

# Get your game on with the All-in-1 Gamebox app

## REVIEW

**Justin Albert**  
Staff Writer

Since their release, the iPhone, the iPod touch and now the iPad have proven themselves to be competent video gaming devices with enough ingenuity and support from both the developers and gaming community to compete with hand-held giants such as Sony and Nintendo.

A slew of games utilizing the intuitive control schemes and compact processing power of Apple's products have been released through the App Store, allowing Apple users to hop online and download games straight to their devices.

Games typically cost anywhere from \$1-10, depending on the developer, but in the current economic climate, it can be hard for some people to invest more than a few dollars into a phone application.

For those of you itching to employ the gaming capabilities of your shiny Apple products but are skeptical about spending more than a few dollars on a game, look no further, for the All-in-1 Gamebox gives one the most value they could ask for in a game-centric app.

The All-in-1 Gamebox is a hodgepodge of 28 full games offered at 99 cents, giving those looking to beef up their iPhone game library an easy choice to make.

To be clear, the developers of this app weren't skimping on the quality of these games, despite there being a colossal amount of them included in one package.

We are talking about 28 conceptually different games in their entirety, not shortened mini games. Each game comes with its own set of levels, options and difficulties.

Having playtested all of them, I would have to say that not every game included is an absolute blast, but the majority of them make for enjoyable experiences, which, when looked at separately, more than make



The main screen of the All-in-1 Gamebox app.  
COURTESY OF TRINITY INTERACTIVE LIMITED

up for the Gamebox's \$1 asking price.

At the time of this writing, the app is at version 2.8 and includes 28 games.

The developers have promised to include a new game with every update, making the app an even greater value to those looking to game on their touch devices.

Included in the Gamebox's roster is a wide range of games that stretch across several different genres.

"Iron commando" is a fun, "Contra"-style, side-scrolling shoot em' up with an interesting stick-man art style.

"Robo Rush" is a "Super Mario"-inspired platformer that has players jumping around as a little robot, collecting screws across several different worlds.

"Knights Odyssey" is a bloody little romp around a medieval-esque world in which

players do battle with evil knights in an effort to level up their own character.

For those who are more into puzzle games, the Gamebox still has Apple gamers covered.

"Observer" is a quirky "spot the difference" game in which users compare side-by-side photos to discover their differences in a fast-paced, timed format.

To top it off, the Gamebox has a slew of archery and shooter-based games for aspiring armchair snipers.

All things considered, the Gamebox is a tremendous value for those looking to get the most out of a 99 cent asking price.

With the developers adding new games to the growing library with every update free of charge, there's really no arguing over whether the Gamebox is a sound investment.

# Cisco likes students' pitch on cloud computing

**Matt Santolla**  
Staff Writer

Imagine being able to access recorded television and video content on a cell phone or mobile device with Internet access.

This was a concept created by a group of SJSU business students who competed in a contest held by Cisco Systems Inc. in March, according to group members.

"The goal of the competition was to create an idea Cisco could pitch to their customers and the service providers to make money with video streaming over the Internet," said Evan Newlove, a senior business administration major with an academic focus in management information systems.

Newlove said the group, which consisted entirely of business administration majors with an academic focus in management information systems, worked together in class and created a concept that was able to achieve the goal.

"We created a strategy that would enable Internet service providers to capture lost revenue," said senior Denise Lurker. "Take for example, Comcast, so to create a strategy where Cisco and Internet service providers like Comcast capture lost revenue to competitors like Google or Yahoo."

Lurker said the group was chosen out of several other SJSU student groups to present its idea to Cisco judges

alongside a team from UC Berkeley.

Newlove said the group's idea focused on moving recorded video to a "cloud," which is a server at Cisco headquarters that stores content online. He said their concept allows people to move their digitally recorded video content so anyone can access the content from any mobile device, cellphone or computer.

Lurker said the competition was held at Cisco headquarters in San Jose.

"The judges like the idea because it was going in the direction that they wanted," he said. "The whole competition was monetizing the Internet service providers, and we addressed that. It was on track, that was the word they used, and it was in the direction that Cisco is going forward with, and that was huge for us."

Lurker said the Cisco judges liked the simplicity of their idea.

"We nailed exactly what Cisco wanted to do, which was monetize video and increase ISPs profits without putting them directly in the market," she said.

Lurker said Kobi Loredo, a fellow MIS student, contributed to the development of the SJSU team's strategy.

"If Internet service providers are not making any money, they won't be buying any equipment for Cisco," said teammate Jaspal Bhamra, who also worked

with the group.

Bhamra said Cisco needed some way to show Internet service providers that it is possible to make more money while letting content providers present the infrastructures.

"The cool thing about our idea is that it is simple and at the same time these things are practically being done right now," Bhamra said. "It is all in the process."

Justin Crowe, another contributor, said anyone with a cellphone or a mobile device with Internet access would benefit from their concept.

"I'm into the whole tech scene, and I am really big into watching shows and movies myself," Crowe said. "What I saw missing from the market was conventional DVRs allow you to only record a few shows at a time. Well, I thought it would be cool if you could record multiple shows at any time."

He said he wanted improve the lives of average people who watch television.

"You would not necessarily have a physical recording device in your home," Crowe said. "The recording device would be a giant massive server farm that Cisco controls, and it would license that content to Comcast or AT&T."

He said the benefit of having recorded content on cloud service would allow people the convenience of accessing that content from any place with an Internet connection.

**can you Tengu?**

111 Paseo de San Antonio  
(408) 275-9491

Dine In - Take Out - Catering

**Buy 1 Meal,  
Get a 2nd Meal 50% Off!\***

Expires: 5/31/2010

\*First meal must be \$6 or more. Second meal must be equal or lesser value and must be accompanied with this ad.

**SJSU TEAMS OF 4 TO 8 STUDENTS COMPETE FOR PRIZES FREE EVENT**

**LUNCH PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS GLOBAL TRIVIA**

PART OF SJSU'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK, APRIL 11-16, 2010  
ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE'S**

# INTERNATIONAL QUIZ

## FRIDAY, APRIL 16

### 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

**UNIVERSITY ROOM**

TO SIGN UP: [ihouse@sjsu.edu](mailto:ihouse@sjsu.edu) OR (408) 924-6570  
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATED STUDENTS





# Cheap fare sets bells ringing at Firehouse bar

## REVIEW

**Eric Bennett**  
Staff Writer

David, a bartender at San Pedro Square's Firehouse No. 1 Bar and Grill, rings the rusted bell behind the counter just about anytime he can — for example, at the end of the wise-ass jokes he or drunken customers sometimes blurt out.

"A pitbull could wear a dress, but that doesn't make it any prettier," cracked the bartender with a tattoo on the inside fold of his elbow, to apparent 20-something regulars guzzling down their various pre-gaming elixirs.

And maybe, whether for effect or profundness, the bell is rung and the locals embrace it like the loud ding signifies good times are rolling.

"Whenever the mood strikes," David said.

The laughs were abundant at Firehouse No. 1 and the local beer smoothly warming my insides made it even easier to appreciate a bar that's aesthetically a notch above your typical bar and grill combo.

Any time the bell echoed, I was expecting a small herd of firefighters to erupt from the kitchen, equipped with the fire-retardant jackets and slick axes I saw pinned to the ceiling above the bar.

Unfortunately, they never showed up, despite the one-block distance



Bartender Cayce Osborn prepares a "stoplight" beverage for patrons at Firehouse No. 1 Bar and Grill in San Pedro Square on Monday. NELSON ABURTO / SPARTAN DAILY

from the actual San Jose Firehouse No. 1. The close proximity and original red and brick walls, David said, were the inspiration for the decor and name three years ago.

When it's happy hour on a Friday night and you can get three ales for less than \$10, the mood seems to frequently call for the tolling of the bell.

But this fire station-themed bar

seems to corral everyone from middle-aged women discussing Suze Orman's latest financial strategies over a glass of red wine to the typical blue jeans and San Jose Sharks T-shirt-wearing layman looking for a quick fix in the form of a vodka and Red Bull.

As I waited a short minute or two for my San Francisco-brewed Anchor Steam ale, I followed the eye candy

bordering the ceiling — yellow fire hydrants, oxygen tanks and 10-foot-long pointed stakes that left me wondering whether they were used to poke unwary cats snoozing in trees.

Few things distract you from the firehouse ambiance, such as an electronic jukebox, or the required fire extinguishers that seem oddly out of place below hard hats and valves that

you anticipate spitting cold water.

The only aspect of the firehouse that is missing is a metal pole running down from the ceiling, but I'm pretty sure I know why it's absent.

The discounted ales went down so easily that I began to question whether I'd become an alcoholic as of late. I haven't — they were just smooth. The basket of piping hot, crisp fries with dashes of cilantro blended tragically well with the bitter, yet not overpowering, hoppy taste of Mirror Pond ale.

As I casually licked the leftover ranch from the corners of my lips and discretely wiped the salt off my fingers against my sweater, I learned that the bar even attracts cocktail dresses and suits.

A man in the suit claimed his attire was nothing special and that he is running for city council. Sharing the name of some locals' favorite liquor to mix with pineapple juice might score a few extra votes. He may have actually ordered a Hennessy and pineapple juice.

The prices were right, the ales and appetizers hit the spot and the barstool company included people from all walks of life. The bartenders even provided moments of entertainment between the hustle and bustle of taking the drink orders of eager night crawlers.

Go for the 3 to 7 p.m. half-price drinks and munchies and stay for the sporadic bell-ringing that occurs only beneath the hooks and ladders of Firehouse No. 1.

# Pizz'a Chicago offers taste of the Windy City

## RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

**Daniel Herberholz**  
Staff Writer

From the pan pizza to the firehouse garage doors, "Pizz'a Chicago" is an ode to its namesake.

As a group of friends and I walked into the restaurant, located on San Fernando and San Pedro streets, we were immersed in everything Chicago all the way down to the blues on the speakers and the sports memorabilia on the walls.

There is a wall dedicated to Michael Jordan, complete with photos of His Airness himself and Bulls championship posters galore. A Sports Illustrated spread of Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire on the wall behind us commemorated the 1998 baseball season in which the two broke the single-season home run record. Wrigley Field stood in a photo behind our table.

The waiter brought us our water, and I was already impressed. The water was in old-school Mason jars, a cool way to present a normal dining object.

The menu featured creatively titled pizza options. While the "Great Chicago Fire" and the "Sears Tower" looked enticing, we went with two complete opposites — the meat-heavy "Rush Street" and the

summer-day "Wrigley Field."

A 10-inch small was \$16.75, a hefty price for a tasty pizza.

We also selected a cheesy garlic bread for while we waited for the pizza — which was a good idea because it was a 20-minute wait.

The garlic bread had cheese that popped off the soft bread. Its fresh taste could be accented by dipping it into a bowl of marinara sauce so warm it had steam rising from it.

The dish left a very nice cheesy aftertaste — not overwhelmingly strong, nor too light.

The pizza arrived and the waiter pulled the slices out of a three-inch-deep circular pan, a different way to serve pizza than local San Jose pizza places.

He asked if we wanted Parmesan cheese, and upon our accepting his offer, he began grating cheese onto our slices using a button-operated, electric cheese grater. It was like automatic snow.

I had to try the "Wrigley Field" first.

Anchored by a bed of pesto and feta cheese, it included teriyaki chicken, roasted garlic and sun-dried tomatoes. The combination was brightly colored in the pan,



(Above) The cheesy garlic bread from Pizz'a Chicago. (Right) A waiter sprinkles Parmesan cheese on a slice of Pizz'a Chicago's signature "Wrigley Field" pizza.

DANIEL HERBERHOLZ / SPARTAN DAILY

with the green pesto, white cheese, brown chicken and brilliant red tomatoes.

Soft and melty, the ingredients worked well together as I chewed a bite in my mouth.

The sharp feta complemented the chewy chicken. The pesto acted in concert with the other flavors without getting in the way like a marinara sauce might have. The tomatoes provided a nice burst of freshness next to the solid garlic.

This dish was perfectly named. In a baseball season, the Cubs need pitchers, fielders, batters, fans and luck (sorry, Cubbie fans). In this pizza, you get every aspect of Wrigley Field. The tomatoes sat in the outfield, the pesto and feta manned

the infield, the bases were loaded by the teriyaki chicken — say, Ichiro Suzuki, Hideki Matsui and Hideo Nomo.

On the other hand, "Rush Street" was a weighty mix of spicy sausage, pepperoni, Canadian bacon, linguica and meatballs.

Stuffed as a teddy bear, "Rush Street" worked best with ranch, adding a light atmosphere to the heavy ground of meat.

Also, it was easy to split the payment of the pizza between friends.

If you're looking for Chicago, go to the home of the "Wrigley Field."



# Northern Son's debut album shines bright

## REVIEW

**Salman Haqqi**  
Staff Writer

South Bay rockers Northern Son have been on a roll these days. The band's debut album, "Wider Skies," came out this February and the band hasn't looked back, playing shows all over the Bay Area with a fan base that grows with each show.

Born from the ashes of well-known local bands such as My Former Self and Plans For Revenge, Northern Son's sound has a comforting familiarity to it, while still possessing a freshness that keeps me



The debut album "Wider Skies" from the band Northern Son. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NORTHERN SON MYSAPCE PAGE

interested.

It's always refreshing to find a band whose sound is difficult to neatly pigeonhole into a specific genre.

The album kicks off with the title track, "Wider Skies," a solid opener with a catchy opening acoustic guitar riff supported by a good old-fashioned distorted guitar progression.

In many ways, this track sums up the band's sound in a nutshell.

From the get-go, it's abundantly clear that Tom Petty ranks high among the band's influences. Its sound possesses that good old-fashioned American heartland vibe that Tom Petty has come to symbolize.

Even though the lyrics cover simple subjects such as love and friendship, it's that simplicity that makes me relate to them personally and gives them an endearing sense

of sincerity.

One of the songs that embodies that spirit is a track called, "Downtown." As the chorus goes, "We're going down, downtown / Where they know our faces not our names." It's a catchy, straight-up rock 'n' roll track with distorted guitars and a melody that's perfect to sing along to with friends on a Saturday night.

"This Old Town" is a folk track starting with a jangly acoustic guitar and channels Tom Petty's "I Won't Back Down" to an extent that might raise a few eyebrows, but it's hard to be too harsh because of the song's simple elegance.

What's most impressive about the album is the qual-

ity of the songwriting. All the songs have a maturity that is a rare commodity in many of today's upcoming bands.

The members of the band play to serve the song rather than showboat their individual skills.

The rhythm section, in the form of percussionists Bret Nunn, Sean Ghavi and bassist Tyler Florence, is tight and steady and allows the guitars and vocals to shine.

The stand out track on the album is a rocking ballad, "Love Will Find A Way."

It opening with a delicate melody played with a clean guitar, but as soon as the drums kick in, the track rockets up a few gears. It's a perfect stage

song with a distinct chorus that will please crowds anywhere.

For a first album, "Wider Skies" is without a doubt a commendable effort.

Most of the tracks have great hooks that engage me, and each member adds subtle textures and layers to each song that shows their attention to detail.

Even though Tom Petty's apparent influence is what drew me to Northern Son in the first place, I would like to see the band develop their own sound in upcoming albums.

That said, Northern Son is by far the best Bay Area band I've come across in a long time, and its debut album makes me look forward to what comes next.