

# SPARTAN DAILY

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## ‘Wellness Challenge’ tests student health

Associated Students promotes the importance of personal well-being

Shirene Niksadat  
Staff Writer

The Spartan Wellness Challenge totes a title promising an experience that can occupy many people’s daily thoughts, improving their physical, mental and spiritual wellness.

The 10-week challenge, coordinated by the Associated Students-run Campus Recreation program, concentrates on the importance of maintaining a healthy diet, being physically active and leading a healthy lifestyle, according to the Campus Recreation website.

“We want people to learn what the overall aspect of health is,” said Christina Maino, Campus Recreation fitness coordinator. “It’s not only being physically active or eating healthy, it’s a combination of the two along with other wellness components.”

Registration for the challenge began Feb. 15 with a kickoff event in the Sports Club on campus, and ends Feb. 21, when the challenge officially begins.

Becoming involved in this 10-week adventure into bettering oneself is a fairly simple process — all that is needed to qualify for the challenge is a team of four people, a designated team leader and a team name, Maino said.

Participants earn points by logging physical fitness hours, eating healthy throughout the day and by getting six to eight hours of sleep a night, said Kristine “Kirky” Kirkendall, assistant director of Recreational Activities.

“Sleep is a huge component of wellness that most people just don’t get enough of,” she said.

Appointed team captains receive scorecards for their team each Monday morning in a weekly e-mail that also includes important information for the week, according to the website. Team members are forwarded an electronic scorecard in which they track their progress and points.

Kirkendall said at the end of each week the points are sent in and tabulated toward a score — the winners will be awarded a grand prize at the end of the challenge.

“I’ve done the challenge before,” said Simone Williams, assistant for the circulation department at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. “I’m proud to say I am more into fitness these days, so any time I can get challenged I want to sign up.”

Williams and her team, “The King’s Queens,” expressed their excitement at increasing their physical and nutritional wellness all while receiving support from each other.

The challenge, in its third year running at SJSU, originally started as a faculty and staff event only. This year’s challenge seeks to incorporate students, staff and anyone else interested in improving overall wellness, said senior kinesiology major Kayleigh Carter.

Though the kickoff event garnered a large amount of faculty presence, Campus Recreation is hoping to bolster more involvement with the students on campus, Kirkendall said.

Byron Pulu, a senior human resources and hospitality major, said he was looking forward to a triumphant end to the event.

see **WELLNESS** page 2



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

*Students are confined to walking through a narrow pathway between the Student Union and Art building because of ongoing construction.*

## Construction a headache for physically disabled

Shirene Niksadat  
Staff Writer

Set to be finished in June 2013, construction for the new Student Union directly affects the paths of many SJSU students on campus.

Narrow pathways have been created along the edges of various construction zones as the hub of our university undergoes its renovation makeover. As a result, highly-frequented class routes have been posed with a traffic dilemma

that only increases in congestion during the “rush hour” periods found between classes.

Among those affected by the physical barriers present on campus are disabled members of our student body.

“For a physically disabled student, it’s already hard enough to get around,” said Disabled Students Association President James McKay. “And with all of the ongoing construction around campus, it only further inhibits the student.”

McKay, who runs the local di-

vision of the Disabled Students Association on SJSU campus, said he started the chapter so he could help advocate for the needs of disabled students.

He expressed his support and understanding of the ongoing renovations and also stated that while there are alternative side routes that can be taken to avoid these congested areas, the paths are often longer and certainly are not

see **WALLS** page 2

## Sweet treats fund autism fight

Sonia Ayala  
Staff Writer

Students looking to satisfy their sweet teeth while helping fund autism research can now accomplish that thanks to Alpha Xi Delta.

The sorority is having a bake sale in front of Clark Hall until Thursday, from 9 a.m. until they run out of baked goods.

Alpha Xi Delta is working with Autism Speaks, an organization that, according to its website, works with groups such as sororities, fraternities and businesses that are interested in helping raise money for children with autism disorders.

“It feels awesome to raise money for autism,” said Melissa Rodriguez, a freshman business and marketing double major. “It’s also a good way to bring us together as sisters and to support a cause. There are other causes other than breast cancer that affect people, and this is a cause that I’m sure a lot of people don’t know about and it’s important for us to let them know about it.”

Autism is a term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders which are known as pervasive development disorders



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

*Christina Porter, a junior liberal studies major, buys a treat to help support autism research from Alpha Xi Delta member Chanell Schamber in front of Clark Hall.*

such as Asperger’s syndrome, Rett syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorders, according to the Autism Speaks website.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states that autism affects one in 110 children and one in 70 boys. On average autism is four to five times more likely to occur in boys than in girls. It’s reported to occur in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Alpha Xi Delta was colonized at SJSU in Fall 2009 by a group of 45 women who felt they needed to be involved at SJSU, so they started their own sorority with the mission of raising funds for Autism Speaks, said Chanell Schamber, Alpha Xi Delta philanthropy chair and colony member.

see **AUTISM** page 2

## Low turnouts plague early semester events

Francisco Rendon  
Staff Writer

An empty room awaited Andrea Rufo after she walked two miles to the Student Health Center for a Peer Health Education workshop on body image.

Rufo, a Peer Health Educator who was going to present at the workshop, said she was surprised at the low turnout for the event, which nobody attended.

“The body image presentation was also featured last semester, and the room was full,” she said. “(As we move) towards the end of the semester ... we don’t have enough space to accommodate everyone.”

The seminar qualifies as a requirement for Greek active personal development, a program which, along with MUSE classes designed to help first-year students succeed in college, requires that students attend several educational workshops in a semester.

Vicky Cervantes, Wellness and Health Promotion Office Coordinator, said she wished there were some

incentives to get individuals to attend these events earlier in the semester.

“Towards the end of the semester we have to send people away because we have limited space,” Cervantes said. “Then people get upset when you turn them away.”

She said it is a common pattern that seminars are poorly attended in the beginning of the semester.

The previous two workshops had a total of seven participants, Cervantes said.

Rufo said the fact there are no MUSE classes in the spring semester and that members of fraternities and sororities can choose to have speakers hold seminars in their houses can have an effect on attendance.

Blake Baladjia, assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said the program for fraternities and sororities would be open to some form of early incentive to encourage early attendance, and acknowledged the problem of a lack of early participation in these workshops.

“We definitely discourage people

see **EVENT** page 2

### WEATHER



High: 53°  
Low: 41°

### SPORTS, PAGE 3

**Spartans hold lead, finish off Bobcats late**

Basketball team manages to pull off win despite late surge from Montana State.

### TECH, PAGE 4

**Netflix app puts the ‘move’ in movies**

Daily staff writer reviews the new mobile app for watching movies.

### A&E, PAGE 6

**‘The Eagle’ makes a crash-landing**

Fantasy period film covers all bases but misses the mark.



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WELLNESS  
From Page 1

“I heard that Kirky got some pretty cool prizes last year, so I’m pretty excited for that,” he said.

Pulu said he was most

looking forward to advancing in the “spiritual wellness” category of the challenge.

The challenge encourages participants to live healthy lifestyles and record them on their own, and incorporates a series of physical training activities and informational

seminars aimed at aiding the teams in their goals.

Upcoming events such as “Mindful Eating” and “Can You Resist It,” paired with physical challenges such as “climbing” Mount Kili-manjaro help teams achieve physical, mental and spiritual wellness, Maino said.

CAMPUS IMAGES



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Soprano Lori Phillips performs “The Art of the Dramatic Soprano” at the Music Concert Hall on Tuesday.

AUTISM  
From Page 1

“Basically it was just an interesting group of women that wanted to join a new sorority,” Schamber said. “We started from nothing and now we’re a full-fledged chapter with a group of 75 women.”

The sorority has been organizing fundraisers and campaigns to raise awareness of au-

tism among SJSU students, as well as raising funds that will go directly to the Autism Speaks organization to help autistic children and their families.

Autism Speaks is a charity founded in 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, according to the organization’s website. The Wrights had a grandchild who suffered from autism and they created an organization focused on conducting research into the prevention, causes, treatments and cures

to help children with autism.

Schamber said the sorority hopes to raise at least \$2,000 with the fundraisers they are holding this semester.

“In April we’re having events such as a ‘Light It Up Blue’ campaign and our ‘AmaXing Challenge’ event,” Schamber said. “In May, Autism Speaks is having their 2011 Bay Area Walk Now For Autism Speaks event and we’re really excited about that.”

EVENT  
From Page 1

from waiting till the last minute,” Baladjia said. “But it still happens unfortunately.”

Baladjia said the aims of the program were largely to enhance people’s educational experience, but that some

students treat the program as another class.

“(Students’) collegiate degree is more or less set up for you formally by your department,” he said. “GREAT (the program) is a way for you to individualize your own education.”

Rufo said body image is an important topic on college campuses as many individuals feel pressure to look a

certain way.

The presentation was designed to analyze the impact magazines, advertisements and various other images have on individuals perceptions of their own bodies and their self-esteem.

“It’s something worth talking about,” Rufo said. “(To) feel comfortable with your body is healthy.”

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Necessary Fixes

The renovation of the Student Union was put into action for a couple of different reasons, according to Cathy Busalacchi, executive director of the Student Union. She stated in an e-mail that among the main reasons for the renovation were space and infrastructure needs.

With the number of student groups and organizations on campus growing as each year passes, the need for larger meeting places has been a topic that has constantly been an area of concern. Busalacchi said there are few places on campus able to accommodate a group of more than 200 people. Feedback from students reflected a need for a more modern, open atmosphere for meeting, organizing and relaxing.

In 2006, a campus study by the Chancellor’s Office reported that of all the buildings on campus, the Student Union building was identified as one which had the most seismic issues that would need to be fixed. Pre-renovation, the Student Union building was 42 years old, and in terms of infrastructure, there were definitely stressed portions of the building that needed renovating. The building would not be able to be kept operational during the time needed to fix these issues, said Busalacchi.

Getting Around

In addition to the standard accommodations for physically disabled students, Busalacchi pointed out some points of interest in the structure and layout of the new Student Union.

Upon completion, a student would be able to travel from Ninth to Seventh streets, all within the interior of the building, Busalacchi said. During seasons of unfavorable weather, a student would have a way to travel within an open, airy building instead of braving the elements — at least for a portion of their route.

Melissa Lucia, a junior child development major, has definitely found some dif-

ficulties with the recent construction. Confined to a wheelchair since childhood, Lucia is a student living with cerebral palsy. She navigates both the campus and her daily life in an electric wheelchair with her golden retriever guide dog Yukon.

In line with her major, the buildings she frequents on an average school day are Dudley Moorhead and Clark Hall — both building areas are those with class routes highly affected by the construction zones. Lucia said as a result of the renovations she has resorted to taking the longer paths around, knowing that the area will be congested.

The blue plywood fences that mark the outer regions of the construction zones take up the walkways, making getting to classes difficult.

“On the first week of school, I was 45 minutes late getting to classes because of the congestion I encountered in those areas,” Lucia said.

Since then, she and Yukon have opted to take the surrounding side streets to avoid the heavy flow of people in the narrow pathways.

MoreCampusLife.com, a website specifically created to keep the SJSU community updated about the construction, has a host of information available regarding the renovations.

The website informs the public of how the Student Union project is being funded, when it is expected to be completed and what new facilities and services university staff and students can look forward to.

Along with this information, a list of construction updates are posted with details on any upcoming changes for the current month, as well as expected impact ranging from noise and construction traffic to possible dust from the site. Site photographs demonstrate project progress and detailed maps highlight where construction is currently taking place as well as accessible entry points.

What Students Can Do

For students who were unaware of the availability of this info, DSA President McKay took steps to reach out to his community in light of the construction. On the first day of class, he printed and handed out updated construction site maps detailing the problematic zones and the alternate paths around them.

“Construction on campus affects everyone regardless of disability,” he said. “Even a new student on campus who is physically able is going to be impacted by the ongoing renovations and might have trouble getting to their classes efficiently.”

With the construction zones present, the DRC is doing its absolute best to accommodate the needs of our disabled student body, McKay said.

If a student needs to be assisted to class or needs help with any physical access barriers, they are available. He urges any disabled students who are having trouble getting around campus to make it known to the DRC.

“It’s up to the disabled student to get to the DRC and report their disability if they’re going to get the help that they need,” McKay said. “You have to seek the help you need and make it known. It is not going to find you.”

Busalacchi reports that within the next two to three weeks, project and directional signage will be posted around all corners of the construction wall from Ninth to Seventh streets to aid students in navigating the construction zones.

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■ BASKETBALL

# Spartans hold lead, finish off Bobcats late

Lyell Marks  
Staff Writer

With 2:36 left to play in the second half Tuesday night, SJSU witnessed its 23-point lead dwindle to a mere two against visiting Montana State.

After losing a late lead to Nevada before falling in overtime last Saturday, SJSU (12-12, 3-9) held off a late run by the Bobcats and preserved a 77-73 victory against its first non-conference foe since mid-December.

“We made some really uncharacteristic mistakes against Nevada,” head coach George Nessman said. “We spent all week in practice preparing for that situation to happen again tonight, and it did.”

The Spartans went into the half with a commanding 46-25 advantage, but Montana State came out of the locker room strong and slowly chipped away at the deficit.

“It was a tale of two halves,” senior guard Adrian Oliver said. “It seems like whenever we have teams on the ropes we let up a bit, and that’s something we want to fix.”

The last few minutes of play were eerily reminiscent of last weekend’s loss to Nevada, but four timely points in the final two minutes from senior guard Justin Graham helped preserve the win.

Graham had been held to just two points on the night up to that point, but responded late in the game with a pair of layups in the final two minutes.

“We expect that from Justin,” Oliver said. “We always talk about how it’s not how we start, but how we finish.”

“We spent all week in practice preparing for that situation to happen again tonight, and it did.”

Head coach  
George Nessman

Oliver poured in 35 points to lead the Spartans on 11-21 shooting, the 15th time he has scored more than 30 while at SJSU.

The 6’4” guard is fourth in the NCAA in scoring average at 24 points per game, and is also approaching Ricky Berry’s school record for career points.

Berry (1986-1988) holds the school honor with 1,767 career points, Tuesday’s 35-point performance put Oliver at 1,547 during his illustrious career.

Forward Wil Carter added 13 points against Montana State on 4-7 shooting from the field and went 5-6 from the line.

Carter also pulled down 10 or more rebounds for the seventh time this season and leads the team at 7.5 per contest.

“We’re 6-1 when Wil gets 10 or more rebounds,” Nessman said. “Other than Wil, we really don’t have anyone who can rebound above the rim.”

The Spartans are currently holding onto the eighth and final spot that is eligible in the WAC for the conference tournament, and is just one game better in conference play than last place Louisiana Tech (2-10).

The WAC tournament is set for March 9-12 in Las Vegas, Nev.

“The way the tournament is structured, the five through eight seeds are essentially the same,” Nessman said. “Getting any of those four spots pretty much puts you in the same situation.”

SJSU returns to the hardwood on Friday against Weber State and resumes conference play Feb. 23 at home against New Mexico State.



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

*Senior guard Adrian Oliver drives for a layup during the Spartans’ 77-73 victory over the visiting Bobcats. Oliver finished with 35 points on the night, and leads the Western Athletic Conference in points-per-game with 24.*

■ SOFTBALL

# SJSU looks to young talent in rebuilding season

Eric Austin  
Staff Writer

A young SJSU softball team returned to practice Tuesday with a losing record after opening its regular season in Tempe, Ariz., at the Kajikawa Classic.

The Spartans lost two out of the four games in last weekend’s tournament, beating Mississippi 3-2 and Appalachian State 4-3, while losing to Cal State Northridge 9-8, Nebraska 7-3, Portland State 5-3 and Arizona State 11-3.

Junior pitcher Jennifer Ames said part of the blame for the losses can be placed on the lack of experience in the dugout as half of this season’s roster is composed of freshmen — most of whom were competing in their first college-level tournament.

“We’re really young and we just have to work the kinks out,” she said. “It is going to be a tough year.”

While this season’s team may be inexperienced, there is no lack of talent, head coach Peter Turner said.

“Although we are young, we are extremely talented,” he said. “This is the best and most athletic group I have had.”

Freshman Annica Wolfe was a stand-out for the Spartans last weekend with a batting average of .333, tied for the team lead.

Wolfe also had four hits, a home run and an RBI.

Not only do the younger players have talent, sophomore infielder BranDee Garcia said, but they are also determined to succeed and are passionate about the game.

“They have all been working really hard to catch up to

speed with us,” Garcia said. “We have a solid group of girls that actually want to be here.”

This season’s roster is the first filled with players that Turner recruited himself, and he said he is confident in what his team can accomplish.

“We did an intensive search for athletes that fit the character of what we wanted this team to be,” Turner said. “Not only did they have to have talent, but they had to have the pride, desire and the passion to win.”

Turner said he believes this team will become the foundation for better things in the future of SJSU softball, with even more talented players committed to join the program in coming years.

“This is a rebuilding year,” Ames said. “But the coaches have done well and we are getting where we need to be.”

Garcia said not all of the responsibility in training the new players is being placed on the shoulders of the coaching staff. The veterans are stepping up and helping the younger players get used to playing at a more competitive level, she said.

“Everyone is going to lead each other,” she said. “All of the older players have been helping out the younger players.”

Despite leaving the Kajikawa Classic with a losing record, Ames said there were still some positives.

“We played against some really good teams and we hung in there,” she said. “We could have won any of those games.”

The SJSU softball team’s home opener will be on Sunday at 12 p.m. against Santa Clara University at SJSU Field.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

*Sophomore outfielder Stephanie Ziemann practices hitting Tuesday in the batting cages at SJSU Field.*

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■ APP REVIEW

# Netflix app puts the ‘move’ in movies

Matt Young  
Staff Writer

Los Gatos-based Netflix is the 800-pound gorilla in the movie rental business.

Since it launched its movie rental subscription business in 1999, the company has been growing steadily, surpassing brick-and-mortar giant Blockbuster on its rise to the top. Blockbuster has tried desperately to keep itself alive with consolidated stores, grocery store kiosks and their own flavor of a subscription service.

Similarly, Apple’s iPhone, iPod and now iPad devices have dominated the market, although competition has been growing from competitors such as Google’s Android OS and Microsoft’s Windows Phone 7 devices.

Enter the Netflix application. Enabling access to the ascendant streaming form of film distribution, the iPhone and iPod Touch recently joined the iPad as Netflix-capable devices, allowing subscribers to enjoy streaming content on the go.

This makes particular sense when the limited nature of storage on the iPod Touch and iPhone is considered — there is no support for memory expansion, so streaming the content keeps space free on the hard drive.

Also, considering the lack of support of Adobe Flash for mobile devices, finding worthwhile content online can be a bit of a chore.

Free for download from Apple’s iTunes, the Netflix app is available for devices running iOS 3.1.3 or later, and grants users the ability to watch Netflix’s ever-growing “Watch Instantly” collection of movies and television shows.

Users familiar with the standard Netflix website will have no trouble using this application.

Offering a streamlined interface, the ap-

plication loads with the familiar red screen bearing the company’s well-known logo, and goes to the home page offering suggested films and content based on viewer preferences, as well as new releases and genre favorites.

As subscribers rate films they have seen, Netflix offers recommendations derived from those ratings, similar genres and the general popularity of other similar films.

The application is easy to navigate, with a bar of shortcuts located at the bottom of the screen, which is presented vertically. From left to right, users can quickly access “Home,” “Genres,” “Search” and “Instant Queue.” All options are accessed through the use of the touch screen.

“Genres” lets users look at lists of films based on their categories, such as action, comedy, horror and sci-fi/fantasy. This is a quick way to access films of the type you

prefer, with more sub-genres just a click away.

“Search” is just what it sounds like: A way to find specific films by title.

In addition to films available for instant streaming, movies only available on DVD or Blu-Ray can be added to the disc queue, where titles will be mailed to subscribers in the order they specify.

“Instant Queue” takes the user to the list of films added for instant streaming. It keeps track of the specified order, and when, for example, an entire series of a television show is added, will give users the option to add either a specific episode or the entire series in order. With the ability to “Move to Position #1,” the highest priority film or program will be waiting at the top of the list for easy access.

Netflix did a great job with this application. It loads quickly, is intuitive to navigate and with the inclusion of movie covers in addition to titles, it’s as easy as ever to find content for quick and painless viewing.

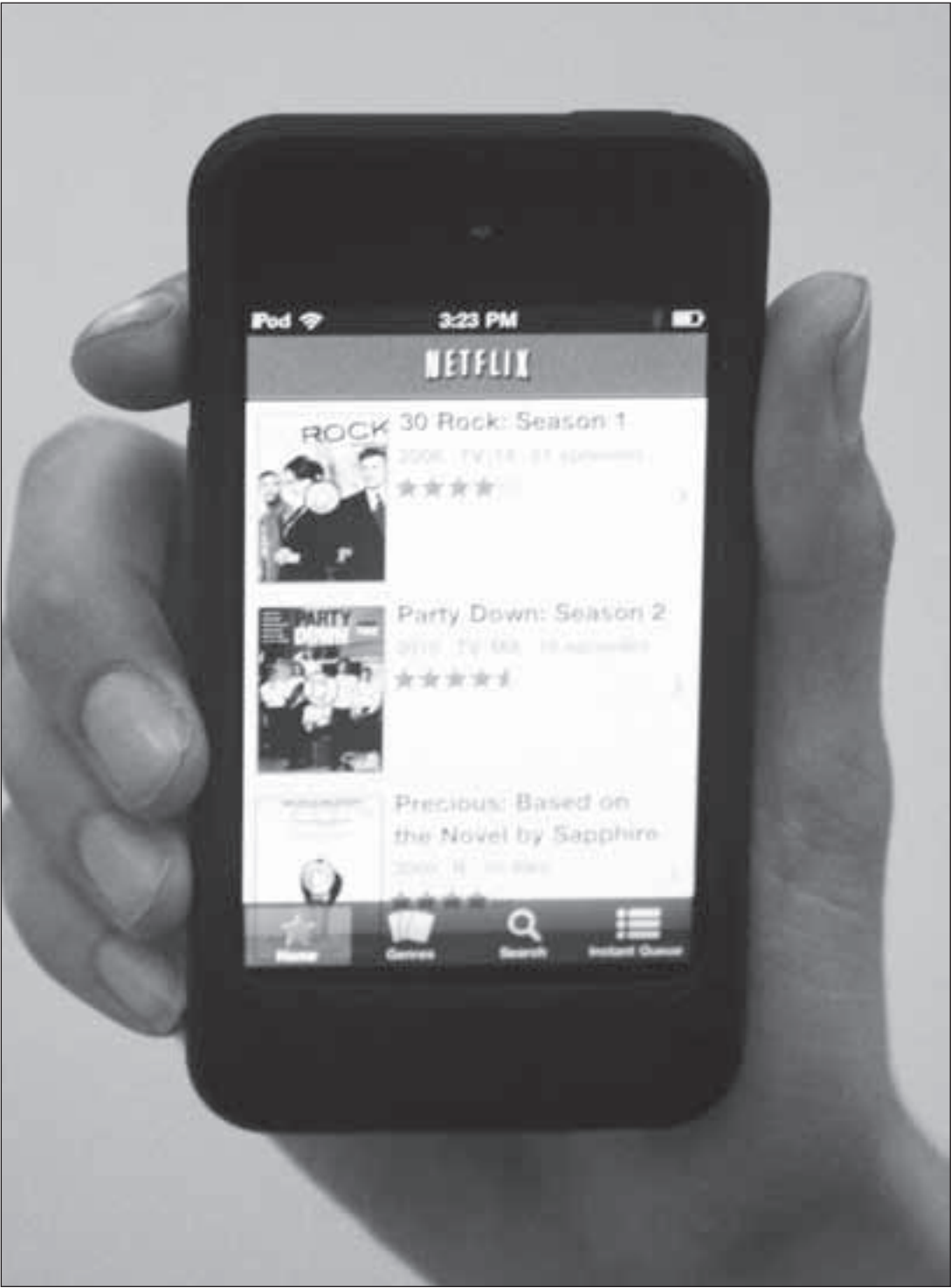


Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

*The Netflix app for mobile devices allows Netflix subscribers to stream movies on the go.*

The ability to start a movie on a desktop computer, continue it on an Xbox 360 and finish it on an iPod touch is a nice feature. The picture quality is not HD, but is perfectly watchable, and the screens on Apple’s devices are great. Content is presented in widescreen, with the device held sideways.

As an added bonus, owners of fourth generation iPod Touches and iPhone 4s can utilize video output to televisions when on the go, which can make hotel stays less of

a drag.

For iPhone users with limited data plans trying to rein in data usage, it is recommended to utilize WiFi as opposed to 3G when watching movies, because they can use a good chunk of data over time.

The Netflix application is also available for Windows 7 phones.

Version 1.1.3 of the Netflix App is available for free download in the iTunes store now.

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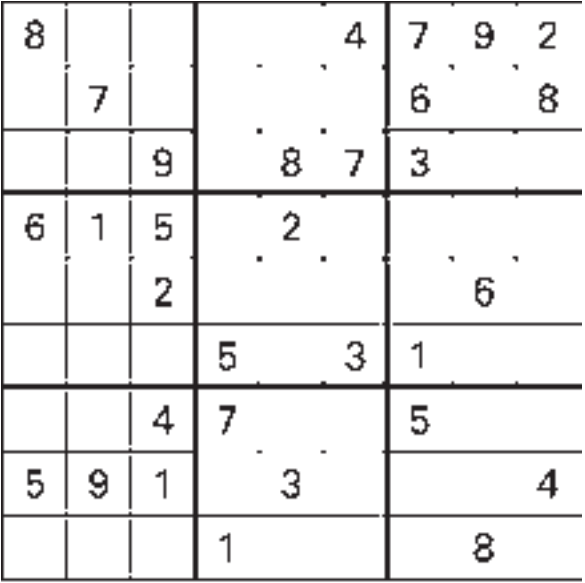
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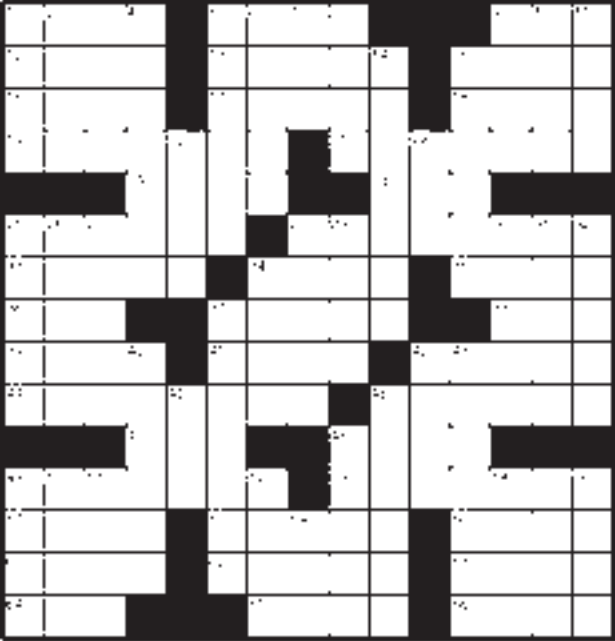
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42. 6 words  
44. Chaps  
46. Vets often  
47. Trip out  
48. Russell and O'n  
49. Stagg's thigh  
53. Chronicle  
57. High point  
58. Exploring stars  
59. Major leagues  
61. "Get Your Kicks" duo member  
62. Lash  
63. Poker stake  
64. For eye  
65. Benny's miss  
66. Close

**DOWN**

1. Dip companion  
2. Use 5, 1 Gates  
3. General vicinity  
4. Sleeping bag  
5. Row  
6. San Valley site  
7. A team member, 2 wds.  
8. Pigeon's friend  
9. Football kick  
10. Impulse  
11. Court event  
14. Make believe  
15. Music acts  
20. "Jag" is "ring" note  
22. Narrows inlet  
24. Guinea bird  
26. Convey message  
27. Rattles  
28. Kitchen tool  
29. Te's an antithesis  
43. "Flirt" Mar'n  
31. Palm oil  
32. Soft-milled wheat

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

WAS: E V S A POND  
IN: J T E R O S A W A Y  
NYMPH: H A N I L E S E  
DAM: I N N Y C A R T S  
A F I L E A R T E Y  
A T T O C S R E N E E  
R A T T O S C I N E O U  
A R O M A T H E R A P I S T S  
B A N W I O L D C O T S  
W O O D S I R E M O R  
H A I K U A N I S E  
L O O G E G H I T S D S  
A G O G H E A D K A H A I  
C A R L U R G E E V T A  
K N E E Y E S S D E C A Y



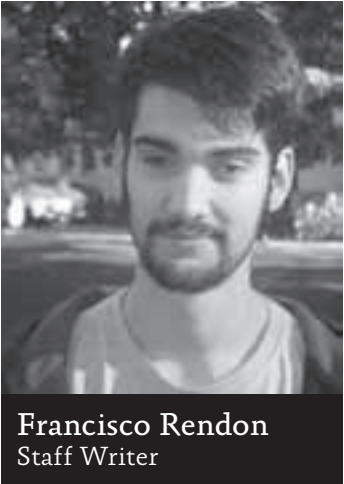
# The nation south of the border affects us all

The Mexican government released a document in January showing that in the last four years, the number of drug and gang related deaths was approaching 35,000.

When I think about Mexico, the country from which my father hails, the horror stories from news media and friends who have visited are enough to create the impression of a dangerous place that it would be best to avoid.

A friend who recently sojourned back to her native town in Mexico described the experience as terrifying, saying that the drug cartels have spies all over town.

She said the cartels monitor people’s activities across her town



Francisco Rendon  
Staff Writer

and will kill anyone who discusses the murders they commit, or even their existence. She does not plan on going back anytime soon.

Clearly, the situation in many parts of the country is deteriorating, forcing one to ask the question, “Where is the U.S.?”

One would think it would be apparent that regardless of national boundaries, events in one country impact the entire planet.

Economic uncertainty in Europe and Japan has clear consequences in the U.S.

Advances in technological and social knowledge in China, Europe, Australia and South America tie us closer together, while preju-

dice and mistrust create potential disaster not only in nations like Israel and South Korea, but across the globe.

In an age where all the people of the world are undeniably connected with one another, how can we allow the nation directly south of us to suffer so much, and treat it as some unrelated foreign problem?

Mexican Prime Minister Arturo Sarukhan, in a 2010 appeal to the Obama administration, asked that the United States not write new laws but to make efforts to enforce already existing weapons laws, so that Mexican drug cartels would not be able to buy armor-piercing bullets and assault weapons in the U.S.

Escalating violence has led to increased illegal immigration.

In 1994, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services estimated there were five million illegal immigrants in the U.S. In 2006,

the estimate had ballooned to 11.6 million.

Many individuals simply do not have the patience to wait through the legal immigration process from Mexico, which can take up to 10 years.

Declining tourism from the U.S. has led to higher rates of unemployment and lower economic activity in Mexico, further fueling gang activity and drug trafficking.

Increasing influence among the drug cartels in Mexico make drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin more accessible in this country, as demonstrated by our perpetually growing incarceration rate — which is the highest in the world — and according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is propelled by a rising rate in drug-related arrests.

The situation is complex, and this is not the venue for discussing the viability of U.S. military intervention or any specific actions

which are dependent upon information and collaboration.

Rather, the change that must occur — not only at the government level but also at the citizen level — is the perception that problems somewhere else do not affect us in San Jose.

The sufferings of the people in Mexico have a profound effect on the world, and the U.S. especially.

With this connection in mind, the U.S. and Mexico must begin working on solutions together, rather than remaining, as Sarukhan phrased it, “distant neighbors.”

We cannot continue to view the citizens of Mexico as some poor, depraved people whose outbursts of dramatic violence shock and entertain us.

We, as a nation, must come to view Mexicans as humans whose fates are inexorably connected to our own. It behooves us to seek not only our own best interests, but theirs as well.

## We will always have an obsession with the next best tech toys

Unwrapping that new phone, gazing upon its new features and fresh out of the box smell brings a sense of anticipation and excitement.

Gadgets come in all shapes and sizes. Some make tasks easier as others provide functionality and enjoyment.

But is it really worth it? Paying up to what is usually an extravagant price tag, people camp out overnight and wait anxiously in hopes of obtaining that new gadget.

Whether it’s for the newest phone or gaming system, people go out of their way to make sure they get it first.

Perhaps holding off on buying a new gadget on the eve of its release could pay dividends. Price drops tend to arise because of the rapid pace of change in technology.

Faster processing speeds, newer software and higher resolution screens are only the gist of it.

Take for example Apple’s iPhone 4. Initially, it was slated to be more versatile than any other smart phone on the market.

Complete with video chat and multi-touch display, the iPhone 4 had high hopes in the consumer electronic industry. But the phone’s stainless steel external casing caused reception problems and dropped calls for its users.

Apple issued a statement immediately upon hearing complaints, stating that iPhone users should refrain from holding a certain part of the phone when making or receiving calls.

Why couldn’t they test the functionality of the phone before releasing it to consumers?

It’s issues of this degree that cause me to refrain from buying a product as soon as it comes out. Regardless of how good a review a critic may write about a product, choosing to wait is the way to go.

But why do we continue to keep buying the newest gadgets out there?



Nic Aguon  
Staff Writer

Some of the newest innovations on the market may help an individual save time, as well as make tasks easier. Why vacuum your room when you can purchase an automated vacuum to do it for you?

Technology is all about staying current. Tech fanatics research diligently and read reviews in hopes of buying a product that will remain the best on the market for a considerable amount of time.

People choose to buy the newest tech contraptions out there because of external influences such as social conformity. People buy the latest and greatest phones to fit in or be cool around their peers.

Upgrading from an older model is another possibility. People tend to trade in or recycle old phones that have been ravaged by pocket paraphernalia and accidental drops.

Owning the newest tech toy is like sporting the newest fashion trend. The world of tech gadgets is similar to the world of fashion in that it never stays the same.

Similar to fashion, technology is constantly changing, ushering in new facets such as new design aesthetics or better functionality.

Tech gadgets are trendy like the latest fashion style. One year it’s the hottest thing — the following year it’s an afterthought.

Curiosity draws people into buying the newest gadgets out there.

People are infatuated with technology and enjoy experimenting with the newest innovations.

With several new products entering the market each year, the fascination with consumer electronics tends to be short-lived since technology is constantly revolutionizing.

Whatever the reason may be, people will always be in line to keep up with the latest and greatest innovations. But if you have have the patience to wait, you could be saving yourself a pocketful of money that could be spent elsewhere.

## No good comes from empty machines

Warning: All squeamish, immature men, don’t bother reading the column below, I’m taking on a woman’s issue with Mother Nature and this school today.

It’s a female student’s worst nightmare — you’re walking to class only to suddenly get the feeling that you’ve started your period.

Thank God you’re not wearing the white pants you wore yesterday, but you hadn’t planned on starting today so you don’t have a tampon.

Now you’ve got a big issue.

You run to the nearest bathroom with some quarters since you remembered seeing a tampon machine in it the other day.

You drop the quarter in, turn the knob and stare in horror when nothing happens.

Where’s the tampon you desperately need? Not in this machine.

Talk about false advertising.

This happens all too often on campus.

I have yet to find a machine at SJSU that actually contains tampons.

I don’t care what Always says, there’s no such thing as a “happy period,” especially when Aunt Flow sneaks up on you.

So what do you do now? Stand near the bathroom trying to bum a tampon off of some other girl — the same way you’d bum a cigarette from someone if you were a smoker?

It is embarrassing and time con-



Amber Simons  
Simons Says

suming, and all the while you’re hoping the wad of toilet paper you’ve wrapped around your panties stays in place, protecting your jeans.

God forbid you get a leak.

I’ve had to make my way to the nurse’s station in the Student Health Center to ask for a few plugs before, and it’s not ideal to have to walk all the

way there from your class across campus.

It’s not like this is a new concept. Women are burdened with the monthly menstrual cycle.

We have been using tampons for centuries.

Ancient Egyptians made tampons from softened papyrus, the Greeks made them from lint and wood, Rome used wool, Japan used paper, Indonesia used vegetable fibers and in equatorial Africa rolls of grass were used to stop the bleeding, according to the Tampax website.

This school needs to fill the machines now!

What’s the big deal?

Let’s get creative and provide the women on this campus a way to avoid complete humiliation and give them the comfort of knowing they’re protected, even if the unexpected period begins.

“Simons Says” appears weekly on Wednesdays. Amber Simons is the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor.

## Sparta Guide

Wednesday, Feb. 16

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

MIS Association presents IBM watch party for Jeopardy’s “Watson vs. Champions” Engineering building Room 189 president@sjsumis.org

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee Panel: The Role of Students in Advancing Civil Rights Martin Luther King Jr. Library Room 525 Oscar Battle Jr. ( 408)688-6755

Tuesday, Feb. 22

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

African American Faculty and Staff Association presents “Soul Sanctuary,” a documentary film by Michael Cheers. Morris Dailey Auditorium Mary Lewis (408) 924-6322

7 p.m.

International Youth Fellowship leadership training at Angels Camp. Ohlone Room in the Student Union. Abraham (408) 722-0312

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Serving San José State University since 1934

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MOVIE REVIEW

# ‘The Eagle’ makes a crash landing

Wesley Dugle  
Staff Writer

Last weekend saw the premiere of director Kevin MacDonald’s new sword and sandal flick “The Eagle.”

Normally I stray away from movies that come out in the months of January and February like I do with people who have leprosy, but I had cautious optimism for this film.

MacDonald directed one of my all-time favorite films, “The Last King of Scotland,” and I generally enjoy movies that take place in Roman or Greek times.

So I gave the movie the benefit of the doubt going in.

But unfortunately, it hardly met my expectations.

“The Eagle” tells the story of a Roman centurion named Marcus Aquila, played by Channing Tatum, and his quest to restore his family honor.

With the help of a slave boy named Esca, Aquila retrieves the lost Roman Eagle crest of his father’s fallen Ninth Legion from the barbarians of the Roman-occupied lands

of northern Britain.

From beginning to end, this movie did little to keep me interested and even had me contemplating walking out and asking for my money back.

From a technical standpoint the movie has little to offer, apart from some halfway-decent cinematography.

One of the biggest problems I had with this is that often the scenes during the film were choppy and badly edited.

There were sequences where the scene being shown either didn’t make sense in the context of the film or were meaningless and didn’t advance the storyline at all.

“... this movie did little to keep me interested and even had me contemplating walking out and asking for my money back.”

The action sequences were often like this as well, where it felt like MacDonald was putting them in simply just to have them and for no other reason.

Speaking of action scenes,

for a film that seemed to have nothing but action in the trailers, this movie had little to none in it.

In fact, I would say 90 percent of this movie is people running and walking through landscape shots.

This doesn’t make the movie thrilling — it makes it feel like you are going for a hike.

The acting in the film didn’t help much either.

Donald Sutherland, who plays Aquila’s uncle, looks like he’s just in the film for a cameo and a quick paycheck.

Mark Strong delivers a similar performance, playing a surviving member of Aquila’s father’s Ninth Legion, looking bored and disinterested with the script and story.

I was also disappointed in Jaime Bell’s performance as the slave boy Esca because I enjoyed watching him a lot in the film “The Chumscrubber,” but he hardly shows off much of his talent.

The worst performance by far, though, was the film’s star, Channing Tatum.



Photo Courtesy: allmoviephoto.com

Channing Tatum (right) leads Roman soldiers in “The Eagle.”

Not surprisingly, Tatum continues to prove that he has about as much acting talent and screen presence as a rock.

In fact, throughout the movie I kept thinking the film might have been better if he started breaking out dance moves like he did in “Step Up.”

I guess I should not be surprised this film was bad considering it’s February.

The first two months of the year are usually garbage for movie releases and this one is no exception.

Save your money and time, you’re probably better off renting “Gladiator” from Netflix than watching this flop.



Photo Courtesy: allmoviephoto.com

Tahar Rahim (left) chokes Tatum (right).



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