

**Another  
Clooney gem  
A&E p.4**



**Ubisoft  
unveils next  
'Assassin'  
installment  
Tech p.6**

**SHOPOCALYPSE NOW!** Opinion p.5

## And the band marches on



The San Jose State Marching Band belts out school spirit during the Nov. 5 football game against the Idaho Vandals. This year's ensemble, led by director Scott Pierson and

drum major Jonathan Hsu, performed multiple field shows featuring the band, color guard, dance team and percussion pit. **Photo by Brittany Patterson / Spartan Daily**

## Recycling center gives old junk a second chance

by Cynthia Ly  
Staff Writer

### Oddities in Recycling

The Center for the Development of Recycling gets an average of 10 to 15 calls a day, but sometimes the requests can be a bit unusual.

According to the center, which runs the Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline, citizens call asking about how to recycle, reuse or properly dispose of various items — including a 20-year-old heart soaked in formaldehyde.

Formed in 1989, the center, a non-profit created and based at SJSU, is a hub of recycling information for the entire county.

The center offers students service-learning opportunities and, since its founding, has had contracts with governmental bodies, local businesses and other organizations, according to its website.

Most SJSU students who intern for the center are registered for a three-unit course that requires a 114-hour commitment per semester, said Bruce

"We track weird calls," said Kenneth Rosales, the center's project manager.

According to the center's online search engine and call logs, there are organizations that know how to recycle, reuse or properly dispose of the following:

- road flares
- mace
- bulletproof glass
- dead cows
- VHS tapes
- yarn
- guitars
- typewriter ribbon
- comic books
- bicycles
- bowling equipment
- trophies

For more information, visit the center's website at [recyclestuff.org](http://recyclestuff.org) or call the Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline at (408) 924-5453.

Olszewski, the center's director and founder.

Mike Schneer, a junior environmental studies major and an intern for the center, said he does local community outreach and staffs the Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline.

SEE RECYCLING PAGE 2

See multimedia online!  
[spartandaily.com/60399](http://spartandaily.com/60399)



## Students talk turkey day celebrations

Duck, stuffing and larb line diverse dinner tables

by Danreb Victoria  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is just a couple of days away, and SJSU students are getting ready to trade their books and homework for turkey and stuffing.

Sophomore pre-nursing major Richard Saetern will be visiting his grandmother's house for Thanksgiving.

"My grandmother lives in Oakland," he said. "We'll be having a family party where pretty much all of us will be bonding and making food."

Saetern said his family will have a traditional turkey dinner with some Asian flair thrown into it.

"We're going to be having laab (or larb), which is a salad with pret-

ty much any kind of meat," Saetern said.

Junior pre-nursing major Son Nguyen said he'll also be going to his grandparents' house for Thanksgiving, though nowhere as far as Saetern.

"My family will be celebrating Thanksgiving at my grandparents' house in Evergreen, on the east side of San Jose," he said. "There's gonna be like 50 people at the house."

Nguyen said his grandparents are the parents of nine children, with each one having at least two children of their own.

He said some of his relatives will be driving from as far as Colorado and the others live throughout northern and southern California.

"It's tradition," Nguyen said. "Our family is quite close, so I don't mind there being so many people in the house."

He said his family also puts a different spin on the Thanksgiving dinner table.

"We have a lot of different kinds of food like fish and Vietnamese-style duck, turkey, steak and corn," he said. "I also think we're gonna pray, because all of us are Catholic."

Hailing from Vietnam, Nguyen said the Thanksgiving holiday was weird to him at first.

"In Vietnam, we only gathered for holidays like Christmas and Vietnamese New Year," he said. "Gathering

SEE THANKSGIVING PAGE 2



Garik Losilevsky, a senior environmental studies major and administrative manager for the Center for the Development of Recycling, works on decorations made out of recycled materials on Monday afternoon for a Christmas tree at San Jose's Christmas in the Park. **Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily**

## Debaters and orators master the art of argumentation

by Nich Celario  
Staff Writer

When Paulina Henderson first joined the SJSU Forensics Team, her first task was to prepare a five-minute impromptu speech, which she gave to the rest of the team, with only two minutes to organize her thoughts.

"I was shaking and I was nervous," said Henderson, a senior communication studies major. "But eventually I started to like impromptu. It's not as bad as they (say)."

Preparing spontaneous speeches are one of several skills members of the Forensics Team had to learn this semester.

According to the team, their goal is to learn how to effectively communicate, mainly through speech and debate, by practicing information gathering and organizing.

"The whole point is whenever they use forensics, they're talking about gathering evidence," said Genelle

Austin-Lett, SJSU director of forensics. "(Otherwise), they can't make the arguments or the claims they are giving."

Team member Matt Zweier said what he valued most from being with the team was learning how to present himself.

"If you are able to speak clearly and articulate and communicate your ideas to others, you will be more successful," said Zweier, a communication studies major. "I would attribute me getting the internship that I have now greatly to this team."

Katrina Swanson, a senior English major and team member, said the team practices several types of speeches and different styles of persuasion.

One of the types of speeches practiced is what the team calls an "after-dinner speech," which Swanson describes as debating serious topics with humor.

"You can think of anything as dismal, from capital punishment to neutering



Matt Zweier (right) and Ryan Gallagher (center) talk during an SJSU Forensics Team meeting on Thursday afternoon. **Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily**

your animals, and try to give that a humorous speech," she said.

The team not only does speech and debate, but also practices how to effec-

tively support an argument through poetry and prose.

SEE DEBATE PAGE 2

The Spartan Daily will  
not circulate again until  
Tuesday, November 29.



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Spartan Daily  
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## DEBATE: "We compete to learn," says team member

FROM PAGE 1

David Miles, a senior communication studies major, said he especially enjoys poetry interpretation, in which he takes parts of certain poems already written and brings them together to create a new piece with its own idea. He then recites the new piece

and gives his statement, saying why each poem was important.

"When we're building these performances and all the different characters, you want the audience to know which poem you're performing," Miles said. "I'm going to give you my gestures and expressions. Then when I go into the next poem, I want you to know that I'm a different character."

Junior mathematics major Patrick Harris said there is also an exercise called duo interpretation, in which two people do an interpretation of published works of prose to express a notion.

Similar to poetry interpretation, Harris said they can take parts of different works to create

a new script that allows them to communicate their idea, and then perform it and offer their statement and the importance of each excerpt that was used.

"(Having) two people acting out on stage actually contributes a bit more because of the fact that there are certain limitations we have to follow," Harris said. "We cannot make eye contact or make physical contact with each other."

According to an email from Tina Lim, the assistant director of forensics, the team has had a very successful fall season, earning a total of 61 trophies and plaques.

The SJSU team won second

place among four-year schools at Santa Rosa Junior College's Bearcub Invitational in October and the University of the Pacific's Paul Winters Invitational on Nov. 6.

Team members Zweier and Aaron Correll took first place in the novice duo interpretation event at the Golden Gate Season Opener competition last September and first place in the open duo interpretation event at the Bearcub Invitational.

Miles received top honors in the poetry interpretation event at San Joaquin Delta College's Mustang Invitational on Nov. 4 and first place in the same event at the Paul Winters Invitational.

"I think the thing that's outstanding about this team is they don't give up," Austin-Lett said. "I've been here 21 years and I have to say it's probably the best group I've seen together."

Henderson said although she enjoys the team's success, winning isn't why the team is great.

"Our team motto is that we don't compete to win — we compete to learn," she said. "We want to build fundamental skills for our future. We want to learn how to prepare things, talk in front of people and be organized."

David Khedry, a senior business administration major and team member, said while everyone competes individually, they

truly function as a team and rely on each other to succeed.

"Teamwork is essential," he said. "We all care for each other. Sometimes we have a way of expressing ourselves, but we are a team. We all know that and we never forget that."

For Henderson, this semester with the forensics team was her first and also her last — she will be graduating soon.

"I really enjoyed (being with) the team," Henderson said. "I honestly wish I had learned about the team a while ago so I would have had more time. But within the four months we've been competing, I feel like I've learned a lot."

## THANKSGIVING: Varying traditions await students returning home

FROM PAGE 1

on Thanksgiving is nice because it's the beginning of all the other holidays."

Cherise Cotton, a senior communication studies major, has other responsibilities to attend to before getting her head start on the holidays.

"First, I'll be at work doing a holiday shift that I'm not getting paid time and a half for," she said. "Then I'll be driving up to my grandma's house for some good, good food."

Cotton's grandmother lives in Sacramento, more than 120 miles away from campus.

She said she looks forward to the trip every year because members of her family travel to the state capital from different parts of the nation to converse and catch up over the long-awaited and intimate supper.

"Everything at grandma's is homemade," she said. "We have the turkey and we have the stuffing, but there's so much more than that. We have this special cheese that's flown in from Texas, and my family would make the most amazing macaroni and cheese."

With a smile on her face, Cotton gleefully expressed her excitement.

"I've never driven to Sacramento for Thanksgiving before, but I'll be driving fast," she said.

Freshman biology major Elizabeth Sarkissian talked about more than just the food and the family.

"I'm excited about spending time with my family over Armenian food," she said. "And I also can't wait for Black Friday."

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving in the United States. For consumers in general, the day is thought of as the beginning of the holiday shopping season, where people can get deals on things they want.

"It's really nice to go to a store with your family and get presents for everybody," she said.

Sarkissian said she has been shopping on Black Friday since she was a freshman in high school.

"The best deal I ever got was on a Nikon D3100," she said. "It goes for like \$2,200, but I got it for \$600."

While she enjoys shopping for the best deals, Sarkissian said it's not all about buying things.

She said most of the things she buys are for her family.

"It's a way of giving thanks," Sarkissian said. "Thanksgiving, to me, is about family and appreciating what you have."

Freshman microbiology major Emily Asprer said it definitely wasn't about turkey.

"We normally don't do turkey," she said. "We had it one year and nobody ate it because of all the other food we have."

Freshman pre-nursing major Gonzalo Queja III said Thanksgiving is about more than just giving thanks to the people he loves.

"Thanksgiving is about giving thanks to the lord," he said.

Sherman Cam, a human resources management major, said it's all about the family.

"Having a gathering with your loved ones is what's important," he said. "These are the people who have been, still are, and will be with you."

## RECYCLING: Trash given new life

FROM PAGE 1

"Students are the ones responsible for publicity, for spreading the word," he said.

Director Olszewski said, to his knowledge, the center was the lowest cost recycling hotline service in the state.

"We hope to expand what we do here to other universities across the nation," Olszewski said.

He said the center would need more partners — programmers, entrepreneurs, funders — to do so.

When new technology comes along, Olszewski said those in the center have to figure out how the items could be recycled or reused.

Terri Ramirez, a recycling specialist for Facilities Development and Operations, said there were times when she came across material that she knew was recyclable but did not know where it could be recycled.

"In these instances, I just drop by the CDR with a sample or call them and describe it, and they will assign a student to research where to recycle the material for me," she said.

Olszewski said the center's

manuals and database are improved and updated with input from not just him and the managers, but also the interns.

"Everyone is involved in continuous improvement," he said. "Everyone has a say here."

Dozens of business cards from former student interns, who went onto careers in environment-related fields, are posted outside of the center's office in Washington Square Hall, Olszewski said.

"I wanted to do something, to create a platform," he said. "Where students can then go out and they can make a difference."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of trash annually produced in the U.S. has increased from 88 million tons in 1960 to 250 million tons in 2010.

"Why aren't we converting that trash back into product? There's where the opportunities for jobs are," Olszewski said. "(What) we're trying to do at this center here is try to close those open loops of consumption."

According to a press release by CalRecycle earlier this month, California's waste diversion rate — waste that does not end up in landfills — was 64 percent in 2010, while the national rate was about 34 percent.

"We can't recycle so many

things," said Kenneth Rosales, senior environmental studies major and project manager for the center.

He said this was because of "green washing" — the mislabeling of products as recyclable or compostable — and the lack of information on how to properly handle new or uncommon materials.

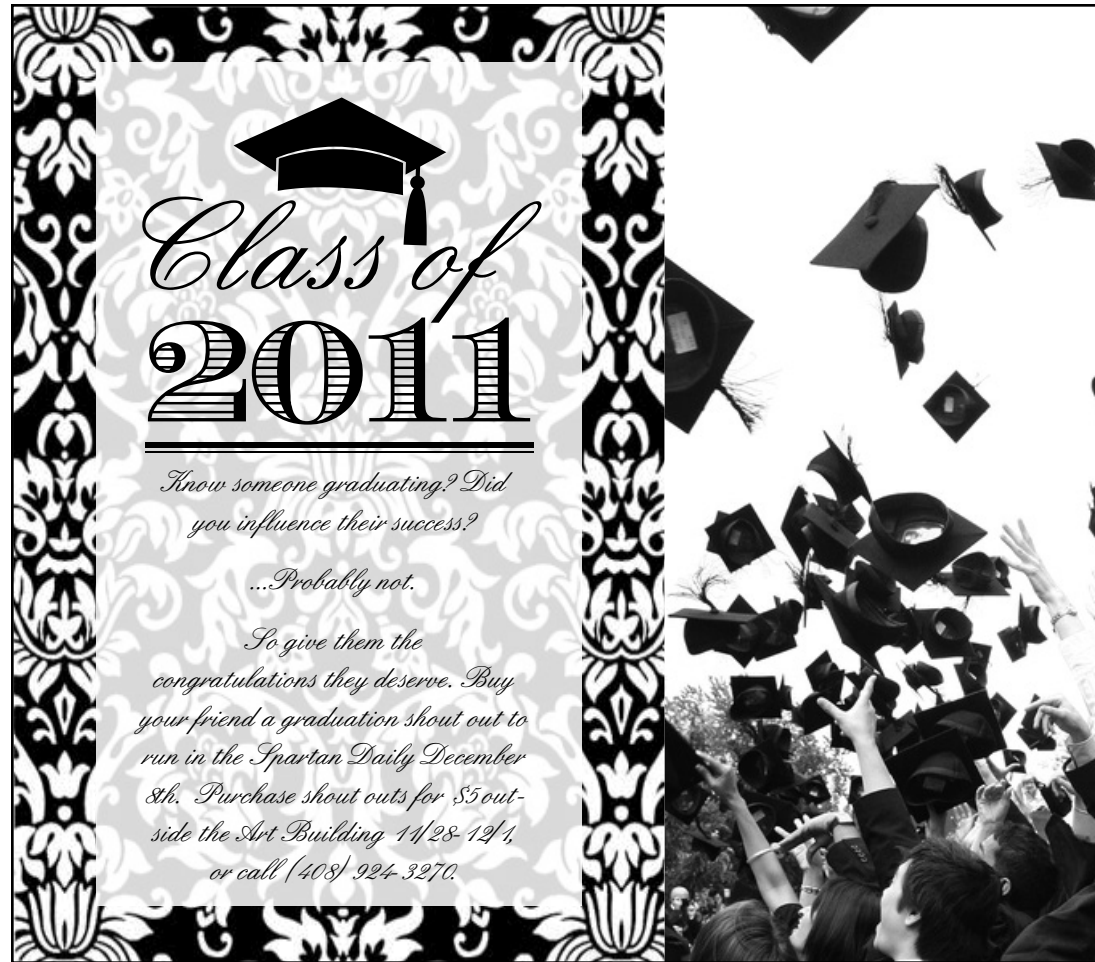
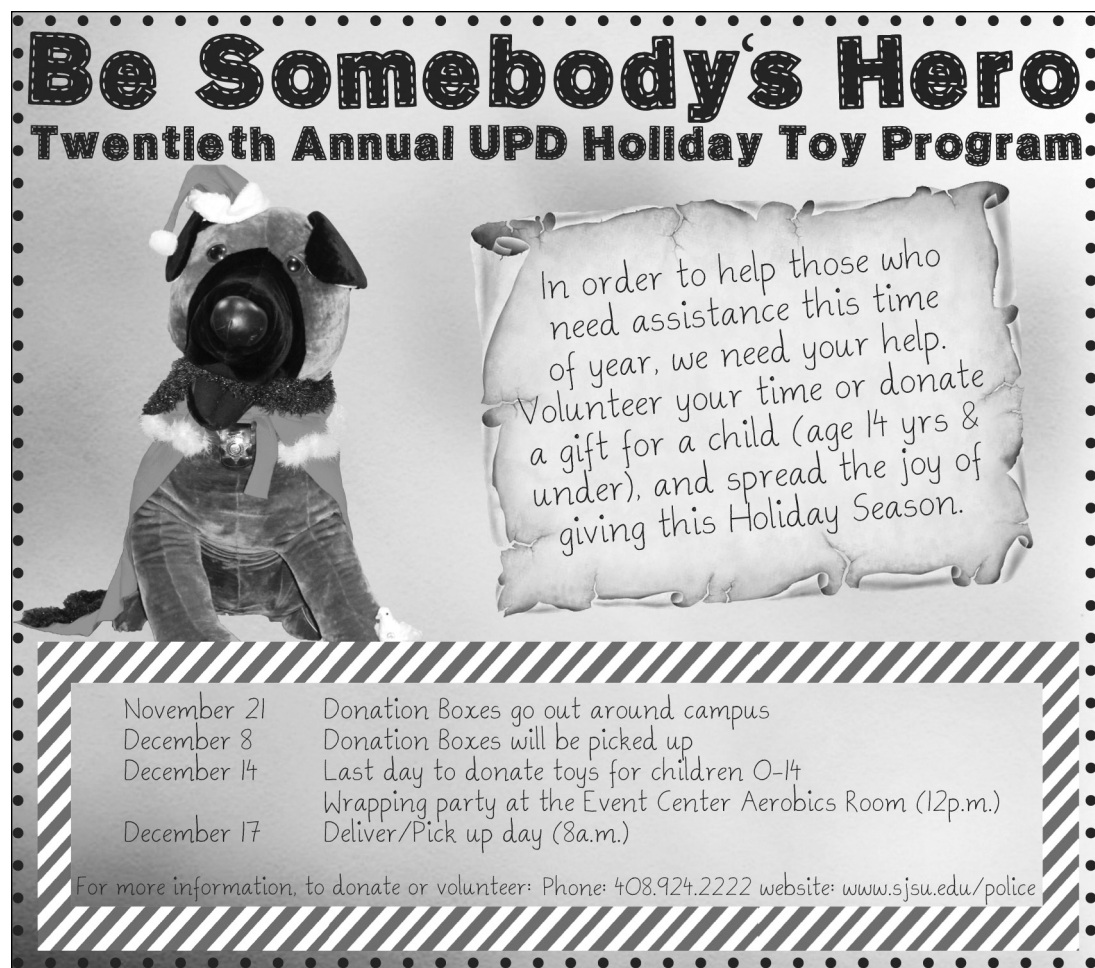
Rosales said one of the staff's duties is to collect and categorize data on materials and find new companies for the database.

By creating more centers such as the one at SJSU, Olszewski said more material that could be put into a positive economic cycle.

The U.S. recycling industry annually generates more than \$200 billion in profits and employs more than one million people, according to the U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study, which was commissioned by the EPA and the National Recycling Coalition.

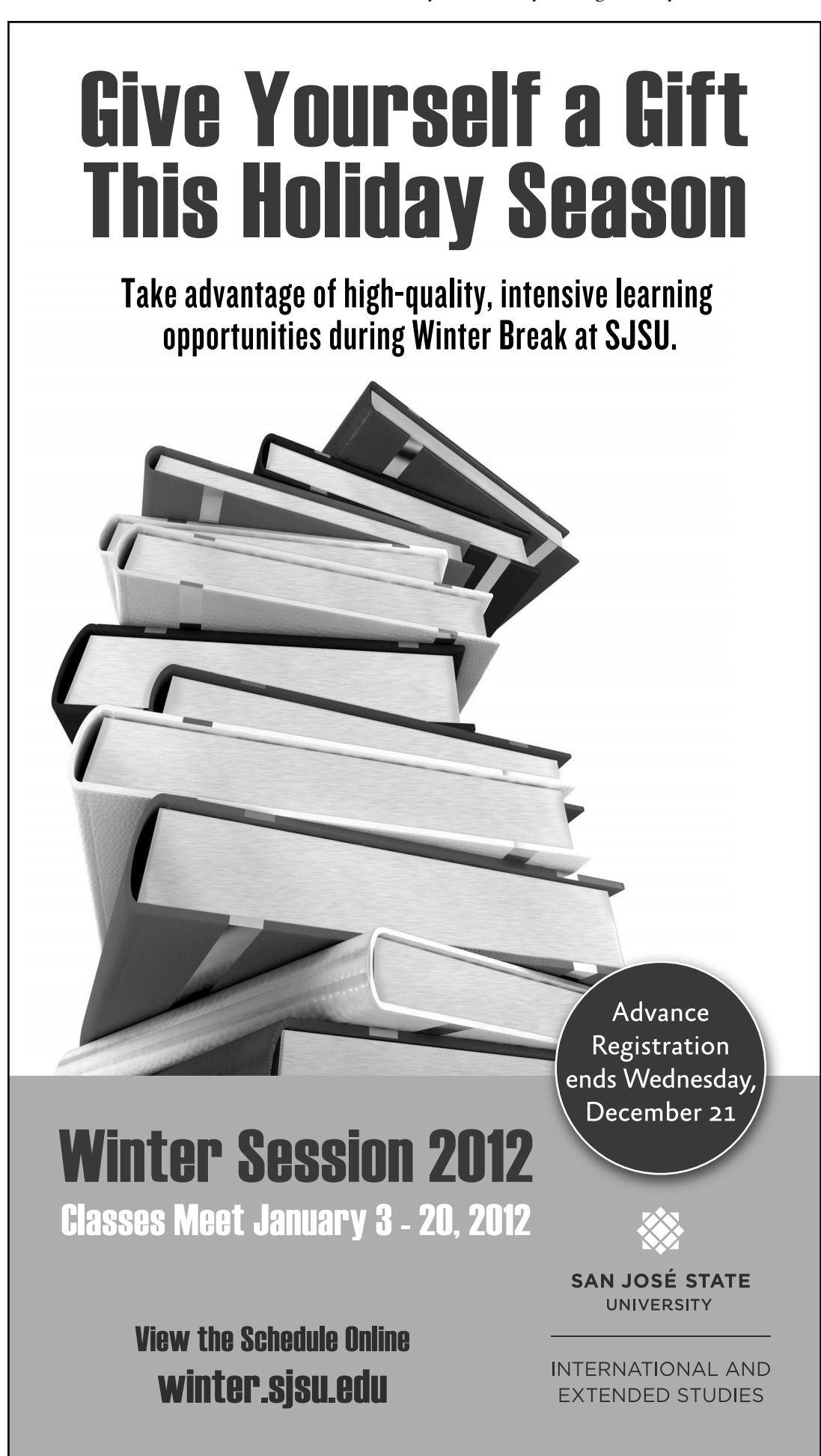
According to the EPA, the recycling and reuse industry generates nearly \$13 billion in local, state and federal tax revenues.

"We create jobs, reduce pollution and generate positive tax flow to local government," Olszewski said. "(The Center for the Development of Recycling) is the fountainhead of the recycling industry."

November 21	Donation Boxes go out around campus
December 8	Donation Boxes will be picked up
December 14	Last day to donate toys for children 0-14
	Wrapping party at the Event Center Aerobics Room (12p.m.)
December 17	Deliver/Pick up day (8a.m.)

For more information, to donate or volunteer: Phone: 408.924.2222 website: www.sjsu.edu/police



# Coach Mac Corner: Seniors suit up for final game in Spartan uniform

Exciting victory on Senior Day gives SJSU spark going into last meeting with Fresno as conference foes

by Scott Semmler  
Staff Writer

For the seniors of the SJSU football team, their last game at Spartan Stadium could not have been any sweeter.

After a number of extremely close games this season in which the Spartans went 3-3 in games decided by less than seven points, SJSU ended its home schedule with a 27-24 win over Navy on Saturday.

"It was a great day for our overall athletic program, for our football program and especially for our seniors and their families," said head coach Mike MacIntyre. "We enjoyed it and felt our kids played really hard."

With the win over Navy, SJSU won its fourth game this season, exceeding the team's combined win totals of the past two seasons of three wins.

Quarterback Matt Faulkner and running back Brandon Rutley, who are both seniors, led the SJSU offense in their final game at Spartan Stadium.

Faulkner completed 33 of 44 passes for 345 yards on Saturday, while Rutley ran for 132 yards on 27 carries and two touchdowns.

Rutley also tied junior tight end Ryan Otten for a game-high 101 yards receiving and eight receptions.

MacIntyre said Rutley was the first SJSU football player to rush for more than 100 yards and receive for more than 100 yards in the same game in the school's history.

"It meant a lot to (the seniors) to go out with a win," MacIntyre said. "It's the last time they will ever walk out of that locker room together, and walk on that field together with that team. It's something that as a senior playing any sport, they really remember that last home game."

Senior place kicker Jens Alvernink was named the Western Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week on Monday after he tallied nine points for SJSU, hitting two of three field goals on the day, which included a 44-yard strike in the first quarter.

The Spartans will take on the Fresno State Bulldogs at Bulldog Stadium on Saturday, a game that MacIntyre admitted is a big rivalry game for SJSU.

Fresno State will be leaving the Western Athletic Conference at the end of the season after agreeing to move to the Mountain West Conference starting in 2012.

"It's a (series) that will end for a couple years," he said. "But we put them on the schedule (in 2014) and will start having



Head coach Mike MacIntyre in deep thought during the fourth quarter of Saturday's 27-24 win over Navy at Spartan Stadium. The victory was SJSU's fourth of the season, one more than the past two seasons combined. Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo

a home-and-home with them. This will kind of be bragging rights for a little while."

The Bulldogs have won four games in a row against the Spartans, with SJSU's last win coming in 2006 at Spartan Stadium.

The Spartans are looking for their first win at Bulldog Stadium in twelve tries, and have not won there since 1987.

"There are only two people alive on our football team the last time they won in Fresno," MacIntyre said. "So our young men know what it means to go down there and play them and try to start a new tradition."

Both SJSU and Fresno State are coming off wins, with the Bulldogs defeating Hawaii 24-21 on Saturday and the Spartans beating Navy in the first game between the two schools.

"They've had a better program," MacIntyre said, referring to Fresno State. "We're trying to build a program here, and I'd say we're moving in the right direction."

MacIntyre said the Bulldogs are coming off a rather uncharacteristic year, going into the game against the Spartans with a record of 4-7 on the year.

He said the Bulldogs' recent winning ways, which include four-straight bowl-eligible seasons, have been something the Spartans have taken notice of and hope to become one day.

"We're going in a little different direction, and we hope to finish it off that way," he said.

The last time SJSU won its final game of the season, it defeated the Nevada Wolfpack at Spartan Stadium in 2007.

"I know they're excited to play Fresno," MacIntyre said. "They had a pep in their step Sunday night, not only because we won, but because they are looking forward to playing Fresno."



Senior safety Duke Ihenacho soars through the air to tackle junior Navy slotback Gee Gee Greene during the Spartans' 27-24 win on Saturday at Spartan Stadium. Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo



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Senior running back Brandon Rutley finds open space in the Navy defense during Saturday's SJSU victory. Rutley became the first player in SJSU history to record more than 100 yards in both rushing and receiving in a single game. Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo

PEOPLE WHO READ CAMPUS NEWS MORE HAVE A MORE MASSIVE, EXPANSIVE, GARGATUAN, IMMENSE

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MOVIE REVIEW

# 'The Descendants' blends comedic charm with emotional drama

★★★★★

by Wesley Dugle  
A&E Editor

With Hollywood overdoing on repetitive action films and unnecessary remakes these days, it's good to see a film about just plain old normal people dealing with problems in life.

Director Alexander Payne's "The Descendants" captures this perfectly with charm, drama and plenty of comedy.

The film tells the story of Matt King, played by George Clooney, whose wife goes into a comatose state after being grievously injured in a boating accident at his home in Oahu, Hawaii.

When the doctor tells King she will not recover from her injuries and will go off life support soon, it leads him to try to reconnect with his two daughters Alex and Scottie.

When his oldest daughter, Alex, tells King that his wife had cheated on him, he decides to go off on a trip around the islands to find the man who had the affair with his wife, all the while getting closer to his children.

"The Descendants" comes

across initially as a typical feel-good movie about an under-achieving father and husband dealing with his misfit children but somehow in the end never feels cliché throughout the entire film.

The movie is handled with a measure of class and dignity that details the sadness of losing a loved one well without being too depressing.

In fact, the movie is very funny throughout.

George Clooney turns in a solid performance yet again to add to his already stacked film career.

He plays King's character well, blending comedic charm with emotional sadness perfectly, and his chemistry with the actresses who play his daughters is also quite amusing and well done.

Shailene Woodley, who plays the oldest daughter Alex, gives some of the funniest lines in the movie and plays her character well with a great deal of emotion.

Amara Miller, who plays the younger daughter Scottie, is also funny as the misbehaving, foul-mouthed character of the film.

What I also enjoyed about the movie was the beautiful



George Clooney (left) stars as Matt King in the new dramedy "The Descendants," a film about a family reconnecting through

tragedy. The film also stars Shailene Woodley (right) as King's oldest daughter, Alex. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

cinematography of the Hawaiian Islands.

As someone who has spent extensive time on Oahu over the years, the film was very nostalgic for me and often times I found myself going "Oooh, I've been there," during the film.

The detailed shots of the ocean, the mountains and tropical green forests are beautiful and made me miss Hawaii quite a bit while I was watching.

The film's main plot though, which centers around King's dying wife, was both tragic and somewhat bittersweet, as you see King's family slowly coming together during the difficult situation.

You can tell as you watch the film how much the characters are hurting, knowing that she's going to pass away soon and there is nothing they can do about it.

All they can do is just try their best to make amends for whatever arguments or fights

they had with her in the past and say goodbye before her time comes.

As someone who has had a loved one die while in a comatose state it was easy for me to connect with the family and what they were all feeling during the film.

Even if you haven't lost a loved one to this before, it's hard not to tear up a little as King's family handles this ordeal.

Luckily though, the film isn't all about death and is actually quite lighthearted.

Director Alexander Payne, who did the movie "Sideways," handles the film's intense subject matter well without ever making the film too depressing.

"The Descendants" is a fantastic film about family and overcoming tragedy and it's easily my favorite film of 2011 so far.

Definitely go and check this movie out. You will not be disappointed.



"The Descendants" was shot in the Hawaiian Islands in places such as Oahu, Kaua'i and Hilo. Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

## CORRECTION

In the Nov. 21 issue of the Spartan Daily a caption on page six that misidentified the actor Robert Pattinson. The Spartan Daily regrets the error.

# Classifieds

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### Sudoku

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	2	8	1						4
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

### Previous Puzzle Solved

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

### How to Play

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

Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

## Today's Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- Act like the birds in "The Birds"
- "Spring forward" letters
- Land of the Rising Sun
- "... nice day"
- Unrefined
- "Remember the \_\_\_!" (rallying cry of 1836)
- Flip \_\_\_ (decide by tossing)
- "Sure thing, skipper!"
- Large swallows
- Feeling blue
- Zeta-theta go between
- Result of a brainstorming session
- Woman's bedroom
- University of Wyoming home
- One way to get directions
- Prepared, as coffee
- "Stormy Weather" singer Horne
- La \_\_\_ (opera house)
- Its popularity is short-lived
- You, during REM sleep
- Stress-free living
- She could turn people into stone
- Six-legged soldier
- You, during REM sleep
- Winner-take-all playground game
- On a cruise
- Bellow from Bossy
- He wrote "The Count of Monte Cristo"
- Daggers, in printing
- Anonymous John or Jane
- About to blow
- At right angles to a ship's keel
- Big coffee holder
- Finance, as a scholarship

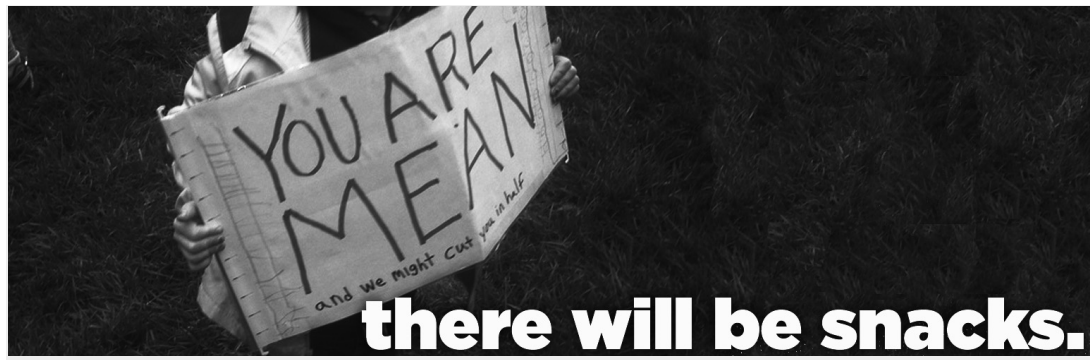
### Previous Puzzle Solved

1	J	A	P	E	5	A	L	A	N	9	R	E	D	O		
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63	A	W	A	R	E	64	O	D	O	R	65	A	T	O	M	
67	R	E	C	U	R	68	M	E	N	69	M	A	N	A		
70	A	D	E	N	71	E	D	E	N	72	P	S	S	T		

- Flowerless house plants
- Attained, as a goal
- Roll of cash
- Scrap yard material
- Deep-bodied herring
- Texas city on the Brazos
- Forms an opinion
- Scrap yard material
- Cockamamie
- Some bridge seats
- Roll of cash
- Scrap yard material
- Did a satire of
- City east of Phoenix
- "By the \_\_\_ token..."
- "Haste makes waste" and others
- "The \_\_\_ Identity" (Ludlum novel)
- Be extremely fond of
- French cleric
- Look of lechery
- Flamboyant flair
- Payment to a landlord
- Created
- Molecular matter
- Bastes and hems
- Clumsy person
- "Sesame Street" grouch
- Czar's decree
- Something on the ballot
- "Thrilla in Manila" boxer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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# The going got weird



By Matthew Gerring

Hunter S. Thompson once said, “when the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.”

If there was any doubt that the going has gotten weird, it should be dispelled by the image I saw on Saturday at Occupy Oakland — a mild-looking middle-aged public school administrator, shouting in the language of militant class warfare to a bunch of punks and mask-clad anarchists (as well as lots of families and young children) from the back of a sound truck decked out in hand-made anti-capitalist banners.

If that wasn't enough, she was followed shortly afterward by a 6-year-old girl who told us she didn't like it when her friends were tear gassed.

Minutes later, the same truck led thousands of people

filling every lane of Grand Avenue in chanting “F\*\*\* The Police!”

Whoa.

The speech by the school administrator was in support of the recall of Oakland's school board, which has decided to save \$2 million by closing down five elementary schools, mostly in poor neighborhoods.

It makes me wonder what the Oakland Police Department's helicopter fuel, tear gas and police overtime budget is like.

I don't feel qualified to comment on the specifics of Oakland's school board struggle, but what struck me about the speech was the disconnect between the attitude of the crowd and what they were asked to do — fill out a petition in support of the recall of Oakland's school board.

What this said to me is that although existing political interests see the potential in the occupation movement, and are even learning to

speak its language, they still don't really understand it.

The administrator was speaking to a crowd full of people who are fed up with representational politics, and who, in response, have demonstrated a willingness to lend not just their voices, but their bodies, to the struggle for a livable future for all.

This is why the tactic of occupation has been central to this movement. It's a tactic that acknowledges that political leaders are not attentive to the needs of the average person, and to draw attention to issues that are not on the ballot and aren't part of the political discussion in the media, people occupy and hold physical space in defiance of authority.

It's a tactic that says, in a country where the law is dictated by forces beyond the control of the people — who are supposed to be sovereign in a democracy — the law has lost its meaning and must be visibly and intentionally ignored.

This has worked remarkably well. The Occupy Wall Street movement was successful in catapulting discussion of income inequality into mainstream political debate for the first time in many decades, not because there were a large number of people protesting but because they gathered and stayed put in the same place for a long time, and refused to be moved until these issues were addressed.

Traditional protest couldn't accomplish this, and neither can the tactics teachers' unions are used to.

I couldn't sign the petition because I'm not an Oakland resident, but if I was asked to physically disrupt the closure of those schools, or to help secure food and housing for the teachers who will lose their jobs, I would be there in a heartbeat.

I would gladly put my hands and my skills to work to further a good cause directly, instead of hoping some proxy will do it for me in a system that is notorious for quickly corrupting good intentions.

I suspect the more constructive members of the occupation movement — the ones who bring tools, materials, visible intensity, and plans to every new encampment — are similarly prepared, and if existing political movements are prepared to operate on their terms, I suspect all they need to do is ask.

# Shopocalypse



By Ryan Fernandez

I make no claim to the moral high ground because I, too, have participated in the wanton post-Turkey Day carnage.

I have braved the cold and the darkness of the wee hours just for the chance to get something on sale.

I have stood in line at Walmart, Best Buy, Target, Toys R Us, J.C. Penney, Sears (but never Macy's — I can never find anything that fits there) and so many other stores.

I have felt the thrill that comes with claiming the last DVD player on sale for 60 percent off.

I'm even considering going to Costco because the warehouse giant is offering a free cookbook to early-bird shoppers — and maybe I'll pick up a gallon of Pepto-Bismol and a pound of Alka-Seltzers while I'm at it.

You can't imagine how mortified and intrigued I was to learn that there would be stores open on Thanksgiving Day, just for people who finish eating ahead of time and can come up with an excuse to leave the celebration a little early.

They're just outside the doors.

They're just standing there, some silently, some making inhuman noises tinged with impatience. Others appear to be engrossed with whatever shiny, flashy thing they have in front of their faces.

They've stood there for hours, seemingly impervious to the cold and the dark, waiting for an opening, a structural weakness that would allow the gathered horde access to the only things that would sate their hunger.

For the unlucky people holed up within the store, fear is the most palpable emotion, with undercurrents of resentment and rage.

The people within have taken up defensible positions in automotive, menswear and linens, but they know the brunt of the assault will fall on electronics and toys, with lesser sor-

“No, a zombie apocalypse is not upon us. It's Black Friday.”

ties against winter clothing and housewares.

They're hiding behind makeshift barricades of tables and pallets stacked high with consumer goods — scanner guns and hand-carts are their primary armaments, with an occasional grabber arm to augment their reach.

No, a zombie apocalypse is not upon us.

It's Black Friday.

Why do I liken one of the busiest shopping days of the year to an event that heralds the end of the world as we know it?

It's simple: What term, other than “zombie,” would you use to describe people who gather in large groups to mob a building, are utterly single-minded in their pursuit of whatever gratifies them at the moment, and will press toward their goal without pausing to heed bodily injury (either their own or others)?

Combine those traits with the ferocity and aggressive athleticism present in modern-day undead, and you have a living nightmare.

Also, I just rewatched the original “Dawn of the Dead” and I now understand the whole anti-consumerism theme George Romero is supposed to have injected into it.

I know, the sheer greed of the companies and the relentless consumerism of the public is disgusting, but feelings of revulsion can't compare with a serious discount on LCD TVs.

Let's face it, people confronted with their hearts' desires (rather, their hearts' desires as defined by slick marketing campaigns) are not the most rational beings, least of all when they're in large groups, have endured hours of cold, and are afraid they won't get what they want and all their suffering will have come to naught.

I've seen the videos and read the news stories of crowds trampling people just on the threshold of a store's entryway, and those horror stories have made me more afraid than any gory zombie flick.

The deals to be made in person are tempting, but I think I'll forego the horde this year and shop online.

When push comes to shove, I'd advise shoppers to let go of the Blu-ray player. Do you really need a fifth player, even if it is 60 percent off?

To the retail workers out there, be safe, and remember, they'll go after the ones bringing out new merchandise first.



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■ **GAME REVIEW**

# New Assassin's Creed improves multiplayer modes, sharpens graphics

★★★★☆

by Jackson Wright  
Staff Writer

Fall 2011 has been a booming time for video game sequels, with a whirlwind of highly anticipated releases hitting stores week after week.

First, Forza Motorsport 4 arrived on the scene on Oct. 11, then Batman: Arkham City and Battlefield 3 — three highly anticipated titles in three weeks. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 and The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim followed soon after, and just last week the latest in the Assassin's Creed franchise came out, wrapping up the last of the sequel season.

As a full-time student who works close to 20 hours a week, it's hard to pick the perfect title to keep me entertained for the month or so it usually takes me to complete a game around all of my other commitments.

I preordered Arkham City just before its release, thinking that would be the game for me this fall/winter season, but once I was ready to purchase, my eyes drifted to the charms of another game — Assassin's Creed: Revelations.

I am a huge fan of the franchise, learning the basics on the first game back in 2008, then playing each of the sequels through to the finish.

The plot and gameplay of the series are like few others, and though I ached to once again play as the Dark Knight since the end of Arkham Asylum, the pull to return to the world of the Assassins in which I had spent so much time over the years was too great and I picked it up the day it was released.

The entire series centers on Desmond Miles, a normal man in the present day who becomes embroiled in an ancient conflict between two powerful organizations: the evil Templars, who seek to control the world through ancient technologies and subterfuge, and the Assassins, who oppose them.

Through his use of a device called an Animus, which lets him experience the memories of



Assassin's Creed: Revelations, released by Ubisoft on Nov. 15, allows users to play as an assassin trying to stop Templars from taking over the world. Screenshot courtesy of Ubisoft

## ASSASSIN'S CREED: REVELATIONS

- Series takes place in 1212
- Plays as a third-person action-adventure sandbox
- Online multiplayer gameplay
- ESRB rating: M for Mature
- Available now for Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3; delayed until Dec. 2, 2011 for PC

but Ezio, who has aged throughout his starring roles, now leaps about the beautiful city of Istanbul, if my calculations are correct, at the sprightly age of 60.

Old Ezio clambers across tightropes and over rooftops with the spider-monkey-like speed he always had, but once a cut-scene shows his face, we are reminded that the strapping linebacker we just have been watching take apart guard after guard is so old that he has qualified for the senior discount at Denny's for a while now.

In addition to his remarkable strength, you see all the wisdom and experience he has gained from his other adventures in Italy through his skill in carrying out assassinations and hatching schemes as well as the respect that is afforded to him by the other characters.

The skill he's gained in fighting and assassinating is particularly showcased: the non-player characters, also known as NPCs, that populate the city include guards, enemies and neutral people on the street having nary a chance against a few button-taps, Ezio dispatching them with extremely violent precision.

There is so much violence in the gameplay that much of the time I was shocked by the multitude of the ways that characters are killed by Ezio's hand. It's bloody and intense, and definitely not for the faint of heart.

In spite of so much violence, there are amazingly beautiful parts of the game to be appreciated as well. The soundtrack is moving and matches the feeling of the game well, taking you into the events on screen and making the player truly feel a part of the action.

The plot is rich and will not disappoint fans of the previous games, this game putting an end to Ezio's trilogy and setting up a new release in 2012 that is said to star only Desmond and coincide with the end of the Mayan calendar.

The multiplayer that was introduced in the last title has returned much improved.

I found many faults with the way that it ran in Brotherhood, and I was pleased to find that it plays much more smoothly and

allows for a better experience overall. Whereas in the previous version of the multiplayer it was nearly impossible to time things correctly, making it terribly difficult to defend yourself against attackers as well as switch weapons.

All the kinks have been worked out this time around,

making it a completely different experience than before, marrying all the feelings of being an assassin with being able to play with friends online in a fun, engaging way.

The Assassin's Creed franchise has never let me down, and this latest release has only strengthened its hold on me.

The interesting gameplay, rich story and beautiful music and graphics take you into a world that is different from any other gaming experience. If you are new to the series, it is definitely worth taking a look at, and if you've loved it since the first game, you will not be disappointed.

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**“The plot is rich and will not disappoint fans of the previous games...”**

ancestors long passed, Desmond helps the Assassins in the fight against the Templars by reliving long lost times and interactions with the artifacts that both groups seek.

It's a concept that definitely sounds complicated for the casual observer, but after playing for just a little while, remembering who is related to who and what crazy event is being recreated next becomes easier to follow.

In Revelations, you get to play as both of Desmond's ancestors, Altair from the original, and Ezio, who was introduced in the sequel, returned in Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood. Altair appears in the peak of his health,

Though this Ezio may have the proclivities for the occasional early-bird-special, he is stronger and more precise in his movements and attacks, almost to the point that he feels a little more overpowered than he did before.

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