



New series hits Comedy Central see p. 2



Spartan tumbles into record books see p. 3

SJSU debaters finish strong at tournament

Team advances to national competition in Albuquerque, N.M.

by Ty Hargrove
Staff Writer

The forensics debate team competed in the Northern California Forensics Association regional championships this past weekend at Chabot College in Hayward, Calif., according to Katrina Swanson a senior on the debate team.

The SJSU debate team consists of 16 members, according to Swanson, with seven new members who joined this semester.

According to Genelle Austin-Lett, the head of the forensics debate department, four students on the debate team are preparing to compete in Rome, Italy in March.

"This team is red hot with talent and success," she said.

SJSU's forensics debate team dominated the competition by finishing first in the novice and junior parliamentary debates, according to Austin-Lett.

In the winners circle stood SJSU students Ryan Gallagher and Avesta Sabetian, who took first place in the novice level, and Katrina Swanson and Matt Zweier, who took first place in the junior level, according to Austin-Lett.

"This weekend just proved to us that all of our hard work has paid off," Sabetian said. "As a team we developed really good."

Sabetian said the team practiced every day going into this competition, which helped them to communicate better.

"Learning through competition is the best way to describe it," he said.

According to Gallagher, the fact that the team went undefeated was the highlight of his year.

"We always strive to be better and we are never content with our past events," he said. "Our coaches prepared us for this tournament and I can't thank them enough."

According to Swanson, without the coaches the team would not have made it this far. "Our coaches have always been there for us and supportive of our team," she said.

According to Marjorie Hazeltine, one of the coaches of the SJSU forensics debate team, 32 schools participated in this tournament.

There were debate teams from San Francisco State University, Saint Mary's college in Moraga, CSU Chico and the very competitive University of the Pacific present at the competition, according to Swanson.

There were 383 entries in the individual events — 17 junior parliamentary debate teams and 30 novice parliamentary debate teams, according to Hazeltine.

This event was a weekend long event lasting from Friday to Sunday, Swanson said.

Friday was debate day, starting at 8 a.m. until about 9 p. m., and Saturday and Sunday consisted of half debate and half speech events and went until everyone was finished, she said.

Each debate team is separated into classes made up of groups and individuals, she said, which consist of novice, junior and open.

The debate topics focused on current events, for example stopping the misuse of antibiotics, Swanson added.

According to Swanson, there are a lot of benefits that come with public speaking.

"We have a sense of community on our team," she said. "Everyone has their place."

According to Swanson, the debate team is looking forward to its upcoming national event in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"We hope that our next competition is just as successful as this one," Swanson said.

Never too old



Dan Collins, from San Jose, displays part of his prized collection of Lord Of The Rings, Dr. Who, and Battlestar Galactica memorabilia. He is selling his figurines because he has a 16-month-old daughter. Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

SEE A&E PAGE 2

Black military history hosted at King Library

by Alyxandra Goodwin
Staff Writer

&
by Derik Irvin
Staff Photographer

To celebrate Black History Month, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library featured "The Price of Liberty," an exhibit devoted to African-American soldiers and their military service since the Civil War.

"You get to see real artifacts from the time period," said Atif Khan, a sopho-

more computer engineering major. "Somebody actually wore this jacket. There's real history here."

The exhibit features uniforms, writings, photos, medals and other memorabilia related to African-Americans in military service.

The fifth floor of MLK Library is the Cultural Heritage Center, which is home to murals promoting diversity, the Africana Center, and in this case, the exhibit for Black History Month.

The collection of these artifacts belongs to Anthony Powell. Powell's collection is one of the largest in the country, according to the library's press release.

One case features badges, a uniform, and hat, accompanied with certificates earned and a drill and guard manual. Other cases feature photos of actual soldiers with their cavalries.

Angelina Ascencio, a junior child development major, said she didn't notice the exhibit at first but once she did she became interested.

"It's pretty interesting stuff," she said. "It was cool to see all the different types of uniforms and things."

The library also added to the display with books such as "Blacks in the United States Army" and "Blacks and the Military in American History" to provide historical information.

All of the displays were accompanied by a description of the clothing and the soldier it belonged to, along with a year and short bio of the soldier.

"One thing I liked was the blue jacket and hat," said Samuel Hapta, a graduate student in software engineering. "The medals also caught my eye."

The blue jacket and badges belonged to First Sergeant Merriman Ellis of the 24th infantry, according to the description on its case. Ellis's campaign medals and a photograph also are included in this display.

"The Price of Liberty" exhibit in the MLK library will be on display until Feb. 29 and provides a history of real soldiers dating back to the 1800s.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author shares her work with students and professors



Kim Tieu, a senior creative writing major, gets her book signed by author Rae Armantrout after her poetry reading Wednesday evening at the King Library. Photo by Dorian Silva / Spartan Daily

Center for Literary Arts hosting second event today at 1 p.m. in library

by David Wong
Staff Writer

The Center for Literary Arts hosted Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rae Armantrout for a book reading and signing at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Wednesday.

"I'm excited to hear Armantrout read!" said Jessica Keaton, a creative nonfiction major graduate student and program assistant for the Center of Literary Arts prior to the event. "She's very experimental with her words."

Andrew Altschul, the program director for the center and an assistant English professor said the center hosts many writers of prose and poetry who provide book readings and signings and is an "organizational research unit attached to the English department."

The event took place in rooms 225 and 229 on the second floor at 7 p.m. and lasted until 8 p.m. — there were 75 people in attendance with a wide age variance.

Keaton said she typically arrives a half-hour before the event starts to see that a table is set up for book signing and to compile an email list for audience members who have expressed an interest in attending future events.

Altschul said he often spends the time before the book readings having dinner with the writer and when the event begins Altschul introduces the writer after a short anecdote.

"We are contacted by a lot of writers who want to give book readings, but we pick and choose which writers to (feature)," he said.

Armantrout was born in 1947 in Vallejo and was raised in San Diego — she is considered one of the first generation of Language poets on the west coast, according to poets.org.

SEE AUTHOR PAGE 6

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 15 issue of the Spartan Daily, the article titled "New Media journal experiments with art to 'generate wonder'" has an illustration mislabeled as a screenshot. The Spartan Daily regrets the error.

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REVIEW

New comic duo has fresh jokes

by Eddie Fernandez
Staff Writer

Comedy Central introduced a new sketch series called "Key & Peele," starring comedians Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele portraying themselves.

The new series airs at 10:30 on Tuesday nights taking issues and conflicts from ordinary people to celebrities and brings them to the television screen for humor toward a younger audience.

During a conference call with Key and Peele, the two talked openly with students from different universities about the show.

"We grew up watching television and we like to think that the show is only a little mirror of pop culture," Peele said.

Peele adds that the show goes to a lot of fresh places that haven't been touched yet.

"What we're doing is for everyone, but we're trying to

write comedy for the 21st century world and your firmly ensconced in that world your shaping and forming that world," Key said.

Key further added that the comedy should be really exciting for students in particular.

The series illustrates events people go through and features discussions with their friends or family members in the certain situations.

"Quite a lot of the material in our show is biographical..." Key said.

Key said the sketch itself may not be literally something from their lives but a way they personally see the world.

My first impression of the show was two-sided.

I felt that the comedians were trying too hard to make their audience laugh when, in reality, they don't.

The duo does a great job with the scheme of the sketch but can blow certain things out of proportion, bringing the humor down a notch.

The first episode of the season starts out with a rather good sketch with the two men respectfully calling their wives "b****".

In one scene Key arrives with his wife to Peele's house and the two wives let the men talk as they go into the other room.

Key apologizes to Peele for arriving late because his wife took 30 minutes longer getting ready.

Key explains to Peele that his wife instructed him to be in the car at 6:45, yet had him waiting until 7:15, to realize that when he walked back into the house she was barely getting out of the shower.



Comedy Central's new sketch series "Key & Peele," starring Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele airs Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m. and pokes fun at pop culture and celebrities. Photo Courtesy of Comedy Central

Before Key continues to finish the story, the two men pause for a second and look up stairs to make sure their wives cannot hear them.

Key tells Peele that he looked his woman in the eye and said "b****" you told me 6:45."

Peele asks Key if he said that and Key replies with, "yeah."

For example, in the sketch mentioned above the duo

are seen having a drawn-out conversation.

Right away, the sketch had me agreeing with the skit, nodding my head up and down as I watched the show because I know what its like waiting for a girl.

What works well for the show is the facial expressions used by the comedians and I would go as far as to say that's what makes the show great.

Key and Peele take a shot at rapper Lil' Wayne with Peele portraying the musician in prison and his life behind bars.

Lil' Wayne is seen being a tough guy in prison but just finds a way to get himself stabbed all the time.

Another skit includes President Obama hiring a translator to interpret his anger.

Undoubtedly, the series has a fresh and original feel.

Nerds find odd-ball treasures at bazaar

by Julie Tran
Staff Writer

With "Star Wars" memorabilia dangling in one area of the gallery and cartoons playing on a flat-screen, the SLG Art Boutiki served as the hub for all things pop culture at NerdMart.

Described as "a swap meet for geeks and pop culture freaks" on the Art Boutiki website, the event was the brainchild of Dan Vado, owner of the SLG Art Boutiki.

"There was too much cool junk in the place, so I wanted

to give people an opportunity to sell their stuff once a month," Vado said.

The first NerdMart swap meet started on Jan. 18 with 40 people in attendance, according to Vado.

Admission to the event is free for the public while vendors pay \$10 to sell their goods.

To advertise the event, the usage of social media such as Facebook and a mailing list aided in the promotion of NerdMart, according to Vado.

With about eight vendors in the store, Christina Lin was the only person selling anime and video game merchandise, which clashed with vendors selling comic books or toys.

A Santa Clara native, Lin said she heard about NerdMart through Facebook, in which Lin received an invitation for the event.

"I'm hoping to meet other fans who also like anime and video games," Lin said. "I'm

also trying to make money on the side."

In addition, Lin said that it was her second time selling her items at the NerdMart, but she's been selling anime and video game-related merchandise for about six months.

Despite a slow start to the event, there were some people who came to browse around and look at the displays of toys, comic books and figurines.

Some, like Richard Rivas, stumbled upon the NerdMart out of pure curiosity.

Describing himself as an "all-around nerd," Rivas said he was at the store to find merchandise from "Doctor Who" to "The Legend of Zelda."

In addition, Rivas came to seek out ideas for his artwork.

"I draw anthropomorphic or furry art," Rivas said. "I'm hoping that being here would give me inspiration for my art."

According to Lin, furry art is the combination of human characteristics with animal-like features.

In an act of spontaneity, Rivas walked to the piano in the room and played a rendition of the theme song from "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword."

Dan Collins, a San Jose resident, was selling figurines from "The Lord of the Rings," "Doctor Who" and "Battlestar Galactica."

There was also a European-style sword for sale and a

25-inch-tall Balrog electronic action figure from "The Lord of the Rings," which retails at \$300 online due to its limited production.

An avid fan of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" series, Collins recalled his fondness for the epic fantasy.

"I saw 'The Hobbit' cartoon as a kid and I thought it was well done except for the music," Collins said.

According to Vado, the next NerdMart swap meet will be held on Mar. 18 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the same location.

Vado also hopes that, in upcoming months, the NerdMart will expand to a summer sidewalk sale.

Liberal amounts of ice cream promotes political campaign

by Alyxandra Goodwin
Staff Writer

Down the street from SJSU campus, Ben and Jerry's gave out free ice cream to promote the company's campaign, "Get the Dough out of Politics," on Feb. 14.

"We walked by and a girl told us 'free ice cream,'" said Shanique Flynn, a design studies major.

For an event that included free ice cream, the turnout was very low in the beginning.

A few students trickled in and out of Ben and Jerry's, but no massive lines or crowds.

"I haven't heard much about it other than walking by," Trenton Hughes said.

Hughes, a business management major, said the event should have been advertised better if they wanted the campaign to be more effective.

The company wants to promote the idea that "there's way too much money in American politics," according to the campaign's website.

The website offers a chance for it's viewers to sign a petition that encourages Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment.

The amendment would overturn "Citizens United," a decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court, which allows corporations to spend limitless amounts of money in the political arena.

Jose Jimenez, an SJSU student and employee of Ben and Jerry's, was working during the hours of the event.

"(The event) is promoted by Stephen Colbert," Jimenez said. "Ben and Jerry's is a pretty liberal franchise."

In 2007, political satirist

Stephen Colbert was granted with his own ice cream flavor: Americone Dream.

The flavor has vanilla ice cream with waffle pieces covered in fudge and caramel swirls and was given as the free scoop during Tuesday's event.

"It was all kind of last minute," Jimenez said the day of the event. "We just found out (in the morning)."

He said he did not have much detail on the event either, except that it was to promote "Get the Dough Out."

More publicity is also what Lauren Carter believed the campaign needed.

"For such a serious campaign you would think they would have taken advertising more seriously," said Carter, a second-year psychology major.

Carter also went on to say that Ben and Jerry's is not the best franchise to be promoting such a cause.

"Something like this would be better off promoted by McDonald's or something," she said. "Just because Ben and Jerry's is the type of franchise where anyone can open one."

Ben and Jerry's offers the opportunity for anyone to open up a "Scoop Shop," according to the company's website.

Carter attributes the ineffective campaign to this franchise model.

Carter said, "I feel like because owners of the shops may not have as much responsibility to the bigger company and that may be why this campaign didn't work out."

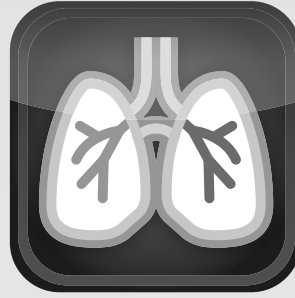
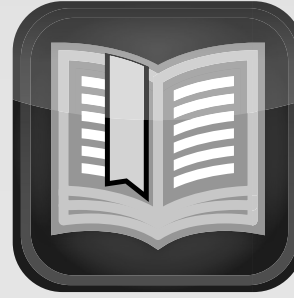
She said it was a good idea — just not executed to the best of its ability.

All customers that came in appeared happy with their free scoops of the Americone Dream, whether they understood the purpose behind it or not.

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Wallace rewriting record books for Spartan gymnastics

Four-time WAC Gymnast of the Week leads SJSU to No. 29 national ranking

by Christian Gin
Staff Writer

SJSU gymnast Thomasina “Thomi” Wallace wants to continue her passion for gymnastics in hopes of reaching the team’s goals.

“What makes me happy is success as a team,” Wallace said. “While it’s nice to get individual accomplishments, it means little to me compared to the team doing well.”

Wallace said she was raised in a family with a mother who knew about what it takes to be a gymnast.

When Wallace was five years old, her mother got her started in the sport because she felt Wallace’s body was the perfect fit for it.

Since then, Wallace has been working hard to become a stronger gymnast.

Before coming to SJSU, she was an elite gymnast for the Charter Oak Gliders Club Team in Covina and was the all-around California state champion.

Wallace also was able to train with the United States Junior National Team during the summer of 2008.

Wallace’s coach has nothing but praise for her.

“Thomi is an awesome athlete,” SJSU gymnastics coach Wayne Wright said. “She is humble, leads by example and is a pleasant individual.”

Wright also likes how she isn’t focused on herself as much as others.

“Thomi epitomizes everything in a student-athlete, both in and out of the gym,” he said. “She is always focused on the team first and shows it with her leadership.”

Her teammates look up to her as well.

“Thomi is a very good role model,” sophomore teammate Cassandra Horton said. “I’m inspired to be like her.”

Horton also said how Wallace is helpful for those who need it.

Wallace’s teammate, junior Victoria Lark, said Wallace is always encouraging others to

improve their skills.

“Thomi gets the best out of myself and the team,” Lark said. “She is always willing to give her 110 percent, doing all she can for everyone.”

According to coach Wayne Wright, Wallace has been versatile for being strong in the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor throughout her career at SJSU.

During her freshman year in 2009, she had one of the best freshman seasons in SJSU history, qualifying for the NCAA nationals and becoming one of only a handful in school history to qualify.

She put herself on the map by earning All-WAC honors, including WAC freshman of the year.

According to coach Wayne Wright, Wallace is not only a great athlete in the gym, but a good student in the classroom, as she earned Academic All-WAC honors in 2010.

Recently, Wallace broke the school record for best overall score during a meet against Southern Utah.

Her final score was 39.425 out of a possible 40.

In this past weekend’s victory over Utah State, she broke her own record with a 39.525 final score.

Wallace said that while the record is nice, it almost didn’t sink in right away for her.

She was focused on the team making the NCAA nationals.

“I feel that the team is heading in the right direction,” Wallace said. “I want to keep building up my teammates so that we can make a deep run into the NCAA postseason.”

The team is currently ranked 29th in the nation and is in good position to make the NCAA regional round, as only the top 36 teams qualify for the postseason.

She believes that the team is flying under the radar and



Senior kinesiology major Thomasina Wallace receives support from her teammates in a Wednesday practice. The 20th-ranked gymnast in the all-around earned her third consecutive WAC Gymnast of the Week honor last week. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Spartan Daily

“Thomi epitomizes everything in a student-athlete, both in and out of the gym.”

– Wayne Wright, head coach

can be a threat down the stretch.

“I think we’re underestimated by most people,” Wallace said. “We can obtain our goal of qualifying for nationals if we put our effort and minds to it.”

Wallace said she is focused solely on the team, and added that her favorite moments are the wins.

“Even though it’s easy to remember the accomplishments that I’ve done, the team victories are what I like seeing the most,” Wallace said. “My

records and achievements are nice, but I’m happy to see the team perform well.”

Wallace’s hobbies outside of the gym are watching movies, drawing and cooking in her spare time.

“I usually like to watch movies and often quote them in real life,” Wallace said.

Even though Wallace could take her talents professional, she said she has other plans in mind.

“It is every gymnast’s dream to be in the Olympics representing USA,” Wallace said. “But I want to attend physical therapy school after I graduate SJSU.”

Wallace is a kinesiology major and wants to be a trainer when she graduates this spring.

“I’d like to see athletes come to me after an injury or surgery,” Wallace said. “It would be awesome to work with a professional team some day.”

Wallace has enjoyed her time at SJSU and has had a great time with the teammates around her.

“My four years have been phenomenal being with everyone,” she said. “It has been a pleasure to help a great group of girls and striving to reach our team goal.”



Senior kinesiology major Thomasina Wallace performs at the WAC Tournament in March 2011. Photo by Vernon McKnight / File Photo

Softball gears up for Louisville Slugger Classic

Staff Report

The SJSU softball team is headed to Las Vegas, Nev., this weekend for a five-game tournament hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The Louisville Slugger Desert Classic is the Spartans’ second tournament of the season and will take place Friday through Sunday.

On Friday, SJSU will take on Utah State and Ohio State in a double-header, while Saturday includes games against No. 1-ranked California and UC Riverside.

The tournament will conclude for the Spartans with Idaho State on Sunday afternoon.

SJSU went 1-4 last week at the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., facing four top-25 teams.

After the Kajikawa Classic, senior pitchers Amanda Pridmore and Jennifer Ames vaulted themselves into the top-10 list of career strikeout leaders in SJSU softball history.

Pridmore now ranks fourth with 281 career strikeouts, while Ames now ranks 10th with 152 strikeouts.

Sophomore Jessica Garcia leads SJSU in hitting with a .429 batting average, and enters the Louisville Slugger Desert Classic with a five-game hitting streak.

Information compiled from SJSU Athletics

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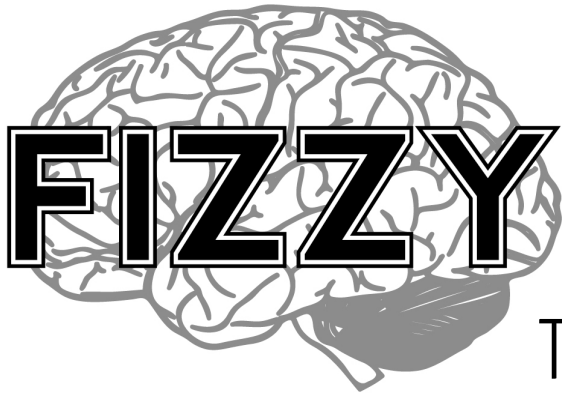
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BY JULIE TRAN LÖGIC

The beauty of foreign music



This column appears every other Thursday

When I was little, I remembered my sister and I singing along to 80s hits from the Eurythmics to Shania Twain in the 90s, but we also had a taste for music outside of the English-speaking world.

At first, we listened to a lot of Japanese pop and rock from musicians such as Hikaru Utada, Asian Kung-Fu Generation and Perfume.

From all of the anime we've both watched as children, we started to develop an appreciation for songs performed in different languages.

Fast-forward to today, I heard about a little segment called MTV Iggy, which displayed various singers and bands from all over the globe.

Needless to say, I was extremely excited to hear about a station that would feature international acts for everyone to see and hear.

However, it ticks me off when people listen to foreign

music acts and start to complain about how they can't understand the language.

"Oh man, I really want to enjoy the music, but why can't the song be performed in English?"

Well, first and foremost, it wouldn't make sense for singer who is performing in his or her native tongue to switch over to a language that the audience wouldn't understand.

Second, we're now living in a world in which global influences are interweaving into our lives, and there are people that exist who don't speak English as their first language.

Even though I have a lot of music from American singers, I also have a slew of albums from musicians that come from South Korea, France and even Venezuela.

There's another thing that makes me irritated, and that is when people say that an international artist is copying American music.

Excuse me, but I don't remember music being an exclusively American thing.

The song "Stronger" by Kanye West samples "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" from

the French duo Daft Punk in the background.

I don't see anyone complaining about Kanye mashing up French electronica with his rap.

Like art or fashion, I believe music will truly flourish and develop when there is a mashup of diverse styles to create something amazing.

One of the bands I've been into recently is the Venezuelan alternative-rock group La Vida Boheme, and I must say their album "Nuestra" is grungy yet smooth perfection.

Hailing from Caracas, the quartet hammers out songs reminiscent of Franz Ferdinand-meets-The Ramones, and they have powerful messages within their tunes.

Their hit single, "Radio Capital" has wonderful guitar riffs that I believe anyone can enjoy, regardless if the song is performed in Spanish.

La Vida Boheme was also featured with three other musicians in MTV Iggy's "Best New Band" competition held Dec. 2011, and they were amazing live.

One of the other bands featured in MTV Iggy's "Best New Band" competition is a quartet

of an entirely different kind with a devoted international fanbase.

The South Korean electro-pop band 2NE1 (pronounced "to anyone" or "twenty-one") was crowned "Best New Band" in the competition, and I have to agree with their victory.

The group is one of the forerunners of the Korean pop phenomena called the "Hallyu Wave," which is currently taking a hold of Asia and slowly creeping its way into Europe and North America.

Fans of 2NE1, called "Black-Jacks," live in countries ranging from the Philippines to Sweden, and it's a powerful reminder that people can appreciate the music despite a language barrier.

Even though today's incarnation of MTV isn't as great as it used to be, I am grateful that the station decided to make MTV Iggy a reality.

Diversity in music is something that is highly important to me, and the creation of MTV Iggy could be the start of a better global understanding.

Music, whether performed in English or another language, is a universal medium that connects everyone.

A Catholic's view on female contraceptive government policies



by Boris Slager
Staff Writer

Employers should provide contraceptives under their health care plans to female employees.

That is one of the two things that have been in politics recently; the other thing in politics right now is that Obama is unleashing a war on religion.

This is ludicrous. He would lose the election if he did that.

My answer to the contraceptive question is yes. In fact women and men who are not working should be provided with them as well.

President Obama made a plan that would have required all institutions to pay for a woman's contraceptive needs, including religious orders.

The only reason this is even an issue is because the U.S. is the only industrial nation that does not have universal health care.

A question in politics is "who should pay for any kind of health care?"

The answer is taxpayers. This is true whether coverage is universal or just so women can receive contraceptives.

I understand Obama did this to try and cut down on the unintended pregnancies, abortions and the use of the morning-after pill.

However, what he did not understand is that most people know where and how to get contraceptives. Also, he did not take into account that people may choose not to use them at all.

I bet that most of the student population at SJSU knows where and how to obtain forms of contraception.

Obama was met with harsh criticisms from Catholics on this issue, saying it was immoral of him to provide coverage that included contraceptives.

They were right about that. It is our First Amendment right to freedom of religion, and a religious order should not be forced to do something that goes against its core beliefs.

Due to the backlash Obama received and the fact that is an election year, he changed the policy.

The compromise is that the religious order no longer has

to cover the women who work for them with insurance that has contraceptives. Instead, it will be up to the insurer to cover that cost.

A problem with this is that insurers will find a way to pass the cost on to the consumer.

Contraceptives are any form of birth control. Some of the different forms of contraceptives include a sponge, a female condom and the pill.

Each form of birth control comes with a risk. A male condom has a low risk of problems, whereas the pill has a higher risk of problems.

The risks of a male condom has are that it could break or a woman can have an allergic reaction to the condom.

"Each form of birth control comes with a risk. A male condom has a low risk of problems, whereas the pill has a higher risk of problems."

The pill has more than three times that number of problems, some of which include dizziness, mood swings, blood clots and heart attacks, according to an article on menshealth.gov.

The shot has a side effect of bone loss if a woman uses it for a long period of time, according to the web site above.

This shot has hormones which can prevent pregnancy for three months, according to Planned Parenthood.

We all know that the safest thing is not to have sex before marriage. However, the likelihood of most college students not having sex before marriage is slim.

If you plan to have sex, make sure to only do it with someone you know and know the risks of contraceptives.

Whether you agree with employers providing coverage to employees or not, you should agree with a woman's right to choose.

Learning life lessons from part-time work



by Nina Tabios
Staff Writer

I never had a job in high school.

I applied at your typical high school part-time jobs, whether it was in retail or fast food restaurants, but I never got that call back.

It seems that I was under-qualified to fold clothes or flip burgers, but somehow in college I managed to meet the qualifications to make smoothies in the Student Union.

I wake up at the crack of dawn to walk through cold and darkness to open the store and prepare to serve grumpy, grouchy people trying to get breakfast before their morning classes.

Fighting through exhaustion, sleepiness and irritability, it is part of my job to put on a face of gusto and guile to serve

these people.

The job isn't made easier when some customers come up to the register and don't look at me as they bark their order.

It doesn't make the job easier when I bring them their order and they snatch it up without saying, "thank you" or even a measly "you too," as I wish them a good day.

I'm supposed to invite them back to the store, but when people act like that I don't want them to come back.

I love the job — I really do — but sometimes rude customers and lack of simple manners makes me despise it.

There was one occasion when I was working the register, and a guy handed me his debit card to pay for his order.

I swiped his card but it was declined and after I tried a few more times, it still wouldn't accept, so I handed it back to him and apologized that it wasn't working and that he had to pay for it some other way.

Whether he just had a huge

ego about his money, or he just was having a bad morning — I don't know — but somehow his card being declined set something off.

He snapped at me, saying that he had over two grand in his account and that there was no way in hell that his card would be declined, that there was something wrong with my machine or that I simply didn't know what I was doing.

Even after bringing my manager over to handle this guy, his card still didn't work so he proceeded to pay for his drink and snapped a snarky "thanks" when he picked it up.

Now don't get me wrong, not all people I serve are this way, but I find that most folks fall victim to grouchy-morning-person syndrome and I, more often than not, am on the receiving end to the side effects of said syndrome as a service person.

It would be easy for me to just succumb to these people's moodiness and let it ruin my

day or, as my dad put it, to not give in and still remain perky, almost as a means to backfire on their grouchy-morning-person syndrome.

Working a service job has not just provided me with work experience, but has built an appreciation of all those in entry-level part-time jobs and how being polite goes a long way.

So now, I try to shake off the rude people I encounter daily and, as cliché as it sounds, smile through it all and just go about my shift with the gusto and guile required of me.

And when I'm on the customer end of a transaction, I make the extra effort to look workers in the eye, say thanks loud and clear so they hear me and wish them a good day because I know how it feels to be on the service side of the counter.

I learned that you can't let minute things ruin your day, but take what good you can and just appreciate it for what it is.



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Letters to the editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3282, emailed to spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu or the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Letters to the editor must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become proper-

ty of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

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Workers are seen through the parts of pylon that are being installed to hold huge mirrors at Genesis Solar Energy Project located approximately 25 miles west of the city of Blythe, Calif., Jan. 31. The project is an undeveloped area of the Sonoran Desert on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Photo courtesy of Irfan Khan / MCT

Problems cast shadows on solar project

McClatchy Tribune
Wire Service

BLYTHE, Calif. — One of California's showcase solar energy projects, under construction in the desert east of Los Angeles, is being threatened by a deadly outbreak of distemper among kit foxes and the discovery of a prehistoric human settlement on the work site.

The \$1 billion Genesis Solar Energy Project has been expedited by state and federal regulatory agencies that are eager to demonstrate that the nation can build solar plants quickly to ease dependence on fossil fuels and curb global warming.

Instead, the project is providing a cautionary example of how the rush to harness solar power in the desert can go wrong — possibly costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and dealing an embarrassing blow to the Obama administration's solar initiative.

Genesis had hoped to be among the first of 12 approved solar farms to start operating in Southern California deserts. To do so, it had to meet certain deadlines to receive federal assistance. The 250-megawatt plant, being built on federal Bureau of Land Management land 25 miles west of Blythe, is backed by an \$825 million Department of Energy loan guarantee.

Native Americans, including

the leaders of a nearby reservation, are trying to have Genesis delayed or even scuttled because they say the distemper outbreak and discovery of a possible Native American cremation site show that accelerated procedures approved by state and fed-

“The issues facing Genesis underline the notion that if you do something quick and dirty, you are going to wind up with big mistakes and unintended consequences.”

— Lisa Belenky, senior attorney

eral regulators failed to protect wildlife and irreplaceable cultural resources.

The problems threaten the entire project, said Michael O'Sullivan, senior vice president of development for Florida-based NextEra Energy

Resources, one of the largest renewable energy suppliers in North America and the builder of Genesis. The project is to start producing power by 2014. If too many acres are deemed off-limits to construction, “the project could become uneconomical,” O'Sullivan said.

Plans for Genesis call for parabolic-trough solar thermal technology to create enough energy to power 187,500 homes. But last fall, as crews began installing pylons and support arms for parabolic mirrors across 1,950 acres of land leveled by earthmovers, the company ran into unexpected environmental and cultural obstacles — the kind that critics say could probably have been avoided by more rigorous research and planning.

“The issues facing Genesis underline the notion that if you do something quick and dirty, you are going to wind up with big mistakes and unintended consequences,” said Lisa Belenky, senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Kit foxes became an issue at the site in late August, when two animals died. At the time, biologists assumed the foxes succumbed to dehydration in an area where summer temperatures soar to 118 degrees. On Oct. 5, Genesis crews discovered another fox carcass and sent it to state Fish and Game veterinarians for a necropsy.

At the time, the company was using “passive hazing” strategies approved by state and federal biologists to force kit foxes off the land before grading operations began in November. To scatter the kit foxes, workers removed sources of food and cover, sprinkled urine from coyotes — a primary fox predator — around den entrances, and used shovels and axes to excavate about 20 dens that had been unoccupied for at least three consecutive days.

By early November, only three active dens remained, but the foxes using them wouldn't budge, raising the risk of construction delays. The California Energy Commission, which has jurisdiction over the project, scrapped the three-day timetable and said the company could destroy dens that had been vacant for 24 hours.

Five days after making that change, the results of the necropsy came back. The fox found Oct. 5 had died of the first case of distemper ever recorded among desert kit foxes. Ultimately, at least seven kit foxes died.

Deana Clifford, state wildlife veterinarian for the California Department of Fish and Game, said she isn't certain the outbreak is connected to Genesis, “but we know that habitat disturbance causes stress, and when animals succumb to stress they become more susceptible to disease.”

AUTHOR: Book signing draws 75 people

FROM PAGE 1

Language poetry originated in the 1970s and stood out from previous movements by stressing the importance of the language used in the poems and was characterized by leftist political leanings, according to Poets.org.

Armantrout has written 11 poetry books, with the latest titled “Money Shot.”

“‘Money Shot’ is a timely (release) to represent present society (and its values),” Keaton said.

Armantrout's 2009 publication, “Versed,” won the poet a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critics Award, according to the King library website.

Stephanie Portnoff, an employee at the Spartan Bookstore, was selling the two latest Armantrout books outside of the reading room.

Portnoff said that the Spartan Bookstore normally supplies books for CLA events like book readings and signings.

The subject matter for Armantrout's poems center

on themes such as memories, popular culture, science and mothering, according to her biography from the Poetry Foundation, the publisher of Poetry magazine, which publishes poems and prose.

Armantrout said she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1970 and received her Master of Arts degree in creative writing from San Francisco State University in 1978.

She currently is a professor at the University of California, San Diego, according to Poetry Foundation and Green Integer, a poetry and prose book publishing company.

Her work resonates with students like Christine Janis, who assisted Jessica Keaton with managing the event.

Janis said that Armantrout's work is different from everything that she has ever read, and predicted that the book reading would be informational.

“It's such a joy to have the author bring new meanings to the words they've written,” Janis said.

The book readings were marked by occasional breaks which were filled by Armantrout's explanations of how a poem originated, such as after cancer treatment, a discussion with her son, a dramatic fall in the stock market and a conversation with an astrophysicist at UCSD.

Armantrout revealed the reason behind her use of short lines and stanzas: “I guess I just like words. I never stay on one thing for very long. I just go straight to blah blah blah because I would get too bored.”

Attendees had their own reasons for listening to Armantrout.

Gabriela Gonzalez, a freshman broadcast journalism major said she was at the book reading for extra credit.

Nick Taylor, an English professor who teaches creative writing, saw many of his students at the event.

“I really loved it, I liked her poems a lot better when she read them and she really held the audience well,” Taylor

said. “Every poem she read I wish I had written them — she was one of the most engaging readers I'd ever seen.”

Armantrout will be available to answer questions and converse with audience members today at 1 p.m. in King Library rooms 225 and 229.

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African-American Male Issues in Higher Education

Presented by Jason Laker, SJSU professor of the school of education

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Student Union-Costanoan Room

Career Center Drop-in Interviews

Presented by the Career Center

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Dress professionally, drop in and receive an interview!
First come, first-serve

Test-Taking Workshop

Presented by Peer Mentors

Monday, Feb. 20 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 24 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Clark Hall 100H

Dreams: The Forgotten Language of the Spirit

Presented by SJ Spirit

3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Student Union-Ohlone Room

Live Interview Demonstration and Business

Fashion Show

Presented by the Career Center

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Student Union Ballroom

Free admission

All students welcome

Movie: Dog Sweat

Presented by Middle Eastern Studies at SJSU and MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Camera 3 Cinema (288 S. Second Street)

\$10 general admission/ \$7 for students

Q&A with the film director

SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu or titled "SpartaGuide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

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