



Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934



Tuesday
November 24, 2009
Volume 133, Issue 44



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Newest 'Twilight' movie underwhelms
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AmeriCorps students aspire to bridge borders



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Jamie Fisher (left) prepares to work with her second group of students on Nov. 14. As an Americorps volunteer, Fisher gets a new group of students to work with every class period at the ACE Charter School in San Jose.

By Suzanne Yada
Staff Writer

The loud chatter of about 40 middle-school students reverberated in a church meeting hall next door to their charter school.

The students were restlessly waiting to be dismissed from their homework period at the room inside San Jose's First Apostolic Church.

But they weren't going anywhere until they calmed down, said junior packaging major Jamie Fisher.

Fisher is helping tutor students from ACE Charter School, a small middle school that began two years ago to help underperforming students reach grade-level standards, according to the school's Web site.

"It's definitely a different experience than any other volunteer work I've ever done," she said. "It's very demanding. It takes a lot of time and energy out of you."

The school is so small it had

to make arrangements to use the room in the church next door for tutoring, Fisher said.

Fisher is a first-time AmeriCorps member, a federally funded service program with a number of projects around the nation, according to its Web site.

AmeriCorps' service projects range from educating the community about health, tutoring at struggling schools and helping low-income families out of poverty, according to its Web site.

AmeriCorps has been on the SJSU campus since 2002, said Jeff Russell, the member development coordinator for AmeriCorps.

The Bridging Borders AmeriCorps Project is SJSU's AmeriCorps service program that works with other community organizations to help immigrant families in Santa Clara County, Russell said.

First-time challenges

Fisher said she had helped tu-

See **TUTOR**, Page 2

International students find meaning of Thanksgiving

By Dominique Dumadaug
Staff Writer

Spending time with loved ones at a big dinner is how some SJSU students spend their Thanksgiving holiday.

For students living at the International House, Thanksgiving takes on a different meaning.

"For me, it's just like a big dinner with turkey," said Magdalena Wierzbolowicz, a junior double major in accounting and finance from Poland.

Jonny Mowlem, a junior double major in business management and marketing from Scotland, has heard about the business side of Thanksgiving.

"My perception of it before I came here was actually that it was the second-biggest thing behind Christmas," he said. "But I've been told in terms of sales and that type of thing in the business sector, it's actually bigger than Christmas."

"There's more purchasing and buying and there are bigger sales days."

Ebony Flett, a tourism and event management student from Australia, said she can see the traditional side of the holiday.

"It's a real family sort of thing," she said. "Everyone gets together and gives thanks for everything that they have."

For foreign students that don't regularly celebrate Thanksgiving and are away from their families during the holiday, they find other ways to spend their time.

"For Thanksgiving, since we're staying at the International House, we're going in a group of 25, which is a third of the house, to San Diego," Mowlem said. "Hopefully, the weather is good, but I heard it's better in April."

"We're going to visit a few people down there as well and go to the zoo, the water park, I think it's called water world (Sea World)," he said. "And go on a road trip and basically hang around San Diego."

Wierzbolowicz, one of the 25 people going to San Diego, said the group will be leaving on Wednesday and will be coming back Sunday.

"We are renting cars and traveling," she said. "We plan to connect to L.A. because some people still haven't seen L.A."

Mowlem said the reason for the five-day road trip to San Di-

See **HOLIDAY**, Page 2

UPD official says SJSU has little gang violence

By Alicia Johnson
Staff Writer

Aside from graffiti tagged on the walls of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, little gang activity has penetrated the SJSU campus, said a University Police Department official.

UPD Sgt. John Laws said night patrol has seen graffiti markings from the Barrio Williams Street gang whose presence has been almost nonexistent since the mid-'90s.

"When we do have something that's gang related it's generally going to be something in the library, or something off campus," Laws said. "For a couple of years we were having some gang activity in

the teen center on the third floor of the King Library.

"It took a lot of directed patrol on the part of the library security staff and the officers working in the King Library to minimize and diffuse that problem."

Anh Thu Tran, a junior hospitality and management major, said she has not seen any gang activity on campus.

"Around my old neighborhood, yes, my brother has been jumped twice at Independence High, but around campus I haven't heard much about any gang violence," she said. "I'm not here on campus often. I'm here for classes, then I leave."

Tran said she has noticed graffiti tagging on the fence of her so-

rority house, but doesn't know the markings of any gangs.

"There's obviously parties around campus and toward the evenings, or there's people that are walking the streets at night, but we don't know if they're students or not," she said. "They tend to get violent if they are not given access to some of the parties that happen to be around campus. And we've been noticing that lately."

Tran said when violence breaks out at a party, they usually call the police.

San Jose Community Services Supervisor Mario Maciel, said San Jose is one of the safest cities in the Bay Area.

"I haven't seen any major trends forming," he said.

He said most incidents occur at parties thrown by SJSU students, but those are isolated incidents.

"A college student probably is not a gang banger," Maciel said.

Laws said gangs have not been a problem on campus.

"Through directed enforcement by the university police and by the city police department, we were able to essentially make the Barrio Williams Street gang something that was no longer of concern to the university," he said.

Laws said UPD officers have reported seeing graffiti tagging that is associated with that gang, but no other activity has been associated with the Barrio Williams

See **GANGS**, Page 3

San Jose art culture may be on the rise

By Angela Marino
Staff Writer



[Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily]

An art piece by SJSU alumus Adam Coldwell at the Industrial Studies building on Thursday.

San Jose is not a dense urban area and the widespread cityscape has made it challenging to create a popular art scene, said a SJSU art technician.

Shelby Smith, a ceramic and glass technician, said there is an art scene emerging in San Jose.

"(The) South First Fridays event has been great to help the San Jose art scene become more popular," he said. "The event has encouraged people to come out and support the arts."

South First Fridays is an

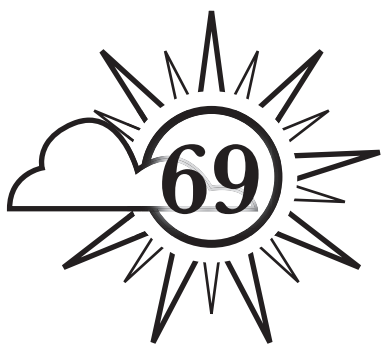
event that happens on the first Friday of every month in the South First Area of downtown San Jose, according to the South First Fridays Web site.

The South First Area district is the area south of San Carlos Street, between Market Street and Second Street, according to the City of San Jose Web site.

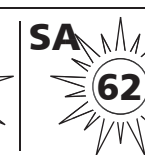
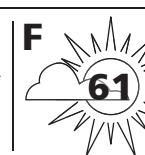
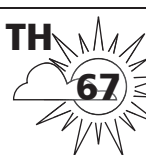
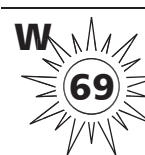
The district is San Jose's visual arts and entertainment district, according to the San Jose Downtown Association Web site.

Jonathan Yao, an SJSU alum-

See **ART**, Page 4



Sagittarius



Spartan Daily Blogs

spartandailynews.wordpress.com

• UC students protest 32 percent budget cuts across the state

spartandailyphoto.com

• See Photo Editor Joe Proudman's column

spartandailysports.wordpress.com

• Check out the latest installment of the Spartan Football Preview

The Spartan Daily will not be printing on the following days:

Nov. 25, 26, 30

Our next issue will hit the stands
Tuesday, Dec. 1

Cultural center holds talk about immigrant issues

By Ben Cadena
Staff Writer

The Mosaic Cross Cultural Center in the Student Union held a two-hour discussion Thursday evening about immigrant issues with 50 people in attendance.

"As an international student graduating this year, I started questioning my future here in the U.S. given the recession," said Gunjan Malekar, a Salzburg scholar from India.

"There aren't enough jobs," Malekar said. "Coming from India and now being an accountant or engineer makes it difficult because corporations have only so many opportunities, and the government can hand out only so many green cards."

Serry Dumbuya said his country, Sierra Leone, is different from the United States.

"This is the land of opportunity, but in my country I know what poverty is," said Dumbuya, a senior political science major. "Sierra Leone can be a rough country with no potable water, little or no food, and huts for houses. Go see the world and the extreme conditions — everybody wants to come back here."

Diana Victa, a senior sociology major, said immigrants are sometimes wrongfully downgraded.

"Immigrants that people say don't pay taxes are paying social security taxes, food taxes, gas taxes and property taxes, so it's not fair to label or denigrate them," Victa said.

"Issues of racism, xenophobia and economic injustice were problematical," Malekar said. "Outsourcing of jobs because of global labor markets surfaced. This

explains the hostility of auto workers laid off in Nummi."

Malekar's PowerPoint outlined a history of exclusion of some races such as Asian and Latin American and favored certain European nation's emigration.

Victoria Lis, a freshman biological science major, gave her view about starting over.

"You can't have it all," she said. "My family is going through economic hardship now, my dad's hours have been cut in Santa Cruz and though I am a French citizen, I can't start over in France. I would be back at square one. I have to stick it out, and survive with whatever part-time jobs I can find."

Junior sociology major Dijana Sirorica said she is going through major economic problems.

"The United States has an empire mentality and is only concerned with profit," she

said. "My family is suffering because of predatory balloon loans, and my family has lost their house."

Speaking about the housing market, Michael Guiterrez said "this is the land of opportunity for predators and predatory loans."

Malekar's PowerPoint showed the problems created by H1B visas for highly skilled software workers and H2B visas for the farm laborers needed seasonally by American agriculture.

H1B visas are issued to software companies who can't find qualified U.S. workers.

H2B visas have been issued to farm workers, because American workers will not take farm jobs.

"When there is a scarcity of jobs, competition becomes fierce," Malekar said.

"In harsh economic times, immigrants are charged with stealing American jobs," said

Fernando Marquez, a senior political science major. "I have to point out to all of you that these immigrants legal or illegal were hired to do jobs that many Americans feel beneath their station."

Marquez said conservative talk shows degrade immigrants.

"Fox and conservative media channels and talking heads like Lou Dobbs, who recently quit, are constantly demonizing immigrants and I for one will not miss Lou Dobbs one bit. Nor do I trust Janet Napolitano," he said.

Lukagho Kdsomo, a senior political science major, said America is a place of opportunity.

"People tend to forget that 'Land of Opportunity' is an idea and almost theoretical," Kdsomo said. "Opportunity is what you make it. It works for some, but not all."

HOLIDAY

From Page 1

ego was simple.

"We were obviously aware that we've got a big holiday and a break from our classes," he said. "So we thought we would utilize it to the best of our ability and go away somewhere."

Flett said the international students have also been invited to experience an American Thanksgiving.

"We're going to spend some time at Thanksgiving with an American girl who lives in the house," she said. "She invited us all to her house for Thanksgiving, so we're going away, but also going to visit an American home."

Mowlem said spending Thanksgiving with an American family would appeal to him.

"We've got the offer to go to a proper American dinner for Thanksgiving, which would really be nice, because I don't celebrate in Scotland," he said. "It would be pretty cool."

Mowlem said while many international students will be spending time in San Diego, the 18 American students living in the International House have plans of their own.

"They are going home to see family," he said. "They're booking flights."

TUTOR

From Page 1

tor disabled children in high school and was a peer health educator in college, but said tutoring underperforming middle school students was a new challenge.

"I have to be more strict than what I'm used to," she said. "Some of them are really helpful, and some of them will do everything possible to just make your day awful and make you want to cry."

Russell, a former AmeriCorps member, said most first-time AmeriCorps members experience challenges similar to Fisher's.

"Everybody wants it to be fun, like 'Hey, I'm working with kindergartners and they're just little balls of energy,' and nobody wants to work with the nasty fifth- and sixth-graders who have their own personality and opinions," he said. "We really are working with the students who are working at the lowest level of the classroom, and we're trying to bring up their scores. And that's not an easy thing to do."

"But if people are patient with the students and committed to helping them, we as a program can give them the tools they need to succeed."

Fisher said that despite all her struggles, she is still pushing forward.

"I think this is a great program to help underprivileged kids," she said. "It's just a matter of getting on their level and being able to help them and letting us help them."

About the charter school

ACE Charter School principal Vanessa Sifuentes said about 95 percent of the school's 215 students come from Spanish-speaking families, and about 80 percent are performing below grade level.

She said instead of having an after-school program, ACE Charter

School's hours are extended until 5 p.m. and include a homework period for all students.

"A lot of our parents struggle with helping their children with their homework for a variety of reasons," Sifuentes said. "The time is an issue, the language sometimes makes it difficult for parents who don't read or write in English to really support their children with their homework."

"So what we like to do is provide our kids with a space where they can come in, sit down and do their homework and ask questions before they go home."

Sifuentes said that this was the first year ACE partnered with AmeriCorps for tutors, and she's working with the program to get more.

"The tutors that we have right now are just doing a phenomenal job," she said. "They're working with the kids. They're getting to know them. They're building relationships with them."

"All teachers know that nine-tenths of your job is just about building relationships with your kids."

But Russell said that building relationships is less about being a friend and more about earning respect.

"Students size you up the first week you're there, and they really see what they can get away with," he said. "And it's imperative to establish the expectation that you're there to be their mentor and role model, and to help them with their academics. You're not there to be their friend or somebody they can walk all over."

Lessons learned

Becky Yee, a fellow AmeriCorps tutor at ACE Charter School, said she learned how to be firm with misbehaving kids.

"Disciplining them is not about being the mean person or the bad guy," she said. "I don't like to discipline at all. But it's about being fair to the kids that are doing good,

that want to learn."

Yee, a senior health science major, said that she didn't know what to expect when she signed up for AmeriCorps.

"After the first week, I was totally blown away," she said. "I was shocked. I didn't realize how much I didn't know yet about working with kids."

Fisher said one of the things she learned was how to get the students to use her as a resource.

"A lot of the students we have really want to learn but don't want to ask for help," she said. "They don't want people to think that they're stupid."

Attempting to make it work

The ACE Charter School is one of 13 sites in Santa Clara County that Bridging Borders AmeriCorps serves, Russell said.

He said he wished the AmeriCorps members tutoring at ACE Charter School had more training in handling the age group.

"I'd be lying if I said it's been 100 percent ideal in everything, but if you're going to work in the community, then chances are you're not going to run into ideal conditions often anyways," Russell said.

Fisher said the tutors use several different tactics to help the students pay attention, including separating the ones who are overly talkative.

"Honestly, they're great kids and they're a lot of fun to work with," she said. "It's just getting them in the right environment and away from people who distract them. We're trying to see who works well together."

Fisher said though the experience is a challenge, she enjoys knowing she is making a difference.

"I really like helping out the community," she said. "I really don't know why. Just by nature, I like to be involved. I like hands-on work. I like being able to help people or help situations or make things better."



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Jamie Fisher of AmeriCorps (right) helps a student at the ACE Charter School in San Jose with her writing assignment during study hall on Nov. 13.



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AroundDowntown



[Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

Workers put the finishing touches on several carnival rides between the Fairmont Hotel and Bijan Bakery & Cafe in downtown San Jose in preparation for Christmas in the Park.



Illustration by Stefan Armijo

No space for MySpace

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer

If the Alexa, trafficestimate and other survey Web sites are to be believed, some SJSU students have ignored MySpace and have chosen to use Facebook for social networking.

MySpace's worldwide use has dropped from around 7 percent to about 4 percent in the past year, according to the Alexa Web site.

Alexa is a Web information company that provides information on Web site page views and tracks other information, such as how long a Web site loads.

Facebook's worldwide use has increased from about 7 percent to 28 percent in the past year, according to the Alexa Web site.

Freshman economics major Yvonne Ta said she chose Facebook for a specific reason.

"More of my friends are on Facebook," she said.

Kim Uhlik, an assistant professor in hospitality, recreation and tourism management, said Facebook's popularity makes it comparable to a society.

"When it became global, as it is now, with literally millions and millions of users, it develops the same social characteristics as of an actual society — that being a virtual society," he said.

Uhlik said Facebook's societal characteristics help groups of friends stick together on the Web site.

"People will not go on there now simply to communicate with one another, but now to visit with their friends virtually online," he said.

Facebook users spend twice the amount of time on Facebook's Web site than MySpace users spend on MySpace's Web site, according to the Alexa Web site.

Devan Sri-Tharan, a sophomore computer engineering major, said he joined Facebook to connect with friends, but that there were reasons other than communication that keep him interested in the Web site.

"Facebook is just a clean interface," he said. "It's just easier to use."

According to the Alexa Web site, Facebook's Web site's average load time is 0.118 seconds, while MySpace's average load time is 3.716 seconds.

Sri-Tharan said Facebook's large user base allows him to keep in touch with more friends.

"I could connect with people, in terms of a couple of my friends are international, so I could always hook up with them online," he said.

Senior Spanish major Paola Villalvazo said Facebook has more security than MySpace.

"You get more stalkers on MySpace than you do on Facebook," she said.

Brian Bui, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said he's never used MySpace, but Facebook has problems as well.

"It's kind of slow, and sometimes there's a lot of glitches," he said.

MySpace has had 95 million visitors in the past 30 days, while Facebook has had 332 million visitors, according to the trafficestimate Web site.

Department of State specialist lectures students

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer

A member of the Department of State visited SJSU on Thursday to talk with students about potential careers as foreign specialists in U.S. embassies and consulates around the world.

McKenzie Taylor said meeting Foreign Service Specialist Laura Williams in the Boccardo Business Complex will help her with her future career.

"This is exactly what I want to do with my career," said the senior political science major.

Williams met with about 170 students throughout four different sessions to talk about working for the Department of State.

She said officials from the Department of State look to hire college graduates with experience but that speaking to college students was still important.

"It's really about planting that seed," she said.

Williams said working for the Department of State helps fulfill the department's mission to represent the United States to the world.

Tomasz Kolodziejek, a junior international business major, said he couldn't join the Department of State, but said he found the sessions fascinating.

"I'm not a citizen, but (the sessions) still helps," he said.

Ryan Wu, a senior global

studies major, said when he was an intern for the Department of State, he was asked to apply for a foreign affairs campus coordinator position.

He said he was one of two people that got the position for California, and he helped bring Williams to SJSU.

Williams said working for the Department of State could allow employees to work at one of the more than 180 U.S. embassies and consulates.

"We have 265 different (job) postings around the world," she said.

Williams said there are many different career tracks in the Department of State, which include positions in information technology and management.

"I learned all about (information technology)," she said.

Williams said the first couple of postings after getting the job are assigned, but employees can choose their own postings afterward.

"They're not going to put you anywhere high stress or high danger," she said.

The Department of State wants diverse employees, Williams said.

"We want people from a broad cross section of academic backgrounds," she said.

Williams said diversity is important to the Department of State, but that wasn't always

the case. "In the old days, it was male, pale and from Yale," she said.

The government provides housing while overseas on assignment, she said.

Williams said there are three levels of assignment in the Department of State — one year, two years or three years.

She said employees on one-year appointments travel unaccompanied by family members and often go to "troubled" countries such as Iraq or Afghanistan.

Two-year appointments involve a little more hardship in countries less "troubled" than Iraq or Afghanistan, Williams said.

She said three-year appointments take place in developed countries such as Italy or Australia.

Williams said the assignments can get difficult at times.

"You're away from family and friends," she said.

She said trips back to the United States are required by the Department of State.

"You should spend some time and reacquire yourself (with American culture)," she said.

She said that before leaving for an assignment, the Department of State requires applicants to take language classes for the country they're assigned.

GANGS

From Page 1

Street gang.

Lt. John Spicer, from the San Jose Police Department, said the area adjacent to the campus has the lowest reported amount of gang violence out of the four geographical areas in San Jose.

He said those areas include Central Division (where SJSU is located), Foothill Division (East San Jose), Western Division, and the Southern Division.

Spicer said 10 incidents were reported in the Central Division in the last month.

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CampusVoices

Feature and Photos by Leonard Lai

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Schehrbano Khan
Freshman, Molecular Biology



I'm thankful for my friends and family, and thankful for my freedom to choose the things I want to do.

Alvin Tan
Senior, Communication Studies



I'm thankful for my happiness. I feel open and free right now. Life just feels a lot easier.

Allen Ho
Senior, Computer Science



I'm thankful I have a spot in school and still have a job in this economy.

Max Gustofson
Senior, Advertising



I'm thankful for my parents supporting me throughout my college career. I can't thank them enough.

Kellie Glead
Graduate student in Education



I'm thankful for my family and friends, and the opportunity to go to school to educate the youth, because I'm a teacher.

Jeanette Mathios
Senior, Nutritional Science



I'm thankful my grandfather is doing better, because he was sick. I'm also thankful for the support I've gotten from the academic advising and retention services.

ART

From Page 1

nus, said many artists stay in San Jose because there is a lot of support for local artists.

"The South First Fridays event has turned art appreciation into a social activity," Yao said. "The social aspect of art exhibits has made the scene more popular in San Jose as people are starting to make an effort to show up because it is something interesting to do."

Artists in San Jose find it difficult to find places to show their artwork, Smith said and the economy has affected the sale of art.

"If you talk to even the big artists, they are selling about 70 percent less than what they were even a couple of years ago," he said.

The economy has hindered public art for the past two years because galleries are receiving fewer donations from supporters that allow the art scene to flourish, Smith said.

Despite the difficulty, he said certain galleries are trying to re-ignite art culture in San Jose.

"The gallery Anno Domini has created downtown window gallery shows that allow SJSU students to display their artwork in vacant building fronts," Smith said.

Cherri Lakey, owner of Anno Domini Gallery, located at 366 S. First St., said there are many possible reasons behind the slow development of art culture in San Jose.

"It takes a lot more effort to create a common place for art collectors to gather," Lakey said. "It is also very expensive to live here, so people must work longer hours to pay for necessities and that precious time outside of work is spent with family."

Art is pushed down on the list of important priorities, she said.

Morgan Chivers, a senior

double major in photography and spatial arts, said the art scene is rapidly growing in San Jose.

"It is hard to compare the art culture in San Jose to San Francisco's art culture, because San Jose is basically eight cities compiled into one conglomerate city with no centralized downtown," he said.

Bill Gould, an art and interior design lecturer, said San Jose needs to create a centralized downtown to construct a solid art culture.

"There is definitely a strong culture of artists, but it could be better," he said.

Gould said despite San Jose's large population, the residents have a different way of life.

"San Jose is much more of a car

culture," he said. "The shopping centers are spread away from the downtown center, where people are most likely to go shop and see movies."

Gould said shopping centers such as Santana Row hurt downtown, because it draws people away from a potential downtown-oriented city.

He said spreading consumer activities outside of downtown has created an area that shuts down early. He said a possible solution to create a stronger art scene is to turn downtown San Jose into an area that is open 24-hours.

"By creating an area open later, it could entice people to come and spend time downtown rather than other areas of the city," Gould said.

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Sultry, sulky 'New Moon' cast sucks talent out of film

Review: Movie

By Jhenene Louis
Staff Writer

The screams and sighs of teenage girls filled San Bruno's Tanforan Theater as Edward Cullen appeared on the screen with his smoldering golden-brown eyes, pale white skin and red lips.

"The Twilight Saga: New Moon" officially opened in theaters everywhere on Friday, unless you were fortunate to get advance screening tickets.

Some theaters offered a special midnight showing devoted "Twilight" followers.

"New Moon" is the second in a series of movies based on the "Twilight" novel series by author Stephanie Meyer.

The novels and movies follow the adventures of teenage girl Bella Swan, who moves to Forks, Wash. to live with her father.

Bella is the new student

at her school, and her only friend is Jacob Black, a Native American who lives on a nearby reservation.

Though it is not said in the "Twilight" movie, Jacob has intimate feelings for Bella, though she only views him as a friend.

In "Twilight," Bella meets the Cullen family at school and finds herself especially interested in Edward.

She starts to fall for Edward, but later discovers that he and his family are vampires.

In return, Edward yearns for Bella's blood but realizes that his love for her is greater than any other addiction.

Throughout the film, the couple's relationship is complicated by the appearance of three other outside vampires responsible for mysterious killings in Forks.

In "New Moon," the drama and love triangle continues as Bella, played by Kristen Stewart, is forced to choose between her childhood friend Jacob, played by Taylor Lautner, and her first true love Edward, played

by Robert Pattinson.

Though this film is part of a four-part love story like the books, nothing in it compares to the first film, "Twilight."

It was encouraging that the "New Moon" film stayed true to the book, which was one of the reasons I was excited to see it.

I had been anticipating "New Moon" for more than a year, but now I believe that some actors were miscast.

Lautner's portrayal of Jacob, who has the ability to transform into a werewolf, was unconvincing.

In the "New Moon" novel, Jacob was characterized as strong and handsome, with a dominant personality, while Lautner was anything but.

Lautner's lack of height and kid-like demeanor made the choice between Edward and Jacob an easy one.

The only thing appealing about Lautner's performance was his body, because he spent time building muscle to better suit his character as a werewolf.



[Photo courtesy of The Internet Movie Database]

Actress Kristen Stewart stars as Bella Swan along with co-star Peter Facinelli as Dr. Carlisle Cullen in "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

Stewart's emotions throughout the film seemed to be misplaced.

There were moments in the movie when I expected Stewart to cry, and instead she would be hesitant, or have a blank expression where she should have been sad or happy.

The chemistry between Bella and her father Charlie Swan, played by Billy Burke, was awkward and uneasy, adding edginess to the film.

Burke's performance was superb, and it was a treat to watch him on screen in his flawless portrayal of the concerned, but not demanding, father.

There were parts of the film when he did not even need to voice his expressions — the silences spoke for him.

While the action scenes in "New Moon" did not impress me, the computer-generated

imagery that turned Jacob into a werewolf was both believable and lifelike, unlike Lautner's performance.

Stewart's acting abilities have been questionable in the past because of her dry appearance, awkwardness on camera and her monotone voice.

But when casting her for the role of Bella, Director Catherine Hardwicke made an effective choice, because Stewart and the character of Bella seem very similar.

Pattinson continued to compel my attention, pale skin and all.

His portrayal of a vampire was realistic from his acting down to his appearance.

He was dangerous, unapproachable and suave, but he still managed to be alluring.

There was less of Pattinson in "New Moon," but his

acting seemed to improve in this film than when compared with his performance in "Twilight."

The lack of acting was a disappointment in "New Moon" compared with "Twilight."

Though the storyline is more complicated, Stewart and Lautner's lack of chemistry was noticeable.

It was surprising that it was the minor characters that carried the film and made the romantic thriller bearable to endure.

Hopefully the actors will have improved their performances in "Eclipse," the next installment of the "Twilight" series is due to be released next summer.

But, if you're just looking for pretty faces to glare at you from the screen, then "New Moon" is probably the film for you.



[Photo courtesy of The Internet Movie Database]

Kristen Stewart with co-star Taylor Lautner in "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."



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Spartans attempt to stay out of cellar

Win would be first in conference play

By Ryan Buchan
Senior Staff Writer

The Spartan football team will play its final game at home this Saturday and head coach Dick Tomey may coach for the final time in Spartan Stadium.

Tomey announced last week that he will retire from coaching the Spartan football team after the season is over.

"I am a senior like the other guys," Tomey said. "I am a senior two ways. I am senior in age and I am senior in that it's my last game at Spartan Stadium."

"... One of (the players) alluded to the fact they were going to try and win it for me last week and I said, 'Guys, you have already done more for me than I could ever repay. So that is not what you need to be thinking about. You just need to win the game for our team, for our fans, for our players, for yourselves.'"

Saturday's matchup against the New Mexico State Aggies will pair the teams with the two worst

records in the Western Athletic Conference.

The Aggies have won three games, two against NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision opponents, while the Spartans lone victory was against Cal Poly, a Football

C h a m p i o n - s h i p Subdivision team.

This season will be the fourth time in 28 years that a Tomey-coached team has lost more than six games in a sea-

son.

"I have never been down this road, but it's real," Tomey said. "We have to just understand we have to keep fighting, keep working and there is no easy way."

SJSU and New Mexico State are the two lowest ranked teams in scoring offense in the WAC.

The Aggies average 12 points per game, which is the lowest in the FBS. The Spartans' 13 points per game is ranked 118 out of 120 teams.

In the game against Hawaii, senior Kyle Reed replaced junior Jordan La Secla as quarterback in the first half.

Tomey said he is unsure if Reed will start on Saturday, but added on senior day if the decision is close, he will usually go with the senior.

"I thought Kyle gave us a shot in the arm (against Hawaii)," Tomey said. "I don't think we change that much (offensively) except that obviously Kyle gives us a little bit more running capability."

Reed started eight games in 2008 for SJSU after transferring from Cal in 2007.

SJSU wide receiver Kevin Jurovich caught at least seven passes in all but one of the team's first five games this season. In the last five games, Jurovich has not caught more than six passes in a game. In three of those games, he had three catches or less.

In 2007, Jurovich's last healthy season, he caught 85 passes for 1,183 yards and nine touchdowns. Jurovich has not caught a touchdown pass this season.

With less than one minute to go in regulation against Hawaii, running back Lamond Muldrow fumbled the ball. Tomey said its likely that senior running back Patrick Perry will start on Saturday because of Muldrow's fumbling problems.



[Photos by Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]

(Above) Quarterback Kyle Reed, No. 7, is tackled during the Spartans 17-10 loss to Hawaii on Saturday.

(Right) Quarterback Jordan La Secla, No. 12, looks downfield for a receiver on Saturday.



SJSU Schedule and Results

Sept. 05 vs USC 56-3 Loss	Oct. 31 vs. Boise State 45-7 Loss
Sept. 12 vs Utah 24-14 Loss	Nov. 8 vs. Nevada 62-7 Loss
Sept. 19 vs Stanford 42-17 Loss	Nov. 14 vs. Utah State 24-9 Loss
Sept. 26 vs Cal Poly 19-9 Win	Nov. 21 vs. Hawaii 17-10 Loss
Oct. 10 vs Idaho 29-25 Loss	Nov. 28 vs. New Mexico State
Oct. 17 vs Fresno State 41-21 Loss	Dec. 5 vs. Louisiana Tech

Spartan Football Player Statistics

Offense

Player	Touchdowns	Total yards	Receptions
Kevin Jurovich	0	741	54
Marquis Avery	4	325	35
Lamond Muldrow	3	572	18

Defense

Player	Tackles	Sacks	Forced fumbles
Tanner Burns	82	0	4
Duke Ihenacho	77	0	2
Pompey Festejo	67	2	1

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