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SPORTS

WAC's worst to square off Saturday Page 8



OPINION

A personal account of a foreclosed home Page 7



A&E

Newest 'Twilight' movie underwhelms Page 5

AmeriCorps students aspire to bridge borders



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 gradeschool'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

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 Ameri-Corps.

The Bridging Borders AmeriCorps Project is SJSU's level standards, according to the 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

 $S_{\text{ones at a big dinner is how}}^{\text{pending time with loved}}$ some SISU 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

"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 its 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 its 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-

"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 sorority 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

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

been noticing that lately."

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



[Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily]

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

By Angela Marino Staff Writer

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

Jonathan Yao, an SJSU alum-

See ART, Page 4













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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

"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

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

"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

"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 kindergarteners 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

"But if people are patient with the students and committed to friend and more about earning rehelping 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 ninetenths of your job is just about building relationships with your

But Russell said that building relationships is less about being a spect.

"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

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 or help situations or make things Nov. 13.



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

be involved. I like hands-on work. Jamie Fisher of Americorps (right) helps a student at the ACE Charter I like being able to help people School in San Jose with her writing assignment during study hall on



llustration by Stefan Armijo

Around Downtown



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.

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 Kolodziejak, 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.

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

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 after-

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

The Department of State wants diverse employees, Wil-

"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

"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

She said employees on oneyear appointments travel unaccompanied by family members and often go to "troubled" countries such as Iraq or Afghani-

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

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

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 reacquaint 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.

myspace. ICCDUUN

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 network-

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 Fa-

cebook," she said. Kim Uhlik, an assistant professor in hospitality, recreation and tourism management, said Face-

rable 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 soci-

book's popularity makes it compa-

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

ety," he said.

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

Take a short survey for a

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

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

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

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

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

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

trical engineering major, said he's never used MySpace, but Facebook has problems as well.

Brian Bui, a sophomore elec-

"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





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Ryan Wu, a senior global **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.

4 NEWS

Campus Voices

Feature and Photos by Leonard Lai

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.

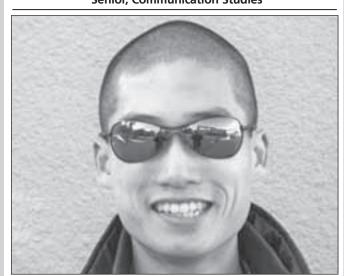
Max Gustofson Senior, Advertising



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

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Alvin Tan Senior, Communication Studies



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

Kellie Gleed



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

Allen Ho Senior, Computer Science



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

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 tion 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

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 reignite 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

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 comvent has turned art apprecia- piled into one conglomerate city with no centralized downtown,"

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

"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

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

"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



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 goldenbrown 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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SJSU grad newest 'CSI: Miami' cast member

By Regina Aquino Staff Writer

With SJSU roots, former student Omar Miller has made his way into the big screen.

Miller is the newest cast member of the television show "CSI: Miami," according to a biography provided by his publicist.

Miller has also been featured in films such as "Get Rich or Die Tryin;" "8 Mile" and "Things We Lost in the Fire."

Professor Amy Glazer of the

television, radio, film and theater department said Miller was one of her shining stars, and she is proud of his trajectory.

"He took all of my courses, everything, and I was not only his teacher, but his mentor," she said. "In fact, I was the person who got him his first agent when he moved to L.A.

"The thing about Omar is that the camera loved him, and he had a great presence when he was on stage."

SJSU in Fall 1999 and gradu- life." ated in Spring 2001.

In terms of his experience at SJSU, Miller said that with the help of his professors, he was able to discover what he wanted to do after college.

"It was college," Miller said. "It did exactly what it was supposed to do. I had a bunch of great professors, some of which are still there, like Bob Rucker and Amy Glazer.

"They took the time to take Through a telephone inter- an interest in me and help me view, Miller said he arrived at find what it is I wanted to do in

Miller's Hollywood acting career began with the Disney film, "Sorority Boys," according to the biography.

He was still a student enrolled at SJSU when filming

Jerry Bruckheimer, the executive producer of "CSI: Miami," decided to create a role specifically for Miller in the television show after recognizing his talent, according to the biography.

"So far it's really great," Miller said of being the newest cast member of the television series.

Glazer said she noticed Miller's discipline and vigor early on, once he had decided that acting was the career path he wanted.

"Omar is an intelligent actor, and he picked intelligent roles," she said. "Omar was not afraid to take chances. He was not afraid to go big. He always committed."

Working with Miller from the beginning of his acting career, Glazer said she recognized Miller's strengths with art.

"He intuitively understood what it was to be in action what it was to be in motion," she said. "He had an intuitive relationship to acting and brought, from early on, not only energy and charisma, but authenticity and truth."

Miller said that challenges are a part of everyday life.

"Nothing develops when you're living life without them," he said. "Challenges are all about no security, so to say. Nothing in the acting world is easy as 'one plus one equals two.' That's just how it goes."

Looking beyond acting, Miller said he would eventually like to do work behind the camera.

"I've directed a family film and it was fun," he said. "I would definitely like to put out positive energy and positive work for people of color."



[Photo courtesy of CBS Television Network]

Omar Miller is the newest cast member to join television show, CSI: Miami.

Promoting the positives available," he said. "There's of having a diverse media is a lot of new avenues that are something Miller said he hopes

"It's very important that positive energy and strong images are portrayed around the world, because in my travels, I've realized that a lot of people are only exposed to different cultures through entertainment," he said. "They see something negative, and that's what they really believe."

As advice for aspiring film students, Miller said that it would be best for students to take advantage of the everchanging opportunities in the media.

"Be persistent and exercise all these new options that are voice of a pig named Horace.

available for film producing — Internet, the 'Webisodes,' web series and all this stuff that's really newer and was just starting to open when I was in school.

"Now it's just busted wide open."

"There's so many different ways to get your craft out there, so I think students should take advantage of all these different options they have and get it crackin."

Omar's next film project will be "The Lion of Judah," which will mark his first experience into the world of animation, according to the biography.

He will be providing the

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Omar Miller graduated from SJSU in 2001 and has appeared in movies such as

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Spartan Daily

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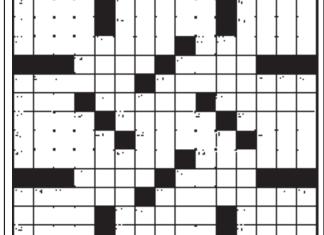
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Tempers (2 wides)



The family behind foreclosures



Alicia Johnson

Staff Writer

Angelo Lanham

knucklehead."

Yes, I Have A Point

If you are like me, you've

considered getting the hell out

of this insane asylum, finding a

job someplace like Best Buy or

Wal-Mart, clawing your way to

the top and becoming a micro-

managing retail nightmare of

an individual before finally get-

ting fired years down the line,

on the brink of middle age, for

violating the sexual harassment

like any fun. Wal-Mart is the

devil. How could I have con-

sidered, however briefly, work-

It just goes to show you how

troubling these times are. We're

paying more for our educa-

tion, and we are rewarded with

furlough days, fewer units and

sections. And if, after paying

the hiked tuition, I get a letter

in my MySJSU inbox saying I

need to cough up another few

hundred, I don't care how well

the extra dough is rationalized

in the letter, I swear I'll whack

myself silly with a Wiffle bat.

That's saying something. Ex-

perts agree, this is the longest

Have you ever read "Les

Miserables?" I read the book,

and am not sure if the version

with all that singing and racket

has the same story. Neverthe-

less, being on the brink of free-

dom from this school madness

has me feeling like Jean Valjean,

in that I'm less than a year away

for getting out of prison — err,

CSU - and am terrified that

I'm going to do something

goofy, like take a rock to my leg

shackle and make a run for the

Ack! But Wal-Mart is the

nearest Wal-Mart.

and most painful death.

ing for Satan?

Yikes! That doesn't sound

My boyfriend has been trying to buy a house for almost a year now. Because I have been heavily involved in the process and will be living in the property, I will refer to it as "our house" and not "his house."

We are primarily interested in the Oakland area, but our budget is low.

We want to live in a nice house, in a nice neighborhood, with a picket fence and a fireplace — but we just can't afford

Since last January, we have viewed over 80 homes, most of them foreclosed homes in rough neighborhoods.

Although buying a foreclosed property is the best way to use our small amount of money, it wasn't until last Saturday that we reconsidered our judgment.

Our realtor called with news of a new property to the market within our price

So we loaded up the car and headed over to check it out.

I just got my classes lined

up, and the sensation was not

unlike sliding into home plate

-which is to say, I was natu-

rally shocked that it worked

sliding into third. I don't feel

safe like I have on the solitary

occasion when I did slide to

home. Home plate means you

get a high five and a pat on the

back - or ass, depending on

could hit you and it wouldn't

matter. A mutant Rottweiler

could devour you. Whatever.

Third plate is not so secure.

If the meteor smacks into me

now, suddenly I haven't made it

It's my last semester. I should

be shoveled out the door under

the current policy, right? Word

on the street is, dead people and

dogs are being handed degrees

in haste, to ensure a decent

turnover at SJSU — to ensure

we super seniors quit hogging

I a dog – a shoe-in, you might

But why am I on third?

Well, I'm not dead, nor am

Before we get into that

who's-on-first crap, I'll rumi-

nate that I don't know if you're

like me, but you might be. If

you are, you get the distinct

impression that the Califor-

nia State University system is

hanging you upside-down by

your ankles, shaking all the

change and personal effects

from your pockets, and then saying, "more, please" - before

giving you a boot to the head, a

swift kick to the butt, and say-

ing, "Now get oudda here, ya devil!

the places freshmen may take.

After sliding home, a meteor

your team's dynamics.

You made it.

after all.

Scratch that — it's more like

rived, we found the front door slightly opened, so our realtor and myself walked in.

We were greeted sadly by the family being evicted.

I was mortified, almost to the point of

My boyfriend had no idea, because he decided to check out the backyard first.

The father, the mother and two of their children rummaged through what was left of their personal property, as we apolo-

gized profusely for violating their space. They were strong — stronger than I

had already accepted their fate.

whatever they could carry.

We knew long before we encountered this family what state the housing market

How could you not?

ing like listening to a breaking news story about our country's economic hardships.

What I experienced was a family no different socially or economically than my family.

California and the rest of the country have experienced a record-breaking increase in foreclosed homes, aided by faulty loans and job loss.

"The foreclosure figures for March 2009 broke all records and proved to be not only the most number of cases for a given month, but also the highest number of cases for a given quarter," according to the Realty Trac Web site.

Realty Trac is a company that keeps track of all the foreclosure cases that are taking place in the country.

In March 2009, 341,180 cases of fore-

According to the Realty Trac site, the increase in the number of foreclosures since March 2008 was a mind-boggling 46

The low prices of these foreclosed homes have bottom feeders, like investors, drooling over properties.

I wonder if the banks and bottom feeders have ever encountered the families and their lingering presences.

The sunny side of terrorism



Adam Murphy

Murphy's Law

Thomson, Ill. is a small town struggling through the recession. Thomson might have a way out of the recession, from the unlikeliest of sources —

Suspected terrorists, that is. Guantanamo Bay detainees are going to be brought into the U.S. and put on trial. The problem is finding them a place

The Obama administration has been kicking the around the idea of housing the detainees at Thomson prison. The Federal Bureau of Prisons would purchase Thomson prison from the state of Illinois and the detainees would be housed in a separate wing of the 1,600-cell

The eight-year-old prison is exactly the kind of modern facility needed to house the inmates, said Harley Lappin, head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in a Reuters article.

Residents of Thomson and nearby towns are mostly in favor of the move because of the jobs that would be created — Lappin said the prison would create around 500 jobs, according to the same article.

The local residents want the detainees in Thomson. Obama wants the detainees in Thomson. The head of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons wants the detainees in Thomson. So it would seem a safe bet that the terrorist suspects will find themselves in Thomson, once the legal mumbo-jumbo is

But there is one group that zens of Thomson. doesn't want the detainees in Thomson.

Republicans argue that by bringing detainees to America, the suspected terrorists may compromise security and be afforded rights they do not de-

Republicans are seeking a vote on legislation aimed at prohibiting the Obama administration from trying suspected terrorist in U.S. courts.

The main Republican argument is one of security — that

terrorists will escape and blow us all up.

Yet during the Bush administration, 195 terrorists were tried, convicted and locked up on U.S. soil. How many of those terrorists have escaped and wreaked havoc on U.S. civilians?

Playing the fear card is a typical Republican ploy to garner support. Does anyone remember the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System?

From a cool, soothing lowlevel green to a bright red that signaled a "severe risk of a terrorist attack."

Ever since Obama took office, Republicans have been seeing red and shouting it too. They are using Thomson as a way to gain political points.

Republican Pete Hoekstra of Michigan said the Obama administration was bribing local cash-strapped communities into taking the prisoners. Yet those citizens in Thomson want the detainees and the jobs that would follow.

Republican Mark Kirk of Illinois, who is running for Obama's vacant senate seat, said that a nuclear plant near Thomson could become a target if terrorists were brought near it — as if it wouldn't have been a target before.

These are just two examples of baseless claims coming from

Republicans talk about rights and security like they know what is best for the citi-

Those same citizens have a right to financial security that just doesn't exist in Thomson right now. Bringing Gitmo detainees to the Thomson prison would open up jobs and provide a better way of life for a lot of people.

If it was up to Republicans, those citizens in Thomson would never have that chance.

Adam Murphy is a Spartan Daily sports editor. "Murphy's Law" appears every Tuesday.

would have been in their situation. closure were reported. The figures indi-There was a language barrier, but they cated an increase of 17 percent from the assured us it was OK to look. I guess they figures reported for the preceding quarter, according to the Realty Trac Web site.

Soon after, the family drove off with

But their presence still lingered.

But what I had encountered was noth-

Call for a mantra to not work for the devil

I'm a nervous wreck. I simply must get on with my life, but it seems as if the universe has made it a priority to keep my numb brain in some deranged school feedback loop, and has somehow taken a break from all that important stuff, like mak-

sun yellow, producing air, etc. Gentle reader, I've been through several ups and downs with this whole college thing, and have had it.

ing the world spin, keeping the

What's that? You've had it

Goodness me, a kindred

Hot damn. Let's stick together, because in my estimation, finishing school is kind of an important thing these days. No joke. Jobs at Taco Bell now require a Master's degree. True

We need a mantra. "I will not work at Wal-Mart, claw my way to the top, become a micro-

managing dumbass, and finally get fired while approaching middle age for violating some section of the sexual harassment code."

No, let's make sure to get nice, shiny degrees and do all that horrible stuff in an office, while standing around the wa-

We have a mantra. We have to get through this. No turning back now, we've wasted too much time and money.

Gentle readers, please join me in my concerted effort to not give up, to finally blow this popsicle stand, and if all else fails, just to work anywhere but Wal-Mart.

Sure, life seems pretty futile at this juncture, but don't let that get you down. You've just slid to third.

Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

"Yes, I Have A Point" appears every Tuesday.

Ruminations



This Thanksgiving, the SJSU science department vows to put a roast turkey on Mars.

illustration by Carl Evans



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SJSU students, faculty and staff organizations may place items in Sparta Guide free of charge. Submissions must be placed in the Sparta Guide box at the Spartan Daily by noon and three days before publication. Space limitations may require light editing of material. No phoned in items will be accepted. There is also a form at thespartandaily.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

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 "We have to just 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

Championship Subdivision team.

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

understand we have

to keep fighting, keep

working and there is

no easy way."

"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

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

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

"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.

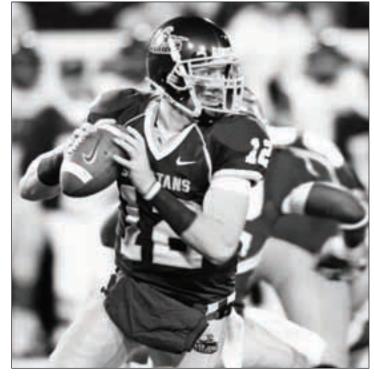
With less than one minute to go in regulation against Hawaii, running back Lamon Muldrow fumbled the ball. Tomey said its likely that senior running back Patrick Perry will start on Saturday because of Muldrow's fumbling problems.



(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.

[Photos by Dave Cabebe / Spartan Daily]



SJSU Schedule and Results

Sept. 05 vs USC 56-3 Loss

Sept. 12 vs Utah 24-14 Loss

Sept. 19 vs Stanford 42-17 Loss

Sept. 26 vs Cal Poly 19-9 Win

Oct. 10 vs Idaho 29-25 Loss

Oct. 17 vs Fresno State 41-21 Loss

Oct. 31 vs. Boise State 45-7 Loss

Nov. 8 vs. Nevada 62-7 Loss

Nov. 14 vs. Utah State 24-9 Loss

Nov. 21 vs. Hawaii 17-10 Loss

Nov. 28 vs. New Mexico State

Dec. 5 vs. Louisiana Tech

Spartan Football Player Statistics

Player	Touchdowns	Total yards	Receptions
Kevin Jurovich	0	741	54
Marquis Avery	4	325	35
Lamon Muldrow	3	572	18
	Def	fense	
Player	Tackles	Sacks	Forced fumbles
Player Tanner Burns	Tackles 82	Sacks 0	Forced fumbles 4
•			
Tanner Burns	82	0	4

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- Ikasansai (Squid Salad) Gyoza Dumplings
 - Agedashi Tofu

BUY ONE GET ONE DOMESTIC BEERS

- LARGE BEERS \$4.00
- LARGE HOT SAKES 55.00

1/2 PRICE WELL COCKTAIL