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Wayne of all trades



Latin Jazz and jazz history professor Wayne Wallace, is an accomplished jazz trombonist, arranger and composer. He has been nominated for a Grammy three times for his work on various jazz albums.

He has produced and contributed to movie scores, documentary and musical soundtracks, and has received multiple grants for his compositions.

Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

by **Sonia Ayala**
Contributing Writer

Integrity, humility, humor, seriousness, talent and musical passion are all characteristics that describe the personality and career of Wayne Wallace, a musical prodigy, SJSU music professor, trombonist, vocalist, keyboardist, musician and producer.

"I been a musician for 43 years," Wallace said. "And I've been really blessed to have played and learned from a lot of professional musicians such as Whitney Houston, Earth Wind and Fire, Aretha Franklin, Sunny Rawlins, The Count Basie Orchestra, Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight, Patti Labelle, Tito Puente, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Sammy Davis Jr. and many other great musicians."

Wallace's teaching career

Aside from pursuing his professional career, Wallace also

teaches two upper and lower division jazz classes at SJSU — the Latin jazz ensemble and Worlds of Jazz — and he also gives private lessons.

"I like his teaching style," said Kristine Conley, a junior American studies major and a student from Wallace's Worlds of Jazz class. "His lessons are well-rounded and they cater to many different learning styles. His teaching style is constantly engaging, for example, one day he had us play percussion instruments in small groups, so that we could comprehend rhythm and beats."

Wallace said one thing he enjoys about teaching is he gets to experiment and try new ideas with different styles and to connect styles together.

"I enjoy seeing when the light bulb comes on," he said. "They see what it takes for them to be the best musician that they can be. It isn't a matter of how much a good musician they become, but that the light has turned on."

One of Wallace's friends and colleagues of 8 years said Wallace is a very honest, humble musician and professor that has deep respect for the art form and its artists.

"He is very laid back and approachable," said Aaron Lington, the coordinator of jazz studies at SJSU. "Yet he is serious when it comes to education and music."

Wallace's musical background

Wallace said he wasn't born into a family of musicians.

He got his real inspiration to become a professional musician from his mother, who allowed him to take piano lessons at a young age.

The San Francisco public school system also gave Wallace the opportunity to learn how to play by providing a trombone for him to practice on, he said.

SEE WALLACE PAGE 2

University lays out its goals for 2017

by **Christina Molina**
Staff Writer

The strategic planning board has created a framework of goals they hope to reach by 2017, based on the information collected from the 49 town hall meetings held by Presi-

dent Mohammad Qayoumi in August and September.

Following the meetings, a data analysis team, consisting of three staff members on campus, transcribed and reported the data to the strategic planning board who then drafted goals to be met based on responses given from students, faculty, administrators and the community, according to Academic Senate Vice-Chair Beth Von Till.

Dorothy Poole, assistant vice president of administration and finance division, is one of three persons in the data analysis team.

"I worked in the office of the president during strategic planning several years ago," Poole said. "When President Qayoumi came on board and wanted to start the strategic planning process again, he wanted to leverage the work we have done previously as well as some of the expertise already on campus."

According to Poole, Qayoumi

reached out to her, communication Professor Rona Halualani and Camille Johnson, an associate professor of organization and management, to create a data analysis team responsible for facilitating the data collection analysis and reporting.

Von Till is a member of the strategic planning board that creates the goals based on the information given from the data analysis team.

"They took the strategic planning board and divided it into four committees and each one was tagged with one of the three themes," Von Till said. "I was part of the executive committee."

The three themes Von Till referred to are integrative learning, community connection and inclusive excellence, which were included in the questions asked at the town hall meetings.

"The president asked us to come up with between four and six

SEE PLANNING PAGE 4

Nonviolent hazing still happens, source says

Details about present-day initiations into Greek life include sleep deprivation

by **Scott Semmler**
Staff Writer

A member of an on-campus fraternity has provided a detailed description of the current state of hazing at SJSU.

The anonymous fraternity member has revealed that not allowing pledging students to sleep, as well as cleaning the respective fraternity houses on a constant basis, are two examples of current hazing that he said the fraternity members use to create "respect."

According to the SJSU hazing policy as a part of the Student Organization Code of Conduct, any form of hazing can be considered a misdemeanor or felony by law. Those include both physical and psychological forms of hazing.

SJSU has not had the best image when it comes to hazing on campus, as Greek life at SJSU in particular has been a subject of recent national attention.

In 2008-09, there were a total of 38 violations of hazing reported to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office at SJSU, according to its website.

Courtney Howard, a former SJSU student, sued the school last year over

allegations that she had been assaulted for nearly a month by her Sigma Gamma Rho sorority sisters through a form of hazing.

Howard, along with three other pledging students, alleged she was hit repeatedly with objects, including wooden paddles, for nearly two straight weeks as part of the pledging process of the sorority.

The sorority chapter has since been suspended by SJSU until 2016.

"Of course there's hazing," said the SJSU fraternity member who wishes to stay anonymous. "Maybe not to the extent that people think, but there is."

He said there are several aspects of hazing these days.

"They're not violent anymore," he said, citing his own fraternity as an example. "They're more along the lines of messing with them mentally."

He said much of the hazing occurs to the pledging students during initiation week and is meant for much more than just the enjoyment of the members.

"It's designed to create respect," he said. "It teaches them to respect the house, and the brothers in it."

He said he was hazed in that manner while he was pledging to his fraternity at SJSU, but since the recent news of violent hazing stories around the country, there has been caution to not go too far with it.

Sleep deprivation is specifically

SEE HAZING PAGE 3

Students share experiences with public transportation

by **Jacque Orvis**
Contributing Writer

SJSU student Evan Souza walks up to the First & Santa Clara Light Rail Station in downtown San Jose at 5:40 p.m. to catch the 5:44 p.m. northbound commuter line to Fremont.

At 5:59 p.m., 50 or so patrons stand waiting. Souza checks the time on the marquee then lets out a labored, heavy sigh.

Still no bus.

Now 6:06 p.m., it is only five minutes until the next run is scheduled to arrive. Twenty more patrons join the rest at the station.

Then a bus arrives. Patrons squeeze past one another, slowly cutting in line to get onto the bus before the next person. Souza waits for the crowd to thin

before stepping forward onto the bus entrance steps, his Eco Pass ready in hand to show the driver.

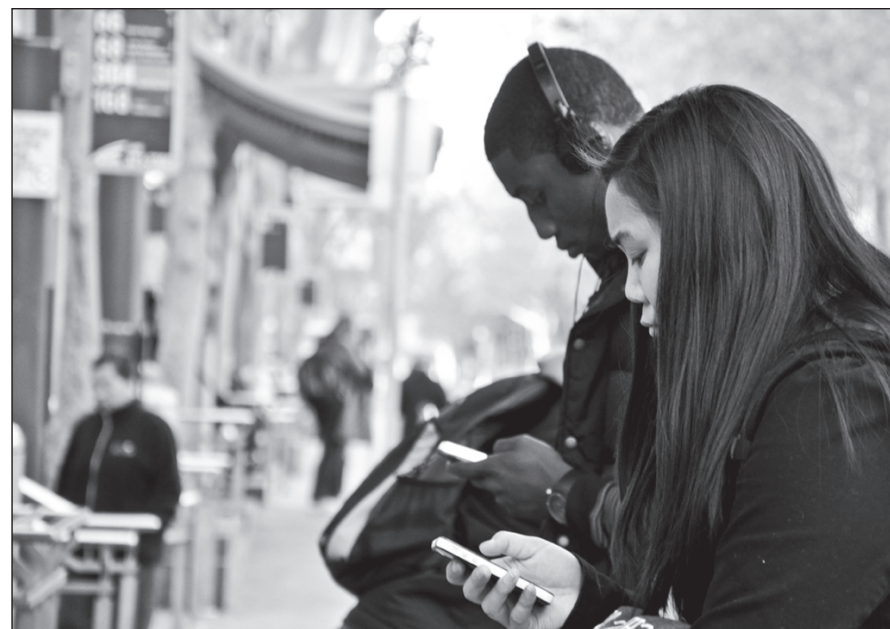
Even though Souza's bus is usually late and overcrowded, the electronics engineering sophomore has not complained to Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) or the SJSU Transportation Center.

Neither have many other SJSU students, according to Otto Melara, commute coordinator for the Transportation Center.

"We have definitely not received any complaints about VTA reliability," Melara said.

Joonie Tolosa, manager of VTA operations analysis, said VTA does not get many complaints either.

SEE VTA PAGE 2



Students waiting for public transportation at the Paseo de San Antonio VTA station on First St. and Paseo de San Antonio distract themselves with smartphones to pass the time while waiting for the bus. Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

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WALLACE: A legendary musician's life

FROM PAGE 1

Wallace said he never imagined that he would be where he is now, as a musician, but he feels very blessed to make a living doing what he loves — playing, producing and arranging music.

"I'm very happy with the way my career has gone," he said. "It's always been something that's engaged me intellectually, musically, and it has allowed me to create energy."

His musical career has brought him around the world to places such as Hawaii, Japan, Malaysia, England, Amsterdam, Finland, Spain, Germany, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Belize, Guatemala, Aruba and to every major city in the U.S., he said.

"I also went to Havana, Cuba, where I was able to learn from Julian Priester, Bobby Hutcherson and Will Sudmeier at La Escuela Nacional," he said. "It changed my life, culturally, personally and musically. It really opened a lot of the doors for my professional musical career."

Wallace's accomplishments as a composer and producer

Wallace said he owns his

own record label, Patois Records, which has allowed him to produce, compose, arrange and record his own albums and the albums of many other artists over the years.

"I lost count of how many albums I've composed," Wallace said. "But I have composed music for Sheila E., Pete Escovedo, Tito Puente, Funk Shun, Pra Hermeto, John Santos and the Machete Ensemble, and for many more artists."

Wallace has also produced music for his own eight albums, including "Bien, Bien," which was nominated for "Best Latin Jazz Album" at the 2010 Grammy Awards Wallace said.

He said it takes him anywhere from one day to three months or more to compose one song.

Wallace said about 95 percent of what he writes involves jazz influences and has an improvisational aspect to it.

"I like to compose and play a little bit of everything," Wallace said. "Basically anything that grooves. I like to compose quasi-classical music (chamber music), Latin Afro, Afro Centric, Funk, Soul, Pop and Caribbean music. I like to work from the impro-

visational realm, which means, I like to leave room within my compositions for the artists to express themselves."

Wallace said, he gets his inspiration to compose from different types of music and composers such as traditional religious music, jazz music, classical composers, modern composers and from anything that sounds good to him musically.

"The really good musicians are constant self-evaluators," he said. "The great musicians never stop learning."

Wayne Wallace and "The All-Star Band Camp"

Besides reaching out to his SJSU jazz students, Wallace, along with Aaron Lington, reached out to Jazz band students at Santa Teresa High School. Lington came up with the idea to start an "All-Star Band Camp."

The high school students auditioned by submitting CDs of their work to Wallace, and if their CD was chosen, they got to have private jazz lessons for three weeks with Wallace. At the end of the session the students played in a live jazz concert in the SJSU music auditorium.

"I liked seeing the way he plays at the jazz camp and his creativity," said Daniel Andres, a senior at Santa Teresa High School and an "All Star Band Camp" winner. "He had come in to give our Santa Teresa Jazz band clinic classes (lessons) before I was chosen to go to the camp. But he has a very original talent. He taught us to articulate our notes and to listen more instead of just always playing exactly what's on the music sheets."

Wallace said that even though he has had an amazing musical career, one of the things he would like to do in the next six months is to finish writing his book highlighting his accomplishments.

Wallace's future plans

"What else can I do?" he said. "I've been on Television,

movies and shows. I played in the Olympics with Lionel Richie when they were in L.A. I don't know what is beyond that."

One of his goals as a musician is to let the whole world know that they must live life hard every day, "because there are no guarantees in life. And

something could be taken away from them so quickly and the last thing they want to have are regrets," Wallace said. "People don't want to say they could have or should have done something, they want to say they did something, they failed miserably, but they tried."



Wayne Wallace is the director of the SJSU Latin Jazz ensemble. They will perform at the concert hall on campus today at 7:30 p.m.

Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

VTA: Students say light rail is unreliable, often tardy

FROM PAGE 1

"All complaints are taken seriously," he said, describing a system that requires VTA operators (or drivers) to fill out and turn in comment forms to their supervisors when they see a constant overflow of riders or experience a specific traffic issue that thwarts timeliness.

"(But) on-time performance is about 10-to-15 percent of all complaints while safety is less than one percent."

"My boyfriend has complained," freshman Anthony Beltran said. "You never know when it'll be late."

He said he doesn't see much change in response to the complaints, so he doesn't call himself.

But he said he has to "wait forever" for his bus, the 66 north/southbound line between Kaiser San Jose and Dixon Road in Milpitas, to show up.

Business major Darvin Villalta said he "totally would" call if he knew it would make a difference.

Villalta instead said he takes an earlier scheduled bus to school because he expects it to arrive late, just as advertising major Caity Pavon said she plans to do for work.

Pavon lives on campus, but she takes the bus to Valley Fair to shop and to apply for work at stores in the mall.

"It's about 10 minutes late," Pavon said about the west/eastbound 23 bus line between De Anza College and Alum Rock Transit Center.

If she were to get a job at Valley Fair, she said she would have to create extra time to get there early so that she is not late.

"It sucks to have to rely on someone else's timetable," she added with a sigh.

Like Pavon, a number of SJSU students use public transportation to get to school and work according to the SJSU student commute survey report.

In the report for the Fall 2010 semester, 31.5 percent of SJSU students said they relied only on VTA for transportation between school and home,

while 46.7 percent used VTA along with other methods such as carpooling or regional transit.

More specifically, it states that out of a population of 32,875 students, there were 15,352 students using alternative transportation and 10,356 students riding VTA during the Fall 2010 semester.

According to Souza, a mix of high ridership and poor time performance of the buses are causing overcrowding on the buses that he rides home.

"I've gotten to the bus stop on multiple occasions, and it's filled with people," he said. "Sometimes it's because an unusual number of people are (taking the bus), but other times it's because the previous bus just never showed up."



With two light rail, and four bus lines, the Paseo de San Carlos VTA stop services most SJSU students who use public transportation.

Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily

Deputy Director of Operations James Unites said VTA does what it can to provide reliable transportation.

"VTA reviews all of the bus and light rail routes once the various schools go back into session," he said. "Indeed we are looking to put in additional (bus runs) in the morning and add some regular trips in the afternoon to handle overcrowding."

Souza said the southbound

181 commuter line from the Fremont BART Station to San Jose's Diridon Station has rushed traffic to make it on time to the Second & Santa Clara Light Rail Station.

"I have noticed on multiple occasions the bus drivers, in an attempt to catch up, have run red lights," Souza said. "It's not safe."

According to Tolosa, bus drivers are "discouraged from racing to maintain a schedule."

He added that "the operating schedules are routinely monitored and adjustments made to adapt the service to current traffic conditions."

In July 2011, the 181 commuter line that Souza rides Monday through Thursday was late 16.4 percent, averaging 8.8 minutes behind schedule of

at an average of 10.9 minutes ahead of schedule.

Souza said he has seen a bus depart from the First & Santa Clara Light Rail Station a minute earlier than scheduled, leaving a patron behind.

"I feel their pain," Souza said, recalling the time when he was left behind by an early-departing bus.

On either occasion, Souza and the other patron left behind had caught up with the

buses at a red light at Santa Clara Street, but the drivers would not let them on, he said.

"The driver shook his head, and we were gone, leaving that student behind," Souza said. "I felt ashamed."

But according to Tolosa, bus drivers are not supposed to leave people behind.

"The operator shall never pass up passengers unless the coach is full to capacity, including standees," Tolosa said. "If it

becomes necessary to pass up passengers, the Operator shall immediately notify OCC (Operations Control Center) and follow instructions."

VTA General Manager Michael Burns requested that riders speak up with details about the unreliable buses.

"Provide (us) with specifics... so that (we) can investigate to see if there are any

SEE VTA PAGE 3

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Faculty present strategies for environmental preservation

Final lecture in SJSU Sustainability Matters Speakers makes case

by Cynthia Ly
Staff Writer

Faculty members from various departments, including animation/illustration, urban planning and archaeology presented their research projects to a group of about 30 attendees at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Monday.

Part of SJSU's Sustainability Matters Speakers Series, this was the last lecture for Fall 2011 — and indefinitely.

"There are no plans at the present to revive the series because there is no funding," Anne Marie Todd, chair of SJSU's sustainability board said. "Next semester we will be figuring out ways to maintain sustainability efforts without funding."

David Chai, an assistant animation/illustration professor, presented several animations and short films from the Green Ninja project, which is funded through research grants from several organizations, including NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Green Ninja is a collaborative project between scientists, faculty and artists to create educational materials, such as live action films and web episodes demonstrating the connection between humans and climate change, according to the project's website.

He said the project members include students not just from the animation/illustration field, but also computer science, marketing, music and theatre.

"For the animated short, it took a group of over 30 students

working all semester to complete two and a half minutes of finished animation," Chai said.

Chai said one of the project's goals is to spread serious environment-related information in an entertaining, accessible and memorable way.

"We would love the Green Ninja to be the 'Smokey the Bear' or 'Schoolhouse Rock' for this generation," he said.

Hilary Nixon, the second presenter and an associate urban and regional planning professor, focused on community involvement with food resources in her research.

She said she worked with students, faculty and community members on "Garden to Table: Grow, Harvest, Share" a three part community food program funded by grants from Health Trust, a non-profit focused on promoting wellness in the Silicon Valley.

Garden to Table includes a residential garden-sharing program (in which homeowners would offer their lawns to be used by neighbors), a fruit tree gleaning program and a community garden, according to a press release.

She said the program had started initially because of community members pushing for it. "Community members wanted to focus on increasing production, consumption, access and affordability of healthy food," Nixon said.

Ninian Stein, an assistant professor of archaeology, presented on the Future Boston Project, which focuses on dealing with climate issues in urban areas.

"What would an environmental Bill of Rights look like?" Stein said.

She said interdisciplinary methods and collaboration is essential to create an

effective change.

Dustin Mulvaney, an assistant environmental studies professor, presented next on issues in the solar energy industry.

"Who is going to bear the burden of this transition in clean energy?" he said, mentioning problems in the industry that have affected the health of workers and native habitats, such as a solar plant that is endangering animals in the Mojave Desert.

Mulvaney said public participation is key to dealing with environmental issues such as these.

Juneseok Lee, a civil and environmental engineering professor, closed the lecture series with his current research in water consumption, infrastructure and other issues.

"Unfortunately, our sewer lines are aligned with our drinking water line," he said, showing a picture of two pipes that had ruptured and spilled into each other.

Some of his research on sustainable water resources is funded by the California Water Service Company and the National Science Foundation, according to a press release.

"(The) College of Engineering is very supportive of faculty excellence and especially faculty research development," Lee stated in an email. "They provide appropriate seed money to go for external competitive research opportunities."

Lolitta Gevorkova, a senior communication studies major who attended the event, said she liked that each faculty member covered different topics.

"Areas outside of communication studies and environmental studies need to be exposed to presentations like this," she said.

HAZING: Violence no longer an issue

FROM PAGE 1

mentioned in the SJSU hazing brochure as a violation of the school's hazing policy and can result in suspension or expulsion from the school, as well as a "revocation or denial of recognition for a student group or organization."

Although alcohol and hazing would appear to go hand in hand, the anonymous fraternity member said that is not the case.

"Forcing pledges to drink never happens," he said. "Some fraternities I know on campus still do that, but that was not the case in my fraternity."

He said he knows alcohol has been involved with hazing in the past, but explains that the recent violent hazing allegations, especially a 2005 incidence at Chico State University in which a student died of water poisoning after being forced to drink gallons of water over a five-hour period, have cautioned fraternity and sorority members.

"They don't have to drink," he said, when it comes to pledges and alcohol. "It may not look good, but they have options."

He said it does look better when pledges go "above and beyond" what is asked, and the members do take that into account when accepting the pledging students into their fraternity.

SJSU has a clearly stated policy against hazing.

Section 41301 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations says it is against the law to engage in hazing, which is defined as the "method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current or prospective student of any school."

A failure to comply is a violation and considered a

misdeemeanor, and all fraternity and sorority members at SJSU are required to sign a compliance form stating that hazing of any kind is against the law.

"Only after directing them to student conduct and ethical development and their office begins an investigation," said Blake Balajadia, the assistant director for fraternity and sorority life at SJSU. "They are responsible for reviewing allegations of hazing."

Staci Gunner, the director of student conduct and ethical development at SJSU could not legally comment on any past, current or future investigations, but did offer some advice for victims of hazing.

"If there is a student that has questions about if they are being hazed, they can be directed to our website, our office or Student Involvement," she said.

Gunner said an investigation is conducted from that point.

She referenced the SJSU Student Conduct website for insight into the process of the investigation, which stated those participating in hazing are "subject to disciplinary actions" and includes both those committing the acts and those knowingly standing by without taking action.

The anonymous fraternity member said since the incidents at Chico State University in 2005, SJSU's Alpha Tau Omega in 2001 and more recently with the alleged hazing of Howard at SJSU's Sigma Gamma Rho, fraternities and sororities on campus have become more cautious when it comes to hazing.

"If there was violent hazing, it doesn't happen anymore," said the anonymous fraternity member.

He said the Chico State hazing incident has had the greatest effect on Greek life, as it resulted in a student's death.

There has since been a state law passed in the student's name (Matt's Law), which allows for felony prosecutions when serious injuries or deaths result from hazing.

At SJSU, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity was suspended for charges of hazing in 2001, and have since been reinstated as a recognized fraternity on campus.

"What person would want to join that brotherhood if (hazing) happened?" said Marques Mallare, the current president of Alpha Tau Omega.

He said with the type of past the fraternity has had, there would be no point in hazing pledging students.

"Our national has made it very clear that there is zero tolerance towards hazing in Alpha Tau Omega," Mallare said.

Currently, there are six fraternities and sororities suspended at SJSU for hazing, violence or inappropriate chapter management practices: Alpha Kappa Alpha (sorority), Lambda Phi Epsilon (fraternity), Phi Gamma Delta (fraternity), Pi Alpha Phi (fraternity), Sigma Gamma Rho (sorority) and Zeta Phi Beta (sorority).

The anonymous fraternity member made it known that today's hazing is meant to discipline and teach incoming members.

"Do they want brothers, or do they want parties?" he said.

According to him, respecting others is the result they want out of hazing these days.

"You don't want to make them think they can get in," he said. "They have to work for it."

VTA: Buses, trains provide a way to SJSU

FROM PAGE 2

changes we could make to make the service more reliable," he stated in an email.

Regardless, Souza said he has not filed a complaint because he does not know where to send it.

"They would have to email the link directly to me, and it would have to take no more than 10 minutes to fill out (the survey or comment form)," Souza said, adding that he doesn't think VTA would do anything about the problems.

"By the time any changes would be made, I'll probably have already graduated," he added.

SJSU Transportation Solutions recently emailed students asking them to take part in a survey about commute habits during the school session. There is no survey available for students to comment on VTA's overall performance, Melara said.

"We do not send a separate survey about VTA's performance specifically because we do not officially represent VTA," Melara stated in an email. "We encourage that students personally voice their opinion to VTA through their comment page so that they may hear directly from the student population."

But students are not reporting the late or missing buses to the Transportation Center, Melara said.

"From what I can tell after speaking to students so much at tabling events and at our center," he said. "It is worth the extra effort to take VTA since it is virtually at no cost to the student."

The Bursar's office web-

site states that each student pays a Student Association fee which "provides for unlimited use of Santa Clara County services like buses and Light Rail," among other services.

Currently, that fee is \$73.50 per semester.

"Oh, I'm well-aware that

it's not free," Souza said, adding that he has seen the breakdown of student fees that he must pay every semester along with tuition.

"I wish there were some way to opt out of the bus pass and instead get a discount on parking passes that can be

combined with other students' discounts to encourage carpooling without enforcing the use of the bus," he said. "That way I wouldn't have to stand out in the cold waiting for a bus that might not show up to sit in a seat that will probably be full anyway."



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PLANNING: Analysis based on specific themes

FROM PAGE 1

achievable goals reached by 2017," Von Till said.

"So what we (the strategic planning board) did was gather all the information and it was reported to us with a chance to review all of it," Von Till said. "Then we divided into our four subgroups and each subgroup took a look at the particular goals identified and we developed the plan."

The subgroups reconvened as the strategic planning board and came up with a final document, written by the data analysis team and was sent out to campus for feedback through an online survey, Von Till said.

"The president is determined and he wanted to make this a very open process, so I don't think anybody on the campus can say they didn't have an opportunity to voice their opin-

ions and have them included," Von Till said.

She said the final document, which incorporates campus reactions, will be presented to the president's cabinet Thursday morning.

Von Till said the data analysis team looked for trends that showed up within the transcriptions collected from every town hall meeting.

"When we did the analysis, we looked at things that just emerged on their own and how those things play out across those three areas of integrative learning, inclusive excellence and community connection," Poole said. "Based on that, we were able to see what people thought were goals, what the commonalities were and strikingly, there was a lot of commonality in those goals."

The data, transcribed by

technical support, was integral in drafting the proposed goals and presenting it to the strategic planning board, Poole said.

"It was exhausting ... I sat through all of the town hall (meetings), I read through all of them verbatim and then I identified what I thought were the motifs," Poole said. "I went back in and picked out what were illustrative comments of the motifs."

The data analysis committee had to write up a template for their research and found that all three themes, although in different terminology, had similar motifs, Poole said.

"That was very exciting to know that all of us arrived at the same findings, independently and the software validated us," Poole said.

Calvin Worsnup, vice president of Associated Students,

also sits on the strategic planning board.

"As far as the framework, I felt very involved with it," Worsnup said. "We came up with some good goals and I hope they will be accomplishable, but that will be the role of the executive team and the president to execute."

Although Qayoumi is not a part of the executive committee that is reviewing the final proposed framework, he will be attending Thursday's meeting to assess the strategic plan.

"You'll get a final this month," Poole said. "President Qayoumi has had an aggressive timeline."

According to Poole, going from goals to actions will be a process in 2012, but the framework for the guided principles, goals and measures associated with those goals will be defined this December.

THE FIVE GOALS

of the strategic framework according to the document published on the SJSU office of the president's website:

1. Develop vibrant, safe and welcoming communities that create a sense of belonging and instill Spartan pride.

2. Provide gathering spaces and up-to-date facilities.

3. Improve organizational responsiveness through an advanced technology infrastructure and by elimination of procedural obstacles.

4. Create a culture of helping.

5. Enhance student success through continuous learning innovations.

Infographic by Brittany Patterson / Spartan Daily

Unemployed workers barge in on congressional offices

McClatchy Tribune Wire Service

WASHINGTON — America's unemployed workers brought their message of frustration and despair directly to the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday as they filled the congressional offices of dozens of lawmakers and refused to leave until they met with their elected representatives.

The sit-in style confrontations were the opening salvo of a three-day protest event dubbed "Take Back the Capitol," which is sponsored by a coalition of progressive organizations.

The groups want Congress to pass President Barack Obama's jobs bill, extend the federal payroll-tax break for working Americans and extend the federal emergency unemployment-insurance benefits that are slated to expire Dec. 31.

While the protests overwhelmingly targeted Republican lawmakers who oppose the Obama jobs plan, the groups also visited with leading congressional Democrats such as Rep. Heath Shuler of North Carolina and House of Representatives Minority Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

Undaunted by a steady morning drizzle, hundreds of protesters emerged from their "tent city" on the National Mall and trekked to the Capitol, where they made good on their promise to "swarm the halls" and track down members of Congress to demand commitments on their pet issues.

"If they don't pass the jobs bill, we will get rid of them," said Oliver Hendricks, an unemployed ironworker from Boston who was among 250 Massachusetts residents who came to protest.

As the Massachusetts group made its way through the Mall chanting "We are the 99 percent," Hendricks said he was anxious to challenge Massachusetts Republican Sen. Scott Brown's opposition to the president's jobs bill and Brown's previous vote against extending jobless benefits.

"He has voted against every bill that would help us," said Hendricks, who hasn't found work since he lost his job in March 2010.

Hendricks, 56, said he lost his home of 16 years to foreclosure recently when the bank backed out of a loan modification plan without notice and then tried to auction off his property. He remains in the home while he challenges the action in court, but he must pay monthly rent to the bank until his appeal is resolved.

The crisis is testing his mettle. "I'm a Christian and I'm living only by the grace of God," Hendricks said. "I'm fighting for everything right now. I'm fighting for my life."

In many of the office meetings with GOP lawmakers, staffers were polite but dismissive, telling protesters that the congressional representatives or senators they sought were out of the office or too busy to meet with them. At that point, most protesters decided to occupy the offices or camp out until the lawmakers showed up.

Capitol Police arrested at least one protester for unlawful entry at the office of Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo.

About 40 protesters faced "strong opposition" from staff at California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa's office before security escorted them away, said protester Rikki Bradley, a California state employee with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The staff for Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., was much more hospitable, Bradley said. Lungren emerged from his office after several hours and shook hands with the remaining four or five protesters who'd decided to wait for him.

When pressed on his voting record, Lungren said he'd voted for numerous bills to create jobs in California, Bradley said.

"Then we asked, 'What about the extension of unemployment benefits?' to which he turned around and walked out. He made a left out of the office and kept going," Bradley said. "We were surprised he even talked to us, but we felt like he just heard us. He didn't listen."

When 40 people showed up at Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio's office, they declined offers to meet with the senator's senior staff members.

"The staff has always promised us that they'll get back to us and the senator will eventually meet with us. This has gone on for months. We want to meet with the senator now," said Jose Suarez, a spokesman for 1Miami, a coalition of progressive grassroots organizations.

"One hundred fifty people got on buses, took time out of their lives, left their families back in Miami for 18 hours to come and do this today, so we're not going to meet with anyone but the senator," Suarez said. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, the group was still waiting. Suarez said they'd return Wednesday.

John Reat, 62, from Worthington, Ohio, was among the 40 or so who were camped out outside the office of House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, just off the Capitol Rotunda. Since he lost his information technology job in December 2009, Reat has received unemployment insurance benefits. But they'll expire next month unless Congress agrees to extend the federal emergency benefits.

Because his wife still works, Reat's family isn't in dire financial straits.



Thousands of unemployed men and women from around the country make the trek to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, to urge lawmakers to extend emergency federal unemployment insurance benefits. Photo by Olivier Douliery / Abaca Press / MCT

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SPARTAN DAILY

READ MORE LIVE BETTER

2011 Spartan Football

A season in review and thoughts about what could have been

Story and layout by: Ron Gleeson
Sports Editor

Looking back at the 2011 Spartan football season, one question cannot go without being asked — what if?

The fact that this SJSU football team finished with five wins is outstanding, leaps and bounds have been taken this season following two-straight seasons that each yielded just a single victory.

However, the feeling that this season could have been much more than just a step in the right direction is prevalent with the memories of tough-fought, heartbreaking losses in multiple games this season.

And what made these losses even worse, added to the fact that SJSU finished a single win shy of becoming bowl eligible for the first time since 2006, is that they were lost right when the team was getting hot and a possible bowl was in sight.

SJSU started its season against one of the best teams in college football and the pre-season Heisman Trophy favorite in Andrew Luck and the Stanford Cardinal. The contest ended the way most of America believed it would — a 57-3 Stanford victory.

Where the Spartans really showed up and let people know they are completely different team than recent seasons was the second game of the season against UCLA at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

UCLA was an out-of-conference opponent that SJSU had more than enough ability to beat — and the Spartans almost did.

An interception thrown by freshman quarterback Blake Jurich with 3:14 remaining in the third quarter on the UCLA 11-yard line prevented the

Five first-half turnovers by the Spartans' Western Athletic Conference rivals put Hawaii in an early hole. However, six Spartan turnovers in the second half allowed Hawaii to climb its way back into the game.

The game ultimately was decided by a touchdown pass from Faulkner to sophomore wide receiver Chandler Jones with 36 seconds remaining, but there are many plays that contributed to the come-from-behind victory.

No play in that game was more monumental than a defensive two-point conversion by senior safety Duke Ihenacho, which was set up by a block by junior defensive end Travis Johnson on a point-after attempt.

Ihenacho scooped up the blocked kick and ran it all the way back for the conversion, battling a hamstring strain half-way down the field before he mentally subsided the pain and jetted on toward the end zone.

The win lifted the heads of the Spartans into the clouds and gave them even more perspective into just how possible a bowl berth was this season — needing three wins in the final five games to get to the promise land the team aims for at the beginning of every season.

“I guess the saying is ‘maybe next year’ — no, definitely next year.”

Spartans from taking their first lead of the game, halting their momentum like a brick wall.

Two fourth-quarter scores by the Bruins gave them the victory.

What makes the narrow loss so impressive? UCLA made its way to the Pac-12 championship game on Friday, which it lost 49-31 to the Oregon Ducks.

The idea that these Spartans almost beat a team that played in the Pac-12 championship — although heavily outclassed by Oregon — is astounding.

SJSU's game against Nevada on Sept. 17 was one of many that left the Spartans heartbroken — a common theme of the season.

The Spartans started off their season by losing to established programs, and were eager to win their first game at home.

This hope, unfortunately, did not accumulate into the result they aimed for.

Senior quarterback Matt Faulkner threw an interception in the end zone while on the Nevada 15 amid a 12-play, 69-yard drive with SJSU down by three.

The interception prevented an SJSU comeback with either a field goal or a go-ahead touchdown, and allowed Nevada to easily run the clock down when the ball was returned to the Wolf Pack.

Two-straight wins over New Mexico State and Colorado State got the team rolling and reinforced the players thoughts that they knew they could win and knew a bowl game was most certainly not out of question, especially the way the team won in Colorado.

This time, Faulkner connected with freshman wide receiver Jabari Carr to win the game for the Spartans over Colorado State with 54 seconds remaining, snapping a 16-game road losing streak.

A loss to BYU on Oct. 8 in Provo, Utah dropped the Spartans' record to 2-4, and set a must-win game for SJSU against Hawaii before going into its bye week.

That Oct. 14 game against Hawaii was one of the most thrilling games I have ever had the opportunity to watch.



Senior offensive lineman Andres Vargas (left) celebrates in front of the SJSU home crowd following the Spartans' most thrilling victory of the season, a 28-27 come-from-behind triumph over Hawaii on Oct. 14. The game was televised on ESPN and featured two of the most polar opposite halves the Spartans had all season. Hawaii coughed up five turnovers in the first half, allowing SJSU to pull ahead with a 20-7 lead at half time. However, the Spartans turned the ball over six times in their first seven possessions to start the second half, allowing to climb back into the lead with three unanswered touchdowns to end the third quarter. With the lead at 27-20 following a Rainbow Warrior touchdown, junior defensive end Travis Johnson blocked the point-after attempt, which was scooped up by senior safety Duke Ihenacho who took it to the house for a defensive two-point conversion. The game was decided on a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Matt Faulkner to sophomore wide receiver Chandler Jones to give SJSU the 28-27 lead with 36 seconds left. Fans, students and alumni rushed the field following the win, ecstatic with joy and bliss. Photo by Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Game of the Year:

Oct 14: Hawaii 27, SJSU 28

Offensive Player of the Year: Matt Faulkner, senior quarterback



Matt Faulkner was named most valuable player by his coaches and teammates after leading the Western Athletic Conference in passing yards per game. His 3,149 passing yards in 2011 ranks third in school history for a single-season, and his 64.9 completion percentage ranks second.

Photo by Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Defensive Player of the Year: Travis Johnson, junior defensive end



Travis Johnson recorded 9.5 sacks in the Spartans' 2011 campaign, good enough to rank him 12th in the nation. Johnson also finished 28th in the nation with 15.5 tackles for a loss. He was placed on the 2011 Hendricks Award Watch List, which honors the best defensive end in the nation.

Photo by Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Drop your hoarding habit with SJSU alum's new app

by **Scott Semmler**
Staff Writer

For those looking to make a splash with their gift-giving this holiday season, one Bay Area-based company can be of some assistance.

Egg Cartel, a company out of Mountain View, Calif., that specializes in mobile applications, has introduced their new application called Egg Drop.

"It is a more reliable form of Craigslist," said Brian Lynch, CTO of Egg Cartel and one of the company's two founders.

Dan Zheng, the other founder and CEO of Egg Cartel, said the company started around a year ago with the goal of developing an application that could rival Craigslist.

"Everyone has stuff sitting around at home," Zheng said. "We give them the path to sell it online."

According to the Egg Cartel website, eggdrops.com, the free application now has more than \$1 million worth of merchandise for sale worldwide.

Zheng said he and Lynch looked into the problems people were having using sites like Craigslist and developed a more useful and reliable way of going about selling items on the Internet.

"We have heard complaints about people being unreliable when selling items on Craigslist," he said. "We wanted to build a reputation for Egg Drop, and we have set up incentives for people who behave in that way."

Zheng also said they conduct a form of background checks to help monitor who has the potential to be reliable when selling or buying items on the application.

Another characteristic of the free mobile application that

Egg Cartel describes its smartphone app and website as a "smarter neighborhood marketplace." With the app you can buy and sell everyday items, such as your old baseball cards, by snapping a picture of them with your smartphone and posting them online immediately.

One advertised perk of this service, versus other classified services such as Craigslist, is that it allows immediate contact with the item poster with little to no delay.

Photo by Jasper Rubenstein / Spartan Daily



both Zheng and Lynch said sets Egg Drop apart from competitors like Craigslist is the fact that the Bay Area product enables the user to connect with the adjacent party via instant message.

"Real-time is powerful," Zheng said. "Everyone expects things to be fast these days."

The instant messaging system allows both parties to organize how they will conduct the exchange, Zheng said.

"Most people have to wait and exchange emails back and

forth," Lynch said. "This enables the users to get the deal done quickly."

Lynch said the mobile application is a great way for college students to make some money on the side.

"They're already paying tuition and buying books, and Egg Drop allows them to sell whatever they have lying around quickly and easily," he said.

Zheng said college students are always looking to make and save money, and Egg Drop may be the quickest mobile app

on the market to help accomplish that for them.

"It's basically Craigslist with the added feature of real-time conversation," said senior business major Michael Smith. "I hope they continue to add on to (the application)."

Zheng said he understands the financial situation of college these days, and he hopes Egg Drop can help students save that extra money, even if in small quantities.

"Students live on a budget," he said. "They want to make

sure they spend their money wisely, and Egg Drop helps them get good prices on things."

Egg Drop also has its own website, but Lynch said the application was developed with mobility in mind.

"It was mobile from the beginning," he said. "Everyone is carrying phones around, and it gives the user the ability to act quick and fast if need be."

Lynch said the goal of the application is to simplify the selling and buying process

of items and more convenient for the user.

"It should be easier than taking the item to a local flea market or going somewhere to sell it," he said. "That's the goal of Egg Drop."

Zheng said Egg Drop has a special offer for SJSU students during the holiday season.

He said the first 50 SJSU students that list an item with Egg Drop will get a free T-shirt, and one lucky student in the month of December will receive an Amazon Kindle Fire.

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3	7	2						9
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

How to Play

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

Check back daily for new sudoku puzzles and solutions.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1/36 of a yard
- Pet safeguarding org.
- Colorado resort town
- "... lender be"
- Temporary stillness
- Donut in a trunk
- "Blast the luck!"
- "Pretty Maids All in ___"
- Carpal tunnel locale
- Uses the pencil sharpener?
- Elizabeth I's favorite
- "Keep your ___ the ball"
- Ten-year prison sentence, in slang
- Oldest capital city in the United States
- Net judge's call
- Election loser in 1996
- Daredevil Robbie's daredevil dad
- Eleventh zodiac sign's picture?
- It may be bitter or hard to swallow
- Man the bar
- Initials of the 34th president
- "In the Heat of the Night" star Rod
- Type of pickle
- Diego Rivera work
- Start of many bumper sticker slogans
- Remove a shoemaker from office?
- Accumulate
- "Blazing Saddles" Oscar nominee Madeline
- First temptation site
- Former "America's Funniest Home Videos" host Bob
- Son of Rebecca
- Something snobs put on?
- "What ___!" ("This place needs cleaning!")
- Base lullaby

Previous Puzzle Solved

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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O	R	E	I	L	E	N		P	A	R	I	D
R	E	D	S	T	E	R	N	A	D	Y	E	S

DOWN

- Many a low-budget film
- Standards
- 7-11 game
- Loathing
- Pole, for one
- Adjective on many orange juice cartons
- Glenn of "Fatal Attraction"
- Forever and ever
- Losing consciousness
- One on the fast track?
- Suffering partner?
- Once, but not nowadays
- Table tennis necessity
- Zinc ___ (sunblock substance)
- Black-eyed edible
- Part of a stock exchange?
- Toy-sized toymaker
- Like an obsessive collector
- Bad-blood situation
- Last word in many ultimatums
- Bussing quartet
- Give off, as light
- Campfire oration
- Mom's command
- Quick looks
- End-of-proof letters
- Prefix with "verse" or "cycle"
- Speak off the cuff
- They're the life of the party
- One cause for Steinem
- Shuttlecock whacker
- Maine clothing company
- Capital in the Himalayas
- Song that brings back memories
- Goes off course
- Celebrated surrealist Max
- Certain cleric
- Old sorcerer
- Crack and redden in the cold
- Difficult responsibility
- Sly-fox link

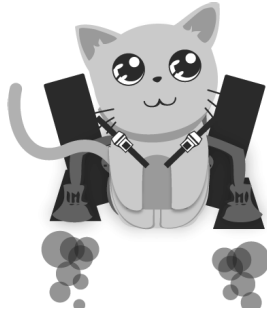
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This is the column's last appearance

CATURDAY NIGHT LIVE



A year can teach you many things



By Jordan Liffengren

It's hard to believe that another year has slipped by so quickly.

I guess this vaguely melancholic disposition I've been feeling with every passing December is just a part of growing older — or a part of growing closer to the annihilation of the human race, with 2012 staring us straight in the face and all.

Apocalypse aside, I've found that looking at the past and finding something that you have learned from it is key to becoming a happy person, or at least a happier person.

And what better time than now, in the last installment of Caturday Night Live of the semester?

Hopefully what I've taken away from this year, which is

only good vibes, will be what you take away as well.

Lesson #1: Never take the little, lovely moments in life for granted.

There are thousands of them that happen every day, but I realize now that I overlooked a lot of them. Instead I chose to focus on bad memories or experiences when I could have simply cherished the good ones and moved on.

For example, instead of listening to Conor Oberst while scarfing down an entire box of chocolate chip cookies by myself when things went wrong with someone I was seeing a few months back, I should have just accepted that circumstances meant we would never work out and that he made a short appearance in my life for a reason.

So now, I choose to take away the good.

Like the time we went out to get drinks and he convinced the bartender to tell us about his most embarrassing moment

— which he told us was when he accidentally peed on his girlfriend's leg at a water park. Golden material, if you know what I mean.

He liked to ask people that he'd recently met this one question that would always get me: "What do you think it is that's made you the person you are today?"

Such a loaded question, but that's just who he is.

He thought it was enthralling the way people would answer it. I did too.

Meeting this eccentric and generally interesting person definitely made me want to read, create and write a whole lot more. He was an artist, and inspired me as well. I'm glad I met him for that simple reason, if nothing more.

Lesson #2: Spend more time with family.

I have a dysfunctional family, but who doesn't?

I had a dream, or nightmare really, recently that made me completely rethink things.

I dreamt that my mom and I were talking to my grandmother on the phone. She was on speakerphone so we could talk to her at the same time.

My mom asked her a question and she didn't respond. We both looked at each other and rolled our eyes because we figured she wasn't paying attention to us, getting wrapped up in spying on the neighbors, telling my grandpa how much she hates him or something of that nature.

So, my mom repeats the question to her and she replies this time, only she's sort of giggling when she answers it and she's beginning to slur her words.

She's saying things that don't make sense and I look at my mom, confused and scared. She's thinking the same thing I am.

We can tell she's having a stroke.

I yell at my mom to call an ambulance to her house but I'm thinking in my head, "We won't make it over there in time. We just won't."

My grandparents live about an hour away, so I'm panicking and my mom's face is ghost white.

Then I woke up.

I woke up feeling sick to my stomach, almost in tears. I sat up, just thinking how much I love my parents and my grandparents, despite the differences we may have.

Religion, lifestyle, money — we may disagree on many of those things, but it doesn't matter because regardless of how

angry I may be with them in the moment, I owe them so much more than I can ever give them.

That's right, no matter how many times my dad walks into my room just to show me he can still karate kick while I'm trying to write a paper, or my mom tells me I don't have a boyfriend because I don't wear lipstick, or my 14-year-old cousin says his career on Facebook is "Poppin' Cherries," I love every single one of them more than I hate LMFAO.

And I hate LMFAO so hard.

Lesson #3: Be kind, but never let anyone use you.

I am going to be a little full of myself here and declare that I am a very nice person. In fact, my friends always tell me I need to be a little more catty and a little less sweet. But this is only because my sweetness turns into favors and eventually some people take advantage of that.

I had a friend that I reconnected with after a few years recently. We decided to hang out and catch up.

He told me that his dad had an alcohol abuse problem and that he couldn't go home that night. He asked if he could stay with me.

I thought it was strange, of course, since it was like we were meeting each other all over again, but I said yes.

He ended up trying to make a move on me, which I avoided with my fists, Mary-Kate and Ashley.

That being said, I only hung out with him once more, with

other people there of course and never alone with him.

That night he asked me to give him and his friend a ride to some party because the light rail had stopped running and they "had nowhere else to stay."

No way were they going to stay at my place.

So I drove them there. After I did that last thing for them, I stopped responding to their calls and texts. I knew the only reasons either of them were calling me was to catch a ride or fool around.

And I am not down for that.

A friend told me that she will not be friends with anyone she feels does not benefit her well-being in some way, shape or form.

I felt it was a great way to look at friendship — why would you want a friendship with someone who is only leeching off of you or inviting negativity into your life?

I realized I should definitely reconsider who I let — and keep — in my life.

So, no more Sunday brunch with T-Pain. He shat all over one of the only good songs Lily Allen ever made and I can never forgive him for that.

Hopefully you can look back and learn a thing or two from this past year like I did.

It's important to remember that even though it may not have been purrfect, the person it's made you right meow is what matters.

A little bit of

INSIGHT

This column appears every Wednesday

by Nate Morotti



Don't lie to me, it's not polite

I would like to start this article by saying that I am not an alarmist.

I don't see the apocalypse around every corner, nor do I have a secret bunker stockpiled with food and weapons or believe in government conspiracies, but that does not mean I believe that everything is fine in our world.

We are in the middle of a gigantic economic downturn and we, as a nation, are still trying to

recover from the gaping wound that the housing crisis left in both our bank accounts and our morale as a country.

And to top it all off we are now facing a huge attack on our civil rights with the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act.

So why is this a big deal?

Should the act, which has already been passed by the Senate with a vote of 93 to 7, pass into law (which is assum-

ing it will not be vetoed by the president) it will effectively remove several of the powers that the Bill of Rights grants to U.S. citizens, including the right to due process and a fair trial.

The act is a list of martial powers granted to the military branch of the U.S. government every year, and dictates their restrictions and abilities.

This year someone in the upper echelons of federal government decided to really spice up

the writing for the act proposal. They really spiced it up and made it interesting.

Because this year the act, in so many cleverly worded phrases, grants the government the ability to arrest, detain, question and execute, without being charged of a crime or appearing at a trial, any person who is a member of a clearly defined (yeah, right) "terrorist organization," even if they are a citizen of the United States of America.

You know, that place where every person is supposed to have a fair and equal opportunity in life, without the fear of being oppressed.

It is important to note that the source of my outrage does not come solely from the fact that we are in danger of being stripped of basic human rights, but also that the government did not at least have the decency to say it directly to our faces.

If there was ever an ounce of courtesy in this world then the government would at least have the tact and dignity to at least stage an effort to show we are being taken over by a malicious force instead of tucking it away in some bill, disguised as a service to our safety.

Personally, I would much rather have the reassurance of a total hostile takeover instead of this sense of impending doom while we wait around for a bunch of rich, old men with military investments to slide it under our door with the morning news.

It's the same feeling as being in a relationship with an unfaithful lover. If I am going to find out about this kind of treachery, I would much rather have it told to my face instead of discovering it from a third party or powers forbid, discovering it through personal investigation.

Perhaps we could use a good, old fashioned police state to regain control over all these lazy occupiers and promoters of the liberal agenda, because those are the real enemies of the state, right?

I really do hope all this political satire doesn't fall on deaf ears, because with the way things are going, it may be the last time we have the freedom to satire politics.

As I stated before, I am not an alarmist by any means, but a practical man would start setting up his affairs for when the s*** hits the fan.

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■ MUSIC REVIEW

The Black Keys hit high note with seventh album

Rock duo keeps their usual formula, but adds an edgy twist for a new, unique sound

★★★★★

by Jeffrey Cianci
Staff Writer

The Black Keys are back with their grungy blues rock sound with the band's seventh album, "El Camino."

The 11 track album released Dec. 6, continues their sound of gritty down and dirty genuine rock 'n' roll, while tweaking the routine with a feeling of '70s twang.

With a touch of wah-wah pedals, bells and a bit of organ, The Black Keys have moved from purely howling guitar riffs and drums to a symphony of soul-laden jams.

The Black Keys are made up of two longtime friends from Akron, Ohio, vocalist and guitarist Dan Auerbach and drummer Patrick Carney.

While the group had been hanging in the background of the alternative music scene, they experienced a surge of popularity with their previous album "Brothers," which went gold on the charts win the U.S.

One of my favorite things about The Black Keys is their never-changing sound of Blues inspired rock.

Since their first album "The Big Come Up" in 2002, the band has held on to the unique sound of Auerbach's howling, mouth-full-of-marbles vocals and crunchy guitar riffs combined with Carney's tight, snappy drumming.

"El Camino" sounds like it picks up right where "Brothers" left off with the same frustrated anthems to old girlfriends and catchy guitar strumming.

Auerbach must have had some pretty awful relationships as many of their songs revolve around him belting out lyrics of mended hearts and ex-love affairs.

Their new single, "Lonely Boy," begins with a lightning guitar intro and jumping organ before Auerbach comes in with "Well I'm so above you / And it's fine to see / But I came to love you anyway / So you tore my heart out / And I don't mind bleeding / Any old time to keep me waiting."

The rock love letter is right out of the book of past singles such as last year's popular track "Tighten Up."

The next track, "Dead and Gone," begins with a deep fuzzy sounding guitar upbeat before a chorus of sleigh bells and back-up singers join Auerbach in another soulful love song.

My favorite new track so far is "Gold on The Ceiling," which the band performed this weekend on Saturday Night Live. It starts with a wailing guitar with a heavily distorted organ for the background upbeat that feels fit for a road trip anthem.

"Run Right Back," which the band made available before the album released, is another love ballad put to the tune of twangy guitar solos and Auerbach's lyrics of "She's the worst



Dan Auerbach (left), guitarist and vocalist, and Patrick Carney (right), drummer and producer, are The Black Keys. The Ohio-based band has been recording music since 2001. Photo courtesy of theblackkeys.com

thing / I've been addicted to / I run right back / Run right back to her."

"Stop Stop" brings back the album's recurring sound of bells and background singers with the sound of an intro to a 1970s TV. action series, complete with a melting guitar solo with heavy wah-wah effect.

"Nova Baby" sounds the least like previous Black Keys tracks with its upbeat sound of synthesizers and snappy drumming, completely missing the trademark Auerbach guitar grinding save for some up-strumming.

At its core, however, the track is all Black Keys with Auerbach singing, "All this love is mine / All my precious time / You've waste it cause you / Don't know what you want."

Among all the hard-hitting, muddy guitar sounds and heart-broken lyrics is "El Camino's" slower track, "Little Black Submarines."

The song begins with just Auerbach slowly picking away on an acoustic guitar, again telling of a long-lost romantic partner.

The song has a strangely familiar sound to Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven," not only in similar chord progression but

composition.

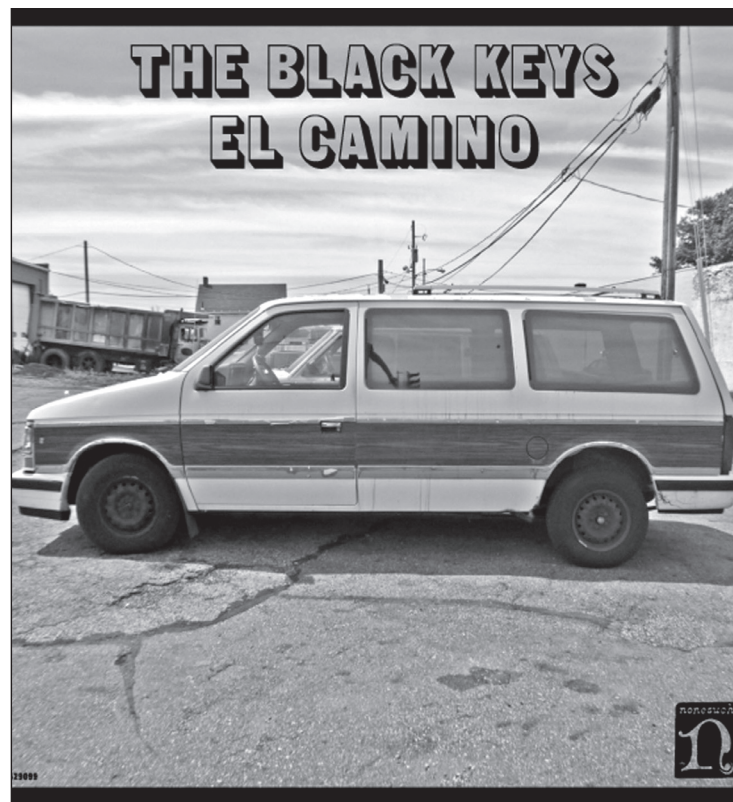
Just as you expect the track to finish with Auerbach slowly strumming to an end, he cuts in with electric strumming and picks up with a hard and loud return to chorus before the tracks end.

"El Camino" is a continued improvement of The Black Keys discography.

After putting out such a strong and popular album with "Brothers," I worried they would fall flat as they tried an "experimental phase."

Not the case. Auerbach and Carney have stuck to their formula that has produced album after album of hard hitting fun rock music that sounds nothing like any other popular music.

With soul and lots of heart in each track, "El Camino" will keep me tapping my toes to The Black Keys.



The Black Keys released their seventh album "El Camino" on Dec. 6. Photo courtesy of theblackkeys.com



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