

SPARTAN DAILY

Serving San José State University since 1934

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

spartandaily.com

Volume 136, Issue 3

■ WORLD NEWS

Egyptian President announces plans for stepping down

Hannah Allam & Shashank Bengali
McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO — Faced with an unprecedented popular revolt that drew record crowds of protesters to downtown Cairo Tuesday, U.S.-backed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he would step down before elections this fall, a humbling end to his 30 years of authoritarian rule.

“I will say, with all honesty and without looking at this particular situation, that I was not intending to stand for the next elections because I’ve spent enough time serving Egypt,” Mubarak said in a televised speech. “I’m now careful to conclude my work for Egypt by presenting Egypt to the next government in a constitutional way.”

Mubarak acted after President Barack Obama sent a special envoy to Cairo, urging him not to seek re-election, and following calls from Turkey and Iran to step down.

Obama later telephoned Mubarak, and in a “direct and frank” 30-minute conversation, told him an orderly transition to a new regime had to begin immediately, the White House said.

In a nationally televised appearance, Obama all but ignored Mubarak’s announcement, declaring that “an orderly transition must be meaningful and must be peaceful and must begin now.”

Initial reaction was mostly negative among protesters in Tahrir Square, where earlier Tuesday, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians — more than a million by some estimates — staged a festive rally to demand the president’s ouster.

“He’s leaving! He’s leaving!” some protesters shouted gleefully. More than an hour after he spoke, however, chants continued to echo from Tahrir Square as protesters vowed to keep flooding Egypt’s streets until Mubarak heeded their demand to resign immediately.

“We have only one condition: We need Mubarak to be out of our lives,” said Mostafa Fathy, 28, an online journalist and activist. “He’s supposed to be out of the game now.”

The 82-year-old Mubarak appeared to make some concessions to the protesters, saying there should be presidential term limits and fewer restrictions on who can run for public office. But he didn’t dissolve parliament, which is filled almost completely with members of his ruling party.

“In my whole life, I’ve never known another president, and suddenly I can’t imagine how he can stay for even one more day,” said Tasneem Osman, 26. “He has to go. He will go.”

Despite the obstacles, this week-old rebellion with no

see **EGYPT** page 2



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Professor Efraim Inbar speaks to an audience about the ongoing strife in the Middle East.

Visiting professor predicts endless conflict in Middle East

Kyle Szymanski
Senior Staff Writer

During a visit to SJSU Monday, a professor from Jerusalem said he believes the discord between the Israelis and Palestinians will never end.

“Here in the West, you have a tendency to look for solutions,” said Efraim Inbar, a political studies professor at Bar-Ilan University in Jerusalem. “I see no resolution of this conflict.”

Inbar made the prediction during the Robert Levinson Memorial Lecture at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library in front of

about 30 people. Levinson was a former SJSU professor and founder of the Jewish Studies Program.

Inbar said his prediction stems from his belief that the Palestinians’ close ties with Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist political party, offers little room for compromise between Israel and Palestine.

Israel’s attempts to make peace with the Palestinians since 1993 — with no success — also helped Inbar form his prediction, he said.

“Palestine is not a partner that can deliver on a promise anytime soon,” Inbar said. “Palestinians like Hamas and Hamas has no solution.”

Dijana Sirovica, president

of the SJSU Muslim Students Association, said Inbar’s views paint an unjust picture of the situation that exists between the Israelis and Palestinians.

“This is an unfair and biased outlook towards the issue,” she said. “It is based on the assumption that all of Hamas is made up of zealous fanatics and that there is no way to deal with them.”

“This is largely an exaggeration as Hamas is not a monolith and there are various groups and individuals within Hamas who are fanatical extremists and there are various groups and individuals who are not.”

Inbar offered commentary

on the security of Israel and the different threat levels he believes are posed by the countries surrounding the nation.

Much of the Arab world is comprised of states with little ability to harm Israel, he said, citing that he believes countries in that region can’t even deliver basic needs to their people, update their way of life or make their economies flourish on a global scale.

Junior history major Erika Marcos said she enjoyed the presentation, but felt Inbar was biased in his opinions.

see **CONFLICT** page 2

Campus groups work to ease construction burdens

Nic Aguon
Staff Writer

As the construction of the new Student Union continues, on-campus organizations are trying to limit its impact on students.

The construction, located on the Paseo De Cesar Chavez, began in July 2010 and is set to be finished in 2013.

Cathy Busalacchi, associate vice president of campus life at SJSU, explained that the university will soon put up additional signage to help direct students around the construction site and to the Spartan Bookstore.

SJSU’s More Campus Life news feed said building demolition on the west side of the Student Union is continuing this week. The construction team is striving to limit the bulk of the loudest work to hours outside of peak class time.

In November 2010, plywood fencing was erected around where the new Student Union is set to be. Busalacchi said the fences are thick and adorned in blue paint to match the school colors.

“The boards are painted to handle the weather,” she said. “If they weren’t painted, the boards would warp sooner.”

She said the blue fences were built specifically to reduce the amount of noise from the construction.

Freshman psychology major Lauren Sanford said the construction around campus is inconvenient for her.

“The large walls are in the way of easy routes to class and aren’t pleasant to look at,” she said. “It definitely changed the atmosphere around campus.”



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Students walk past the plywood walls erected to minimize noise from ongoing construction.

Busalacchi said the school is collaborating with the art department to pick panels along the construction site on which to paint Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet portraits.

Brian Taylor, department chair of art and design, is spearheading the upcoming art project.

“We’re going to paint up a storm,” Taylor said. “It’s a great way to add life, energy and positive

see **UNION** page 2

Students strive to balance demands of college life

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

SJSU students are finding ways to deal with the stress that comes from being a student.

The associate chair of the English department said she thinks that students cannot do it all at once, and that having a job and handling school is sometimes too much to handle.

“I tell my students all the time they can have it all in life, just not at the same time,” Bonnie Cox said.

The new semester has just started but students are still feeling the pressure to juggle classes, jobs and a social life.

“A lot of people are stressed about money issues,” said junior art major Katie Sill. “One of my best friends couldn’t come back this semester because of money problems.”

The Peer Mentor Center is a place located on campus that students can go to for help with papers or just a place to talk to someone that is a student just like them, said Elise MacDonald, a team leader at the center.

“There is a huge influx of students during the time of

midterms and finals,” said MacDonald a senior, social science for teaching major. “It’s a madhouse in here.”

Some students do not feel as stressed as others, said Nethania Cintra, a junior fine arts major.

“I have not been stressed but my sister was last semester because she was taking too many classes,” she said. “She was learning English and also taking it as her major. She ended up having to drop a class because it became too much work for her.”

Some students who are first-year transfers to the campus have not felt any stress yet, said Cory Brown, a junior hospitality, recreation and tourism major.

“I transferred from Ohlone and I could definitely tell that people there were stressed,” Brown said. “I know how to handle it and not to take too many classes.”

According to the SJSU Counseling Services website, an SJSU student can get up to six free counseling sessions in different areas of concern. Counseling services can provide students with help in crises, couple counseling, and individual counseling, and

promises confidentiality.

“A lot of people do get sick from being stressed and if you do fail a semester it is not the end of the world,” Sill said.

Finding alternatives to relieve the stress is what students should do, Cintra said.

“When my sister was stressed she started exercising and doing cardio,” she said. “I think it is about getting in touch with yourself and doing what you are interested in.”

Cox said she thinks the older students are able to better understand that they cannot have it all and he or she is able to prioritize what is more important.

“The students who don’t try to do it all do it better. No one can do everything well all the time,” Cox said.

Students who are stressed should communicate with his or her teachers and peers, Sill said.

“I had some pretty rough times in college, it can be difficult,” she said. “I think that when people come to college it’s a big transition so there is going to be a lot of changes, there are adjustments that are going to have to be made.”

WEATHER



High: 64°
Low: 36°

A&E, PAGE 6

Medical marijuana extravaganza lights up San Jose

Convention attracts medical marijuana users from around the Bay.

OPINION, PAGE 5

Diversity moves backstage in Oscar nominations

Race relations take a step backward in Hollywood.

TECH, PAGE 3

Daily staff puts smartphone operating systems to the test

Writers weigh the pros and cons of different mobile phone software.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow us on Twitter
@spartandaily



Become a fan on Facebook
facebook.com/spartandaily

■ COMMENTARY

Floundering Sharks look to bite off postseason spot

As the San Jose Sharks enter the second half of the season, captain Joe Thornton will need to motivate a squad that has seen its success drop off from recent campaigns

Alex Spicer
Sports Editor

The San Jose Sharks have come out of the All-Star break seeking their seventh consecutive trip to the National Hockey League's postseason.

During that seven-season run, the Sharks developed a reputation as perennial postseason underachievers, never living up to expectations and bowing out in the rounds before the Stanley Cup finals.

The Sharks are in unfamiliar waters this season, struggling to keep their heads above the surface of the play-offs bubble, rather than gently wading their way into the postseason.

With 31 games left in 2010-11 season, San Jose occupies the Western Conference's eighth seed, with a record of 26-19-6 for 58 points — tied with the seventh-seed Chicago Blackhawks.

This season has been one of inconsistency for the Sharks, who have been unable to maintain a trend of positive performances, often backing up momentous winning streaks with equally devastating losing streaks.

The type of season the Sharks have endured is illustrated in their play so far in the new year.

San Jose opened January with what appeared to be a defining 1-0 victory over division rivals Los Angeles Kings, before losing six straight games, a season high.

The team have won five of six since, including last night's 5-3 come-from-behind victory over the visiting Phoenix Coyotes in which the Sharks trailed 3-0 before scoring five unanswered goals.

Questions abound for the Sharks, ranging from the lack of potent net minding since the departure of the long-tenured Evgeni Nabokov to Russia in the offseason, the mobility and experience of their defensemen, and the offensive production of their established stars.

Yet perhaps the biggest question among Sharks fans is no longer whether the team has what it takes to win the Stanley Cup, but rather, can they reach the playoffs?

For the moment the answer is definitely maybe.

On the one hand you have a team teeming with playoff (and Stanley Cup final) experience, the same core of star players that led the Sharks

to the Western Conference finals last season, and bright spots such as 21-year-old center Logan Couture, who leads all rookies with 22 goals.

On the other you have a team that appears to lack confidence, poise and the leadership on the ice that is needed to overcome a Western Conference which features 11 teams within nine points of the fourth seed, emphasizing the level of focus the Sharks will need to maintain to secure a playoff spot.

The improvements needed to get to the postseason will begin with center Joe Thornton, who has seen his offensive production slip since taking the reigns as team captain at the beginning of the season.

Thornton, the 2005-06 NHL most valuable player, currently has 14 goals and 31 assists, with a -13 plus/minus — a drastic difference from his +17 plus/minus recorded last season.

San Jose's largest contributor has been defenseman Dan Boyle, the team's lone representative at the NHL All-Star game this season.

Boyle has lived up to his reputation as a mobile and puck-savvy defenseman, and leads an otherwise unproductive defense with 33 points, as well as the league's most ice time among skaters.

It is difficult to predict how the Sharks will fare in the final 31 games of this season, but one would expect them to show their true colors to shine as the season comes down to the wire — mainly due to the experience and talents of their big-name players who are having down seasons.

Expect to see center Patrick Marleau, winger Dany Heatley, Thornton and net minder Antti Niemi



Photo: Clifford Grodin / Spartan Daily

Alternate captain Dan Boyle leads the team's defensemen with 33 points and leads the league in average time on ice. Boyle was the Sharks' lone representative at the National Hockey League All-Star game.

make a splash in the final regular season games and into the playoffs.

If anything, the experience of battling late in the season to secure a playoff spot could gel the team chemistry and bolster the momen-

tum needed to secure a Stanley Cup for the first time in the team's history.

It certainly paid dividends for one other championship-winning Bay Area sports team in recent memory.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

\$\$ SPERM DONERS WANTED \$\$
Earn up to \$1,200/month.
Give the gift of family through California Cryobank's donor program
Apply online:
SPERMBANK.com

HOUSING

2 BDRM, 1 BA APT walk to SJSU
\$1200/mo & \$600/dep.
Off street parking & coin laundry
408-504-1584

SERVICES

HOW TO GET BETTER GRADES!
Free video & report reveal secrets to skyrocketing your grades at SJSU! Email: sjsu@faststudyskills.com

Looking for something?
Spartan Daily Classifieds can help you find jobs close to campus, responsible roommates, or tutoring opportunities.

By localizing your search you can maximize your responses. No more flipping though hundreds of listings that don't apply to you.

Don't forget! Last day to add classes is **February 14th!**

CLASSIFIED AD RATE INFORMATION

Place your ad online at:
www.spartandaily.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 10a.m. - 3p.m.

Deadline:

10 a.m., 2 weekdays prior to publication date.

Rates:

One classified, 20 words \$5.50
Each additional word \$0.39
Center entire ad \$1.00
Bold first five words \$0.50
Rates are consecutive days only. All ads are prepaid. No refunds on cancelled ads.

Frequency Discounts:

4-15 classifieds 15%off
16-31 classifieds 30%off
32+ classifieds 45%off
Discounts apply to the original base rate, plus the cost of extras.

SJSU Student Rate:

Free! Discount applies to student's individual ad only. Not intended for businesses and/or other persons. Order must be placed in person. SJSU ID REQUIRED.

Classifications:

Opportunities
Wanted
Roommate
Volunteers
Announcements
For Rent
Employment
For Sale
Services
Events

Online Classified Ads:

Placing an ad online provides you with the opportunity to post your ad on other college web sites. You may also include up to 4 images for your online ad.

15 days \$25.00

Contact us at:
408.924.3270

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

SUDOKU

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

DISCLAIMER

Spartan Daily makes no claim for products or services advertised nor is there any guarantee implied. The classified columns of Spartan Daily consist of paid advertising and offers are not approved or verified by the newspaper. Certain advertisements in these columns may refer the reader to specific telephone numbers or addresses for additional information. Classified readers should be reminded that, when making these further contacts, they should require complete information before sending money for goods or services. In addition, readers should carefully investigate all firms offering employment listings or coupons for discount vacations or merchandise.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Good-natured
- World's la
- Wetly Duck lake
- Irish champ
- Cocodyle
- Kitchen gadget
- Romantic island
- Y's Peel portayer
- Man's part
- Formal observance
- Clubs' home
- Not father
- Man's tradition
- Peaks near Bern
- Wild bath
- Leans (2 wds)
- Exalted loudly
- ize
- Laundry problem
- Cardholder's action
- Felony
- Curewain
- ray
- Exit ramp sign
- Widow attraction
- Comic of as
- Widow's sight
- Hands the town red
- Institution follow
- Long a
- London hall
- Ward's vessel
- Tenacious
- Cause to yaw
- Sudden change
- Mark's successor
- Poached items
- Obnoxious input
- Hot lique
- Whistle sound
- Traveler's at
- Repeating clocks

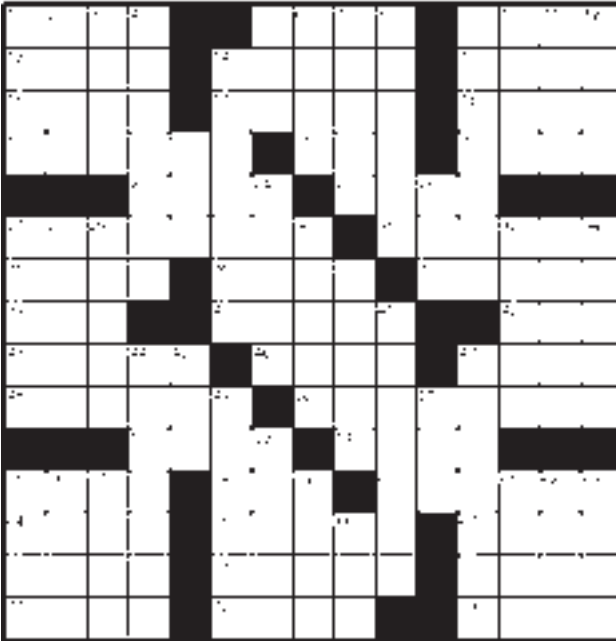
DOWN

- Sudden it's real name
- Part of the eye

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

CHALK	LASH	CAVE
HOGAN	ASIA	ALOE
INURE	BEDS	VUCK
AGAVE	SAL	DOVE
	LASH	EYE
EASE	YEAS	PRIMA
TIC	APES	STON'S
HEAD	FOR	HILLS
ENROL	BEARS	ARE
REPRO	BRIE	SWAT
	AGUE	ECO
RUPTUR	ED	RAWER
TRANS	SH	ARISE
LUCKS	TOON	TENSE
KNOT	TOWNS	EDGED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----



Sex education will deter teen pregnancies



Sonia Ayala
Staff Writer

When I think about all of the teenage girls who have unprotected sex without thinking of the consequences, it makes me cringe. The decisions they make now are not only life-changing, they are also crucial to the girls’ future.

I believe there are a variety of reasons why teenage girls decide to have sex such as curiosity, anxiousness, excitement, or the peer pressure of discovering what having sex is really like.

The most horrible thing about all of this is that once teen girls decide to have sex with their boyfriends or friends without protection, they may not realize that they are putting themselves at risk.

Unprotected sex can lead to catching sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS or unwanted pregnancies.

No matter what happens those girls are going to have to live with the consequences of their actions.

This was the case at Frayser High School, which is located in north Memphis, where 90 teenage girls either found themselves pregnant, or had already given birth during the 2010-2011 school year.

It has been a cause for concern for residents of Memphis.

The high number of teen pregnancies at this high school makes me wonder if school officials had really done their job of holding rallies and teaching sexual education courses to make students aware of the consequences of having unprotected sex.

The girls don’t realize that there are risks and responsibilities that come with being a mother such as the child’s health and their own physical health, because there are a variety of things that can go wrong in a pregnancy.

There are a variety of measures that can be taken to handle the issue of teens having unprotected sex without even thinking about the negative outcomes of this situation.

Health classes can make teens aware of the fact that they are bringing another human being into the world for whom they are going to have to care for financially and physically.

Health instructors also need to clarify in simple terms what the consequences of becoming pregnant are, such as — how much it will affect the girl’s future as well as her mate’s future academically, socially, physically and economically — once their child is born.

I think once teens realize how difficult being a parent is they will make sure they wear protection before they participate in any type of sexual activity.

Students need to be made aware by their health teachers of all the diseases they can acquire if they decide to participate in having unprotected sex, because maybe once they are warned they will know what they are getting themselves into.

I know when I was in high school they showed me some videos about the process of having a baby and all the effort the mother has to put in to make the birth of a baby possible.

After I saw that video and my science teacher thoroughly explained to the class the variety of health risks a young mother can face when giving birth to a child, I decided that I would not have a baby until I got married and was old enough to handle the responsibility of raising one.

Maybe this concept can also work for the teen girls in Frayser High School because it worked for me.

If school officials don’t do something to decrease the high percentage of teen pregnancies now they may never be able to stop them.

Diversity moves backstage during this year’s Oscar nominations

When the stars step onto the red carpet for the upcoming Oscars, the effect may be a blinding white light projected through your television screen.

This year’s Academy Award nominations are the least diverse in more than a decade.

This is in contrast to last year’s strong showing for women and minorities, when Kathryn Bigelow was the first woman to win best director, Mo’Nique took home the award for best supporting actress and Geoffrey Fletcher was the first black man to win for screenwriting.

The only actor in this year’s nominations that touches the border of minority consideration is Javier Bardem, who is nominated for his role in the foreign film “Biutiful.”

However, Bardem is a Spaniard and therefore technically of European descent.

The blame shouldn’t fall on the Academy since it can only nominate what’s been released in the last year — unfortunately American cinema is lacking diversity.

Mo’Nique must have felt the irony as she announced this year’s nominations, which are dominated by white males.

Last year, following these women’s wins, the Hollywood industry was buzzing over the “Kathryn Bigelow Effect” which predicted doors open-



Michiko Fuller
Advising Editor

ing beyond gender and race barriers.

It’s a huge disappointment that the Oscars in 2011 are presenting a less diverse pool of nominees than in 1939 when Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American to win an award.

The first Academy Awards were presented in 1929, this year is the 83rd annual ceremony, according to the Oscars website.

Once presenting awards in only five categories, the number has grown to 24, not that I think anyone cares about who wins in more than five categories.

Considering the Oscars have been honoring achievement in film for the better part of a century, it’s hard to decide which oversight is more upsetting: the lack of diversity or the fact that it was 82 years be-

fore a woman was considered the best director.

Only four women have ever been nominated in the category of best director in the history of the Academy Awards.

The Academy board itself is largely white and male-dominated, but to place the blame there would only call attention to a symptom of the problem.

Hollywood itself is a patriarchy, with more opportunity and money available to men.

Women’s Media Center at Sundance Film Festival 2011 put together some statistics for women’s presence in the media in a Youtube video in the style of Bob Dylan’s “Times Are A’Changing.”

Not only are 72 percent of created film characters male, but 77 percent of film critics are male.

If there is to be change in the Oscars, it has to begin with Hollywood culture.

Suffrage and civil rights have been won, but now audiences need to demand a sea change in the cinema.

Tyler Perry can’t be the only director to feature a strong minority

cast in his films or else there will be no forward progression.

It’s time for the Oscar buzz to be in awe of the creative prowess of movies and not the archaic Hollywood politics.



Don’t get all Trenta out of shape on these new oversized drinks

I’m feeling thirsty, is anyone else feeling thirsty?

If only there was something that could quench this need to acquire a refreshing drink.

You there, with your hand up, you’re feeling thirsty as well, right?

Clearly you are, otherwise Starbucks wouldn’t be rolling out its new drink size, with a name that you’ll be trained to learn in classic Starbucks fashion: the Trenta.

The Trenta will be 31 oz., seven ounces more than the Venti, and only available for iced drinks such as iced coffee, iced tea and iced lemonade — all things with disproportionate amounts of sugar and according to Starbucks, it was because of consumer demand that Starbucks rolled out the new size.

This drink size is available in 14 states and costs 50 cents more than the Venti size.

Now, I may be thirsty, but I’m not THAT thirsty.

The Trenta will contain 916 mL of fluid, while the average capacity of an adult stomach is 900 mL.

This should definitely quench the thirst of someone and there will be enough left over for when you’re feeling thirsty later.

After you level out and realize that it’s probably a good idea to stop doing back-flips on top of your boss’ desk when you come off of your sugar-enhanced caffeine high.

Releasing this bigger size probably isn’t the best option for a country whose people are fairly overweight.

When consumers demanded this size, I’m sure they were thinking more about the hot version of said drinks — the ones that allow people to function throughout the day.

It’s only a matter of time before these drinks are available for the hot versions as well, but imagine all the tragedy that will occur from this.

Who here has spilled coffee on themselves early in the morning?



Leonard Lai
Senior Staff Writer

See, I knew your hand would go up again.

Now imagine yourself with a 31 oz. cup of coffee trying to go to work and spilling that on yourself and all over your car.

Sorry, I didn’t mean to scare you that badly, but you got chills thinking about it didn’t you? So did I.

The way Starbucks touts itself when it presents this new drink size is the wrong direction to go for this country.

Sure, I forgot to mention the other well known thirst quencher, 7-Eleven’s Super Big Gulp or what I’d like to call the “water tower,” but they’re actually taking the right approach to things.

I can see you’re confused now, put your hand down and allow me to explain.

Recently, 7-Eleven had secretly reduced its drink size of the Super Big Gulp from 44 oz. to

40 oz.

Paul Sunby had bought a Super Big Gulp and it was he who found out the Super Big Gulp had been reduced in size, and he was angry about it because he felt he was being cheated by paying the same price for a “smaller” drink.

Sunby is not wrong, but then again this is probably the best thing for the world — 7-Eleven is unconsciously looking out for our health.

Sure people are paying the same price and 7-Eleven is making more money for less, but really, isn’t this the better choice for us?

In a world where we know sugary drinks are bad for us, it’s better to drink as little of them as possible and this is 7-Eleven’s way of weaning us off of our dependency on these drinks while Starbucks is proud to introduce something to expand our waistlines.

So I salute you 7-Eleven, and while your hand is up you should salute them as well.

SPARTAN DAILY

Serving San Jose State University since 1934

Editorial Staff

Salman Haqqi, *Executive Editor*
Ryan Fernandez, *Managing Editor*
Brian O’Malley, *Photo Editor*
Jack Barnwell, *Online Editor*
Kelsey Lynne-Lester Perry, *Features Editor*
Calli Perez, *Assistant Features Editor*
Hannah Keirns, *Production Editor*
Melissa Sabile, *Sports Editor*
Alex Spicer, *Sports Editor*
Jaimie Collins, *A&E Editor*
Jordan Liffengren, *A&E Editor*
Amber Simons, *Opinion Editor*
Marlon Maloney, *Copy Editor*
Matt Santolla, *Copy Editor*
Justin Albert, *Tech Editor*
Michiko Fuller, *Advising Editor*

Staff Writers

Nic Aguon
Sonia Ayala
Wesley Dugle
Whitney Ellard
Matthew Gerring
Ron Gleeson
Rebecca Henderson
Lucy-Ann Huskisson
Lyell Marks
Nate Morotti
Shirene Niksadat
Francisco Rendon
Alex Wara
Matt Young

Senior Staff

Tyler Do
Amaris Dominguez
Jenn Elias
Donovan Farnham
Ashley Finden
Leonard Lai
Eric Van Susteren
Kyle Szymanski

Staff Photographers

Jesse Jones
Vernon McKnight
Stan Olszewski
Michelle Terris

Advertising Directors

Nathaniel Dixon, *Ad Director*
Jessica Churchill, *Creative Director*
Ryan Genzoli, *Assistant Ad Director*
Virginia Ochi, *Assistant Creative Director*

Advertising Staff

Marc Barraza
Hector Diaz
Adriane Harcourt
Angelica Hoffman
Brandon Lim
Laura Queen
Van Thi Trinh

Advisers

Richard Craig, *News*
Mack Lundstrom, *News*
Jan Shaw, *News*
Kim Komenich, *Photojournalism*
Tim Hendrick, *Advertising*
Tim Burke, *Production Chief*
Tim Mitchell, *Design*
Pat Wallraven, *Business Manager*

Distribution Staff

Nick Olney
DaMarlynn Wright

Opinion Page Policy:

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

Letters to the editor must contain the author’s name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

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.

Cult classic ‘horrifies’ downtown crowd

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

Singing, dancing, between the legs sword relay and explosive streams of profanity characterized a midnight live action performance of the “Rocky Horror Picture Show” at Camera 3 in downtown San Jose.

Put on by the Barely Legal Rocky Horror Picture Show cast, the “shadow cast” performance features the film playing on a full size movie theater screen while real actors simultaneously emulate the actions and dialogue of their cinematic counterparts.

The event nearly sold out and attendee Adam Schroyer said these shadow casts are often very popular.

“This is the cult event of all cult events,” he said. “The Rocky Horror Picture Show’ has always been the biggest of all the cult (phenomena).”

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” for those unfamiliar, is a 1975 cult classic film directed by Jim Sharman.

The film is written in musical style

and the characters frequently break out into song and dance — an effect which is enhanced by the actors and audience, many of whom know the words to all the songs.

The plot follows a newly engaged couple as they enter into the castle of a flamboyant mad scientist.

The resulting film is largely centered around the various characters’ sexual escapades.

The film itself, however, often takes a backseat role to the actors and the audience, many of whom are regular attendees.

Actor Mark Brown said the audience often plays a vital role in these shadow cast performances.

Many audience members have memorized the script and call out humorous and often obscene set ups to dialogue within the film.

Brown said the fact that different theater audiences call out different jokes during the dialogue makes going to see these shadow casts a very unique experience.

“(The Rocky Horror Picture Show) is not something you’re meant to sit



Photo: Francisco Rendon / Spartan Daily
Tina Rupnik (left) and Christy Robinson (right) perform onstage.

down and watch,” Brown said. “It’s meant to be actively experienced.”

This certainly holds true, because if you are expecting to sit down and watch a movie quietly, this event does

not meet the criteria. The dialogue is at times difficult to hear over the audiences’ cries at the screen, and the actors will often add their own flavor into specific scenes through use of props or dancing.

Beyond that, there is not much room in Camera 3 to create a very serviceable stage and there were clearly moments where the actors needed more room.

Barely Legal does an excellent job with the costumes, replicating the on-screen likenesses often to near perfection.

The experience itself is certainly a unique one and very interactive.

The cast often encourages audience involvement flinging various items of candy and other projectiles into the crowd.

They also solicit cheers or jeers, and often interact very personally with members of the front row or the aisles.

Many members of the audience dress up in costume themselves, or provide their own props, such as noise-makers for the birthday scene, or glow sticks for the “Over at the Frankenstein

Place” song. There is also an introduction section to the event which includes warm-up games for “virgins” to the “Rocky Horror Picture Show” and music. Orgasm faking, swearing at birthday attendants and “the butt dance” constitute only a portion of the initial activities.

Co-director of the production Nate Havoc said that these shadow casts are becoming increasingly popular due to the 35th anniversary of the release of the “Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

“It’s a movie, it’s a play and it’s a party all wrapped into one,” Havoc said. “It’s a good environment to come in, meet people, and hang out. You meet all these people, and you see them again next (performance).”

Performer Brian O’Hara said he was a member in the audience for five years before he decided to try to take a more active role in the production.

Barely Legal will be returning to Camera 3 to perform the “Rocky Horror Picture Show” on the last Saturday of every month at midnight for \$10.

Medical marijuana extravaganza lights up San Jose

Lyell Marks
Staff Writer

HempCon returned to the Bay Area this past weekend as the San Jose Convention Center hosted one of the largest gatherings of activists, entrepreneurs, educators and patients within the medical marijuana community.

If you didn’t have directions to the convention center, anyone in the general vicinity could have followed their nose to this year’s event.

A pungent and lingering fog of cannabis odor permeated Market Street as many who attended gathered outside the event to share and sample their new medicine and products.

For the admission price of \$20, HempCon featured more than 125 different medical marijuana businesses and a variety of services that included on-the-spot medical marijuana recommendations and a variety of free products from local cannabis clubs.

“If you have your card, it’s definitely worth the price of

admission,” said an SJSU sociology student who attended. “The members-only area has the best free products, but you can’t get any of them without showing your card.”

“I’m here because I want to help spread the legitimacy of treatment.”

T.P. Nolan
SJSU Alumnus

While only cannabis card holders were allowed into the heralded members-only area, anyone 18 and older was able to attend for the price of admission and there were numerous marijuana exhibits and businesses open to all. Cannabis lovers of all ages were able to indulge at this mecca of medical marijuana in a united effort to help spread the beneficial qualities of hemp.

“I’m here because I want to help spread the legitimacy of treatment,” said T.P. Nolan, a former SJSU student who now runs a hemp-based business. “Marijuana can help combat depression, anxiety, bodily pain and even be used to treat cancer,” he said.

HempCon advocates like Nolan aren’t necessarily parading for the legalization of marijuana but rather a tweaked understanding and reconsideration of its merit in society.

“To me, hemp is the most resourceful and versatile plant in the world,” said Nolan. “If it becomes legalized it will become corporate and eventually overseen by the wrong people.”

Nolan himself has tried alternative forms of treatment but never was able to find the calm and peace that cannabis brings him from other medicines.

“I tried something like 25 different painkillers,” he said. “None of them worked and most came with worse side effects.”

The lines of hundreds of patients waiting on their medicine for hours at a time was an illumi-

nating sight that revealed how far some are willing to go for this form of treatment.

While most attended for the \$50 medical marijuana prescriptions, cannabis club giveaways and the overall social environment, the wide array of ages and social backgrounds revealed how diverse the medical marijuana following truly is.

HempCon once again brought a large demographic of the Bay Area together to educate and learn from one another about hemp’s versatility and value.



Photo: Lyell Marks / Spartan Daily
Attendees check out glass pieces by artists such as Sheldon Black.

Love at First Bite!

“Wow! The best sandwich I ever had!”

Now Hiring!

Grilled Chicken Baguette

Fresh Sugar Cane

Thai Iced Tea

Fresh Spring Rolls

Hot Wings

Lee's has more than 30 sandwiches to choose from! Plus lots of other specialty items.

Always fresh! With flavor combinations that are really different!

10% off total food purchase

Valid 10/1/2010 to 5/31/2011. Not valid with any other special or discount. Restrictions may apply. See store for details. Expires 5/31/2011

260 E Santa Clara St
@ 6th St
San Jose
408.286.8808
Next to San Jose City Hall

2471 Berryessa Road
@ Capital Ave.
San Jose
408.926.9888
Next to Taco Bell

Yolee's
YOGURT HOUSE

Buy any medium sized frozen yogurt and get your first two toppings FREE!

Traditional Soft Frozen Yogurt. New Savings at Lee's Berryessa City. Restrictions may apply. Expires 5/31/2011

LEE'S SANDWICHES

Over 30 locations to serve you* call 800.640.8880 or visit www.leesandwiches.com for the location nearest you

*Coupon only valid at Santa Clara St. and Berryessa Locations

California's Great America

Entertainment Auditions

We're looking for great performers on and off the stage for our 2011 season!

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Children's Show Hosts
- Country & Pop Singers
- Modern, Jazz & Pop Dancers
- Costume Characters

OFFSTAGE POSITIONS

- Theater Attendants
- Theater & Event Technicians
- Costumer/Dressers
- Stage Manager/Supervisors

Auditions and Interview Dates at the Showtime Theater:

Saturday, January 29

Sunday, January 30

Saturday, February 5

For more info or to apply online, visit cagreatamerica.com/jobs

© 2011 Cedar Fair, L.P. © 2011 Peanut Worldwide LLC