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NCAA recertification trials in progress for SJSU

Ron Gleeson Staff Writer

The SJSU athletics program is currently the subject of a yearlong, campuswide study as part of the NCAA Division-I athletics certification program.

According to a news release from the Office of the Provost, the

self-study will focus on governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, gender/ diversity and student athlete wellbeing.

Each area is studied by a committee headed by President Don Kassing and Provost Gerry Selter and is held against standards called operating principles that were created by the association

to establish benchmarks to use in the comparison and evaluation of all Division-I schools, according to the release.

Some examples of operating principles include coaching assessments, a gender equity plan, racial and ethnic composition and other athletics areas such as travel policies and sports medicine procedures, according to the recertification docu-

ment on the SISU website.

This occasion will mark the third time SJSU has gone through the certification process and Kassing said the outcome has become very important for the performance of Division-I schools since the program was initiated in 1993.

"The process forces you to go back and look at everything against their standards," he said in an April

19 news conference with student media. "If we are a little short on a certain standard, we know what we need to do to get up to the mark. If you do well, you get confirmation of what you are doing right."

According to a proposed selfstudy plan pre-written by SISU,

see **NCAA** page 2

No space for a garden? No problem, say gardeners

Ryan Fernandez Managing Editor

A lack of space may not be an issue anymore for students looking to grow vegetable and herbs at home or in their dorms.

To continue SJSU's celebration of Sustainability Week, the Growing Roots of Wellness garden collective held a Wednesday morning workshop on how to grow vegetables in small containers.

Ashley Burns, a senior environmental studies major, hosted the workshop in front of Clark Hall, near the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue.

"People don't realize they can grow their own food in confined spaces, especially in the dorms," she said.

Burns, who is a member of the collective, said her organization was working to promote sustainable practices and choices when it comes to

"We're trying to show people how easy it is to grow their own food instead of relying on food from the grocery store," she said. "It takes so much energy to transport them — it's so harmful to the environment."

The workshop opened with a total of seven attendees, though more people would circulate through and create their own starter plants as the event continued.

Attendees were handed a half of an egg carton in which to carry their seeds and Burns began her demonstration by pulling out a bag of potting soil.

"Your hands are going to get dirty, so don't worry," she said, encouraging each person to reach into the bag and gather soil for their seeds.

As the attendees took turns filling the cups of their egg cartons with soil, Burns showed the group the variety of seeds available for planting, including cucumbers, zucchini, parsley, chives and onions.

She advised each person to plant only one or two seeds in each section of his or her carton — otherwise, the growing plants would "strangle eachother."

"As soon as they start growing, transplant them because they'll need more room," Burns said, reminding participants that the cartons holding their seeds were only temporary con-

Eli Mejia, a junior environmental studies major, was part of the initial group present at the beginning of the workshop.

see **GARDENING** page 3

■ SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

Faith, environment unite



(From left to right) Eric Rosenblum, Shifu Jianhu and Chaplain Roger Wharton discuss the relationship between religion and the environment during the "Spirituality of Environmentalism" event on Wednesday in the Student Union.

Alex Wara Staff Writer

Despite religious differences that are a consistent source of conflict in the world, four religious groups came together on campus to discuss the environment from a religious point of view.

Focused around the idea that the environment and religion are inseparable, about 35 students gathered at the Student Union to hear panelists speak about religion and how it pertains to the environment.

The event, a part of SJSU's Sustainability Week, was hosted by numerous environmental and religious groups on campus, and included panelists Chaplain Roger Wharton Jianhu from the Buddhist faith, Saffia Hossainzadeh representing Islam and Eric Rosenblum speaking on behalf of Judaism.

Sophomore English major Maryam Azarchehr said she attended the event to learn more about different religious perspectives on the environment.

"I was interested in the cooperation of different religions to do something about the environment," she said. "Students can change the way they live so that they can make the environment better."

Azarchehr added that there are plenty of resources on campus for students to become more environmentally friendly.

The discussion was moderated by Lisa Benham, a graduate student in environmental studies, who led the panelists through quesspeaking on behalf of Christianity, Shifu tions about how particular religions view the

environment and what can be done through their beliefs to make it more sustainable.

During the discussion each panelist spoke about how his or her respective religion views the environment.

Jianhu spoke about how the Buddhist religion is closely connected to the idea of having respect for the environment.

"The Buddhist community is such a community where we share everything," he said. "We don't have anything that belongs to us personally because we share the resources to-

Jianhu explained that people have become more egocentric and that more competition has started to form, adding that people suffer

see **SPIRITUALITY** page 2

Environmental Club serves up vegetarian treats

Nate Morotti Staff Writer

Vegan burgers, massages, face painting and hemp bracelets are not things that most people would associate with a barbecue.

All of these things were present Wednesday at the Associated Students Barbecue Pits where the campus Environmental Club hosted an all-vegetarian cookout to raise awareness for Sustainability Week and Earth Day.

"In America we use so much and we waste so much," said Ryan Lantrip, a senior political science and communications double major. "It's ridiculous. We need to cut down on our waste."

The burgers, which were made from a combination of black beans, flour, salsa and other seasonings, were meant to introduce students to potential sustainable options for food other than meat, according to the Brian Kramer, the co-president of the Environmental Club.

One event at the barbecue was a station for learning how to weave a bracelet out of hemp fiber. Hemp is a plant related to marijuana that some claim to be a cheap, sustainable source of fabric and paper. Other events included face painting to show support of the planet and free massages just for fun.

"It's a lot of fun," said Herlinda Aguirre, a current member and former treasurer for the Environmental Club. "It's just a

neat way to show support for the environment in a clean way."

The Environmental Club will also be operating a booth during the Earth Day celebration on April 21 and will be giving out reusable bamboo cutlery to raise awareness about the dangers of one-use plastic products.

"The point is to show support for the planet in diverse way," Kramer said. "People need to know that other options exist out there that are cleaner and better for the planet."

NCAA From Page 1

some of the goals that the university wishes to accomplish are to confirm the university's commitment to access, diversity, knowledge, inquiry, integrity and community service are in alignment with the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics standards.

It will also attempt to affirm that the activities of Division of Intercollegiate Athletics are consistent with NCAA, conference and university principles, rules and policies.

Six months after SJSU concludes its study, a team of peer reviewers from other universities and colleges will conduct its own three-day evaluation on campus, the results of which will be relayed to the NCAA Division-I Committee of Athletics Certification to determine the institution's certification status, the news release stated.

Sports information director Lawrence Fan has seen both the previous recertification programs in 1993 and 2003 and said it is a regular collaborative process that all schools have to go through and it usually works out for the better.

"The people who work on it do the best they can to accurately reflect what is going on presently with our athletics department," he said. "They all make recommendations to improve not only SJSU, but the entire Division-I as well."

According to the news release, institutions that fail to be certified after the process has completed will receive the opportunity to correct and improve in deficient areas. However, those who do not revamp those areas could become ineligible for NCAA championships.

Kassing said he has seen the process from two different perspectives — both on committees that examine other institutions and as the host — and said he knows the amount of work that goes into the operation.

"The team has been working for over a year now — they do a lot of work," he said. "Our team is close to finishing. I think they have done just fine."

Kassing said he has been on committees that have certified institutes, such as the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and said SJSU is not far off standards-wise to those schools.

"We compare very well to the schools I have been to," he said.

In an effort to make the recertification process as available as possible, Selter, chair of the Steering Committee, has made the institution's responses to the operating principles available on the SJSU website.

SPIRITUALITY

From Page 1

from this way of living. Each panelist had the chance to go into detail about why each religion follows certain beliefs regarding the environment.

Often referring to religious texts as sources, the panelists read and recited passages from a variety of religious teachings.

Wharton even introduced the Green Bible, which is made of recycled paper and is more environmentally friendly.

Junior biology major Jay DeGuzman said he attended the event because it was required for class, but he was curious to hear the different points that the panelists made.

"I just wanted to hear what every religion's viewpoint was on the environment," he said.

DeGuzman said he was most interested in hearing from the Buddhist representative because he knows a lot of people who follow that religion.

During the discussion audience members were able to ask questions and

give their insights as to what they thought of religion and the environment coming together.

The panel and audience agreed the most difficult challenge is to be able to find a way to implement changes within communities to help the environment, and that work still needs to be done to get to environmental sustainabil-

At the conclusion of the panel the audience joined in to discuss opportunities that students can take advantage of on campus to be more sustainable.

■ U.S. NEWS

Roommate charged in wake of gay Rutgers student's suicide

McClatchy Tribune

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — A former Rutgers University student was indicted Wednesday on charges of bias intimidation and invasion of privacy for secretly recording and webcam-streaming his roommate's sexual encounter with another man.

The incident attracted national attention and became a cause celebre in gay rights circles after the roommate, Tyler Clementi, 18, committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge days after the secret taping.

Dharun Ravi, 19, of Plainsboro, N.J., was charged in a 15-count indictment handed up by a Middlesex County grand jury and could be sentenced to five to 10 years in jail if convicted of the most serious bias-crime offenses.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said the grand jury found that the taping on Sept. 19 and a second attempted taping on Sept. 21 were "intended to intimidate" Clementi because he was gay.

In a statement issued after the indictment was announced, Clementi's family said the charges were "important for our criminal justice system to establish clear accountability under the law. ... We are eager to have the process move forward for justice in this case and to reinforce the standards of acceptable conduct in our so-

Jane and Joseph Clementi have declined numerous requests for interviews, but have said through their lawyer that they hope to establish a foundation in their son's name aimed at raising awareness about bullying, privacy rights and the Internet.

In the aftermath of Tyler Clementi's suicide, the incident became the focal point for national discussions about gay-bashing, cyber-bullying, intimidation and privacy rights in the age of social networking.

Clementi, described as a promising violinist, was a freshman at Rutgers, as was Ravi. The alleged tapings occurred shortly after the start of the new school year in a dorm room he shared with Ravi on the college's Piscataway campus.

Ravi, according to authorities, hid a camera in the room and sent a webcam stream out while Clementi had a sexual encounter with another man. Authorities alleged that Ravi was in the room of another freshman, Molly Wei, and that they used her laptop to complete the transmission.

Wei, 19, was arrested with Ravi on invasion of privacy charges, but the case against her has not been submitted to a grand jury, according to a statement released by the Prosecutor's Office on Wednesday.

Her lawyer has argued that she did nothing wrong or improper.

Both Ravi and Wei, of Princeton, N.J., withdrew from Rutgers after the incident. Lawyers for the two former students could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Ravi has been free on \$25,000 bail since his arrest in October.

The grand jury indictment charged him with invasion of privacy, bias intimidation and attempted invasion of privacy.

He was also charged with attempting to hinder the investigation and prosecution by changing and erasing Twitter messages and other transmissions.

Specific details about what was recorded during the taping have never been made

In an interview with the Newark Star-Ledger in November, lawyers for Ravi and Wei said the webcam stream had not shown Clementi and the other man having sex.

But the indictment, in the invasion of privacy charge, alleges that Ravi "disclosed a photograph, film, videotape, recording or other reproduction of the image of (Clementi and the man he was meeting with) whose intimidate parts were exposed or who were engaged in an act of sexual penetration or sexual contact without" their

Clementi was identified in the indictment by his initials, T.C. The individual he was with was identified only as M.B.

The indictment also alleged that Ravi made the tape "with the purpose to intimidate" Clementi and the other man because of their "sexual orientation."

THIS DAY IN HISTORY ...



■ STATE NEWS

Calif. agencies lend millions to employees delinquent on advances

McClatchy Tribune

SACRAMENTO — California agencies have handed out millions of dollars in interest-free salary and travel advances to their employees without collecting repayment, according to audits from the controller's office.

Gov. Jerry Brown issued an executive order Wednesday halting the practice. He said he was working with Controller John Chiang to determine how widespread the practice has been and how much the state is owed from employees who never paid back their loans.

"This situation reinforces the worst stereotype of ineffective and inefficient government," Brown said in a statement. "I have ordered state agencies to immediately investigate the backlog of uncollected debts and find every penny owed to taxpayers."

Brown's statement said a 2009 state audit found \$13.3 million in outstanding loans at 11 agencies. "In most cases, employees were

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granted advances and agen- cannot be collected without cies were either slow to collect funds or failed to collect at all," the statement said.

The administration exin unrepaid loans at the California Department of tion, where auditors from precedented budget cuts." reviewing the books. Chiang spokeswoman Hallye Jordan said she could not comment on an ongoing investigation.

It is unclear how much of the outstanding debt is salary advances that should have been repaid or travel funds that were unaccounted for, said Brown spokesman Gil Duran.

State law allows employees to receive hardship adand to obtain advances for work travel, Duran said. But the state has no mechanism for collecting on the loans, and after three years, a debt the employee's consent.

In a statement Wednesday, Chiang said "the state's poor debt collection and acpects to find millions more counting practices are fleecing public coffers at a time when vital public programs Corrections and Rehabilita- are being decimated by un-

the controller's office are Iordan said Chiang was in the Bay Area to attend meetings with President Barack Obama and was not available for further comment. The audits show that Chiang has been investigating these unpaid loans for years.

Most state departments and agencies have discretionary funds that, according to the controller's documents, are "used to pay for salary advances, travel vances on their paychecks advances, immediate vendor payments and travel expense claims." The funds can be no larger than 3 percent of a department's or agency's total budget.



GARDENING From Page 1

"I wanted to be familiar with how to grow plants in confined spaces like my home," he said.

After spending a few minutes working with the soil and seeds, Mejia had a container of potential cucumbers and carrots to take with him.

"I started small," he said. "I wanted to grow all of them, but I'll just start with

Leticia Coronado, a operations services coordinator at University Technology Services, had a box of cucumbers, squash and zucchini, and planted another set of starters for her mother-in-law.

"This is the first year I

tried this," she said. "I was more toward flowers and fruit trees."

Communication studies lecturer Elizabeth Harris said she moved recently and in the process had to give up a garden she spent 14 years caring for in favor of a much smaller plot of

"Now I have to adjust everything I do," she said. "Concrete doesn't really yield much."

Harris spoke about her gardening experiences with her family and how the younger members eventually learned to differentiate herbs by scent alone.

"I love gardening," she said. "It's the only legal way for adults to get dirty without getting in trouble."

workshop with different varieties of lettuce in her carton romaine, butter and cosmo.

Senior psychology major Anh Vu Nguyen, a member of Growing Roots of Wellness, said being near plants can provide a way for people to deal with stress in their

"Computers and studying getting away from all that will help us to refresh," she said. "It's more relaxing to be among plants. You don't have to think about anything when you're watering

In giving people a way to grow vegetables despite having limited space, Nguyen said she hopes people would become more motivated to start growing plants and connecting with the living things around them.

"Most of the areas people She came away from the live in are concrete," she said. "There's no life, no softness — it's cold."



Photo: Ryan Fernandez / Spartan Daily

Visitors to Wednesday's Container Gardening Workshop had the opportunity to take home seeds they planted in egg cartons as part of a lesson on sustainable food practices.

■ U.S. NEWS

Saudi charged in first Guantanamo tribunal under Obama Administration

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration initiated its first Guantanamo Bay military tribunal Wednesday, charging a Saudi with masterminding the bombing of the U.S. destroyer Cole that killed 17 sailors and wounded 40 in October 2000.

A conviction is uncertain, however, because U.S. interrogators repeatedly subjected Abd al Rahim al Nashiri to techniques widely considered to be torture. Information obtained through such methods cannot be used as evidence against him.

According to the CIA, the onetime top Al Qaida lieutenant was held for four years at an undisclosed "black site" where interrogators waterboarded him, placed a handgun beside his head and fired up an electric drill. They also threatened to harm his family.

A partially unsealed CIA report says Nashiri was one of three captives given "enhanced interrogation techniques" as U.S. officials sought to learn of upcoming terrorist attacks. Nashiri allegedly was supervising several Al Qaida plots when he was captured in 2002 in the United Arab Emirates, and had ascended in Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

But the Military Commissions Act of 2009, enacted under President Obama, prohibits using statements obtained through duress.

"No evidence obtained by torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment shall be admissible in a military commission," said Army Lt. Col. Tanya J. Bradsher, a Pentagon spokeswoman, citing the act.

Also complicating the government's case is that two participants in the Cole bombing were convicted in Yemen and are imprisoned there. They are not available to testify at Nashiri's trial, which will be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But a third witness in custody in the U.S. has described Nashiri's role in those bombings. And another witness has identified Nashiri as "an important person in Al Qaida"

and said Nashiri "helped arrange the USS Cole bombing."

Prosecutors are asking for the death penalty, but the official who oversees the military commissions program has to approve

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Stephen C. Reyes, Nashiri's defense attorney, said other suspects in pre-Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were sent to U.S. federal courts, including two indicted in New York for the Cole bombing.

"But here," Reyes said, "the only difference is that Nashiri was tortured. And the government wants to make the evidence of this disappear by sentencing him to death in a makeshift system."

Nashiri allegedly was "in charge of the planning and preparation" for the Cole attack and is charged with committing terrorism, attacking civilians, intentionally causing bodily injury and committing murder in violation of the law of war.

In addition to the deadly Cole bombing, Nashiri was charged with planning the Oct. 6, 2002, attack on a French civilian oil tanker, the Limburg, and with planning an attack on the destroyer The Sullivans as it refueled in the port of Aden on Jan. 3, 2000. The Sullivans attack did not take place.

Military prosecutors had filed charges against him earlier. But Obama, who campaigned on a pledge to close the Guantanamo prison, halted the military tribunal process after taking office in January 2009. A month later, the charges were dropped.

Nashiri acknowledged at a 2007 Guantanamo hearing that he helped provide the small boat that carried explosives to the Cole. But he said he gave it to a businessman for a fishing trip and did not know it would be used by suicide bombers. "I had nothing to do with these people," he said.

He also spoke of the pain interrogators inflicted on him. "From the time I was arrested, they have been torturing me. One time they tortured me one way and another time they tortured me in a different way.... They do so

CAMPUS IMAGES



Photo: Jack Barnwell / Spartan Daily

Wissam Hebr, a freshman chemical engineering major and Sigma Chi pledge, and junior psychology major Sarah Wasnick pull on a rope in a tug-of-war game as part of SJSU's Greek Derby Days on Wednesday.

■ U.S. NEWS

Budget cuts put public libraries in a financial bind

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON

They're the lone source of free computer and Internet access in most communities, allowing the unemployed to search for jobs, learn computer skills and spruce up their resumes. Millions use them to stay in touch with relatives, apply for government services or to seek health information.

But public libraries' role as neighborhood information hubs hasn't shielded the nearly 17,000 of them across the country from budget scalpels.

After spurring a surge in public library use nationwide, the tough economy is forcing many branches to cut staff, hours and programming when many cashstrapped people need them.

As in previous downturns, libraries during the Great Recession for free children's programming or to borrow books, movies and music.

In 2008, when the economy was in free fall, 68 percent of Americans had a library card, and library visits and borrowing spiked as well.

However, 72 percent of public libraries reported budget cuts this year; 43 percent cut staff as well, according to a recent survey by the Library Journal.

While public libraries rely on local tax dollars, 19 states cut public library funding this year and 17 reported li-

brary closures, a new American Library Association survey found.

Big-city libraries have been hit hardest. Among those with more than one million annual visitors, roughly 9 in 10 cut budgets and staff. Systemwide cuts in their operating hours, on average, amounted to two branch closings, the journal survey found.

The Bascom Library and Community Center in San Jose, Calif., was completed in December, but it sits empty because the city can't afford to staff or operate it.

That means people such as Al Mata, who lives three blocks from Bascom, has to drive to a library in nearby Santa Clara so his two sons can complete their school-

"That's my biggest complaint. I'm paying taxes in San Jose, but I can't utilize mericans turned to their the resources. The library is just sitting there with the gates closed," Mata said.

> Bill Todd, 75, who also lives nearby, said he wrote the mayor, Gov. Jerry Brown and President Barack Obama asking for a loan to get the library opened. He's not expecting a response.

"Why put up a building if you can't open it?" Todd asked. "It's just waiting for broken windows and spray paint. It has a fence around it, but I can climb over the fence and I'm 75."

San Jose residents have been paying for Bascom and other facilities since 2001, when voters passed a major library construction bond.

A separate measure to pay for books and furnishings was also passed, said Steve Kline, the president of the Friends of Bascom Library.

"If people knew in 2001 that we were going to build the building, but not open it, that bond wouldn't have passed," Kline said.

Despite their funding peril, public libraries remain one of the most popular government services and historically have fared pretty well at the ballot box.

In 2009, voters passed 84 percent of library funding referendums nationwide and 54 percent of library construction measures, according to the Library Jour-

Experts say the funding crunch could cause libraries to lose much of the progress they've made in becoming relevant in the digital age.

As years of cuts mount, there are fears battered library computers won't be replaced, subscriptions won't be renewed, software upgrades will be delayed and staffing shortages will be institutionalized.

"I think there's going to be some library systems that look very different when we come out of this recession. And I don't know if those dollars are ever coming back for some libraries," said John Carlo Bertot, director of the Center for Library & Information Innovation at the University of Maryland.



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COMMENTARY

Pastors, rabbits and eggs: A brief history behind the Easter holiday

Francisco Rendon Staff Writer

While it is hard to classify such a diverse country as one demographic, I think it is safe to say the United States of America is a primarily Christian nation.

As such, Easter is celebrated as a national holiday.

But where do the traditions come from — what do the eggs and chocolate rabbits mean?

While historical records dating back to biblical times are difficult to come by, much of my surface-level knowledge is simply based on the rituals and traditions we perform yearly.

Methodist Reverend Jerry Fox said the holiday of Easter in the Christian tradition is often a celebration of the life and death of Jesus.

One ritual performed in traditional Southern churches, Fox said, is that individuals will gather in prayer and wait for the sun to go down on Good Friday, which signifies the passing of Jesus.

It is held as a traditionally sad period of time, but also one of hopefulness and expectation.

"Many preachers commonly use the phrase 'It may be Friday, but Sunday is coming!" Fox said.

The period which leads up to Easter is known as Holy Week, in which many occurrences during the final days of Jesus are celebrated.

Special names such as Palm Sunday, which recalls Jesus's return to Jerusalem, or Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the last supper, are given to these days. Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, marks the last day of Lent, the period of Christian fast.

To understand the time Frosting: period more completely, however, one must understand that themes of rebirth and life in the spring are very common throughout various religions.

Easter, in the Western Christian perspective, is celebrated on the first full moon that follows the nominal date of the equinox, which marks the transition into spring-

In the Eastern Christian traditions, Easter is celebrated based on a different calculation that can often be days or weeks after the Western celebration.

Early churches also used this holiday as the day to formally baptize converts into the church, a practice that continues to this day in some ministries.

But this still does not explain the eggs and rabbits.

Although historians vary on the exact date of Jesus's death, he most likely passed away in 36 A.D.

The modern celebration of Easter may represen combination with previously

pagan festivals which celebrated the spring. The rabbit is traditionally a sign of new life and fertility, and the symbolism may have carried over from cultural celebrations of early

The egg, a Babylonian and ancient Roman symbol of fertility, is a symbol of life and rejuvenation in many cultures, which are attributes of spring held throughout the world.

of eggs, money and candy in grass seems as though it was simply a good way for children to have fun during this period of celebration. Ultimately, not being a Christian, I will most likely not participate in any formal celebration of Easter this year. In understanding the roots of the holiday though, its celebration of life in the natural world and the life of Jesus, it does feel like Easter should be more than simply another day in the year — whatever

Photo Courtesy: Microsoft Office Images

Grandma Hiers' Carrot Cake

Cook time: 40 minutes

Ingredients:

that means.

- Butter to grease pans 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus
- more for pans 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda 2 teaspoons ground cinna-
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil 3 cups grated carrots
- 1 ½ cups chopped pecans

- 2 (8-ounce) packages of cream cheese at room temperature
- temperature
- 1 (16-ounce) box powdered
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ cup chopped pecans

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit. Grease and flour 3 (9-inch) round pans and line bottom of pans with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.

Add eggs and vegetable oil. Using a hand mixer, blend until combined, and

then add carrots and pecans. Pour into pans and bake for approximately 40 min-

Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan. Place on waxed paper and allow to

For the frosting:

cool completely.

Add all the ingredients, 1 stick salted butter, room except nuts, into a medium bowl and beat until fluffy using a hand mixer.

Stir in nuts and spread frosting on top of each cake layer. Stack the cakes on a serving plate and serve.

Recipe and photo courtesy of Food Network & Paula



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■ SHOW PREVIEW

San Jose Opera prepares to end season with 'La Boheme'

Anastasia Crosson Staff Writer

San Jose Opera is closing its 2010-11 season with operatic composer Giacomo Puccini's "La Boheme" and students can witness the beauty of the opera for the cost of a movie ticket.

For \$11, students can purchase rush tickets to any performance of "La Boheme" from April 23 through

Performances run about two hours and 35 minutes, starting at 8 p.m., except Sunday matinees, which start at 3

Tickets are sold on a firstcome, first-served basis to students 25 years old and younger with a valid student ID, and go on sale 90 minutes prior to curtain at California Theatre.

"Puccini is the most beloved composer in the U.S.," said Joseph Marcheso, an assistant conductor to the San Jose Opera production.

Sung in Italian with English subtitles, "La Boheme" is the story of a bohemian brotherhood, love and loss.

The Broadway production "RENT" was adapted from Puccini's opera, a musical made even more popular with a younger audience thanks to a 2005 film adaptation starring Rosario Dawson.

Unlike "RENT," which follows the lives and loves of eight friends dealing with the growing awareness of AIDS in New York City during the 1980s, "La Boheme"



tells the tale of an impoverished group of artists and bohemians in 19th century

contracts AIDS, the main heroine of "La Boheme" is slowly has been the best first opera, dying of tuberculosis.

Attendees are also able to attend pre-show discussions covering the history of

the opera starting at 6:30 for evening shows and 1:30 p.m. for matinees.

According to a statement Like Mimi of "RENT" who from the San Jose Opera, "for generations, 'La Boheme' the best date opera and, for many, the best opera," making this production a must-see performance.

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Advanced Web Registration Begins Monday, April 11 and ends Wednesday, May 25.

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Microsoft's Photosynth app allows users to take beautiful, high-quality panoramic photos with an easy to understand and fluid interface.

■ APP REVIEW

Microsoft's Photosynth puts panoramic images in your pocket

"The app is easy and

fun to use and it can

put together scenes

that are limited only

by what your imagi-

nation can come up

with, and did I men-

tion that it's free?"

Leonard Lai Senior Staff Writer

Pictures are normally limited to being in a typical rectangular frame, but really, that manually take a photo if was so several months ago.

We're in 2011 now, and not in January 2011 where there wasn't as great of an option in terms of compiling photos and stitching them together to create panora-

Enter Microsoft's Photosynth app for the Apple iPhone/iPod, which allows photos to be stitched together to form a panorama to

The app is free on the App Store, yet strangely enough is not available for Microsoft's own Windows Phone 7 O.S.

Panoramas are created in four easy steps as detailed when the app is first launched.

It will take an initial photo once the screen is tapped, allowing the user to move around as more photos are taken automatically, continuing to add to the panorama.

The border of the frame is color-coded to let users know what options are available before a photo is taken.

the picture will be taken automatically.

Yellow means the shot is midway through the last photo taken, still allowing users to

desired, and red means the frame of the shot isn't touching any of the photos in the panorama and taking one would start a new panorama entirely.

You can take a small number of photos together, but there's not much point to it when you could just back up a bit and take a regular photo of the sub-

For the photo to be seamless, people in the shot need to be still and continue to hold their pose while you continue

didn't get the subject fully composed in the

When the perfect panorama (all of mine loaded from your photo library when the

Green means position of the current shot are perfect) is taken, hit the "Done" button iPhone/iPod is connected to a computer, is parallel with the previous one and that located on the bottom of the screen. The app will take over and automatically start stitching together the photos.

> The more photos taken in every panorama, the longer the

> > never takes longer than a minute. Photos are then viewed as if the viewer is in the center of the panorama, creating a neat atmospheric picture and al-

> > lowing users to see their

app takes to stich it all

together, but typically it

heads. Photos can then be shared on Windows Live and through the Facebook app, although my

Facebook app was acting with your next shot of the panorama if you up and I wasn't able to post any photos, panorama or not.

surroundings

The photos can still be taken off and up-

but they are viewed as a standard 16:9 scrolling image instead of having the panorama wrap around itself.

Although initial trials at creating a clean panoramic proved slightly difficult, familiarity with the app grew with every failed attempt, which is to be expected.

Some initial attempts at stiching together a cohesive panoramic resulted in muddled looking blobs that hardly resembled the environment being shot.

The app has a smooth learning curve however, and given some time, users will be able to shoot panoramas of virtually anything with ease.

Recreating a beautiful sunset landscape physically turning their now only takes a few seconds once users get the hang of it, as you could easily move the camera horizontally and let the app take photos for you, stitch it together and then post it to Facebook in a few minutes.

> The app is easy and fun to use and it can put together scenes that are limited to only what your imagination can come up with, and did I mention that it's free?

> Yeah I did, but here we go again. It's free so go grab it. You have nothing to lose.



PLAY REVIEW

Jazzy 'Chicago' sizzles on downtown stage

Live band and superb vocals complement hilarious show

Jaimie Collins A&E Editor

Murder, adultery and scandal are abundantly available in Downtown San Jose this weekend.

Marquee Productions is hosting an adaptation of the award-winning Broadway show "Chicago" at the Montgomery Theater on the corner of Market and San Carlos

Over the years, I have seen other productions of "Chicago" on a variety of stages, but for a low-budget production, this version was impres-

Popularized by the 2002 film of the same name, this musical tells the story of a group of murderesses in 1920s Chicago.

The main character Roxie Hart, played by local Shannon Self, is an ambitious housewife cheating on her husband with a man she believes can help her break into show business.

When her boyfriend reneges on promises to make her a star, Roxie murders him and is sent to the state prison afterward.

Hilariously portrayed by Mary Kalita, the other prominent role is Velma Kelly, a vaudeville singer and dancer who specializes in a dual act with her twin sister Ve-

When Velma discovers her husband and Veronica doing the dirty deed, Velma kills them both.

Each of these cases call for the death penalty, but with the help of the slicktongued lawyer Billy Flynn, both of the jealous divas are released.

Through catchy songs and quickstep dancing, "Chicago" follows their experience in prison and court, turning serious murders into come-

The song "Cell Block Tango" harmonizes the stories of each murderess and what crime she committed, while "Razzle Dazzle" mocks that a courtroom is nothing but a circus.

"They had it coming, they only had themselves to blame," Velma sings during the Cell Block Tango. "If you'd have been there, if you'd of seen it, I betcha' you would have done the same."

The music of this play is a jazzy combination of trumpets, trombones and percussion. Instead of following a basic audio

track, this production showcased a live band on stage handling a variety of instru-

Every musician made their entrance at the perfect times, emphasizing comedy, drama and suspense.

In addition to the band, minimal props took up the

Although the actors occasionally threw glitter and shook large feather fans, the majority of the scenes were acted out using nothing but chairs and steps set up on

This may seem simplistic, but it actually shifted the focus to the acting and storyline, which was a nice ad-

The simple sets were complemented by basic cos-

The actresses were dressed in varying ranges of negligee, from bodices to lace body suits, while the men wore slacks, undershirts and sus-

Both of these instances of simplicity were great ways to reduce the

cost of the

production

without

cast started to sing, I forgot I was watching an off-Broadway

detracting from the experi-

orchestra were the voices

and dance moves of the cast,

"Whenever the

all of whom were superb.

Accompanying the superb

Each actor is extremely gifted and possesses a range

production by a small company and was blown away by the

The vocals combined with well-choreographed dance numbers brought this play to the next level.

talent."

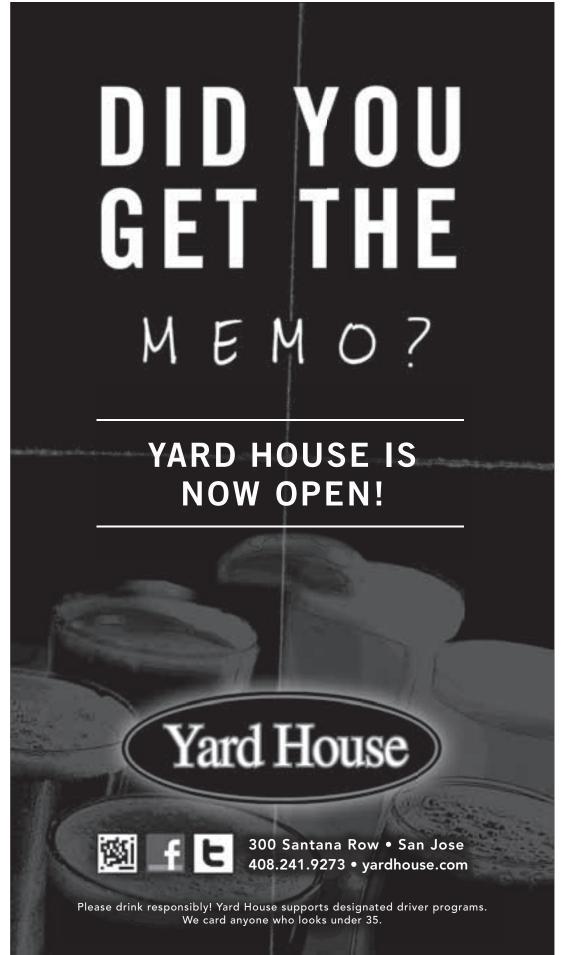
Whenever the cast started to sing, I forgot I was watching an off-Broadway production by a small company and was blown away by the

With just a cast of 11, this production required that several members play multiple parts, which they did rather well. While there were

a few slips and mistakes, opening night was an overall success. My favorite dance numbers

comprised the cast moving in unison, es-





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Photos courtesy: Chris Ayers/Children's Musical Theater

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■ U.S. NEWS

Obama criticizes GOP budget proposal during visit to Facebook headquarters

McClatchy Tribune

PALO ALTO — Looking to frame an epic debate over the role of the federal government, President Barack Obama lambasted a Republican budget proposal Wednesday as a "radical" vision that would break a long social contract to reward the wealthy while punishing the poor.

"Nothing is easier than solving a problem on the backs of people who are poor, for people who are powerless and don't have lobbyists or don't have clout," Obama said to applause in a town hall meeting at the headquarters of Facebook, the social networking

He used the invitation-only event before a friendly audience - moderator and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg volunteered his support for Obama's proposed tax increases and education policies — to launch his most pointed and personal criticism of the Republican proposal to cut federal budget deficits.

Obama chafed when asked if the Republican budget proposal deserves credit as bold and courageous — House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., was the first to propose deep cuts in the deficit.

"The Republican budget that was put forward I would say is fairly radical. I wouldn't call it particularly courageous," Obama said.

"I do think Mr. Ryan is sincere. I think he's a patriot. I think he wants to solve a real problem, which is our longterm deficit. But I think that what he and the other Republicans in the House of Representatives also want to do is change our social compact in a pretty fundamental way."

He ripped Republicans for proposing to cut taxes further on the wealthy, and for then proposing fundamental changes in Medicare that would give the elderly vouchers to buy private insurance, a move he said would leave them having to pay thousands more out of pocket as insurance rate

"I guess you could call that bold. I would call it shortsighted," Obama said to applause from the audience of employees at the social networking

Obama was vague when Zuckerberg asked him to name specific spending cuts he pro-



President Obama speaks to a crowd of Facebook employees next to CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

He said he'd cut \$2 trillion in spending over 10 to 12 years, said \$400 billion of that would come from the Pentagon, and did not identify the rest.

"Government wastes, just like every other major institution does," he said. "And so there are things that we can afford not

He said he'd raise taxes by \$1 trillion, and increase spending on issues such as education and energy research he called critical to future growth.

Republicans say Obama's proposal doesn't adequately address spending and that he's hesitated to consider even minimal reductions.

On the first day of a threeday trip, Obama also headed to fundraising events in San Francisco with tickets ranging from \$25 to \$35,800. He planned more fundraising stops in Los Angeles on Thursday, heading toward what most expect to be the nation's first \$1 billion presidential campaign.

dia in his 2008 campaign. His vote again for him next year, campaign website this week became a re-introduction of sorts: "This campaign is just kicking off. We're opening up offices, unpacking boxes, and starting a conversation with supporters like you to help shape our path to victory," it said. "2012 begins now, and this is where you say you're in."

Steve Hopcraft, a Democratic consultant, said Obama's Facebook appearance was a "good starting point," especially appealing to young voters. But he said it will take a great

effort by Obama to re-energize frustrated Democrats.

"There is a deep sense of disappointment," Hopcraft said. "It's got to go beyond fundraisers and Facebook events, obviously. He's got to reconnect with the American people."

A smattering of protesters outside Facebook headquarters included young voters who cast their first ballots for Obama, even volunteered for him, in 2008. Chelsea Byers, a Code Pink intern, was studying abroad that year and encouraged fellow students to return absentee ballots for Obama. But she has become disillusioned, upset by Obama's economic policies and military actions in Libya.

"He made a lot of promises," she said. "It's dissatisfying."

But Nick Hammer, a 27-year-old program manager, praised Obama for conducting what he said is a "rational conversation" about the budget. Hammer, who voted for Obama mastered social me- Obama in 2008 and will likely said he remains enthusiastic about him. Despite Obama's low approval ratings, he's polling favorably against potential

> By limiting his appearances to pricey events or invitationonly town halls, Obama risked angering local Democrats who have long complained that national candidates treat the state like an ATM, showing up to make a withdrawal and then

"I'm not in the \$5,000 breakfast or \$33,000 dinner club,"

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said Aaron Peskin, the chairman of the San Francisco Democratic Party. "Unfortunately, the Obama campaign seems to be much more focused on mining money from corporate CEOs in the Bay Area than touching base with the network of thousands of volunteers who catapulted

him into office in 2008." Clint Reilly, a longtime Democratic strategist, said Obama may have to rely more heavily on wealthy donors if enthusiasm for him remains lower than in 2008. For his reelection campaign, Reilly said, "There's a lot more reality attached to the Obama name than there was four years ago."

SPARTA GUIDE



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

Thursday, April 21

Noon - 1:15 p.m., King Library Room 225/229 **Diversity Dialogue: Understanding Suicide** Contact: Marina Corrales @ 408-924-2263

Monday-Thursday, April 25-28

Around SJSU

Human Trafficking Awareness Week, by the SJSU Response Coalition Contact: Tim Castagna @ 408-507-0810

Friday, April 29

6 p.m., Event Center 49th Annual Honors Convocation Contact: Jessica Larsen @ 408-924-2402

Noon - 1:30 p.m., Statues Garden in front of **Clark Hall Composting Workshop** Contact: growingrootsofwellness@googlegroups.com

Saturday, April 30

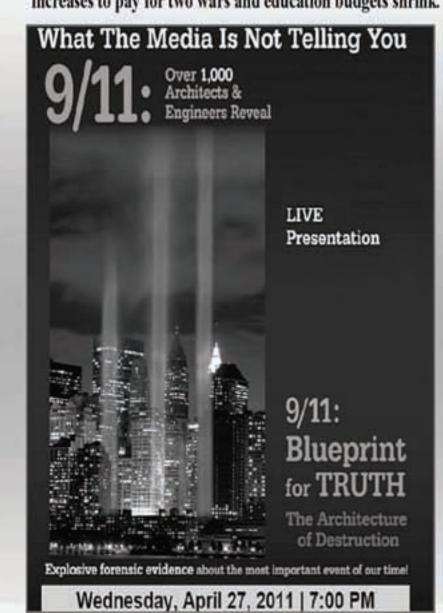
4:30 p.m., Barrett Ballroom Pride of the Pacific Islands 11th Annual Lu'au Contact: Vincent Calapit @ 858-415-5580

Saturday, May 14

6 p.m. - midnight, Fourth Street Summit Center A Wish Come True gala by Delta Sigma Pi — Theta Chi chapter Contact: Arleen Cantor @ 650-740-5660

DELTA PHI'S FIRE

The events from September 11th still affect students today as national debt increases to pay for two wars and education budgets shrink.



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BASKETBALL

New coach brings experience to women's basketball team

"I am so impressed by this man's

ability to articulate a vision ...

his commitment to his student

athletes and his amazing

integrity around the game."

Tom Bowen

Director of Athletics

That's the kind of success I want to bring trying to switch this program to something

Melissa Sabile Sports Editor

The SISU women's basketball team has a fresh start as Tim La Kose was announced as its new head coach by athletic director Tom basketball into Bowen on Wednesday.

"Back in mid-March we began the process to do a national search to find a new head coach for women's basketball," Bowen said. "We committed to find the best possible human being to coach women's basketball at San Jose State University. That was our premise as we started the process."

The search committee sifted through 27 qualified applicants and in the end selected La Kose as the best candidate for the job.

Bowen said the committee was blown away by La Kose's qualifications and enthusiasm toward the position of head coach.

"I am so impressed by this man's ability to articulate a vision, to communicate in a clear and concise way, his professional demeanor and calmness about the way he approaches his job, his commitment to his student athletes and his amazing integrity around the game," Bowen said.

La Kose, who spent the last 10 seasons with the women's basketball team at CSU Bakersfield, posted a 211-85 record in his time as the Roadrunners head coach, has 11 NCAA Tournament appearances and has a career win-loss record of 347-152 in 18 seasons.

"It's a huge challenge and one we're excited to get started on," La Kose said. "It's a very exciting opportunity, not only for myself, but for my family. We're excited to join the Spartan family."

La Kose will be taking over for Pam De-Costa, who resigned March 7 after four seasons as head coach. DeCosta ended with a 13-106 win-loss record and finished the 2010-11 season with a 2-27 record and her team was ninth in the Western Athletic Conference.

"The record didn't sway me one way or another," La Kose said about the team's current standings and win-loss record. "It was the division, the opportunity here, the loca-

tion not only for myself professionally, but to San Jose. I'm very excited about the opalso for my family personally."

He said he is excited and anxious to turn SISU women's a winning program, despite its record.

"I've part of rebuilding projects before," he said. "I was at a university where we won one game,

and then a year later we won 23 straight. all really glad they found a person who is

portunity and I can't wait to get in the gym

and start working the players."

Junior guard Plavljanin said the team is ready for the challenge of a new coach.

"We were pretty excited we've been waiting for a new coach for the past two months,"

janin said. "We're

better. He seems like the person who's right and ready to start working with us."

La Kose said he brings a defensive style of coaching to the team and will look to push the team in that direction.

"I've had one of the top scoring teams year in and year out, and we do it off of our defense," he said. "I like to have players on the floor that can score from the inside out. If you can have five players out on the floor that can do that and have a defense that is well-conditioned, you're going to be successful — and that's the kind of team we want to build."

Plavljanin said La Kose's new direction might be just what the team needs.

"For our team, we were a good defensive team this year, but I think we can get even better," she said. "We need to transfer those defensive plays to make us better in offense. We've had problems with scoring in the past and that will help."

Sophomore guard Monique Coble, who will be returning next season after a knee injury, said she is excited for the opportunity for a fresh start with a new coach.

"Talking to him this morning, a lot of us were nervous, but from what he said, he's really looking to turn the program around," Coble said. "For a lot of us, that was the goal. That's why we came here."

She said his demeanor and coaching style will be an asset to the team.

"He's pretty confident and he's excited, which is kind of a reliever for us," she said. "We want to be able to be around someone as positive as him, and he's already expressed that to us."

La Kose said he is looking for a certain leadership quality in the players and coaches to sustain a successful program.

"I've seen a huge commitment in leadership here to make that happen," La Kose said. "I think that the infrastructure is in place. We've got to get our staff together quickly. We've got to get the player buying into that and working hard. You put those pieces together — leadership, staff and players in place all working in the same direction — you're going to win games."



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Sophomore guard Monique Coble listens to Tim La Kose, SJSU's new head coach for the women's basketball team. La Kose held the team's first practice Wednesday in the YUH gym.

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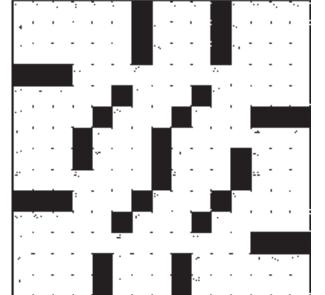
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Lyrics aren't what they used to be

"I may be bad, but I'm perfectly good at it / Sex in the air, I don't care, I love the smell of it / Sticks and stones may break my bones but chains and whips excite me."

Wait for it — "S, S, S & / M, M, M!" These "lyrics" burst through the speakers of my car as I listened to Rihanna's new song, "S & M."

I could feel the blood dripping from my ears at the pure stupidity of what I was listening to, and yet, my hands would not reach toward the dial to change the station.

Isn't it a bit ironic that the woman who was a victim of domestic abuse would sing a song about S & M?

I wondered who would write a song like this, present it at a board meeting, get it accepted by all parties and then decide to throw it on top of a really catchy pop melody with an equally addictive dance beat?

Who is playing this sick joke on all of us?

The sad thing, relatively speaking, is this song probably has some of the best lyrics in comparison to its competitors.

There's Far East Movement's "Like a G6," which features a bunch of words that don't exist in the English language and incites the neverending debate on what the hell a G6 really is.

Usher's little ditty "OMG" is not about a 13-year-old girl expressing excitement over the Internet, but a taste of awkwardly straightforward bliss



with lyrics such as "Honey got a booty like pow, pow, pow / Honey got some boobies like wow, oh wow."

Let me tell you how uncomfortable the moment is when this verse starts and you're sitting in the same car as your grandparents — why they are listening to this station is the least of your worries.

Even Katy Perry's attempt at an uplifting tune with "Firework" turned out to be a sad excuse for a Hallmark card you would buy for your friend's cat's second birthday party.

Don't even get me started on lyrics that aren't really lyrics, but a bunch of ah ah ah ah ah ah ahs, whoa oh oh oh oh oh oh oh ohs and shots shots shots shots shots, when the writer probably couldn't think of anything else and just wanted to catch the last episode of "Grey's Anatomy."

All I want to know is where all the Bob Dylans, John Lennons and Paul McCartneys of our generation have gone. I allowed the spotlight.

know they're out there — I've heard them — but I just don't know why their work has never made it mainstream.

The words of those great writers of the past were messages and beliefs and feelings and desires — they were amazing songwriters with purpose and passion.

They wrote about war and love, peace and hate, religion and history, but what does our generation have to offer as lyricists?

The meaning behind a song can some people exist / Before

is no longer important, and lyrics are haphazardly slapped together with slang and crude sexual overtones.

I really only listen to the radio when I'm driving somewhere, so all I really need to do is turn off the noise and listen to something with a bit more substance, which I usually

do. But it just makes me fearful of my future children's values.

When they think of a fun weekend, will they think of sippin' sizzurps, poppin' booties or disco sticks?

For their own safety, I hope lyrics eventually phase out and become a stream of bleeps and bops if real songwriters are not

Just imagine changing lyrics of classic, beautifully written songs to match the current music scene.

"Blackbird singing in the dead of night / Take these broken wings and learn to fly."

This Beatles gem sounds too fluffy, let's change it to, "Big chick dancin' on my junk tonight / She be really big but she's just right."

Or we could rewrite Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind."

"Yes, 'n' how many years

they're allowed

"All I want to to be free / Yes, 'n' how many know is where times can a man turn his all the Bob head / Pretending he just Dylans, John doesn't see?" Lennons and boring — let's change it to, Paul McCartneys "Yes, 'n' how many of our you gon' take

gone."

generation have get too drunk to walk / Yes 'n' how many rides you gon' whip down da hood / tellin'

Before

home again /

Way

too

tricks

they

Honestly, just pay me — I could write something horrible and it would still be better than what's out there right now.

breezies watch what dey talk!"

"Caturday Night Live" is a column appearing every other Thursday. Jordan Liffengren is a Spartan Daily A&E Editor.

How to remain calm when the boat of life is rocking

Have you ever had one of those mornings where everything goes wrong?

You wake up late because your alarm was set for 8 p.m. instead of 8 a.m., rush to take a shower but your roommates have already used up all the hot water, throw your clothes on as fast as humanly possible but can't find your favorite sweatshirt, scamper off to class and realize as you get there that your eight page paper is still sitting in the printer.

At that moment, you decide life totally sucks.

Granted my morning yesterday wasn't quite that bad, it still left me stressed and in a rotten mood.

I've been learning in one of my classes that stress can be detrimental to both your mental health and your physical health.

The National Cancer Institute defines the relationship between physical and psychological health as something that is not that well understood, but one thing they do know is that stress affects the body.

According to the institute's website, the human body responds to stress by releasing stress hormones. Stress hormones increase blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar levels, and chronic and high levels of stress is harmful to the body.

Additionally, chronic stress can increase the risk of obesity, heart disease, depression and various other illnesses, including cancer, according to the website.

So with everything we know about stress being is harmful to the body, why is it that we continue to lead stressful lives and rush around in a hurry every minute of every day?

I'm guilty of it, too. Like many of you, I constantly overload myself with a mass amount of schoolwork and a part-time job while attempting to successfully balance both of those in conjunction with a personal life.

At this point in our lives most students are dealing with the same thing, and it won't get any easier from



here on out.

There are some people who are fortunate enough to only have to manage school or work, but for the majority of us that's not the

What can we do about it? How do we manage our stress so that we are not risking our own health?

I've learned that there's not really a whole lot we can do to avoid most of the things that stress us out, but there are techniques that help us manage our stress

One way to help calm yourself down in a stressful situation is to stop and take a few deep breaths. Close your eyes and breathe deeply and it will help you forget momentarily what it is that you were stressing

When you open your eyes, you can look more objectively at what is stressing you out.

Another trick is to picture a place in your mind that makes you feel relaxed and when you start to stress out, go to that place of tranquility.

These might seem like silly, simple techniques but what's the harm in trying

It could be the difference between a healthy mental and physical well-being and stressing yourself out to the

Our health is one of the most important things we have and it shouldn't be taken lightly.

"The Real Deal" is a weekly column appearing on Thursdays. Melissa Sabile is a Spartan Daily Sports

No extra mile for any inmates

An issue regarding California state prisons and transgender inmates recently hit the 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Lyralisa Stevens, a California transgender prison inmate who is biologically a male, wants a sex change operation because she has reported being harassed and assaulted by male prisoners because of her transgender identity.

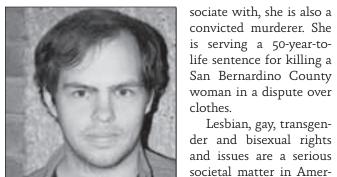
"Transgender" applies to people who are biologically one sex, but identify, have attributes and mannerisms of an opposite gender. The definition sometimes extends to sexual orientation, such as heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual identities.

She feels the state should pay for the operation and that she should be transferred to a women's facility. She should

California state prison inmates deserve adequate health care. Prison medical care should extend only to what is necessary for an inmate's health. Cancer treatment, heart surgery and other procedures critical to their health aren't optional.

But the line must be drawn somewhere and a sex change operation is one that crosses it.

While Stevens has been diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder, a condition in which a person's biological gender is different from the gender he or she might as-



Jack Barnwell Online Editor

convicted murderer. She is serving a 50-year-tolife sentence for killing a San Bernardino County woman in a dispute over clothes.

Lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual rights and issues are a serious societal matter in America. Matters like Gender Identity Disorder can be resolved through hormone therapy and sex change operations.

Prisoners, however, relinquish any and all societal rights the moment they commit a serious crime. They broke the law and must serve the punishment for it.

Stevens' fears are rational, as she entered the prison system with silicone injected into her breasts — but those fears do not justify the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for a costly procedure.

The courts currently side with inmates who require continued hormone treatments and seek proper protection from other inmates. Removing or denying inmates those hormone treatments would be unconscionable given the potential negative ramifications that it might have on inmates' health.

Currently, California is required to provide hormone replacement therapy for inmates who had received it prior to incarceration at a tidy annual sum of \$1,000 per inmate. Providing sex-change operations for inmates would run taxpayers anywhere from \$15,000 to \$50,000, with additional costs down the road for relevant follow-up procedures, according to the Los Angeles

This is something inmates should not be entitled to, no matter what gender they might associate themselves with. Policies and statutes already exist to safeguard prisoners' basic human rights, including the option for solitary confinement.

Some, including inmates themselves, might advocate that denying a sex operation procedure is unfair and inhumane. It would be hypocritical to receive an operation but still remain in constant danger.

A U.C. Irvine study, however, found that despite the increased risk that comes with transgender inmates placed in male correctional facilities, 59 percent of those surveyed said they did not wish to be relocated to a female prison despite the potential harm they face.

On moral grounds, sex change operations should not be granted at all. Transgender, gay or straight prisoners are entitled to nothing more than basic humanitarian rights. Protection from abuse by other inmates, proper health care and other basic necessities are the extent of

Claims that by denying a transgender person a sex change operation is "cruel and unusual punishment" are flawed — they themselves are incarcerated because their crimes were inhumane and cruel.

Until a convicted felon such as Stevens has served his or her punishment, the state should not go the extra mile on anything for its prison inmates.

Comment on any of these opinions at spartandailyeditorial@ sjsumedia.com

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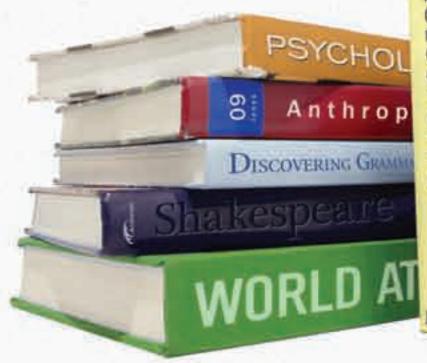
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