

CRIME

Bank robbery near SJSU, suspect caught in library

By Jasmine Leyva
@leyvaleyv3

A robbery occurred on Feb. 5 at 11:20 a.m. at the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union on Fourth and San Fernando streets.

A male subject robbed the bank and then fled into the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, according to the

AlertSJSU system.

With help from library security, the University Police Department was able to locate the subject on the seventh floor of King Library and turn him over to the San Jose Police Department.

UPD found money on the subject and then turned him over to SJPD at 12:17 p.m.

Right across from the site

of the robbery is On Fourth and the extension Instant Brew. Katrina Marquez, an undeclared sophomore, was working during the time of the robbery.

Marquez said she didn't know what was going on because there was a rush of customers.

"The cops came and showed me a picture of the

guy," Marquez said. "I didn't recognize him."

Michael Hughes, a library clerk for King Library, said he was told by a co-worker the credit union was robbed.

"I was in the building when it happened, but the building is so big that I didn't see much of anything," Hughes said.

According to UPD Ser-

geant Jenny Gaxiola, the male subject was not an affiliate of the university and no weapons were found on the suspect.

An anonymous staff member at King Library said he saw several police cars and a Department of Homeland Security vehicle a little past noon.

Andy Pham, a fresh-

man computer engineering major, was near MacQuarrie Hall when he received a text informing him of the robbery and arrest of the suspect.

"I was a bit surprised that it was nearby," Pham said.

According to the AlertSJSU the male subject was arrested.

Jasmine Leyva is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

San Jose Sharks' captain Joe Thornton (19) looks to pass the puck in the first period during Wednesday night's matchup against the visiting Dallas Stars at SAP center in San Jose. The Sharks beat the Stars by a score of 2-1 in overtime.

CAMPUS

Textbook affordability leads students away from campus store

By Yasmine Mahmoud
@yasminehahmoud

It's no secret that at the beginning of each semester, students scrounge for textbook steals, but as school begins and courses start to race through material, it can be hard to make the time to search for a deal.

San Jose State provides some options for cost efficiency such as renting textbooks and library checkouts, but according to the 2013-2014 standard student budget, the average student is expected to spend about \$1,789 on books and supplies

per semester.

Asish Tapa, a junior management information systems major, said he paid \$350 for four textbooks this semester.

"It's really expensive," Tapa said.

SJSU's Affordable Learning Solutions is working on making textbooks and other learning materials more affordable to students, according to its website.

The ALS offers library checkout for certain textbooks, and works with professors to create cheaper solutions such as course readers and staff-generated textbooks, according to the ALS.

Ann Agee, coordinator of the

ALS program, works with faculty to reduce costs of textbooks for students.

Agee said they talk to many students who don't buy the books because of cost.

The ALS department works with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and Spartan Bookstore to create cheaper solutions for students.

Prior to each semester, the Spartan Bookstore provides the library with a list of textbooks ordered by faculty for the approaching semester. King Library's Technical Services department compares this list to the library's catalog of e-books

to check if the library has any required e-books that can be made available to students, according to the ALS.

The ALS also encourages faculty to source course information from online resources, Agee said.

In Fall 2012, there were 4,623 students who participated in the textbooks as e-books program who potentially saved a projected \$152,008, Agee said.

In Spring 2013, there were 3,289 students who used these books, saving an estimated \$90,883 collectively, according to the ALS.

Although the textbook program is projected to save money,

according to the ALS, there are not always free solutions to the textbook problem.

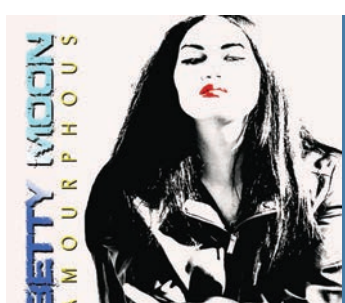
"Sometimes there just isn't an alternative," Agee said.

Associated Students offers the Affordable Textbook Program which allows students who receive financial aid a voucher to rent textbooks from the bookstore, according to the Associated Students Affordable Textbook Program website.

The program is not widely known, Agee said.

In Spring 2012, there were 126 matching e-books, according to

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FORECAST

Rain

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▼ 42°F



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PLAYER PROFILE

Spanish water polo star embraces life at San Jose State



Photo courtesy of SJSU Athletics

By Ryan Brown
@rgbrownie

Freshman year can be a difficult transition. If you come from another country and speak limited English, it can be even tougher. Throw in the challenges of being a student athlete? Good luck.

However, for Spartan freshman Clara Espar Llaquet, each of these obstacles has been another opportunity.

Last summer, the 5-foot-8-inch driver from Barcelona, Spain scored three goals against the U.S. Junior National Women's Water Polo Team while playing for her native country in the Junior World Championships.

Days after winning a silver medal, Espar Llaquet was in classes at SJSU.

"At the beginning it was hard," Espar Llaquet said. "Adapting to the system, the language. But it gets easier."

Far from home, Espar Llaquet quickly felt like she was fitting in by participating in new activities and bonding with her teammates.

"I had never watched a football game and now I love it," she said. "All my teammates come, and I'm there at every single game."

The team, which includes players from two other European countries, mixes cultures and offers an inclusive environment.

"All my teammates, they have been taking care of me since I came here," Espar Llaquet said. "They've just been trying to make me feel

like it's home."

Interim Head Coach Johnny Bega took over in December 2013 after the passing of longtime coach Lou Tully and said it's a team culture he's tried to instill in his players.

"One of our mottos here is 'Think of others,'" he said. "And whoever comes from whatever country or whatever state or whatever town or city, embrace them. Bring them in as a part of your team and let's make a family."

Timi Molnar, Bega's first overseas recruit, said a smooth transition has just as much to do with Espar Llaquet's open personality as it does the team's support.

"It's a completely new environment," Molnar said. "So just to leave Spain and come here, she had to be open to do that. Kind of reckless, but definitely brave."

While there are challenges for Espar Llaquet at SJSU, there are also some advantages.

"She knows that back home in Spain it would have taken her a long time to get her degree due to scheduling conflicts with club practices.

"In Europe and in Spain there is club and there is school," Espar Llaquet said. "They're not together, it's separate. So if you want to do high level in club you cannot do high level in school. It's too hard."

Her father, Xesco Espar, who is visiting this week from Spain, said the ability to get a degree while playing at an elite level was one of the biggest reasons Espar Llaquet came to the U.S.

"It is one of the main reasons, because who knows how many years can she (keep playing) water polo," he said. "While she's in college. Maybe a few more years but then she has like 50 more years to live, so I think her education is very important."

Another significant per-

son in her decision to come to SJSU was her older sister, Anni, who came to the U.S. to play at USC last year.

"She just told me 'You're going to love it,'" Espar Llaquet said.

The sisters have a shared talent for water polo, and their father recalls the first time they ever played the sport.

"I remember the day they came home and they said 'We tried a new sport, water polo. This is it, we will play it forever,'" he said.

Both girls have not only continued to play, but have excelled in the sport. Anni was a member of the 2012 Spanish Olympic team and helped lead USC to a national championship last season.

This year, Espar Llaquet is leading the Spartans with 39 goals, according to SJSU Athletics.

The Spartans are 8-5, including a 14-6 win over No. 16 Michigan at the Stanford Invitational this past weekend and are currently No. 14 in the NCAA.

Espar Llaquet said that the tournament was something she looked forward to more than others because of all the great teams that would be there.

"I think it's going to give me a lot of experience," Espar Llaquet said. "All of these games are going to be hard and the best teams are going to be there so we're going to learn a lot."

While the Spartans went just 1-3 in the tournament overall, they lost to two of the top-10 teams, UC Berkeley and Hawaii, by just one goal.

Success in the pool isn't Espar Llaquet's only goal at SJSU, and although she hasn't declared a major, her interest leans towards hospitality management.

"I like events, organization (and) tourists," Espar Llaquet said. "I love traveling. I would love to have a job that lets me be traveling."

The Spartans play next on February 14, and their next home match is March 1 against Stanford at 12 p.m. at the SJSU Aquatic Center.

Ryan Brown is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

FOOTBALL

Spartans' 2014 recruiting class



Ryan Brown | Spartan Daily

Head football coach Ron Caragher speaks on the new football recruits during Wednesday afternoon's press conference. The San Jose State football team signed 20 new prospects.

By Ryan Brown
@rgbrownie

Wednesday was a big day for San Jose State football as Head Coach Ron Caragher announced his team's 2014 recruiting class.

The class, which Scout.com rates as the best SJSU class in their records dating back to 2002, features nine prospects that received three-star ratings in addition to 11 other signees and transfers.

Caragher said that while those ratings don't really provide anything of value to his coaching staff during their recruiting process, he is glad SJSU fans have something to be excited about.

"If it creates excitement in our community, if people can get excited about Spartan football and Spartan fans can see that and want to come to some games, then so be it, the star system's great," Caragher said.

The 20-player class is also tied for the best average rating in the Mountain West Conference with Boise State.

Scout, which also factors in the number of recruits, ranks the Spartans' group of signees No. 3 in the conference and No. 74 overall.

After taking over in December of 2012, Caragher's first recruiting class was lackluster, according to Scout.com's rankings. It featured just one three-star prospect and was rated No. 113 out of 126 Division I schools.

Caragher said coming in so late in the recruiting process made it difficult to establish relationships with potential recruits.

"This year it's a full cycle, because the day after signing day, or shortly after, you start your next group," Caragher said. "Last year was microwaved down to three weeks and this year it's a full year. So it makes it nice."

This class features strong depth in the defensive secondary, with seven incoming players listed as either cornerbacks or safeties. Cornerbacks Maurice McKnight and Cleveland Wallace III are already enrolled at SJSU and are avail-

able to participate in spring practice.

McKnight graduated early from Arroyo Grande High School in San Bernardino to join the team ahead of the Fall semester, while Wallace is a transfer from the University of Washington that will have to wait a year before he's eligible to play in games.

In addition to Wallace and McKnight, junior college transfers Malik Watson and Kyle Wright are currently enrolled at the university.

Watson is one of two signees at the quarterback position. Joining him is Ian Fieber, the Spartans' first freshman quarterback to sign since Joe Gray in 2011.

Wright, an offensive tackle, is one of four linemen that will be entrusted to protect those quarterbacks.

They, along with defensive tackles Owen Roberts and Victor Vernon are spearheading a class that Caragher hopes will help the Spartans improve at the point of attack.

SEE SPORTS ON PAGE 6



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Sharks score late in OT to get past the Stars



Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

Tommy Wingels' overtime goal gives San Jose a 2-1 win over Dallas.

San Jose Sharks' right winger Adam Burish (37) and defensemen Dan Boyle (22) search for the loose puck during the first period against the Dallas Stars on Wednesday night. The Sharks beat the Stars 2-1 with an overtime goal by Tommy Wingels.

By Juan Reyes
@jmreyes831

The San Jose Sharks looked to shake the dust off their shoulders after giving up a season-high five goals to Philadelphia on Monday.

On Wednesday, the Dallas Stars came to visit a sold out SAP Center and this time it was Tommy Wingels' turn to put on the Superman cape for the rescue.

With the game tied 1-1 at the end of regulation, it was the go-ahead goal by the four year veteran forward at 1:52 of overtime that hit the back of the net for the Sharks' 2-1 overtime win over the Stars

"It was time for some others to step up and score," said Sharks Head Coach Todd McLellan. "To see Marty and Tommy do it in one game is a good thing for our team."

Sharks' goaltender Alex Stalock had 19 saves and earned his eighth win of the sea-

son. A win by the Stars (26-21-9) would have moved them into the final playoff spot, but they now trail Vancouver by two points.

San Jose (35-16-6) pulled to within seven points of Anaheim for the Pacific Division lead.

The game started as a chess match between both teams, similar to the two earlier matchups this season, which resulted in shootout wins for both Dallas and San Jose. The Sharks won the most recent game, 3-2, on Dec. 21 in San Jose.

Early in the second period, the Sharks were given a golden chance to score the game's first points, but weren't able to capitalize on the one-man advantage.

It took San Jose a little more than 18 minutes into the second when Marty Havlat put the game's first points on the scoreboard.

"I think both goals was all Hanner," Havlat said. "Giving me the puck down low in the first one too, and in the overtime. He had a great game."

Dallas was able to tie things up in the third with 6:27 left on the clock after Valeri Nichushkin got the puck past Stalock. It would be the only goal he would give up all night, a nice rebound compared to the five goals given up by San Jose on Monday.

"I figured he was going to pass it," Stalock said. "I was playing the guy off there to the side, he made a good pass, guy got off quick and they made a good play."

San Jose's Brent Burns had a chance to send Dallas home early in overtime, but goaltender Kari Lehtonen made a glove save.

San Jose ended the night zero for three on the power play, but the defense responded with a penalty kill of their own, forcing the Stars to go zero for one on the night. Still, a slapshot from Wingels was enough to lead his team to a home victory.

"As far as the power play goals it needs some work obviously," McLellan said. "It's a bit reflective of some of our players right now, they're not as sharp as they need to be.

We have one more game to put it back together and get it to where it needs to be."

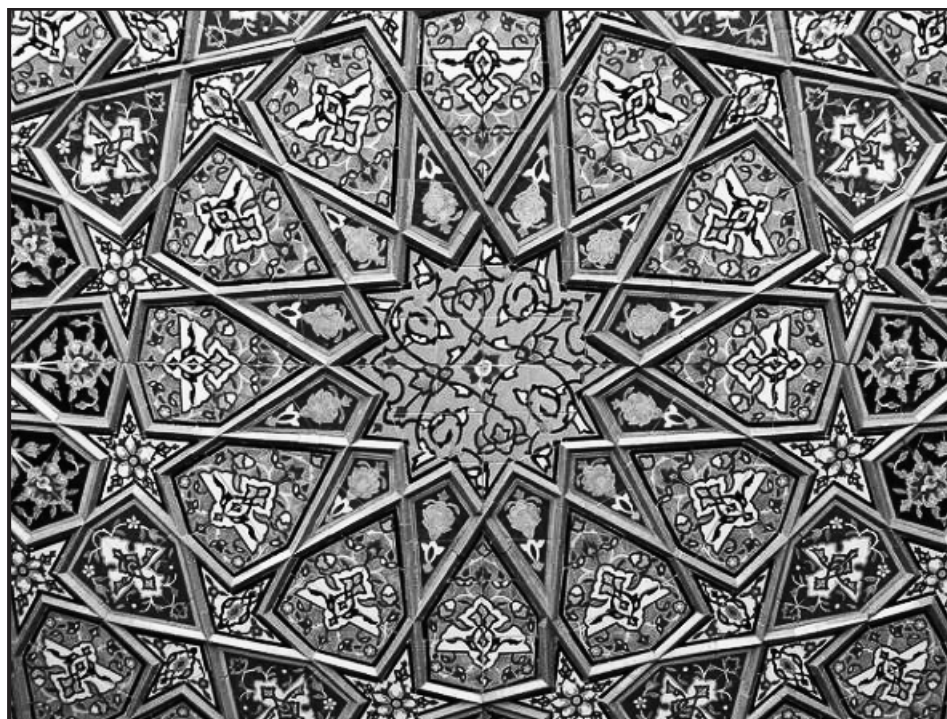
The Sharks will take a two week break for the Winter Olympics after their game with Columbus on Friday and McLellan said it'll be time for the team to hit the ice for some practice sessions.

"For us to have success from this point forward it's going to need to be a lot better than tonight," McLellan said.

Juan Reyes is the Spartan Daily Sports Editor.

Boxscore

	1	2	3	OT	F
Dallas	0	0	1	0	1
San Jose	0	1	0	1	2
Goals:	Saves:				
SJ - Havlat, Wingels	SJ - Stalock 19				
Dal - Nichushkin	Dal - Lehtonen 19				



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ALBUM REVIEW

Too much trouble falling in love with 'Amourphous'

By Yasmine Mahmoud
@yasminemahmoud

Singer-songwriter Betty Moon's "Amourphous" album art is a poorly designed attempt to promote a Pat Benatar impersonator, but upon listening to the album, it's clearly dark alternative-rock with other classic rock and metal influences.

The title track, "Amourphous," is sinister and reminiscent of early Garbage, a female-fronted 1990s to early 2000s band featuring Shirley Manson.

The bass-heavy sounds paired with Moon's slow singing steer toward progressive rock or even alternative metal.

Moon's voice is intriguingly similar to jazz and R&B singer Sade's deep, soulful voice without being heavy, although it seems slightly out of place with the dragging guitars. At times, it seems as if Moon's voice and lyrics are swallowed by the instrumentals when her voice should be showcased instead.

"Numb" combines Moon's full range of singing styles, as she croons over heavy instrumentals. The song has creepy,

quiet parts, but carries hefty crescendos. An interesting experiment, "Numb" doesn't quite succeed, but while listening to it you almost want it to be good.

The track "Powerlines" is the token upbeat song on an album of desolate angry music, but doesn't offer any cheer.

If anything, the song is completely out of place. Even though it's the cheeriest song of the album, it shouldn't have made the cut. The song is campy and doesn't stir much emotion.

"Valentine" stands out because, while it is upbeat, it wasn't nearly as confusing as "Powerlines," even though the two songs are similar because of fairly upbeat instrumentals and sad lyrics.

While Moon heavily shifts genres throughout the album, when she sings "Time to Move on" her voice sounds exactly like Sade and the instrumentals are lingering and inspire emotion just as Sade's music does. Showcasing her vocals unlike any other song on the album, it's unfortunate that the instrumentals are not on the same level as the vocals on this track.

Given the album's title, the theme may have been love, but because Moon's lyrics are indiscernible I remain unsure. Most of the songs seem as if they are about longing, because of the tone of the instrumentals or the cadence of her voice.

"Fresh Tendrils" reminds me of the sludge metal band Tool from its "10,000 Days" album. The bass-heavy sounds



Album cover courtesy of Betty Moon

Toronto-born Betty Moon's self-reflective, retrospective album "Amourphous" will be released on Feb. 14.

paired with Moon's slow singing steer toward progressive rock or even alternative metal. Moon's instrumentals and vocals are more successful on this track than others, although her voice loses some of its soulfulness to abrasiveness.

The album is full of mostly motley, brooding instrumentals with easily overlooked, unmemorable lyrics. After listening to all of "Amourphous" a couple of times, I couldn't sing a bar of any of the songs, which really says something

because even some of the most boring songs still manage to have catchy lyrics.

In short, while Moon's voice is great at times, her sound is a little confusing. Moon has the potential to produce interesting music, but

needs to hone her talents in one genre before attempting an album such as this.

The album "Amourphous" will be released on Valentine's Day 2014.

Yasmine Mahmoud is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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02/06/13

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Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Previous Solutions

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

T	R	A	L	A	A	R	I	D	S	E	A	M		
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U	R	A	L	R	E	A	D	S	A	R	I	S		
M	A	L	E	E	R	G	O	E	G	E	S	T		

Feb 05

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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53	54	55	56				57		58			
59								60	61			
62						63				64		
65						66					67	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Company supplying Mr. Coyote
 - 5 Camp body of water
 - 9 Where Minos reigned
 - 14 Violin holder
 - 15 Distinctive flair
 - 16 "Correct-amundo!"
 - 17 Marching orders
 - 20 Scratchy board
 - 21 "Don't be ridiculous!"
 - 22 Most nimble
 - 25 Droid cousin
 - 26 Charles is its prince
 - 28 Formal legal document
 - 32 Sinister, manipulative type
 - 37 Fancy mayo
 - 38 Trek to a lofty lookout point
 - 41 Turn away
 - 42 Happy occasion?
 - 43 Carpenter's
 - 44 Lambaste
 - 46 "___ guy walks into ..." (joke start)
 - 47 Mexican peninsula
 - 53 Home of Stanford University
 - 58 Spoken thought, onstage
 - 59 Critters with powerful jaws
 - 62 Throat affliction
 - 63 Wing-shaped item, often
 - 65 Rough Rider Roosevelt
 - 66 Philadelphia founder
 - 67 Doggie bag morsels
 - 7 Actress Madeline
 - 8 Get dressed for choir
 - 9 Wave top
 - 10 Rampant
 - 11 Harold's role in "Ghostbusters"
 - 12 Consequently
 - 13 French 101 word
 - 18 Forked letter
 - 19 Adam's grandson
 - 23 Cashless transaction
 - 24 Coin of Samoa
 - 27 Neither-here-nor-there state
 - 28 ___ all due respect
 - 29 Place for a pothole
 - 30 Trojan princess of a Mozart opera
 - 31 Minuscule Herringlike food fish
 - 33 "___ Las Vegas" (1964 Elvis movie)
 - 34 ___ out a living (barely got by)
 - 35 Seneca tutored him
 - 36 Type of reaction
 - 37 Wee colonial
 - 39 Like mechanics' hands
 - 40 Language in Pakistan
 - 44 One-man band performances
 - 45 Short siesta
 - 46 Overly sentimental
 - 48 It's tired?
 - 49 Texan with a glove
 - 50 Wall worker
 - 51 Make ___ in (show some headway)
 - 52 Tree houses
 - 53 Sibilant attention getter
 - 54 Poker dealer's demand
 - 55 Edible fat
 - 56 Newspaper section
 - 57 Gaze wantonly
 - 60 Process leather
 - 61 Mantel pitcher
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ and pains
 - 2 Fall guy
 - 3 Top of the Catholic Church?
 - 4 Jotting in a journal
 - 5 Zodiac lion
 - 6 Computer key

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We aren't asking to get hit on, we're just trying to get home

Sometimes while walking through campus after my night classes, I imagine what I would do if I was suddenly attacked.

I memorize my surroundings and the faces of anyone walking too close to me.

Every few seconds, I glance quickly over my shoulder to check if anyone is lurking around me.

I imagine countless scenarios and possible solutions to being attacked.

This might be a product of my own paranoia, but lately it seems I'm in the majority when it comes to my feelings on campus safety.

With all the incidents of sexual battery and assault that seem to be plaguing the San Jose State campus, maybe brainstorming defense moves while walking briskly through downtown isn't such a bad idea.

Saturday, Jan. 25 the University Police Department sent out an AlertSJSU text for sexual battery when a student reported walking with a friend in front of the Event Center when the suspect approached them from behind and inappropriately touched the victim.

Only two hours later, another AlertSJSU text was sent out detailing another incident of sexual battery on the Eighth Street side of Hoover Hall.

Again, the suspect approached the student from behind and touched her inappropriately.

On Jan. 26 UPD sent out another AlertSJSU text reporting an attempted sexual battery outside of MacQuarrie Hall.

According to the alert, the victim was accompanied by friends when two males attempted to touch the victim inappropriately.

The alerts stirred a mix of emotions in me, including shock, fear and growing uncertainty.

No student walking around campus should have to be worried about someone attacking them.

In these recent cases of sexual battery, the victims were female students.

I'm not saying that only females are victims of campus crimes, but they are a favorite target.

Recently, while interviewing Wiggys Sivertsen, a counselor from SJSU's Counseling Services, on the recent sexual battery incidents, she phrased her thoughts on the matter in a way that I feel captures that sentiment of frustration and anger that all female students must feel when reading these alerts, or worse



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surviving an attack.

"We're not here as women for the benefit of men to make fun of, to toy with. That's not what we're here for," Sivertsen said.

That sentence continues to play in my head.

As an SJSU student I feel ashamed and sad that a place as beautiful as this can become so ugly and unsafe in so little time.

However, campus crimes are not just lurking in the dark corners of SJSU.

President Obama recently spoke out on the epidemic of campus rape, an issue that is long overdue for attention.

According to a 2012 study by Center for Disease Control, 19 percent of female college undergrads experienced "attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college."

According to the study, though female students more commonly experience sexual assaults on campus, male students are also victims.

Whatever the statistic may be, it's a statistic that should not exist.

As a college student, I don't want to be fearful when walking around campus after night classes.

I'm not here for someone else's benefit and amusement.

If I ever feel that my peace of mind and safety has been violated, I would hope that my own school would take my cry for help seriously, not just sweep it under the rug like so many schools in the past have done.

I am pleased that the UPD has been responding promptly to these reports of assaults on campus.

The UPD alerts have been helpful in spreading the word on any crime or danger on campus.

I've talked to many students who have told me that they really like how the alerts keep them informed as soon as anything happens on campus, despite the unease they sometimes feel when reading them.

Maybe now that Obama has spoken on the issue of campus rape, schools across the country will treat this issue with the attention it deserves.

According to an article in the Mercury News, a few universities in California are undergoing audits to observe how they respond to student reports of hate crimes, sexual assaults and harassments.

Student victims are finally getting a voice, instead of being shamed into silence.

A voice that's been silenced for too long.

Josie Chavez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

To truly experience college you have to do more than sit in class

"College students—I've never seen a group of people spend so much money on something and get so little out of it."

When one of my professors said that on the first day of class, it really got me thinking.

As students, we spend a lot of time and money to be here, so we should be getting everything out of this university that we possibly can.

Sadly most of us aren't.

I'm sure at one time or another you've all heard one student ask another, "Does that teacher grade easy?"

Or perhaps, "Do they assign a lot of homework, projects, etc?"

Heck, you probably were one of those students.

The sad thing is, most students aren't asking these questions so that they can take the more challenging course.

They are looking for the easy way out.

College is meant to not only educate a person, but to help them become the best they can be.

It is meant to be challenging, that is how we grow.

Don't get me wrong, I know the hardest teachers aren't necessarily the best teachers, and I understand the desire to take an easy GE course while working hard toward a degree.

But when students take the easy way out every semester, it makes me wonder why they are even here.

What a waste of money.

According to the website for the Bursar's office, the very least that a student spent this semester on tuition and fees is \$2,542.50, and that's if you're a part-time undergraduate from California.

That amount doesn't include books, parking or any of the other student expenditures that come with



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each semester.

This is all perfectly fine if you're getting your money's worth—but are you?

I'm willing to bet that most of the student body doesn't know all of the services and fees they pay for every semester, let alone take advantage of them.

For example, each student pays two fees toward the Student Health Center—a facility fee and an operations fee.

According to the Bursar's office, that's \$191.50 a semester, which covers unlimited primary care visits, illness and injury treatment and women's health services. There is

I'm willing to bet most of the student body doesn't know all of the services they pay for...

even a pharmacy on campus.

I've never used any of these services, and it's not because I'm healthy, it's because I forgot that they're available.

Every student also spends \$329.50 a semester on a fee for the Student Union and Event Center.

I know that the Student Union is still under construction, but it is set to open this semester and according to the floor plans, in addition to the bowling center, there will be lounges, a ballroom and new restaurants to eat at.

I'm definitely looking forward to taking advantage of that.

In the meantime, that fee also goes toward the Event Center, which is used for more than just concerts.

Inside the Event Center is the Sport Club Fitness Center, which has an aerobics room, two dance studios, eight racquetball courts, a basketball court, cardio equipment and a 10,000 square foot weight room.

Instead of making the excuse that you can't fit a little exercise into your day, why not hit the gym on a class break?

If you aren't interested in working out, then I suggest visiting the Event Center this semester to support our men's and women's basketball teams.

Making the most out of college isn't only about using the services you pay for, it's about the experience.

One way to truly experience college is through campus involvement.

In addition to cheering on your fellow Spartans at a game, there are opportunities for you to play through intramural and club sports.

If sports aren't your thing, there are nearly 400 clubs at SJSU ranging from fraternities and sororities, to cultural and religious clubs, to special interest clubs and academic and honorary clubs.

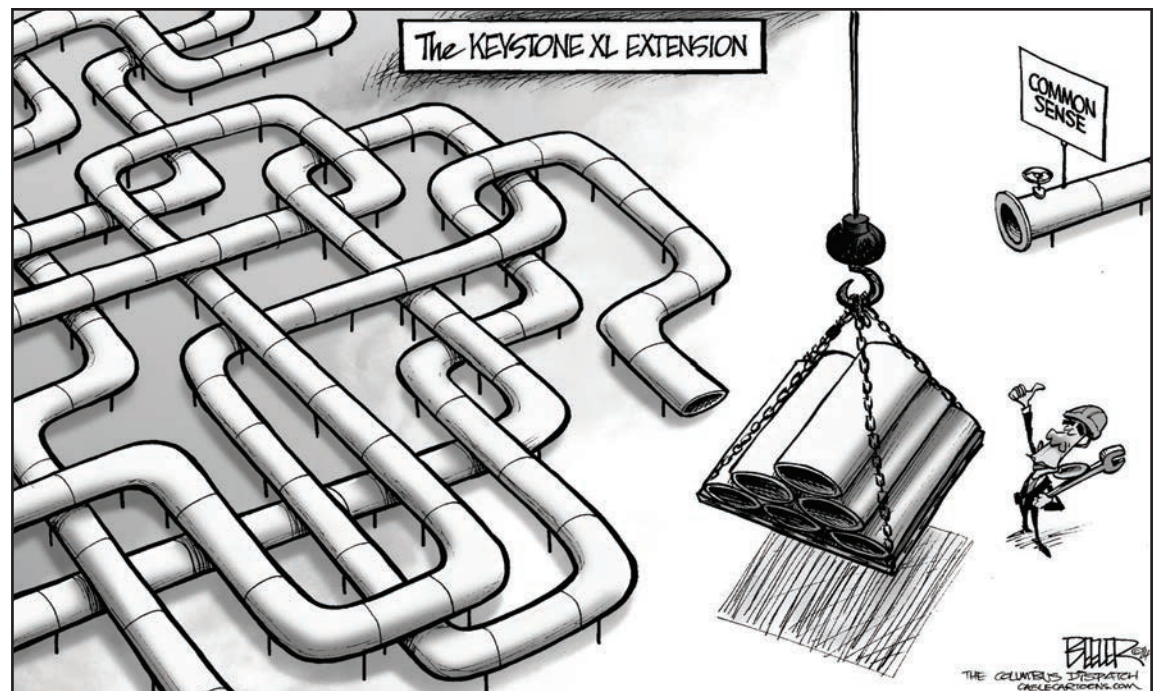
So whether you're interested in joining the Board Games club, the Engineers Without Borders club or the Queer and Asian club, student organizations are a great way to make friendships and professional connections.

As a fellow student, I challenge you to not always choose the easiest option.

Instead, challenge yourself and take advantage of everything that you can while here at SJSU. You'll thank yourself later.

College is the jumping-off point for your career, but for many of us it's also the jumping-off point to live a life as the person we want to be.

Tanya Mutz is the Spartan Daily Online Editor.



Submit letters to the Editor to: spartandaily@gmail.com

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Education: Rising prices boost e-book popularity

FROM PAGE 1

“Usage of the 126 e-books increased by 794 percent over the course of the semester and it was estimated that the list saved students over \$50,000,” according to the ALS department.

Jasmine Grant, a sophomore animation/illustration major, said she sometimes doesn’t use all the textbooks she buys.

“I didn’t use my bio textbook at all,” Grant said. “It was \$50.”

Grant said that some of her professors try to reduce costs by using online course readers.

She said her California politics textbook, a soft cover, cost her \$36 and it was about 160 pages.

Slobodan Simic, professor of mathematics, was awarded a grant through ALS’ Textbook Alternatives Program and is working on an alternative for a textbook for Math 133A, ordinary Differential Equations.

“Ideally my goal is that students would not have to buy a textbook,” Simic said.

Students would not have to pay for any kind of online grading systems as well, he said.

Typically, math courses involve online subscription sites where students complete coursework that can be graded electronically.1p0

These courses may come as part of a bundle with a newly purchased book or sometimes require a separate subscription, Simic said.

“For a textbook, I’m aiming for it to cost as little as possible without sacrificing quality,” Simic said.

While textbook alternatives are being planned and developed, there are still students who go to the bookstore and buy textbooks.

“It is kind of annoying, but if you try and plan for it you’ll be okay,” Grant said.

Yasmine Mahmoud is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Sports: Team signs ‘highest rated class’ in school history, 20 new players include 9 3-star recruits

FROM PAGE 2

“I really think it’s so important to be able to win the trench battle,” Caragher said. “I thought we took a nice step forward last year with the group we had, but this year we really exceeded our goals.”

Of the 20 recruits, 18 are originally from California and Vernon, who’s a Chicago native, played his previous two seasons at De Anza College in Cupertino.

The Spartans lone out-of-state recruit is offensive lineman Troy Kowalski from Mountain Ridge High School in Glendale, Ariz.

Caragher said that while the coaching staff will always pursue out-of-state recruits that fit well, he expects the California trend to continue in future recruiting classes.

“Having these young men in the state of California, it’s easier for them to come to camps,” Caragher said. “If you get a chance to have them in camps, you get to build a relationship. The further removed, the less you’re able to build that relationship.”

Ryan Brown is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

SpartaGuide

CCCAC Legacy Tour Info Session

Thursday, Feb. 6
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
A.S. House Fireside Room

Urgent Inventions Of African Americans

Thursday, Feb. 6
12 p.m - 1:30 p.m.
MLK Library, Room 225

CCCAC Volunteer Info Session

Friday, Feb. 7
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
A.S. House Fireside Room

Peter Koestenbaum Signature Event

Tuesday, Feb. 11
12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Engineering Building, Room 189

Love For the Troops Event


Wednesday, Feb. 12
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Smith- Carlos Lawn

A.S. Board Meeting


Wednesday, Feb. 12
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Student Involvement Room 140

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For more information, call (408) 794-1090.

Get parking information, directions, maps and more at sjdowntownparking.com



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