



Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934

Thursday
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Mother dreams of animated future

By Jill Abell
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Medina starts her day by heading to the Art Building with her year-old son, letting her fingers trail lightly across the art lockers until they find her own locker containing her portfolio — her admission ticket to the animation and illustration program at SJSU.

"Never in a million dreams did I think I could become a professional artist through a state school," Medina said.

She said she first declared her major as English in 2001, and then she declared her second major as art in 2004, with the intention of gaining admission into the animation and illustration program.

Medina said she is trying to gain permission from advising to continue working on her animation and illustration portfolio, so she can submit it to the review board to earn admission into the animation and illustration program.

"You have to pass the review before you can declare illustration," Medina said.

Now SJSU is pushing her to graduate as an English major and general art major, without the Bachelor of Fine Arts in animation and illustration, she said.

"I think SJSU is not concerned each student's circumstances, but with how fast they can get rid of students," said Gina Masia, a child and adolescent development major.

Medina said it would be a dream to work at someplace like DreamWorks Studios or Pixar Animation Studios.

"A B.F.A. offers you a direction, the style of drawing that companies will want," she said. "You would have a more well-rounded portfolio."

She said she is prepared to independently create a portfolio and apply to animation studios, but it would be harder.

"I really want the B.F.A.," she said. "It's a big

See **MOM**, Page 2



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Elizabeth Medina goes through sketches to include in her portfolio before meeting with Karl Toepfer, dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts, to discuss her situation as her year-old son Zander investigates the other lockers.

Flu-like symptoms up nearly 5 times over previous year

By Jennifer Hadley
Staff Writer

People visiting the Student Health Center with influenza-like symptoms from Aug. 1 to Oct. 15.

The Student Health Center has requested 600 doses of the H1N1 vaccine for the SJSU campus, a health center official said.

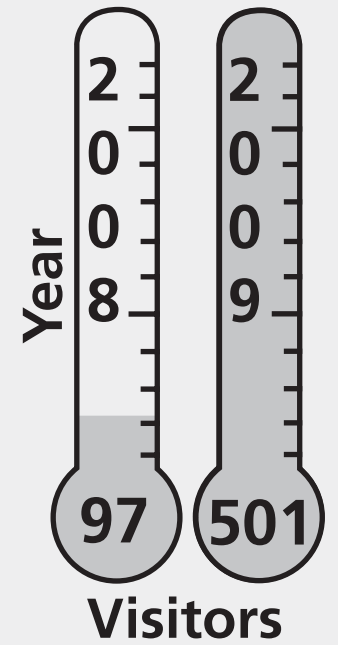
Roger Elrod, director of the Student Health Center, said the order was expected to be on campus already, but now he expects at least part of the order to arrive by early November.

Sarah Kaminsky, a graduate student in occupational therapy, said she wasn't planning on getting the H1N1 vaccine.

"I'm conflicted, because I work with some of the at-risk populations," she said. "I work with kids, so I'm considering (it)."

Elrod said the health center is trying to set up protocol on how the vaccine will be distributed.

Students who want an H1N1 vaccination can make an ap-



Data courtesy of Roger Elrod, director of the Student Health Center.

See **H1N1**, Page 3

Retrofits could help campus save money and environment

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

energy conservation.

"People are most focused on producing energy, when people need to think about turning off their lights," he said.

SJSU is charting an unconventional path to sustainable energy use, said a contractor working to modify buildings on campus.

"A lot of what people think is green is only what they can see," construction manager Stephen Freskos said, referring to the hallmarks of "green" energy production such as wind turbines and solar panels. "A smarter first step is to look at conservation, then look at power generation."

Adam Bayer, energy and utility services director for facilities development and operations, said he would describe the approach as "demand-side management," focusing on altering the university's consumption — its demand, rather than its power generation — the university's supply.

Joseph Moreno, a senior behavioral sciences major, said he was glad the university was not ignoring the issue of

Since May 2008, Freskos said the company he works for, AECOM Energy & Power, has been under contract with the university to retrofit campus facilities to improve the university's energy efficiency while reducing overall power consumption.

Jared Isaacson, an energy analyst for facilities development and operations, said the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Business Tower building and Science building are among the most recently completed set of modifications.

Freskos said King Library had its bulbs replaced with models that emit a light that is similar to natural sunlight. As a result, the lights appear brighter to the human eye, though the bulbs use less power.

He also said the old lighting

See **GREEN**, Page 8

False alarms raise fire safety questions

By Suzanne Yada
Staff Writer

At least three false alarms caused King Library to be evacuated recently, an official said.

An electrical short in a smoke detector triggered the most recent alarm Monday afternoon, said Tung Pham, facilities manager for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

The other two incidents occurred Sept. 21 and Sept. 11, Pham said.

Freshman pre-nursing major Abigail Simon said she was in King Library on Sept. 21 when the fire alarm went off.

"I don't know if it was a real fire alarm or a prank," she said. "I was mad about it. I was trying to work on something on the computer, and they just kicked us out."

That incident turned out to be an alarm malfunction, said Sgt. Michael Santos of the University Police Department.

Santos said the faulty fire equipment was immediately replaced.

The third alarm, on Sept. 11, was manually triggered from the third floor, Pham said.

Pham said he wasn't able to confirm if the alarm was accidentally or purposefully set off.

Simon said she hopes it wasn't on purpose.

"It's wasting our time, especially if it's a prank," she said. "It's discouraging people from wanting to come to the library."

Senior psychology major Brian Phelps said he is glad people are evacuated during false alarms.

"On one hand, I think the library and police staff are doing a good job reacting to that," he said. "They're taking it seriously in getting everyone out. But on the other hand, I find it inconvenient. If I can't access the library to do work, I'm looking for a corner in the Student Union."

Pham said the three false alarms each had separate causes.

"We don't see a real pattern here," he said. "Sometimes it (a fire alarm) happens once or twice a month, and sometimes we go a whole semester or a whole summer without any incident."

UPD Sgt. John Laws said King Library has more than 500 pieces of fire equipment throughout the building.

"If you look at statistically how often fire equipment fails, it's not out of line to have some of that equipment fail," Laws said.

Pham said the fire alarms could be set off for a number of different reasons.

For example, if a delivery truck is parked

See **ALARM**, Page 3



[Kirsten Aguilar / Spartan Daily]

Patrons exit the Dr. Martin Luther King Public Library via the public eastern side stairwell on Sept. 21, following a fire alarm.

54°

63

Libra

F 74 | SA 76 | SU 76 | M 72

Spartan Daily Blogs

thespartandaily.com

• Audio Slideshow: Textile group has one final show

spartandailynews.wordpress.com

• Gourmet magazine closes up shop

spartandailyphoto.com

• Slideshow: A single mother fights to earn the degree she wants

spartandailysports.wordpress.com

• Be sure not to miss a recap of the Fresno State game on the Spartan football preview



[Joe Proudman / Spartan Daily]

BOUND: The textile group has its final show this week. Watch an audio slideshow online at thespartandaily.com

ALARM

From Page 1

in the loading dock, he said the fumes from the exhaust could sound an alarm.

"We try to keep trucks not idling there for too long, but there's all kinds of businesses — garbage trucks, delivery people, FedEx trucks — and they don't all know," he said.

Senior psychology major Brian Phelps said the false alarms had to be taken seriously.

"It's kind of annoying when you have work to do, but safety is an important consideration," he said.

In case of an emergency

Tung Pham, facilities manager for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, said if there was a real fire in King Library, a ventilation system would draw smoke and heat through pipes and release it through the roof.

About five or six years ago, crews set small fires in King Library to test out the ventilation system, Pham said.

Sgt. John Laws of the University Police Department said he saw a test and could vouch for its effectiveness.

"You can have a fire on the floor you're sitting in and wouldn't know it," Laws said.

He said that made it important for students to evacuate as soon as a fire alarm is sounded.

"Grab your stuff and go," he said. "Don't wait to see if it's a real fire."

CampusImages



[Chad Ziemendorf / Spartan Daily]

Goldfish await their destinies as the object in the game "Fish Pong," where a contestant has the opportunity to throw three out of five ping-pong balls into a fish bowl in order to win the fish as a prize. This game was part of Greek Week's "Up All Night" event outside of Tower Hall on Oct. 7.

H1N1

From Page 1

pointment with the health center, but it will be first-come, first-serve, and some vaccines will be set aside for students and faculty who are particularly at risk, he said.

According to the SJSU Student Health Center Web site, at-risk people include pregnant women, people with chronic medical conditions, people with neuromuscular disease, people older than 65, people less than 19 years old on long-term aspirin treatment, and health care workers.

"If we give out normal shot or vaccination appointments it will take too long," Elrod said. "So what we're likely to do is something called a 'clinic.'"

A clinic would be a set specific time to distribute the vaccine to large groups at a time, and students who come to get vaccinated will not be charged, Elrod said.

Students coming into the health center with influenza-like illnesses have dramatically increased since last year, Elrod said.

"In the same time frame from last year to this year, we saw 97 students with influenza-like illness, and this year we've seen 501," Elrod said. "Probably all 400 of those are due to H1N1."

Senior finance major Nimo Moradi said he is undecided about getting the H1N1 vaccine.

"I think I still need to see if any new information on the vaccine will be available soon,"

he said. "You either take your chance with the virus or you're taking your chance with the vaccine."

Elrod said unless students or faculty have health or philosophical concerns about the vaccine, the sooner they get the vaccine the better.

"What they're doing is creating immunity for themselves so their body doesn't get worn down by a potential flu," he said. "They are helping to slow the advance of the virus through our community, because they become one less person through whom the virus can advance."

Elrod said people shouldn't wait for the vaccine to be available on campus if they have access to the vaccine through their health care providers who are already carrying the vaccine.

"While 600 doses is a lot of vaccine for (the) Student Health Center to administer, it is clearly not nearly enough for the 30,000 plus enrolled students," Elrod said. "SJSU students and their families are encouraged to pay attention to the notices from their health care and/or community providers regarding availability of H1N1 vaccinations."

Jonathan Sorem, a freshman civil engineering major, said he hasn't thought about getting the vaccine and doesn't think he will get it either.

"I don't think it's all that necessary, because it's just another flu virus," he said. "I don't remember getting vaccinations for flu viruses before. So I don't think I'm going to get one this time either."

Presentation extolls the virtues of open education

By Ryan Fernandez
Staff Writer

Open education in the virtual world was the topic of discussion Wednesday during a presentation by David Livingstone, a lecturer from the University of the West of Scotland.

The lecture, titled "Opening up Education in Games, Simulations, and Virtual Worlds," was held at noon in Clark Hall Room 304.

In addition to his live presentation to an audience of four in Clark Hall, Livingstone's lecture was broadcasted simultaneously to an audience of 16 at the SJSU virtual campus in Second Life.

Second Life is a virtual world created by Linden Lab that allows people to interact with one another using 3-D avatars, which are virtual representations of themselves.

"It's more like blogging than World of Warcraft, because it relies on user-generated content," said Jeremy Kemp, a lecturer in SJSU's school of library and information sciences, de-

scribing the user experience in Second Life by contrasting its game-like appearance with that of an actual online game.

Audience members virtually attended the presentation using their avatars. Members sat on cushions in front of a stage where Livingstone's presentation played alongside a video of his slideshow.

Kemp said audience members were attending from UCLA, Sonoma State University, and as far away as the University of Hawaii and Lassen Community College in Susanville, near Chico.

Livingstone said the idea of open education, also referred to as "OpenSourceWare" and "open educational resources," covered a wide variety of educational content that included lectures, notes, podcasts and online quizzes.

"Even something as simple as sharing a syllabus can be a form of open education," he said.

He said all of that material could be considered open educational resources, provided they were placed online for oth-

er people to share and use.

Livingstone said he hoped his presentation would help students to locate and to use open educational resources for themselves, and inspire faculty members to create their own resources for others to use.

"If we keep our work locked up, we're not achieving our potential for helping others learn," he said.

Anthony Bernier, an assistant professor in the school of library and information services, said barriers to using and to creating open educational resources included a lack of familiarity with the material, and that he might not receive credit from an institution for work published as an open educational resource.

Livingstone said it would be difficult for teachers to use those resources without support from an institution, but they should still attempt to do so.

He also acknowledged that educational institutions usually would not allow faculty members to publish their work as open resources without first asking for the institution's

permission.

"The answer is usually 'No, we have to find a way to make money on this,'" he said.

Livingstone said he once created a virtual museum for showcasing Scottish innovations but said he had to take it down, because another class needed to use the virtual real estate the museum was built on.

He said he was not able to save some of his students' work, because he did not have the necessary licenses to copy and reuse their work.

Livingstone said a lot of the material that exists in virtual environments such as Second Life are transient. They can be easily deleted in favor of something else and lost entirely if no one was able or allowed to make a copy for themselves.

He also said it was important for people who created open content to allow others to take copies for themselves, thus preserving the work they have done.

"I want to make sure the resources that are available, stay available," he said.

EVERYONE'S GOT AN OPINION

"Is art the thing itself, or the idea of the thing?"

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Arab film festival premieres its first film on campus

By Husain Sumra
Staff Writer

The 2009 Arab Film Festival came to SJSU Friday and brought a surprising movie from Palestine, as about 20 people gathered in the Engineering building Auditorium to watch.

"Salt of This Sea," directed and written by Annemarie Jacir, is one of the few movies to have emerged from Palestine and have made an international impact through film festivals, said Fadi Saba, a Arab Film Festival volunteer and brother of founder Dina Saba, an SJSU alumna.

The movie features Soraya, played by Suheir Hammad, a Brooklyn-born Palestinian woman who travels to Palestine to try to reconnect with her heritage and live in Palestine.

She meets a waiter named Emad, played by Saleh Bakri, and his friend Marwan, played by Riyad Ideis, and they embark on a journey to try to reclaim what Soraya believes is hers.

Billal Asghar, a senior health double major in science and global studies, said he liked the movie because of the way the story was portrayed.

"It was very realistic," he said.

Karimah Al-Helew, a senior social work major, said she could relate to some of the events in the film.

"I kept seeing things I've seen myself," she said. "It brought back a lot of memories."

She said that certain moments and smells remind her of Palestine.

"Just the scent of the dirt or like the smell of diesel fuel," she



[Photo courtesy of Espoo Cine Web site]

A scene from the movie "Salt of This Sea," which played at the Engineering building on Friday afternoon.

said. "Every time I'm driving around here and I smell like diesel fuel I think of Palestine."

Saba said the film has received honors from various film festivals.

He said the movie was selected for a specific reason.

"We chose this film because of its impact," he said.

He said the film shows different parts of Arab culture such as classic traditions, as well as modern changes.

"It's all those different as-

pects," Saba said.

He said the film can be viewed as a microcosm of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Saba said there's a scene where Soraya tries to take back a house that belonged to her grandfather but now belongs to an Israeli woman.

He also said the film shows the feelings of Palestinian people toward the territory.

"It shows the situations where some do want to have reverse migrations and some want to get

out because of the pressures," he said.

Fadi said that when his sister originally founded the festival she thought it would be a one-time event.

"She thought it was just a one-night night of films," he said.

He said the festival became popular, and his sister found herself running festivals in both San Jose and San Francisco six days a week.

"It took a lot of energy," he said.

Saba said that at first the festival used only volunteers but has lately hired people to run it.

"She has always felt that the Arab world has been misconstrued," he said.

Dina Saba, the founder of the Arab Film Festival, said the goal of the film festival was to educate.

"There are a lot of stereotypes, and a lot of those stereotypes are negative stereotypes," she said.

Al-Helew said festivals like the Arab Film Festival would benefit

people of other cultures.

"It allows for a connection to be made," she said. "We don't really get much exposure."

The film was a 2009 Academy Awards entry in the Foreign-Language Film category, according to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Web site.

The 2009 Arab Film Festival will be running until Sunday in San Francisco, Berkeley, San Jose and Los Angeles, according to the festival's Web site.

Restaurant of the Week: Pho Hoa

Vietnamese chicken noodle soup hits the spot

By Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

Tucked in the back corner of Lion Plaza on Tully Road in San Jose is Pho Hoa, a classic, casual and convenient Vietnamese restaurant that offers delicious cuisine with prompt service.

The minute I walked through the double glass doors of Pho Hoa, I noticed the inoperative fountain that runs alongside the right side of the walls.

Although there is no flowing water, the various types of green plants and flowers make it worth viewing.

After being seated, I surveyed the menu for something to satisfy my palette.

About three minutes into my perusing, a server came to my table and asked if we were ready to order. Hence, the prompt service I mentioned in the beginning.

Luckily I was ready with a decision — the "pho ga," or chicken noodle soup with "ca phe sua da," which means iced milk coffee in Vietnamese.

One thing that I particularly liked about this establishment is that its chicken pho has the op-

tions of being prepared with dark meat white meat or both. I chose the white meat.

Each bowl of soup is accompanied with a plate of bean sprouts, jalapeno peppers, coriander leaves and lime wedges for people who like to dress their dishes.

Within minutes our server returned with my iced coffee, which was not served in a glass with ice. Instead, the coffee was in a silver tin on top of a ceramic mug and appeared to still be dripping through some type of strainer.

Soon after that, she returned with my steamy bowl of pho. I threw in some bean sprouts, jalapeno peppers, a squeeze of lime and drizzled some oyster sauce and Sriracha sauce, or hot sauce, over it.

Pho is a popular cure for my hangovers and colds, and goes hand in hand with rainy weather.

Another reason why pho is so popular is because it's quick and fulfilling, which is why it's usually the number one choice after a night out at the club.

This particular bowl of pho was truly delicious, satisfying and healthy at the same time.



[Regina Aquino / Spartan Daily]

"Pho ga" at Pho Hoa located 1834 Tully Road, San Jose.

The broth was not too oily and the chicken was tender.

There was a balanced proportion of noodles and chicken, which was perfect because I've been to other pho restaurants where there was either too many noodles or not enough meat.

By the time I had enough of my soup, my coffee had finished straining into the mug, so I poured it into an empty glass of ice.

One thing I noticed about Vietnamese iced coffee is that it is sweetened with condensed milk.

The coffee was pretty strong, which was pleasing because I tend to like my coffee on the bold side.

The condensed milk gave it a

distinct taste that is incomparable to Starbucks or Peet's coffee.

According to the Pho Hoa Web site, the restaurant is health conscious, low calorie, and offers complete, well-balanced and nutritious meals.

Pho Hoa offers various dishes including spring rolls, rice plates, and of course, pho — its signature noodle soup that can be served with various types of meats such as eye of round steak, tripe, flank or meatballs.

Overall, my visit to Pho Hoa hit the spot, because the meal was tasty and didn't give me that "food coma" feeling that fast food restaurants tend to leave.

Also, the service was courteous and prompt which is difficult to find nowadays.

90.5 KXSJ

Top 10
ksjs.org

Alternativo En Espanol

Artist	Song
1. Pilar Diaz	Illegal En Estyle
2. Natalia Lafourcade	Cursis Melodias

Electro

Artist	Song
1. Let's Go To War	Karmageddon
2. Wallpaper	Doodoo Face

Jazz

Artist	Song
1. Keith Oxman	Doing All Right
2. Mike DiRubbo	Repercussion

Subversive Rock

Artist	Song
1. Gates of Slumber	Blood and Thunder
2. The Downer Party	Downer Party

Urban

Artist	Song
1. Ras Kass	Thank You
2. Poison Pen	BK's Fat Boy

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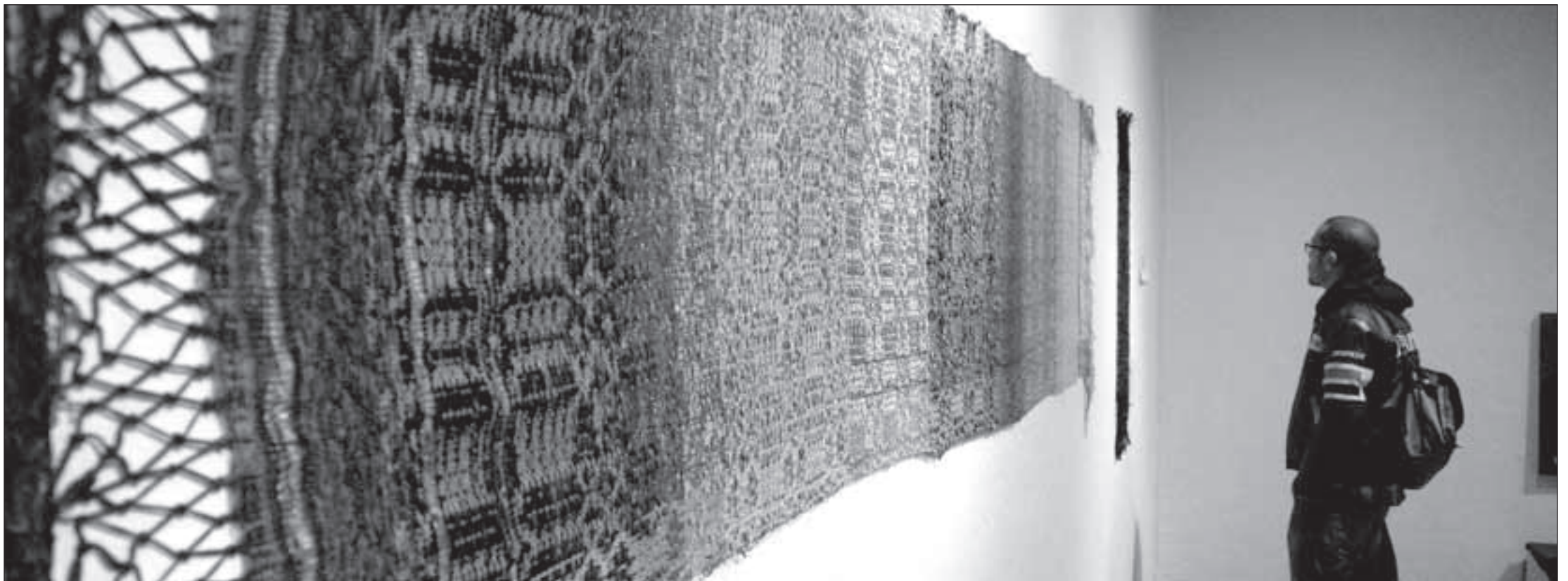
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Art captures the spirit of a teacher by a thread



Top: Jan Micheal Cruz, a junior industrial design major, views one of the works in the "Bound" textile group show Tuesday evening in the Art Building.

[Photos by Joe Proudman / Spartan Daily]

Below: Sarah Joy Cabana adds her artist statement to her work "Lo que vale ser una mujer" (What it means to be a woman).



By Leonard Lai
Staff Writer

An armless mannequin with trails of gloves leading from its waist to the ground, greeted students during the opening of the textile art show "Bound."

The rest of the room consisted of a giant saltshaker holding a pistol ready to attack a snail, a red mask with feathers outlining its edge and many other pieces of art, all made from textiles.

Ten people at a time walked in and out of gallery room three, in the Art Building, where the textile based art gallery was held Tuesday evening.

Senior Spanish major Sarah Joy Cabana said the art gallery was to honor professor Consuelo Underwood, who retired in Spring 2009.

She said that textiles means more than just weaving — it could mean embroidery, charcoal drawings, paper mache and 3-D models.

"Bound" is the name of this gallery," Cabana said. "All the artwork featured at the gallery are final projects from Underwood's class."

According to a description on the wall near the entrance to the exhibit, "To be bound means to be restricted with a rope or thread, but it also means to be inseparably, connected — to have a destiny."

Cabana said her pieces on display are the mannequin with the glove trails and the multiple

diary entries that were stitched together.

Natsumi Ono, a senior spatial art major, said she really liked the textiles exhibit.

"Textiles have so much potential," Ono said. "They can be 2-D or 3-D, unlike a painting, which can only be 2-D."

She said her favorite piece was the multiple diary entries stitched together, because note taking isn't usually considered art.

"Textiles seem really relaxing and fun," Ono said. "I definitely want to take a textile class."

Rebecca Cuellar, a senior studio art major, said her piece on display is a black skeleton that rests sprawled out on the ground.

The theme for the piece was the body, and the skeleton was modeled after her own body, she said.

"The skeleton represents feelings on the inside, and the inability to express them," Cuellar said. "If you don't have feelings you're just a bag of bones."

She said the piece titled "Survivor," received its name from the

Hebrew language where survivor not only means surviving an illness, but also being a person who is still living for someone else, namely her grandmother.

Junior art major Patty Botello said her piece, a saltshaker armed with a pistol, was a project where she needed to make a visual pun.

"A salt with a deadly weapon was the name of the project I came up with," Botello said.

She said that outside of class, she also practices crochet and threading and has continued to make projects even though Underwood is no longer at SJSU.

"Professor Underwood definitely made class fun," Botello said.

Cabana said that with Underwood leaving, the textile department and major on campus officially closed and is no longer available.

"All the materials from the department have already been all sold," she said. "It's a good question if the textiles program would ever come back, especially since it expanded at San Francisco State."



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Commentary:

SJSU football team heading down slippery slope

By Joey Akeley
Sports Editor

Since starting the season with three consecutive losses, football head coach Dick Tomey has talked about turning the season around.

But after a 41-21 loss to Fresno State on Saturday, and two tough conference games coming up, the Spartans' season may fall deeper into the abyss.

Tomey said that it won't. "I don't think it will spiral out of control," Tomey said. "But, I think our opportunity to have a winning season and all those kind of things is narrowing."

The Spartans (1-5) enter their bye week having been dominated on both sides of the line of scrimmage in all five of their losses.

SJSU has the second worst rushing defense in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, allow-

ing 260 yards per game.

It also has the sixth worst rushing offense, averaging 78 yards per game.

That means on average, the Spartans are being out rushed by 182 yards per game.

That proved to be the theme of the game against the Bulldogs, as they were out rushed 302-124.

Bulldogs running back Ryan Mathews joined the list of running backs that have torched the Spartans, rushing for 233 yards with an 11.6 average per carry.

"He's no different than facing (Toby) Gerhart, (Matt) Asiata or (Joe) McKnight," SJSU linebacker Justin Cole said. "He's got great vision. We just didn't make the plays we need to. We kept beating ourselves."

The schedule doesn't get any easier for the Spartans.

They first travel to Boise State

to play the fourth-ranked Broncos on Oct. 31.

The week after, they play against Nevada, is led by quarterback Colin Kaepernick, arguably the best player in the Western Athletic Conference.

The Spartans need a defensive transformation before they attempt to contain Broncos running back Jeremy Avery and Kaepernick the following week.

SJSU linebacker Travis Jones said the Spartans defense has been making the same mistakes all season.

"It's little things," Jones said. "We watched the tape against Fresno, and it's tackling, which is something all good defenses do really well. And we haven't done that."

Jones said the Spartans, who would have to win five of their last six games to become bowl eligible,

need to focus on the next game and forget about the hole they have dug themselves.

"We all wanted to win the conference and win a bowl game," Jones said. "We can't win the conference anymore. But, I think right now we just need to focus on getting one win."

In desperate need of a win, the Spartans may have their stiffest challenge of the season in Boise State, who Tomey said has by far the best program in the WAC.

"In the last 20 years, they are the winningest program in Western United States," he said.

According to a San Jose Mercury sports blog, Tomey has not discussed whether he will be back next year. A late season push by the Spartans certainly wouldn't hurt his chances of returning.

"We know we're not where we want to be, we're not where we

expected to be, and there's some realization that we're struggling," Tomey said. "And that's OK, because often times, people don't get better until they're struggling."

They fight their way through."

If the Spartans can't turn their season around, a losing culture may follow this team for years to come.



[Photos by Joe Proudman / Spartan Daily]

(Above) SJSU head coach Dick Tomey and assistant coach Terry Malley strategize during the Spartans' 41-21 loss to Fresno State on Saturday. (Left) Bulldogs running back Ryan Mathews, No. 21, pushes SJSU cornerback Peyton Thompson to the side.



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Spartan Daily

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'Balloon boy' father tricks the world, gets his airtime



Stephanie Vallejo
Bird's The Word

A homemade balloon lifted into the air, unintentionally carrying a 6-year-old passenger.

While the boy hovered helplessly in the sky, the world stopped to express its compassion and worry for the family.

It's a shame that all those prayers were wasted on a hoax.

Turns out the Colorado boy, Falcon Heene, was hiding in the garage attic the entire time, according to his parents. They said he had fallen asleep up there during the time he was missing.

Anyone smell something fishy?

The boy was interviewed by CNN reporters on Oct. 15, and I'm sure everyone watching was

shocked to hear him say, "You guys said we did this for the show."

He was referring to part of his father's master plan to get himself on another reality T.V. series — he was on "Wife Swap," twice.

Richard Heene, father of the boy and inventor of the UFO shaped balloon, is desperately trying to make a quick buck, and one man who worked with him told tales of Mr. Heene's heinous plans.

Researcher Robert Thomas spent months with the Heene family working on a pitch for a science reality TV show with Heene.

He wrote a detailed story on the Gawker Web site titled, "Ex-

clusive: I Helped Richard Heene Plan a Balloon Hoax."

Both men built the balloon with the hopes that it would become a famous UFO, comparable to the Roswell incident in 1947, which would give them media attention that would no doubt give them a name in reality TV.

This was mainly Heene's idea and Thomas was promised a partnership on the show once it skyrocketed.

Looks like someone flew over the cuckoo's nest.

Obviously, the media has given more than 15 minutes of fame to the family. I just hope no television network falls for his stunt, because that's exactly what he wants.

It would also show that a sure-fire way to reach stardom is to exploit your children, and that's just wrong.

Well, one thing is for sure.

To have one of his children involved creates more media hype, so it doesn't surprise me that the

Heene family will go down in history as another looney family — not that its crazy antics shown in its "Wife Swap" episodes told otherwise.

Heene was featured on "Wife Swap" because he is a scientist who chases storms. He brings his family along for the ride.

The family is as normal as the Griffins on "Family Guy" — minus the humor.

Although the parents haven't been charged with anything, it's going to take a lot more than just a "kids will be kids" answer to satisfy the people who were cajoled by Heene's crazy antics.

But there's more to this than just an annoying itch.

Plenty of taxpayers' money was spent on this family. The search and rescue money spent will not

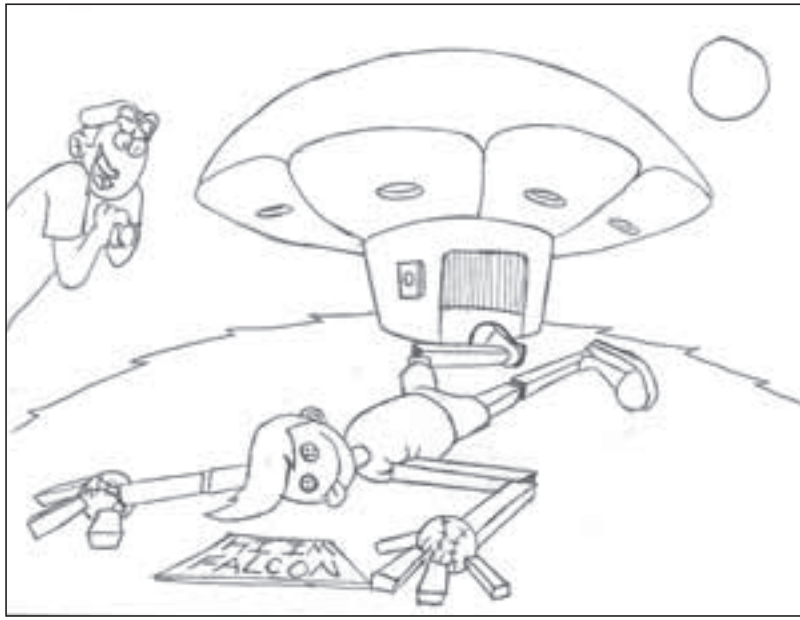


illustration by Evan Suarez

be charged to the family, but there is an investigation happening to determine if the parents should be charged.

They damn right should be charged.

If not for creating a media hoax

for their benefit, then for wasting taxpayers' money on a story blown out of proportion.

Stephanie Vallejo is the Spartan Daily opinion editor. "Bird's The Word" appears every Thursday.

Letters to the Editor

It took authorities three days and a televised confession from a 6-year-old boy to realize that the "balloon boy" catastrophe probably wasn't genuine.

Since the entire situation seemed completely ridiculous, this struck me as odd. They had more trust in the Heene's parenting skills than I did. It seems that even if the parents were telling the truth, isn't it still a problem that a boy could fly away in a homemade balloon unnoticed?

Maybe I am mistaken, because I am not yet a parent. When I do have children, I will remember not to have any aluminum foil balloons lying around.

Sarah Abigail Aghazadeh
PRSSA SJSU Vice President of Membership

The Delta Zeta chapter at SJSU has been doing the breast cancer walk for many years, and yet this is rarely mentioned in the Spartan Daily.

In fact, the Greek system, in general, on this campus has been doing philanthropy events and walks since each fraternity or sorority was established, and each chapter makes and donates money to charities all over the community as well as nationally.

This part of the Greek system is not recognized nearly enough. People tend to believe Greeks are just the party people because of movies and television shows, and many don't realize the other things the Greeks do that help the local community as well as the school.

The fraternity and sorority systems are not just people who party, but people who go out and help the community and participate in things such as Day of Service, breast cancer walks, suicide prevention walks, and many other charity and philanthropy events.

Ashley Baxter
SJSU junior, advertising major

Choosing to eat a vegan diet means giving up some of life's tastiest food for the sake of both animal cruelty and your own health. It is a diet that limits you greatly as far as selection, but forces you to only eat foods that are from the Earth and in the plant kingdom.

My parents wanted to eat vegan when I was a kid, because they were both big advocates of organic food and the health benefits of such a diet. It was tough to watch other kids wolfing down a cheeseburger while I munched on some carrot sticks, but I can honestly say that I was at the healthiest point in my life.

Eating vegetables and fruits every day gives you incredible energy that I wish I still had. It is far more useful energy and lasts much longer than the buzz you get from coffee or an energy drink. I don't eat vegan anymore, because I have a weakness for cold turkey sandwiches that I have not been able to shake since my friend exposed me to the deli delight in high school.

I still try to maintain a healthy diet by incorporating lots of organic fruits and vegetables, but I must concede that a vegan diet is quite a commitment in hunger discipline.

Even though I no longer maintain this diet I would recommend it for anyone who likes a challenge and can monitor what he or she eats.

At the same time this discipline will translate into a healthy lifestyle that will surely improve your everyday levels of energy and focus.

Lyell Marks
SJSU senior, journalism major

Rebellion overload: trapped in private school



Allie Figures
Figures It Out

I was one of those privileged children to go to private school from junior high through high school.

Oh yes, I was a part of the exclusive, elite few who pay to do better in life than the average victim of the public school system.

This was far from the truth that the prestigious academies give off, such as the one on Gossip Girl.

I was fortunate to not be one of those private school kids behind its bars since birth. And I am not exaggerating the example of bars. My high school literally had iron bars surrounding the campus that unnecessarily locked students in and sinners out.

Although I do agree with the strengths of the private schools — such as challenging academics, competent teachers, an exclusive network of connection and a haven for personal lifestyles — I do not agree with my private school experience that included sheltering, Bible bashing and constant condemnation.

I will be the first to call myself a Jesus freak.

But there comes a point where religion goes from forming a relationship with whatever your higher power of choice, to becoming a self-serving institution.

The intentions of my private school quickly revealed to be more political and way less personal.

Here I thought I would be in a safe environment to lift my hands and pray while receiving the best education money

could buy.

Wrong. Instead I got a hefty handbook of rules and regulation, which went above and beyond the teachings of the Bible.

Parents and students were required to sign a binding behavior contract.

Penning in blood was optional.

Rule number one: Girls must wear dresses or skirts falling below the knee at all times — no pants or shorts.

The intention of presenting and adorning the body in an honorable fashion failed. I am sure you have seen more skirts and dresses more scandalous than any pair of Levis could hope to be.

All the dress code achieved was bitter girls during the cold, rainy season but no more honorable and no more appropriate than any pair of pants.

Even my mother was penalized for wearing a dress just shy of the knee to parent/teacher conferences.

To this day, I can't bring myself to wear a skirt below the knee, and yet my modesty has not been compromised.

Rule number two: No dancing. Period.

The reason for the restriction of the sway of students' hips is quite understandable — dancing leads to sex, which leads to babies.

So, there you go society, the reason for many single families and illegitimate children and teenage mothers — dropping it

like it's hot.

Rule number three stems from the previous: Students from the opposite sex are not permitted to touch, ever.

It is no private school myth, and the 12-inch rule does actually exist. If there was anything closer than the allotted foot of space, students were sternly warned to "leave some room between you for Jesus."

And so we got resourceful, just like any typical teen would. Underneath the bleachers, supply closets and vacant classrooms became the go-to places for "physically expressive" students.

These unnecessary restrictions have done nothing for my future or those of my fellow classmates. It is the typical tale of sheltered girls and boys going wild as soon as they are exposed to the real world.

Each of us has our own story of overdosing on the reality of sex, drugs ... and dancing.

After being trapped in a world where I was admonished time after time, I began to wonder if this environment is something I would even choose.

I began to want to forsake everything I thought I believed in.

So, I have figured out that wearing pants and dancing with boys will not compromise whatever religious relationships I have, but it might be different for you.

Plus, how hard can it be to not fall into iniquity? Especially when I have outstanding examples from fellow private school kids such as the Spears sisters, the Olsen twins and Spencer Pratt.

Allie Figures is the Spartan Daily features editor. This is a special appearance of "Figures It Out."

To this day, I can't bring myself to wear a skirt below the knee, and yet my modesty has not been compromised.

Did you know ... ?

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Sparta Guide

Today

Challenges in an Able Bodied and Able Minded World

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at MOSAIC in the Student Union. For more information, contact MOSAIC at (408) 924-6255.

Music Therapy and Stress Management

1 p.m. at Clark Hall, room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

Tomorrow

Pachanga Night

at 7 p.m. at the National Hispanic University. Get involved with Student Advocates for Higher Education. For more information, contact Daniel Ruelas at (408) 849-5702.

Power Planner: Become Highly Productive and Efficient by Optimal Planning and Time Managing

12 p.m. at Clark Hall Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

27 Tuesday

186 Jazz Combo

12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall. Listen to fellow students play modern creative jazz. For more information, contact Joan Stübbe at (408) 924-4649.

Where Does My Concentration Go?

1:30 p.m. in Clark Hall Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

28 Wednesday

Graduation - What's Next?

12 p.m. in Clark Hall Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

SLIS Colloquium Series

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at Clark Hall 304 Beth Galloway, Information Goddess Consulting, will speak on: "From Advocacy to Activism: Taking Professional Involvement to the Next Level (or Leveling Up Your Advocacy Skills?)" For more information, contact Marcia Laughrey at (408) 924-2490.

GREEN

From Page 1

fixtures were replaced because they had a tendency to burn out bulbs before the end of their operational life expectancies.

Isaacson said occupancy sensors were also installed among King Library's book stacks. When the sensors detect motion, lights would activate for a set period of time and then turn off.

He said the Business Tower's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was overhauled to allow the fans to run at variable speeds, providing for greater flexibility and control over the building's airflow.

Isaacson said the infrastructure improvements were funded through a combination of incentive funding and capital renewal from the California State University chancellor's office.

He said the capital renewal was an allocation of funds from the state, and not paid out of student tuitions, while the incentive funding was from a partnership with investor-owned utilities such as Pacific Gas and Electric.

Isaacson said AECOM Energy & Power agreed to perform the energy infrastructure improvements and lighting changes for about \$2.5 million, plus about \$1 million in additional costs.

He said that once the retrofits were completed, the lighting modifications were expected to pay for themselves in less than three years, while costs for the energy infrastructure improvements — which include the Business Tower retrofit — could be recouped within seven years.

He estimated an annual savings of more than \$400,000 once the retrofits were in place.

Jacqueline Cordero, a freshman mechanical engineering major, said the university's move to conserve energy was an intelligent one because of the potential monetary savings.

"The way the world is going, the only thing we can do is become as green as possible," she said.

Isaacson said energy conservation was made top priority, because it was the most cost effective sustainable energy practice and the easiest to implement.

He said that while the university may install a 600 kilowatt solar array in the future, solar power cannot fulfill all of SJSU's power needs. The array would only provide about two percent of the university's annual power requirements.

In contrast, he said SJSU's co-generation plant can produce six megawatts of electricity, enough to provide two-thirds of the campus' annual power needs.

"It's inconceivable to have the whole campus powered by solar," he said. "We get full use out of photovoltaic cells for only a few hours a day for a few months out of the year, but we use power 24/7."

In an e-mail, Bayer stated that the retrofits were projected to be finished by Nov. 30.

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