



WEEKEND GETAWAY

Writer spends anniversary
in gorgeous Pacific Grove

SEE PAGE 4

GYMNASTICS

Team needs solid performance
at WAC Championships

SEE PAGE 10



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Higher fees expected SJSU's plan to cover the 2010-11 budget gap

10%
tuition
hike

Faculty
and staff
layoffs

Reduced
student
enrollment

\$19 MILLION HOLE

*ILLUSTRATION BY SUZANNE YADA

Whitmore says
furloughs not in next
semester's plans

Eric Van Susteren
Staff Writer

President Jon Whitmore said Wednesday that the university will fill next year's budget gap with increased student fees, decreased student enrollment and faculty layoffs.

Whitmore said in a news conference for campus media that he's implementing the new plan in the 2010-11 fiscal year to cover a \$19 million budget shortfall.

He said he does not plan to continue furloughs, which are required days off that decrease faculty and staff salaries by 10 percent and covered the shortfall this year.

"Right now, the furloughs that have been agreed to by the unions, et cetera, are due to expire at the end of June, and right now no one is talking about renewing those," he said. "That doesn't mean something couldn't happen before then, but it's not marching in the direction of having furloughs."

Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU, said she expects a student fee increase of 10 percent next year, but such an increase wouldn't be official until the California State University Board of Trustees formally votes on it in May.

"We're trying to plan conservatively," Harris said. "We have to make realistic expectations of ourselves."

Whitmore wouldn't comment specifically on the layoffs.

"I'm not prepared to say the number of people, but it's certainly not thousands or anything like that," he said. "It will be a relatively small percentage of our total workforce."

The individuals who are laid off must be treated with as much privacy and care as possible, Whitmore said.

Brandon Yap, a junior industrial and systems engineering major, said he doesn't have the money to pay for a fee increase.

"I'd rather have the furloughs," he said. "They're not that big a deal in my classes. I don't think the layoffs will directly affect my studies."

Philipp Bumb, a senior busi-
See BUDGET, Page 3

SJSU program assists students attempting to study abroad

Salman Haqqi
Staff Writer

A common misconception among students is that studying abroad is for the financially fortunate, but that is not the case, said a study abroad adviser.

Veronica Malki said the Study Abroad Program offers students the opportunity to travel abroad to any one of more than 200 universities in more than 40 countries around the world, and that all students have the opportunity.

"One of the greatest things about the Study Abroad Programs is how accessible they are," Malki said. "The really good deal about it is that you're going to be paying your normal San Jose State tuition. You can still use your financial aid and there are a lot of scholarships available as well."

Senior English major Samantha Lou Von Summer said she went to Sydney, Australia through the International Student Exchange Program and said she thought it was an amazing experience, especially because of the diversity of people.

"I was surprised how international it was," she said. "I expect-

ed to meet mostly Australians, but I met people from Estonia, Latvia and people from countries you'd be lucky to meet, ever. I just learned to stop being the loud-mouth American and just listen to other cultures."

Malki said students interested in studying abroad should start the application process the semester before they plan to travel because the process requires faculty recommendations, an essay, school transcripts and other requirements specified by the university.

"Generally, a well-prepared student will take their time and work all winter break, because it can take several weeks to get everything together," she said.

Mette Balizan, a junior communication studies and Spanish double major, said she went to Chile and Costa Rica and said the application process is similar to a mini college application and takes some planning to complete.

"In the end, it's about how bad you want it," Balizan said. "But the work it takes is all worth it."

Summer said the application process was fairly hassle free but did encounter troublesome situa-

tions after she arrived in Australia.

"There were many things that went unstated that I really wish were," she said. "For example, I had to renew my visa because I stayed for two semesters rather than one. Nobody informed me that I had to do that and the fees involved in doing that are immense and I could've avoided that."

Having the experience of studying abroad can be a vital life experience and an opportunity to develop new skills that are attractive to employers, Malki said.

"It gives you a lot of skills, skills that come naturally from living outside your comfort zone and forcing yourself to adapt to a new environment," she said. "Students get a deeper global and cultural awareness about how things work, which is something any company would want in its employees."

Summer said her experience in Australia gave her a different perspective on a variety of things.

"It taught me to be more critical in a different way," she said.

See ABROAD, Page 2

Group pushing for MLB team in SJ

Eric Bennett
Staff Writer

The San Jose City Council's push toward building a Major League Baseball stadium downtown is gathering steam and now has the support of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, according to the group's vice president of strategic communications.

Steve Wright said the group — made up of 200 of the Bay Area's most prominent companies, from Apple to Yahoo — voted on March 11 to endorse the council's effort to bring a privately built and operated 32,000-seat stadium to the western edge of downtown San Jose.

"It's important to the community because it would help generate about 1,000 jobs and \$5 million in local revenue," he said. "It helps to expand the cultural reach here in the valley by adding a venue for professional baseball."

David Low, a policy analyst for the office of Mayor Chuck Reed, said the financial ramifications for the San Jose area are the main reasons why the city council is lobbying for the stadium.

"Our analysis detailed what kind of tax-revenue

benefits there are and the economic impact for local restaurants and the hotel industry," he said. "All that kind of economic-impact breakdown was the major reason why the mayor was so supportive of this ... because it can have a long-term economic and revenue-generating impact."

Wright said the Oakland Athletics' ownership has interest in moving into a new stadium in San Jose.

"People are hoping the A's can come compete down here," he said. "It's no secret that (A's owner) Lewis Wolff wants to come to San Jose."

Senior microbiology major Karon Cutia said he has to endure a long commute to Oakland to see several of his favorite teams play.

"It would be pretty cool to bring a team over," he said. "I go to watch the A's all the time. It would be nice not to go as far as Oakland all the time to see one of my teams play."

Low said the city council is awaiting word from Major League Baseball officials on territorial rights.

"We're in the waiting game ... waiting to hear back," he said. "That's something that Major League Baseball has

to decide before we can go through the process of where we can negotiate to bring (the A's) here."

Wright said San Jose is the 10th largest city in the country and sports franchises and stadiums help make areas more marketable.

"A professional sports franchise helps identify leading cities," he said. "Whether you think it's right or not, it just does. You can identify it regularly that way and it's just good promotion for the area."

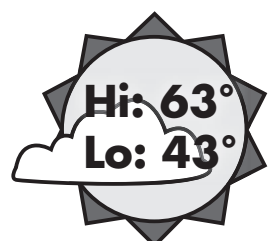
Senior physiology major Khai Ly said the downtown's light rail and Caltrain access make for an ideal ballpark location and that baseball fans are sprawling in San Jose.

"The A's are my favorite team," he said. "We already have a big fan base here. It would be easier for the fans to come and support their team."

The San Jose Sharks are a prime indicator of how the area embraces professional franchises, Wright said.

"Silicon Valley has shown its sports hunger by the way it has turned itself into a hockey area," he said. "The Sharks sell out annually and have turned this area into a hockey mecca."

Weather



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Hi: 66° | Hi: 72°
Lo: 43° | Lo: 46°

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The next
Spartan Daily
will be published
on April 6

Wellness team takes holistic approach to health

Matthew Santolla
Staff Writer

SJSU's Wellness and Health Promotion team looks to educate students on the prevention of health problems and the different dimensions of health, according to the assistant director for campus wellness.

"Wellness and health promotion is the educational arm of the Health Center," Laurie Morgan said. "Our whole model focuses on a holistic approach to health."

Wellness and health promotion is a part of the Health Center that educates students about different approaches to health and wellness, she said.

Morgan said she advises students to take a holistic prevention approach when dealing with health issues.

"A holistic approach would look at the whole body and the whole symptom," she said. "For example, stress is a huge culprit for neck pain. A more holistic approach would be to, instead of prescribing medicine, you could prescribe for mediation of mindful practices to relive stress."

Morgan said she educates students about holistic practices that can help prevent people from getting sick, and said the dimensions of holistic health include mental, physical and nutritional wellness.

She said she would suggest meditation to help promote students' mental health.

Dada Nabhaniilanda, a lecturer of meditation and yoga for the Cosmic Bliss Meditation Club at SJSU, said

meditation can help all college students.

"There are mental benefits from meditation that include concentration and being able to focus more," he said. "Meditation can slow down the unnecessary thinking and take you to a deeper place."

Nabhaniilanda said students who meditate may handle stress better.

"Meditation can also put

“A holistic approach would look at the whole body and the whole symptom.”

Laurie Morgan
Assistant director for campus wellness

you in touch with the creative part of the mind," he said. "Most students are subject to a lot of stress, and through meditation, a person can develop a sense of well-being."

Morgan said one of the important dimensions of health is physical wellness.

Senior sociology major Justin Cabaña said he thinks exercise is important in preventing illness.

"We promote strength flexibility and cardio," said Cabaña, a member of the Pre-Physical Therapy Club. "That helps prevent injury and possible diseases. Getting a half-hour a day of exercise will really help

people prevent problems."

He said students are constantly sitting in a fixed position at a desk, and staying in the same position for a long time can be bad for physical wellness.

The Pre-Physical Therapy Club emphasizes being active and keeping the body in shape, according to Cabaña.

"We recognize health has many different dimensions to it," said Jennifer Waldrop, a nutritionist for the Student Health Center.

She said nutrition is connected to other areas of people's lives, and can influence a student's performance in school and his or her ability to concentrate.

Waldrop said it is important for students to realize that what they put in their bodies can affect their well-being beyond physical health.

"We are talking about portion sizes, added sugar, eating on a budget and making small changes in their diet," she said.

Jenna Espinosa, a nutrition and food science major, said nutrition is an important part of holistic health.

Espinosa said it is important for people to eat more healthy foods and to eat more fruits and vegetables.

"It is the best preventative medicine," she said. "It is a lot cheaper than paying for the costs of health care and being unhealthy with chronic diseases. Eating healthy is a way of improving the quality of life. We want to extend the life of people, and our goal is to make their life better."

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



(Above) Anthropology student Marjorie Wood was one of the students that protested against the then-proposed Fourth Street garage in 1980.

- A 4,000 seat expansion to Spartan Stadium was delayed because of excessive rain and was in danger of not being ready for the San Jose Earthquakes home opener.
- About 3,000 people were a part of an anti-draft march and rally in San Francisco.

Political science students could intern in nation's capital

Jennifer Elias
Staff Writer

Students can apply for an internship scholarship in Washington D.C. for this summer and next fall, according to a political science professor.

"You're not just there, you're in the Capitol building," Terry Christensen said. "You get your security clearance, you get your badge, you go walking in."

Last year's summer intern Amanda Baker said that although some people may be repulsed by what they find in Washington D.C., some people may find it to be invigorating.

The Ward Family Scholarship

The Ward Family Scholarship will be awarded to two political science students who will each receive \$3,500 for housing, SJSU fees and travel, and will

get the chance to intern under two local representatives, Christensen said.

Baker said the experience exposed her to real-life situations and broadened her view of government.

“You're not just there, you're in the Capitol building.”

Terry Christensen
Political science professor

She said she interned for Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., in Washington D.C. and had the opportunity to interact with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas.

Baker said she went to the hearing of Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and also went to a campus progressive event, where she heard Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Bill Clinton speak.

Christensen said the summer internship scholarship began in 2003 as an endowment from local political activist Phyllis Ward.

"She expanded the funding so this year we'll be able to send two instead of one during the summer," he said.

Christensen said Ward established an endowment and scholarship in 2007 for one intern per summer.

Baker said she would not have been able to participate in the internship program without Ward.

"I had the opportunity to have lunch with her when I returned from my internship," Baker said. "Phyllis is a sweet lady and I am very thankful that she provides this scholarship for students."

The Panetta Institute

Scholarship

Christensen said the fall internship is longer and more intense than the summer one.

He said a chosen intern will work with a member of the California Congressional Delegation, but not necessarily the local ones.

The Panetta Institute for Public Policy offers an opportunity for university students to get an inside look at the workings of the U.S. Congress and Washington D.C. politics, according to the California State University Web site.

"The great thing about the Panetta program is that they ship you off to D.C. with 25 other students from around the state, and you begin to develop relationships with these individuals and they become your support," said 2009 Panetta intern John Gomez.

Gomez said it puts you in touch with many important political figures such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel.

"We were able to take a field

trip to the CIA, where we were met by the director of the CIA, Leon Panetta," Gomez said. "He invited us into his office and he spoke to us on the nature of contemporary politics in D.C."

Christensen said Panetta represented Monterey, Calif. as a member of Congress before becoming head of the CIA.

Before students go to Washington D.C., they must go through a two-week preparation program at CSU Monterey Bay, where elected officials and other government staff explain how the legislative process works, according to the CSU Web site.

Gomez said students should do their research on the different offices and internship programs that are available for them.

"Some offices really embrace their interns and allow them to take on considerable responsibility," he said. "Some offices tend to utilize their interns on basic duties."

Christensen said that after looking at applications, the district staff of the congressional offices and former interns will

recommend the finalists.

"We're really looking for juniors and seniors," he said. "People who have some course background and knowledge."

Panetta has asked that the school's president have a meeting with the candidate as the last step of the process, said SJSU President Jon Whitmore in a March 24 news conference.

"It's an extraordinary opportunity," he said.

Whitmore said that during the interview, he will try to see if the student has the ability to fulfill the tasks that will be asked of them in Washington D.C.

"I'll probably spend about a half an hour with the candidate," he said.

Christensen said the application deadline is April 6 and should be turned into the department of political science in Clark Hall.

"I highly suggest it to any students that are interested in politics, public administration, or want to find out 'what exactly is our government doing on Capitol Hill?'" John Gomez said.

ABROAD

From Page 1

"You learn how to communicate with people who don't immediately understand where you're coming from."

In addition to the skills that can be added to a resume, Malki said that studying abroad is an avenue for making contacts.

"It's a really cool opportunity for networking," she said. "I can't tell you how many students have come back and told me that they're going back because they scored an internship or got hired by a company."

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Lecturer: Tech contributes to rise in death threats

SJSU author speaks at King Library on the psychology of death threats

Kristen Pearson
Staff Writer

Death threats were brought to life in a lecture Wednesday at King Library that 20 people attended.

"I'm going to kill you," said sociology lecturer Stephen Morewitz. "This is an example of a direct threat."

Morewitz said death threats are most commonly made by younger males who are of low socio-economic status, own firearms, are mentally disturbed, have a criminal record, are child abusers, domestic abusers and substance abusers.

"We can establish these as a profile of death threat makers," he said.

Christopher Wolf, a sophomore computer engineering major, said he came to the seminar on the psychology of the death threat because it sounded more interesting than anything else that was happening on campus.

Wolf said he has been threatened online but not in real life.

"I took it with a grain of salt," he said. "It was online so it didn't really bother me. It was on a game. I had probably killed someone and he got angry."

Zenza Raggi, a freshman radio, television and film major, said he was threatened online as well.

"It was kind of explicit," he

said. "The person told me he wanted to cut a part of my anatomy off. I had made a comment on a video of Obama's health care plan."

Threats are made through all sorts of communication methods, Morewitz said, including e-mail, telephones, snail mail, text messages, direct contact and instant messages.

"Technology is a big facilitator of death threats," he said. "This falls under the general phenomena of harassment."

Morewitz said he wrote his book, "Death Threats and Violence," because there was nothing else written on the subject of death threats.

"I was working in the field of domestic violence and noticed death threats in the data I received from courts in two large urban areas," he said.

While conducting research for his book, Morewitz said he obtained a random sample of 519 restraining orders from courts in two large urban areas.

"This is general information available to the public through the clerk in a court," he said.

He said threats can usually result in the victims suffering physical and emotional trauma.

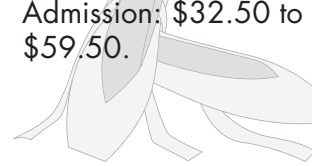
"Most of the time, death threats don't result in homicide," Morewitz said.

A death threat can be grounds for making an arrest, he said, but police usually don't make arrests when the death threat is toward someone in a domestic situation.

"The police will probably tell you to get out of the situation by a restraining order," Morewitz said. "They will also probably suggest that you go to a battered women's shelter."

AROUND DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
25	26	27	28
<p>Thursday 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Film Screening: Race: The Power of An Illusion — Part 3" at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Admission: Free.</p> <p>Thursday 8 p.m. "Lyric Theatre of San Jose Presents The Classic Broadway Musical, Kismet," at the Montgomery Theater, 291 S. Market Street. Admission: \$25 to \$35 and \$10 ages 17 and under.</p>	<p>Friday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. "A Benefit Concert for Haiti," at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. Third Street. Admission: \$25 suggested donation.</p> <p>Friday 8 p.m. "Ain't Misbehavin'," at the San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio. Student admission: \$21 to \$33.50.</p>	<p>Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Huge Rummage Sale," at the CET Sobrato Center, 701 Vine Street. Admission: Free.</p> <p>Saturday 7 p.m. "The Flamenco Society of San Jose Presents Juerga," at the Historic Hoover Theatre, 1635 Park Ave. Admission: \$10 with student ID.</p>	<p>Sunday 3 p.m. "Garden of Delights: A Musical Experience Beyond Eden," at the Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Rd. Admission: Free, but \$10 donation appreciated.</p> <p>Sunday 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Ballet Folklorico de Mexico de Amalia Hernandez," at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd. Admission: \$32.50 to \$59.50.</p>



*COMPILED BY AMBER SIMONS

BUDGET

From Page 1

ness management major said he never liked the idea of layoffs.

"Teachers are being paid so little already," he said. "I don't like the idea of them taking a 10 percent pay cut."

Bumb said he's seen fees steadily increase each semester he's been here.

"The fact that it could go up another 10 percent doesn't faze me," he said. "In fact I expect it."

The layoffs will work in tandem with the plan to decrease student enrollment from

30,000 to 27,500 next year, Whitmore said.

"Our overall strategy is if we take fewer students, we'll get by with fewer staff," he said.

Whitmore said 80 percent of SJSU's budget is devoted to paying people, and layoffs will help save the school money.

All the layoffs will be governed by union contracts, which require the affected individuals to be notified in advance to find a job, he said.

"Those people will need to be off of our payroll by the end of our fiscal year, which is the end of June," he said.

Harris said tenured faculty members will not be laid off.

"It's likely we'll have to end contracts with part-time fac-

ulty members," she said.

Whitmore said prospective students who aren't from Santa Clara County will be subject to more stringent academic standards before being accepted to SJSU.

"What we've learned in the last three years is that we can't offer the same open-access policy we've had in the past," Harris said.

Tristan Young, a junior child development major, said she thought decreased enrollment isn't a problem.

"Sometimes in GE classes I'm sitting next to students that maybe should have gone to a JC first," she said. "The level of capability isn't evenly distributed among accepted

students."

In January, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a state budget that would restore \$ 305 million to the 2008-09 budget, according to a budget overview from the California Faculty Association.

"If we got the governor's proposed budget it would be very helpful to us," Whitmore said. "We'd still have a negative budget but it wouldn't be as negative as it will be."

Harris said the university won't rely on the governor's proposal to be approved.

"It's likely we'll make decisions based on budgets and layoffs well before the Legislature makes their decision," she said.

MASTER'S 2012

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TRAVEL

Hannah Keirns
Staff Writer

As my boyfriend Jake and I journeyed southward on Highway 101 Friday morning, the familiar aroma of Gilroy garlic overwhelmed the truck's cab, a customary assortment of cattle freckled the undulating hillsides and the usual landmarks were easily verified on a mental checklist.

The trip toward California's famed Monterey Peninsula was a unique tradition of my paternal family long before I was born and had carried on through my childhood and teenage years.

This time, my Keirns kin were not coming along — a first among many firsts on this getaway for me and Jake, in celebration of our impending four-and-a-half-year anniversary.

We arrived in Pacific Grove by 10 a.m. and were allowed an early check-in at the Lover's Point Inn, no pun intended, and I was happily surprised to find that for \$59 a night, the amenities exceeded expectations.

Did I mention that the Pacific Ocean was visible from our room and the beach was across the street?

The town of Pacific Grove is wedged between touristy Cannery Row to the east and snobby Pebble Beach and Carmel to the south and is known for its Methodist Episcopalian roots, breathtaking views, recreational activities, small-town hospitality and thousands of migrant monarch butterflies during the fall season.

Adventure I: Coastal cycling

Once we settled into our room, we took a leisurely walk down to beach level, toward "Adventures By the Sea," a renowned recreational activities destination with six locations in the Monterey area.

Dustin, of Adventures By the Sea, gave us a warm welcome to his humble beachside digs.

I filled out the necessary paperwork to rent a bicycle and picked out a 10-speed mountain bike with accessories by Specialized Bicycle Components — the brainchild of SJSU alumnus Mike Sinyard.

The rental was \$25 for eight hours, but Dustin was so laid-back he allowed me to return the bike the next morning.

I pulled out the bike route I had created before the trip and we headed toward our first destination — a mile away at the Point Pinos Lighthouse on Asilomar Boulevard and Lighthouse Avenue.

The sun's fiery rays licked my bare shoulders at a balmy 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and I was relieved that I had my sunglasses to shade my eyes.

We were slightly vexed when we made it to the lighthouse and found it did not open its gates for visitors until 1 p.m.

The small setback didn't dampen our spirits and we set onward for another three miles to the "17-Mile Drive" — the legendary scenic tour that hugs the Pacific coastline, down Pacific Grove's famous landmarks and through Pebble

Beach's famous golf courses and mansions.

I vaguely remembered visiting some of these locales as a teenager but had never experienced them by bicycle until that day.

As we neared the seashore, stout gulls wailed harshly at one another while black cormorants dove from the serene majesty of the Del Monte Forest into the ocean for fish.

The smell of salt, sand and seaweed danced on the breeze and tickled my nose as the submerged terrain of Point Joe generated an unusual degree of offshore turbulence — sending cyan waters into rampant, frothy white crests.

At the Point Joe turnout, I became distracted by the range of manmade rock tower formations previous visitors had created and left behind.

We soon headed back onto the trail and passed landmarks Bird and China Rocks before we decided to stop for a picnic at a beach by Seal Rock.

Jake discovered the majestic, tucked-away beach that appeared to be an exclusive necropolis for mussels.

I was mesmerized by the hundreds of elongated, asymmetrical mussel shells, whose insides glimmered with the iridescence of mother-of-pearl in the sunlight.

After lunch, I went on a treasure hunt for shells and was utterly amazed by how the forces of sea, wind and sand could revamp simple shells into miniature masterpieces.

Back on the trail, we passed by the Spyglass Hill golf course and spotted a pair of does grazing on the outskirts of the immaculate emerald fairways.

Colorful native wildflowers dotted the carefully preserved dunescape, including the California state flower, the silky golden-yellow and orange California poppy.

I was thankful when the breeze picked up and cooled my now sunburned back, shoulders, arms and face.

I felt a sharp sting and found that the breeze had also given me a small, scarlet, dome-shaped friend.

The ladybug lacked her signature spots and proved quite unladylike as she scuttled along my thigh and up onto my tank top — distracting me for the half-mile ride from Fanshell Overlook to Cypress Point Lookout — until she flew away.

Jake and I pedaled in a slightly southeasterly direction into a 13-acre nature reserve called Crocker Grove where we were dwarfed and shaded by numerous species of native pine and cypress trees.

Sunlight flickered and fought through the thick foliage as I yelled "Woo-hoo" while zooming faster and faster downhill.

The sun eventually prevailed and drenched the Lone Cypress, one of California's most enduring landmarks, which has stood on its stony perch for more than 250 years.

We stopped to catch our breaths

Weekend Getaway Pacific Grove

Lodging: \$59

Recreation: \$85

Food: \$133

Taxicab: \$30

Gas: \$55

Total: \$362

and took in the proud granddaddy of all cypress trees, so elegant but forlorn.

A few miles farther, we came across a sinister skeleton of a tree trunk, bleached white over time from wind and sea spray and appropriately named Ghost Tree.

I hardly noticed the lowering sun as we rounded Pescadero Point toward Stillwater Cove and came up to Pebble Beach Resort with its world-famous golf links at 5 p.m.

Too caught up in our 25-mile bike adventure, we then realized that we would not make it back into Pacific Grove before nightfall and should ride another mile into Carmel to call for a taxicab.

Unbeknown to us, the bike lane ended after we left the 17-Mile Drive at Carmel Gate, and we were forced to walk our bikes that final mile along a twisting, narrow roadway where angry drivers swerved around us.

Fatigued and clammy, we made it into Carmel, called Central Coast Taxi Company and met gumptious driver Ira Segal within minutes.

We were thankful to Segal for driving a Crown Victoria, for his knack in squeezing our two bikes into the trunk and for his talent in rigging an orange extension cord to keep the trunk closed enough for the bikes to stay put.

A comical conversation and \$30 later, we made it back to Pacific Grove in one piece.

Ravenous, we were showered and ready for dinner in no time, and it was off to the Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf.

We chose the Old Fisherman's Grotto, owned and operated by the Shake family for 60 years, and celebrated for its fresh and sustainable seafood selection purchased directly from local fishermen.

Here's an insider's tip: We mentioned Yelp, a user review Web site, to our waiter and scored complimentary calamari.

By candlelight, I relished over my entrée of fried prawns while Jake engulfed his clam chowder and fried scallops. Our romantic and ambrosial dinner totaled \$70.

Adventure II: Seafaring folk

We were awake, packed up and checked out of the inn by 11 a.m. Saturday morning, and grabbed a quick lunch before heading back for another "Adventure By the Sea."

The butterflies in my stomach swarmed violently into my chest and my heart pounded harder than the colliding currents.

Dustin convinced me to man my own kayak instead of riding in a tandem with Jake.

I haphazardly tucked my clothes into a waterproof windbreaker suit, cinched the V-elo at each wrist and ankle and zipped up a yellow life vest to top it all off.

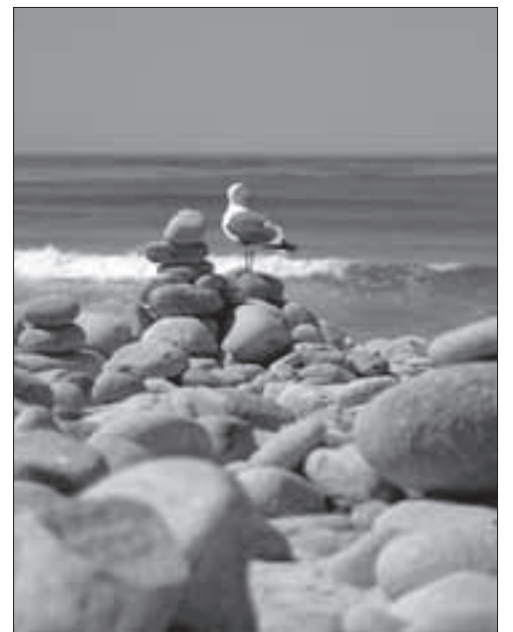
After Jake hauled our orange kayaks to the shoreline, I reluctantly crawled inside.

With my feet wet from the ocean and my hands gripping



(Above) Point Pinos Lighthouse stands proudly as the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast. (Right) A regal seagull takes in the ocean view at Point Joe on the "17-Mile Drive" in Monterey. (Below) Sea Harvest Fish Market and Restaurants' divine seafood became an instant favorite during the two-day getaway.

HANNAH KEIRNS / SPARTAN DAILY



the paddle with all their might, Jake gave my kayak a firm shove into the water.

As I tested the buoyancy of the boat, my worries rolled out with the tide and sheer bliss rushed in.

I was surprisingly comfortable on the open ocean and we headed west-bound against the current, toward the shores of Perkins Park.

The waters calmed as we paddled out more than 200 yards, where the ocean showcased her beautiful spectrum of hues ranging from rich sapphire to bold teal.

Swaying vines from the kelp forest canopy crept up from the ocean floor to the surface — their leaves slimy and nubby to the touch.

After paddling two miles, we decided to turn back and explore the other side of the coastline.

Inching closer to Cannery Row, the remnants of old canneries were reminiscent of a bygone era and I quickly imagined the hustle and bustle that must have existed during the heyday of sardine fishing.

As we entered the waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, we were dumbfounded by our proximity to such teeming wildlife, where brown pelicans soared and scanned the waters for food and rafts of otters rolled and played in the kelp.

It was a truly unique and exhilarating experience to float in the backyard of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and observe maritime wildlife in their natural habitat without the usual barrier of aquarium exhibit Plexiglas.

Jake and I noticed that each time we linked our kayaks and sat idly bobbing in the ocean together, we became the peculiar creatures on exhibit in the obsidian eyes of curious harbor seals and sea lions.

The handful of brown sea lions that were interested in us would simply pop their heads out of the water, stare at us and wiggle their whiskers before sinking back out of sight.

Freckled and gregarious gray harbor seals mischievously followed us around, clapping their flippers together and playfully blowing water and sea mist out of their V-shaped nostrils.

Uncouth speedboat drivers whizzed their vessels back and forth, illegally

inside the buoy line, creating unnecessary wakes that sent our kayaks jouncing wildly on the ocean surface.

Frustrated and slightly seasick, we decided to retire from our sea adventure to see if we could visit the Point Pinos Lighthouse and Asilomar State Beach before we journeyed back home.

The stately Point Pinos Lighthouse is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast but was not that impressive considering we made a special second trip to come view it.

We were excited to visit Asilomar, Spanish for "refuge by the sea," a narrow one-mile strip of sandy beach and rocky coves.

The beach seemed timeless and unchanging as I remembered its features from my first visit in 1988 at age 3 — coarse sand, dead kelp strewn about and buried rocks that stubbed your toes as you trudged across the beach.

I rolled up my jeans and discarded my sandals on the beach to reunite myself with the ocean — I was instantly reminded that these waters are always colder because of the upwelling of icy water from nearby Monterey Canyon.

With growing appetites, Jake and I drove toward Foam Street and Hoffman Avenue to the Sea Harvest Fish Market and Restaurants, recommended by Dustin of Adventures By the Sea.

Jake ordered the fish and chips basket while I opted for the mixed basket of fish, prawns and calamari, which we both drenched in malt vinegar — the restaurant became our instant favorite.

The seafood was so hearty and fresh, I burned my tongue eating it too quickly.

After the late lunch, we couldn't leave until we each grabbed a bag of saltwater taffy from Taffy Town around the corner.

Chomping on taffy the entire drive back up to San Jose, Jake and I enthusiastically recounted our momentous adventures by land and sea and how we survived it all, together.

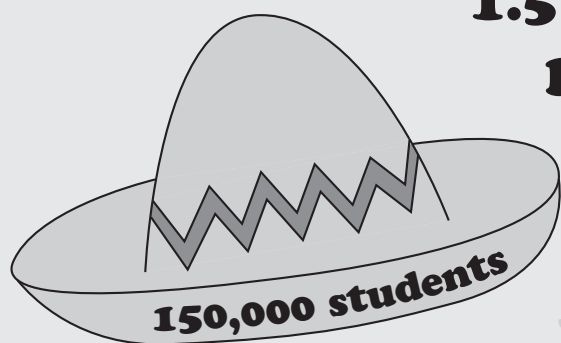
Our getaway bill totaled higher than we thought, but we chalked it up to a simple splurge on a fantastic anniversary trip.



Spring Break

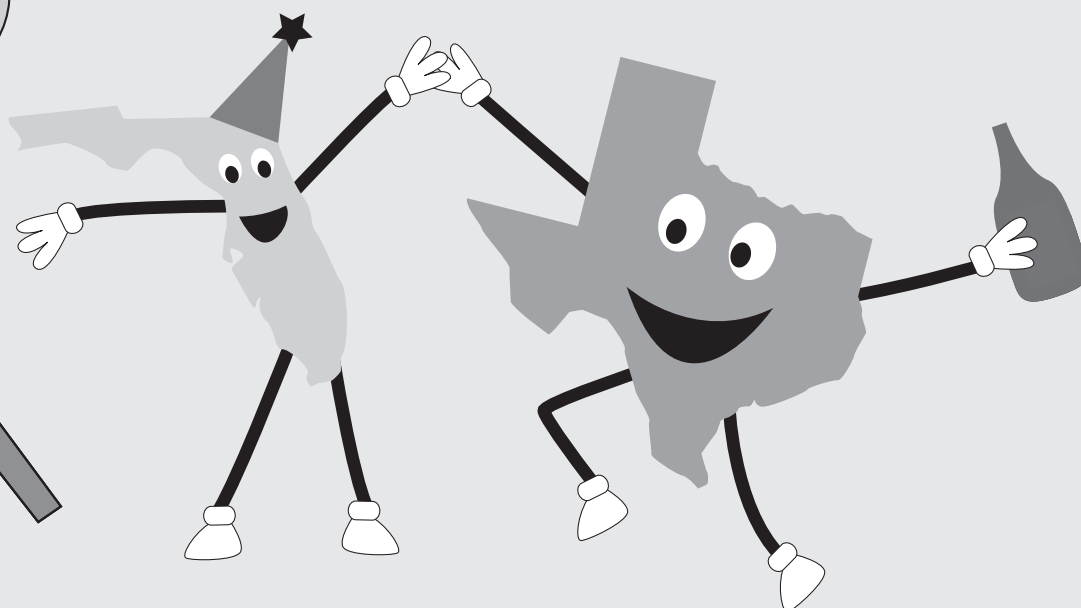
1.5 million college students participate every year

Courtesy of TruTV Web site



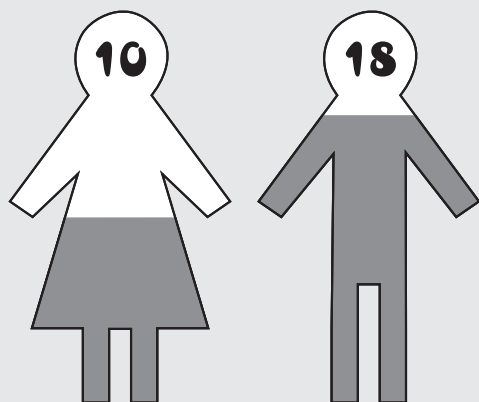
150,000 students per year visit South Padre Island, TX

Courtesy of Alcohol Policy MD Web site



It is estimated that spring break is a \$1 billion per year industry for Florida and Texas alone

Courtesy of TruTV Web site



Average alcoholic drinks per day

Courtesy of Journal of American College Health

Close-to-home vacations

Amaris Dominguez
Staff Writer

Ring in spring break with weeklong trips to infamous party cities may be a college tradition of the past for many SJSU students.

Junior art major Katie Mitchum said she does not understand the barbaric reasoning behind spending so much money to frolic on a beach in Florida and be ridiculously drunk for the whole trip.

"I could never justify spending thousands of dollars in Daytona Beach or Cancun for a week getting wasted to the point where I can't remember the trip at all," Mitchum said. "It's all so dumb to me. I don't know where it all started that this type of partying is expected from college students every spring break."

It Started with a Swim Team

In 1936, a swim coach of Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., brought some members of his swim team down to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to practice at the Casino Pool, which was the first Olympic-sized pool built in Florida, according to the Coolest Spring Break Web site.

The experience was so successful that the coach brought his entire team back to the pool the following year to train again, and soon Ft. Lauderdale hosted the first College Coaches' Swim Forum at the pool in 1938, according to the Coolest Spring

Break Web site.

That same year, the famous Elbo Room opened in the Seabreeze Hotel and the mixture of large numbers of college students, the beach and alcohol set the stage for spring break traditions, according to the Coolest Spring Break Web site.

According to an article in Time magazine, "A Brief History of Spring Break," the tradition continued well into the 1960s.

The release of the spring break movie "Where the Boys Are," which was filmed in Fort Lauderdale, spread the tale of collegiate men and women voyaging to the shores of Florida to find fun, sun and maybe even true love, said article author Lauren Bohn.

By the 1970s, Fort Lauderdale's spring break population became slightly raunchier, and by 1985, some 370,000 students were descending on Fort Lauderdale each year, according to the article.

By the end of the 1980s, the town had enough with the rowdy behavior and stricter laws against public drinking were enacted. As a result, spring breakers were pushed even farther south, even to destinations outside the U.S., where the sun was hotter and legal drinking ages lower.

According to the Coolest Spring Break Web site, modern-day spring break is about hundreds of thousands of students making the annual visit to

southern latitudes in search of all-night parties, sandy beaches and lots of fellow college students.

Spring break has earned a reputation for alcoholic and sexual excesses with the launch of MTV's first spring break special filmed in Daytona Beach, Fla., in 1986, and its continuous airing each year from different spring break hot spots, according to the Time magazine article, "A Brief History of Spring Break."

According to the Expedia Web site, a travel and lodging Web site, flights to spring break destinations in the Caribbean were down by as much as an estimated 20 percent last year because of the down economy.

In Florida, annual visitor numbers dropped for the first time in seven years and student bookings for Panama City Beach went up by more than 20 percent, according to the Student City Web site.

According to the Time article, "A Brief History of Spring Break," safety concerns over Mexico's increasingly violent drug cartels may be contributing to the 22 percent decrease in travel to popular spring break spots such as Cancun.

Spring Break Plans

Some students plan to go to Southern California during spring break.

"I'm carpooling down to SoCal with people so that it's easier on cash," said Jayme Nakamura, a junior child development ma-

ior who plans to visit with her boyfriend this spring break.

Junior business major Louie Vargas said he is also spending time in Southern California and relaxing with his girlfriend.

"For spring break, my girlfriend and I are going to spend a few days in Disneyland and probably go on every ride," he said. "When we come back home, we are planning to spend a day in Carmel with my dog at a dog friendly beach. We've always wanted to take her there. It should be fun."

Many students simply cannot afford weeklong getaways.

"Money is always a factor for traveling, but I really need this break," said Glenda Gomez, a junior child development major. "I am trying to go down to Santa Barbara for the beach this spring break."

She said she is looking forward to the sandy beaches of Southern California to ease her stress level from school.

Sophomore kinesiology major Stephen Van said he plans to find cheap things to do around San Jose this spring break, such as spending a day hiking at a local park or biking with friends around San Jose.

"I plan on getting a lot of much-needed rest this spring break and spending my days doing everything possible that won't send me to the poor house," he said. "It's not worth it to me to spend all my money getting wasted in a stupid party

SPRING BREAK ON A BUDGET

Movie Marathon Night

Invite friends over for a sleepover and bond over a night devoted to movies. Decide on a specific genre and rent movies, or attempt to watch an entire season of a favorite TV show. Make loads of popcorn!

Work

Put a little extra jingle into that pocket of yours by offering to pick up extra hours. If you don't have a job, babysit children or walk your neighbor's dogs.

Explore the great outdoors

San Jose's Alum Rock Regional Park is one of California's oldest municipal parks. Gather a few friends and admire the remnants of the mineral water springs, journey along the 13 miles of scenic trails or take a peaceful walk along the Penitencia Creek that runs through the park.

Go to Santa Cruz

What is spring break without a trip to the beach? You can spend the day lying out on the beach taking in some rays or visiting the many rides and attractions along the boardwalk. Carpool with friends to save on the parking fee and buy an unlimited rides bracelet and ride your little heart out until closing time.

Play tourist for a day

Grab a map, pile into a car and visit San Francisco for a day. Walk around Fisherman's Wharf or Pier 39 and enjoy a bread bowl of warm clam chowder. Take a drive across the Golden Gate Bridge or down the infamous Lombard Street. Ride one of those famous cable cars into Chinatown.

town for a week."

Matt Castelo, a senior business management major, said he would normally celebrate spring break somewhere exotic and extravagant, but said he had a slight change of plans this year.

"I'm not going anywhere for spring break this year," he said. "Looks like I'm staying here in town because I don't have any

money."

Krystynn Sarmiento, a junior occupational therapy major, said saving money has been difficult this year.

"I don't have enough money to do anything," she said. "I originally planned a trip to the snow for spring break but never got around to saving up enough money for it to happen."

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THE E-READER BATTLE ROYALE

Salman Haqqi
Staff Writer

Vying for the hearts of bookworms and techies around the world, the e-reader market has recently exploded with a slew of devices, all of which promise a better and brighter reading experience for users.

After going through an extensive deliberative process, I jumped on the e-reader bandwagon after trying out Amazon's Kindle 2, the Sony Reader and the relatively new Barnes & Noble Nook.

Amazon Kindle 2

Amazon's Kindle lit the e-reader market on fire in 2007. Its latest model, the sleeker Kindle 2, is considered to be the yardstick by which all other e-readers are measured.

The Kindle 2's E-Ink display can now show up to 16 shades of gray as opposed to the previous four, which is visibly noticeable in the smoother fonts and images.

Downloading books from Amazon's Kindle Store was speedy and hassle-free. Amazon has broadened its wireless coverage by enabling the Kindle 2 to use Sprint's slower data network when the 3G network is not available.



*COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Users have the option to shop for Kindle books from their computers and wirelessly transfer them to their Kindle using the one-click "purchase" button.

The Kindle Store also offers periodicals and blogs, but subscriptions can be somewhat expensive. For example, a monthly subscription to The New York Times is \$13.99.

For all the Kindle 2's ease of use, its design still leaves you wanting. At \$300, it's not a bargain and in a touch-screen world, it's hard to say the Kindle 2 is the best bet.

Barnes & Noble Nook

The Nook was a surprise entrant into the e-reader market. Backed by an extensive book collection, Barnes & Noble upped the ante with its version of the e-reader.

A thoroughly elegant device, the Nook runs on Google's Android operating system and offers a crisp reading screen with a separate color touch-screen just below, which is used to navigate and shop.

In terms of contrast and clarity, the Nook can go toe-to-toe with the rest of them. The E-Ink display makes it easy to see and read text. But page turns were sluggish at times, which isn't optimal when trying to emulate a natural reading experience.

What stands out with the Nook is its Wi-Fi and 3G Wireless access capabilities, coupled with the ability to lend books to other Nook users and check out books from local libraries. Priced at \$259, it's the best read for the buck.



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The Sony Reader Touch

The Sony Reader Touch Edition, which I initially leaned toward, has a touch screen interface and contoured design.

The touch screen might sound good on paper, but it's not particularly responsive and is prone to glare in bright lights. But, since I rarely read much in bright sunlight, it wasn't a deal breaker.

For all of the Sony Reader's charm, which includes a stylus for making notes and the ability to turn pages with a swipe of a finger, it lacks a key feature in 3G wireless downloading. At \$300 it's difficult to not feel a little cheated.

That said, the Sony Reader is still a solid device. Its use of the ePub file format gives users the option of getting free content, including public domain Google Books downloads.

An especially useful feature is the ability to check out books from many local libraries, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

This feature itself could make up for the future cost of buying books and eventually be a better deal in the long run.

Verdict

It's impossible to declare an outright winner. Eventually it boils down to preference and what features users see as a priority. I sided with the Nook, because at the end of the day all I want is a device that's reasonably priced, aesthetically pleasing and does what it's supposed to do. I'm not running a mission to Mars, I just want to read.

Club tries to develop industry ties at conference

Donovan Farnham
Staff Writer

The Game Development Club, a group of students studying computer programming, digital art and audio engineering, set out to San Francisco to talk about video games, not just as a form of entertainment but as a possible career.

From March 9 through 13, the Moscone Center hosted the 2010 Game Developers Conference, a professional-level event where video game developers, publishers, artists and enthusiasts met to discuss the present and future of the video game industry.

The conference had post-launch discussions about the development of games such as "Uncharted 2: Among Thieves," and seminars featuring speakers such as Sid Meier, developer of the "Civilization" series, who spoke about how game development is psychologically driven.

Marek Kapolka, a member of the Game Development Club and junior digital media major, said he was excited to attend the conference for the first time but wished club members could attend the week-long discussions instead of just the Game Career Seminar hosted March 13.

"It's the game development event of the year," he said. "Basically, it happens right in San Francisco, so it's right down the road. If I meet anyone from the industry, that would be cool, but I'm not actively looking for a job, I guess."

The Game Career Seminar portion of the conference was

an all-day event that gave prospective game designers from around the country the opportunity to learn from professionals working in the field and what recruiters and hiring managers expect prospective programmers and artists to have on their resumes and in their portfolios.

One of the day's seminars included a talk with David Sirlin, an MIT-graduate game designer whose portfolio includes "Super Street Fighter 2 Turbo HD Remix."

Sirlin spoke about how novice game designers can feel a proverbial hump that needs to be overcome before they start a career in the video game industry, according to his Web site.

He told the audience that getting over this hump and into the industry comes down to four points: having courage within, doing something and getting better at it, standing apart from the crowd and being passionate about the work that is being done.

He shared other stories of self definition he had heard about comedian Jim Carrey and how ideas from political thinkers such as Machiavelli can be applied to finding a career.

"I didn't wait around for someone to say, 'Now you have permission to be a designer,'" Sirlin said. "It would be ridiculous, because you can't get that permission unless you already are one from the inside. That's the reason you need to not care about external labels."

He said another point he wanted to stress was the idea that investing time doesn't

necessarily mean better skills or that entitlement will follow, a concept he said has been portrayed incorrectly in video games design and mechanics.

Sirlin said it takes more than a conscious effort during practice, but also challenging oneself so one's skills can progress.

Parris Khachi, vice president of the Game Development Club and senior computer science major, said he thought Sirlin's seminar was useful and had important information that students wouldn't know.

Khachi also said he thinks the club puts its members on the right path toward finding a job in the video game industry.

"On a regular basis, we make games and being (at GDC) is huge," Khachi said.

The topic of a forum discussion at the seminar with recruiters from companies such as the Disney Interactive Media Group and Epic Games, Inc. was the importance of not just what a candidate knows, but also who they know.

SJSU alumnus Marcello Lagosh said he has worked with Sony Computer Entertainment America and has been to three Game Developers Conferences.

He said he agrees that building connections is key to the success of a career in the video game industry, because of the close connections that are built between co-workers can lead to later success and employment.

"The best advice I can give is be social when you go to events and when you're in the job, make friends," Lagosh said.

TECHNOLOGY DEMOS

One of the technology demos shown on the expo floor was Sony's new "Move" controller, which tracks a user's motion on screen. Like Nintendo's Wii controller, the "Move" allows players to interact with a game in 3-D space where swinging and swaying motions are translated into the game.

The "Move" demonstration included conference attendees swinging the controller and having the movement translated in the game to a character who was fighting in a gladiator-like arena or playing a game of table tennis against a virtual

opponent. Another piece of technology on display was a controller that responded to brain activity instead of button presses.

The controller, called "MindSet" by the San Jose company NeuroSky, allowed users to levitate virtual balls and make barrels explode by monitoring their brainwaves.

According to NeuroSky Web site, the headset does not read the thoughts of the user, instead allowing them to manipulate virtual objects by monitoring his or her level of concentration or relaxation.

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MUST-HAVE SPRING GADGETS

Marlon Maloney
Staff Writer

Spring break starts next week, which means it's time for college students from all over to head on out with their friends and hit the beaches. Rather than just bringing a swimsuit and towel, how about taking some cool gadgets that will make spring break that much more exciting?

iHome iH13 Protective Speaker Case

The iH13 is a portable, water-resistant sport case designed for iPods. The case is fitted with two small stereo speakers that play music with relatively good quality for the \$49.95 price tag.

The case, which runs on four AA batteries, also charges your iPod while it's playing music. While you will not be able to charge another MP3 player using the iH13, it does support other MP3 player products for music playback.

The iHome offers an assortment of color and design options for you to choose from and comes with a remote control, allowing you to flip through tracks from a distance. It's perfect for use on a beach or while sitting poolside.



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iNanoz 4GB Bluetooth and MP3 Polarized Sunglasses

Another musical option are the iNanoz music-playing sunglasses. These sunglasses have the ability to protect your eyes from all three forms of ultraviolet rays while allowing you to listen to music and talk on your cell phone.

It holds up to 64 hours of music and allows you to switch from MP3 player to bluetooth headset with the click of a button. The headset is built right into the sunglasses, so there's no need to worry about tangling up headphone wires.

It is also compatible with iTunes, allowing you to easily transfer your playlists to the device. The battery life is about five hours when fully charged and it can also serve as a storage device for any other file type you would like to save if a thumb drive isn't available.

All-in-all, these sunglasses are a pretty solid buy at \$94.99.

Solio Magnesium Edition Solar Charger

Ever been out doing something and had one of your gadgets run out of battery life? It would be even worse if it happened while you're lounging out in the sun trying to have a good time.

The Solio solar charger uses the power of the sun, or a wall outlet, to charge 3,200-plus technological products.

Fan out the charger's three small solar panels and connect it to your device using one of the tip adapters that comes in the box.

A device can be fully charged in about eight to 10 hours using sunlight or 4.8 hours using an outlet. One hour of charge time should provide you with 20 minutes of talk time on a cell phone or 50 minutes of music playback on an MP3 player.

Prices for the Solio Magnesium Edition will vary by what Web site you want to buy from. Solio no longer sells this product on its Web site. You can still purchase the original version of this solar charger, called the "Classic," which offers slightly fewer features than the Magnesium Edition at a price of \$79.95.



*COURTESY OF SOLICOM



*COURTESY OF PLAYSPORT.COM

Kodak Playsport Zx3

Kodak's Playsport is a digital video camera that offers the ability to record video in full 1080p HD quality.

The amazing picture quality isn't even the best part. The Playsport is capable of capturing your spring break adventures in up to 10 feet of water. It's also capable of capturing five-megapixel still images and has built-in image stabilization.

The Playsport comes with editing software built into it, allowing users to add narration, music and more. It is about the size of an average smartphone and comes in blue, purple, black and white.

You will need to buy an SD or SDHC memory card to expand the camera's 300 MB built-in memory, otherwise your video-taking capabilities will be rather limited. The \$149 price tag is well worth what you would be getting for this product.



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How music saved me from myself

I was 14 the first time I tried to kill myself.

I remember being in my living room, listening to my parents scream at each other over something trivial and not worth remembering.

I had always tried to be their mediator, and the frustration, coupled with being a teenager who didn't feel like I fit in at school, became too much.

I grabbed the first thing I could find, a hard, sharp plastic security device that came off a CD jewel case, and tried to slit my wrists.

It didn't exactly work.

The plastic security device wasn't sharp enough to cut. It only left a bunch of deep, red welts on my left forearm.

They eventually disappeared, but my pain and frustration did not.

Later that year, I found solace, not in a person, but in a CD.

Third Eye Blind's self-titled album reached out to me in a way no person could at that time.

The album was full of emotional slices of life that I immediately connected with.



Kevin Hume
Staff Writer

I credit that album with saving my life.

Upon reaching high school, I fought another battle with depression.

My transition to high school from middle school was rough.

My core group of friends had split up, with my best friend leaving for a private high school.

I tried to make new friends but just couldn't find a good connection with people.

Add to that an unrequited teenage desire for female companionship and the stress of home and schoolwork, and you have a pretty good picture of me at 16.

I remember being in math one particular day. I failed the class last year and was taking it again for no credit.

I remember staring out the classroom door at the balcony that surrounded the two-story building. All I could think about was jumping off that balcony and hurting myself.

I eventually broke down, scaring myself at the thought of jumping. I left class and immediately went to the office.

Inside my counselor's office, he tried to console me.

He called my parents to let them know I wasn't in a good state of mind.

He called in the school psychiatrist to help me realize that hurting myself wouldn't help my situation.

He even called in the school police officer once it became clear that I might be a danger to myself.

I went 5150, as the medical code for a person who is a danger to himself is known.

I was transported in an ambulance to the local hospital.

I faintly remember being confined to a room. My dad was there, trying to help me see that things weren't that bad.

I was later transported to a psychiatric hospital that specialized in adolescents.

I spent one night in that place. I remember being the only one there that had laces in their shoes. Everyone else's laces had been confiscated so they couldn't harm themselves.

Upon getting out, I again buried myself in an album that gave me far more consolation than my parents and school counselors could.

Vertical Horizon's album "Everything You Want" proved to be even more emotional for me

than Third Eye Blind's album.

With every song, I found ways to relate them to my life or the things I wanted out of life.

The songs were absolutely beautiful and made me cry on occasion.

That album is still a part of me.

When I started seeing a therapist, I found the true cure to my depression: I joined a band.

Playing drums in my first band became the tool I needed to save me from my depression.

I found new friends in my bandmates, and making music became one of the true passions of my life.

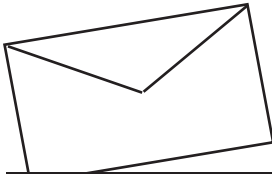
Joining a new band four years later brought new friends into my life and new joys in making and playing music for lots of people.

Looking back on things has helped me to realize that, while my depression was real, I was blowing things way out of proportion.

But that was just part of growing up for me.

I can still listen to Third Eye Blind's album. I feel a little sad when I do, but it's nothing compared to how I feel when I listen to Vertical Horizon's album. That album still has my scars embedded in it, so I try to avoid it to keep myself from feeling the way I did long ago.

But those albums, and the friends I found through making music, saved my life.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter is in response to the news story 'Library Porn Distracts Patrons,' which appeared on March 10.

"Porn on library computers distracts library patrons at SJSU" — What's with the modified title?

Hey, I caught the hard copy March 10 edition of this article, which had a completely different heading: "Library Porn Distracts Patrons."

Same article, different title.

I was disturbed by the title then and I'm disturbed that the online version was magically changed.

One might think from the (original) title that the King Library has a special "Library Porn section," which it does not. The King Library, which is a joint venture with the City of San Jose and San Jose State University, is a well-run learning and resource institution for the public and SJSU students.

I agree with the spirit of the article, which is that libraries are no place to view por-

nography (and I would add) any more than libraries are a place for parents/guardians to let their kids roam aimlessly.

So, I challenge King Library students and patrons when you see behavior that "makes you sick" or that you find "totally disgusting" that you take action and report it to the library staff so that appropriate measures can be taken.

It's one thing to write an article with a sensationalized headline about one's perceptions (and in doing so give a totally wrong impression about the library), it's entirely another to hold oneself and others accountable for helping make library visits safe, productive, and enjoyable.

Tina Morril

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- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS PUZZLES SOLVED

8	4	1	2	9	3	5	6	7	1	4	5	2	3	6
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2-			15x		2÷

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 LAX client, once
- 4 Kind of prof
- 9 Shades
- 13 Antony or Chagall
- 14 Dern of "Focus"
- 15 — even keel
- 16 Novelist — Waugh
- 17 Yak's home
- 18 Part of a.k.a.
- 19 Where Dakar is
- 21 More risky
- 23 Light refractor
- 25 Work fast
- 26 Kitchen gadget
- 29 Proverb
- 31 Nanny
- 32 Lick an envelope
- 33 Prow projections
- 37 Plains dweller
- 38 Picky weed
- 41 USAF unit
- 42 Hoops nickname
- 44 Penny —
- 45 "The Matrix" star
- 47 Brown pigment
- 49 Made candles
- 50 Game hunter's trek
- 53 Track star Jesse —
- 55 Nimbleness
- 57 Diet
- 61 "Beloved" writer — Morrison
- 62 Early moralist
- 64 Construction toy
- 65 O.E.D. part
- 66 Likng
- 67 Sharp or Bradley
- 68 Actress Tyne —
- 69 Gloss
- 70 Agree silently

DOWN

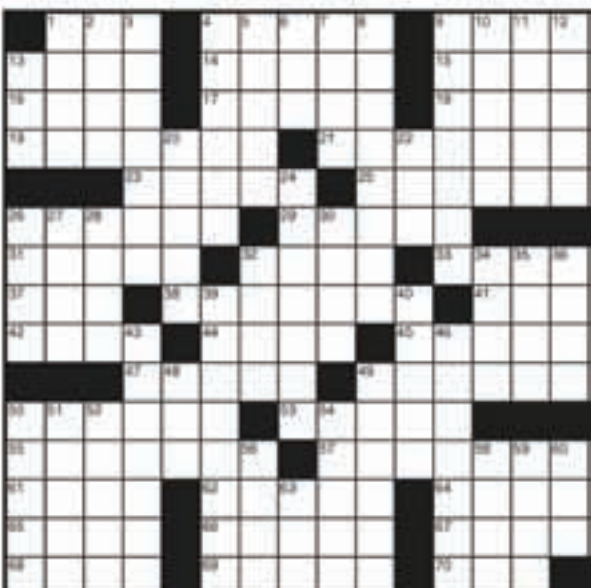
- 1 Legend
- 2 Nest builder
- 3 Swallows
- 4 Bright star
- 5 Weir's anchor

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

BRAS	CPLS	SHALE
AUNT	LEAH	HOGAN
AISA	APSE	RIATA
SELLERS	PLASTIC	
	KIKI	INTENT
RECEDE	PUNKS	
ELIDE	DUKE	AVA
EER	RAIMENT	PIAN
FCC	LAPS	YEAST
	OLEOS	CRATES
GORGON	FROG	
EVOLVED	JILLION	
SETTLE	AMOS	EDDY
TROLL	BARE	TEES
STRAY	ODDS	SERE

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- 6 Fill-in
- 7 Raw minerals
- 8 Odds and ends with container
- 9 More froggy
- 10 Pitch-black
- 11 Carvas support
- 12 Sleep noisily
- 13 Advanced deqs.
- 20 Wave hello
- 22 Mo. with no holidays
- 24 Symphony bigwig
- 26 Wild grazers
- 27 "Ask Dr. —"
- 28 Square footage
- 30 Calendar info
- 32 Trig function
- 34 Now!
- 35 Currycomb target
- 36 Low-drifting clouds
- 39 Environments
- 40 Scraping by with
- 43 Trait
- 46 Greek "e"
- 48 CAT scan relative
- 49 Dredge a channel
- 50 Gluffed
- 51 Where Greek met Greek
- 52 Newspaper editor
- 54 Penned
- 56 —, right!
- 58 Brief note
- 59 Major Hoople's word
- 60 Neither's mate
- 63 Compass dir.



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Veering off our predetermined paths

I have become a strong proponent of the “gap year” as I near the end of my undergrad work and arrive at the crossroads of graduate school or trying to find decent employment.

How about some time off from all that to do something a little more enthralling? A few months roaming the slopes of Lake Tahoe might be nice.

When, and if, I graduate this spring, my mother expects me to come back to San Diego as some sort of transformed 20-something who’s ready to be a working man.

As a first-generation college student in my family of five, it pains me to tell her just because I might have a degree (which is becoming more and more of an absolute necessity), doesn’t mean I can land a livable wage out of school.

But my mother’s incessant howling perturbs me to no end. All this chatter about either having to go after an advanced degree or find a job that offers benefits such as a matched 401k — it’s starting to drive me nuts.

Can’t a guy get a chance to catch his breath and take a break from midterms and finals?

In this case, I’m asking for at least a few months to do something just for myself, like snowboarding at Lake Tahoe every day during my — sorry, Mom — inevitable gap year.

That’s all I’m asking for before working my way through internships and part-time work to something hopefully more career-

orientated. Either that or I regroup, take the Graduate Record Examination and apply for a graduate program as the opportunity to do so for this fall has passed.

The sketchy part may be that I still refer to myself as a “guy” rather than a “man.” My hectic senior year is flashing before my eyes, and I still believe there’s some kid left in my 22-year-old self.

I feel like I should apologize for that being the case. I’ve learned a ton here and deeply value my education. It’s not that I want to peace-out and have a kick-ass time, but can’t I also feel that I need a tad more time to grow?

I know undergraduate work in the California State University system isn’t exactly the most rigorous schoolwork, but that doesn’t mean my back isn’t aching after 17 straight years of sitting in a classroom. I think I’ll burn out if I keep my rear end planted in these stiff seats.

I’ve got other ideas, such as taking a six-month to a yearlong break from academia and cubicles to live the mountain experience at Lake Tahoe. My 26-year-old brother runs a small video game repair business there when he’s not working as a ski instructor for the resorts and he’s perfectly content. Isn’t



Eric Bennett
Staff Writer

that what we’re all after — happiness?

I see Tahoe as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to live and snowboard for free while I use the quiet hills to help me write as much fictional or nonfictional material as my fingers can possibly pump out.

Besides writing, I hope to save up some money since I won’t be driving much or paying for rent. I

want to do things like play my drums more often, something I don’t have the time or space for in college.

I am committed to taking no more than one year off and within that year I will at least prepare to pursue an advanced degree, so please, chill out concerned parents.

Windows of opportunity for experiences like the aforementioned only stay open for so long.

Baby-boomer parents in this economy seem to have issues — valid ones — with letting their kids veer down roads other than the inherently predetermined paths set for us.

But if you truly believe college is some sort of transformative phase when a kid becomes an adult and starts contributing to society, then at least trust us to know we’ll make some good decisions here and there.

It might just take a year or two, that’s all.

Making the quarter-life-crisis resolution

Like a lot of people, I’ve made promises to myself and have forgotten to follow them.

These would be fleeting things to me. Once these notions enter my brain, I would quickly filter them out of my thoughts.

They were always conscious choices I would choose to ignore such as when I told myself I wouldn’t have any soda for a month, only to start drinking it again after three days.

All these promises to treat myself better would never be fully realized because I would slip back into my normal habits, even after thinking I would commit myself to improving my character.

Like most other people, all these promises I made to improve myself were made as New Year’s resolutions.

Like most of my New Year’s resolutions, they are usually lost causes, which are forgotten within a matter of days.

I would feel embarrassed at the fact I disobeyed my own resolution for about as long as I kept it up, and then it was back to my usual routine for another year until I made another set of false pacts to myself for New Year’s again.

But change doesn’t have to happen around the New Year.

All it took was for me to seriously consider my position — where I was at and what I was doing — to understand I felt inadequate.

I felt like my own skill set was considerably low, my own abilities were noticeably below those around me, and that I’m in a spot where I have room to grow.

If other people around me can walk with their heads in the clouds, then I feel as though I’m someone who is too short to even reach the door handle.

The new resolution I’ve made is that my skill sets need to expand for me to grow.

The ability to learn a new sport, a new language, how to play an instrument or how to cook, these are things I believe will shape a new me.

But I’m not happy with just that — I need more from life. I need a new perspective on things for myself to feel better for myself.

The thoughts of “I need to get away, I need to see something new,” run through my head every moment I am conscious.



Leonard Lai
An Honest Lai

The experience of living in another country is something I’ve been considering adding to my “skill sets,” even though it physically won’t be adding to me. Not only would my skill set be expanded, but my own mental capacity of experiencing another culture would expand my own mental capabilities.

Of course, these things will all be in the long run, taking years to complete and learn, and it would also take me that long to amass the amount of money I need to be in a different country.

If other people around me can walk with their heads in the clouds, then I feel as though I’m someone who is too short to even reach the door handle.

But if these are the things that lead to a “better” me, if these are the things that will stop my “quarter-life crisis,” then it’s the first time I’ve ever seriously considered anything.

Something I’ve given weeks of thought to is not something I would hope to just forget in a matter of days, and hopefully in a couple of years, the me in the future will be different for the better from the me now.

“An Honest Lai,” appears weekly on Thursdays. Leonard Lai is a Spartan Daily opinion editor.

Not the light I want in my life

They lay vertically in the glove compartment of my car, under the seat, in the small zipper of my purse and on the windowsill in my bedroom.

The long, rectangular-shaped objects vary in size and color.

In the collection, the small blue ones seem to be the most popular.

In my apartment and my car, there are numerous lighters accessible to me, ready to light my cigarettes.

I was overprotected from the moment I was born.

Anemic and weighing five pounds, my dad said I could fit in the palm of his hand. As I grew up, he tried hard to keep me there.

Like the umbilical cord that kept me alive in the womb, my parents kept me close to them.

As the youngest of four siblings, I never stopped being the “baby.”

My family did not exist in a democracy.

I asked. They said no.

Sleepovers, parties, camping and anything related to socializing with other people my age was denied.

They were terrified some-



Michelle Gachet
Rebel With Michelle

thing would happen to me.

In my parent’s minds, if I stepped out of the house, it meant I was going to get sick with pneumonia or that Colombian guerrillas would take me away.

People stopped inviting me because they were tired of hearing me say “Sorry, I can’t.”

So, I started lying.

I started lying and smoking Marlboros.

The lying part was hard at the beginning.

Growing up in a Catholic culture, I felt guilty.

Then I lied, even when I didn’t even have the need.

Lying fulfilled me.

It meant that I could do whatever I wanted, skipping

the arguments with my parents.

No more asking for permission.

When they thought I was involved in numerous extracurricular and academic activities, I was in the park with my friends, drinking the cheapest alcohol we could find, making out with my boyfriend or singing in karaoke bars.

People stopped inviting me because they were tired of hearing me say “Sorry, I can’t.”

The first cigarette I lit up was slim and tasted like cinnamon.

Dizzy and wanting to throw up, I inhaled for the second time.

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Thomasina Wallace works on balance beam during practice. Wallace will not be competing with the team for the rest of the season after rupturing her Achilles' tendon. SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVE

Gymnastics team battles on despite key injury

Spartans to compete in WAC Championships on Saturday

Melissa Sabile
Staff Writer

As the Spartans head into the postseason and prepare for the Western Athletic Conference Championships this weekend, the gymnasts will find out if they reached their goal of making the NCAA Regionals, according to head coach Wayne Wright.

"After Monday, we will receive the announcement on whether we will qualify for Regionals," he said.

Wright said the top 36 teams in the country qualify. The Spartans are currently the No. 36 team.

"I'm confident we will stay 36 for Regionals," Wright said. "There are a few teams that are close. University of North Carolina is No. 37, Southeast Missouri is No. 38 and the University of Pittsburgh is No. 39."

He said each team trails the Spartans by less than one point and that this weekend will determine the rest of their postseason.

"We just have to go out there and do what we've been doing all year," Wright said. "The girls know they need to step it up."

He said what will be tough for the Spartans is the loss of all-around starter Thomasina Wallace.

Wallace, who ruptured her Achilles' tendon

last Wednesday, was one of two all-around competitors. Wright said Wallace's injury means she is done for the rest of the season.

"It's hard when one of your starters gets injured," Wright said. "But we've had a meet since then and we did well."

He said he feels good about how things are going, despite the loss of an all-around competitor.

"It will be tough, but I feel that adversity makes us stronger," Wright said.

He said another struggle was the team's inconsistencies on the balance beam this season.

"Beam is a tough event, not just for our team, but for everyone in the country," he said.

The balance beam is only four inches wide and four feet off the ground. It's known as one of the most difficult events in gymnastics, according to Wright.

"The problem with beam is mental," he said. "We do great in practice, but we don't compete like we practice."

Wright said he is optimistic the team will perform well on beam this weekend.

"It's been a struggle, but we've also had a lot of success recently," he said.

Without Wallace competing, Wright said there is an open spot for a competitor on the bars.

Freshman Katie Lindsey said she is looking forward to competing in her first NCAA conference championship.

"I'm trying not to think of it as WAC (Western Athletic Conference) but just another good meet," Lindsey said.

She said as long as she and her teammates do what they are supposed to and what they've been training for, this weekend will go well.

"I'm just focusing on helping my team get to Regionals as much as I can," Lindsey said. "I will just do what is asked of me as a bars specialist."

WAC CHAMPIONSHIP

WHO: SJSU Gymnastics Team

What: WAC Championship Meet

When: March 27

Where: Fullerton, Calif.

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Sacramento State	Win	194.550 - 193.550
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AUDITION

Sunday, March 28 10:30 AM
San Francisco Conservatory of Dance
301 Eighth Street, Suite 205
San Francisco, CA 94103

