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ANALYSIS

A.S. releases budget, audit report

BY LYDIA SARRAILLE
Daily Staff Writer

The publishing of the Associated Students government budget and audit report today will provide students with detailed information re-

garding the way A.S. allocates and spends student fees.

Alex Ramos, A.S. controller, prepared this year's budget and said pairing the two documents together will give more comprehensive information than was avail-

able in previous years.

"We (at A.S.) made a commitment to the students that we would have more transparency and visibility in the board," Ramos said. "As students of this university you are entitled to see how we are

using your money. With the audit report, you can also see that we are in compliance with all rules and regulations."

Alfonso De Alba, executive director of A.S., said that the two documents will show students

"who we are and what we plan to do."

"The budget is a reflection of the students' wishes," De Alba said. "They have voted on issues over the years and we have articulated those wishes in the budget."

De Alba said the "wishes of the students" have been represented in measures passed by voters on campus ballots over the almost 110 years that A.S. has existed.

Ramos said that the budget might be hard for some students to read, especially those with no background in finance or accounting.

The audit report is likewise difficult to interpret. Prepared by Vargas, Lopez and Company, a certified public accountant firm, the audit report examines the previous year's spending and earning.

Ramos explained how the budget and audit report were prepared.

The audit report was done using standards set by the U.S. Securities and Exchange commission.

According to the commission Web site, the commission is a U.S. government agency that handles all aspects of the exchange of stock. In doing so, they also set rules for companies issuing financial statements to their shareholders.

A.S. must provide a financial statement to their stockholders in the same manner as any corporation since A.S. is an incorporated nonprofit company.

In this case, the "stock holders" are the students who pay fees.

The math of a budget is relatively basic arithmetic, although the rules that govern how one allocates the assets are not.

The budget and audit report are broken up into rows and columns that indicate what sums have been allocated to what areas such as clubs, maintenance of facilities and programming.

De Alba said many students are unaware of just how much A.S. pays for on campus.

"We have accounts set up for campus rec, the book loan program, laptop rentals, the bike enclosures, the Spartan Memorial and the fountain in front of Tower Hall," De Alba said.

Ramos said the general funds

are split up and allocated based on rules made by various pieces of legislation such as Measures M and P, both of which prescribe how portions of the general funds are to be allocated, the former to scholarship endowment and the latter to computer services. By calculating all the small figures and percentages that each rule prescribes, the budget is slowly assembled.

The general fund that all these categories receive money from is calculated by using the previous year's census to determine the approximate total student fees to be collected in the current year and then subtracting 10 percent to provide a margin of error.

To prepare the budget, Ramos said he has to read the audit report to use as a guide and then carefully follow the many rules that govern his allocation of funds.

"Our assets are broken down in categories from most to least liquid," Ramos said. "And our liabilities are how we pay out the money — who or what has claim to it. The fund balance is the figure that is calculated from all that; the total we have at our disposal."

De Alba said that A.S. is continually growing and that there is no end in sight. He said that from 1993 to this year, A.S. has gone from handling 1.9 million dollars to 6.5 million.

With this amount of money, Ramos said the budget is important.

Ramos said that students who have any questions about how the budget is prepared or this year's budget and audit are welcome to come by his office.

"The A.S. is open and we have budget copies and audit reports," Ramos said. "I would be happy to go over them with anyone who has questions."

Ramos said that last year's budget is currently available online and that the new one will be available there shortly.

The budget and audit report are also going out to many students via mass e-mails and copies are being sent to heads of university departments.

"Everyone will be able to see everything," Ramos said.

Showing Spartan pride ...

PHOTOS BY
DIANA DIROY / DAILY STAFF



ABOVE: Spartan head football coach Dick Tomey, right, talks to Ramon Johnson, the emcee for the Associated Students free barbecue event, to promote this Saturday's game against the University of Nevada. Saturday's game will be broadcast on ABC TV.

RIGHT: Sammy the Spartan helps Sunshine Saguil, right, a junior majoring in communications, give away a Spartan Squad T-shirt to Haneen Hammad, a senior majoring in graphic design.



New residence halls bring new problems

Drinking,
graffiti bother
some students

BY CHRISTINE BARKER
Daily Staff Writer

For many freshman students, coming to college is their first taste of freedom. With mom and dad nowhere in sight, they are able to "cut the cord", so to speak, and pretty much live life to their hearts desire.

Getting away from mom and dad for the first time and being introduced to a new way of life, that include alcohol and parties, are reasons why some freshmen students take a turn to the wild side, said Dana Nevin, a freshman majoring in kinesiology. Nevin is the president of Building C within the residence halls government body.

"Drinking is a big problem here," Nevin said.

There have been a few instances of people being injured due to intoxication in the freshman suites, she said.

Some freshmen are coming to college and drinking for the first

time, when that hasn't been something they are used to or did while they were in high school, Nevin said.

"In our dorm, we got in trouble for having alcohol one of the first days we were here," said Gordie Throne, a freshman majoring in civil engineering.

Since the freshman residence halls consist of 18- and 19-year-olds, there are "rules" that might relate to state and federal laws that housing needs to enforce, said Susan Hansen, director of housing. These rules are in regards to minors being in possession of alcohol and/or drugs.

Nevin said she has witnessed get-togethers on certain floors that "are huge," consisting of more than 10 people in a suite.

"Students are allowed to have get-togethers," Hansen said. "We don't set a strict limit on the number of people."

"If you can hear (a get-together) from two doors down, then it's too loud," said Samantha Kibbish, a sophomore majoring in hospitality management, and one of the programming advisers in the housing department.

As long as students are being re-

spectful of other residents, as far as noise and not being destructive are concerned, then the housing staff is very flexible and supportive, Hansen said.

According to some residents of the freshman suites, the problem is that a select number of residents are not being respectful of other students, or of the building itself.

Campus Village has only been opened for a short time, yet there has already been some minor damage, such as torn down room number placards, to Building C, Kibbish said.

"The only thing that really makes me mad is profanity on the wall," said Sitara Siverls, a freshman majoring in nursing. "Somebody wrote the word 'nigger' on the fourth floor."

Siverls said it wasn't that obvious because it was kind of camouflaged in the wall, but she did notice it.

The elevators are also a constant problem, according to students and staff.

"These are the worst elevators in the world," said Mitchell Williams, a freshman majoring in engineering. "They're always broken down, with shoe prints all over



KEVIN WHITE / DAILY STAFF

Andrea Simmons, a freshman majoring in Japanese and a resident of the new Campus Village, shows the decoration she created for her second-floor window. Since the Village's occupation, students have been adorning their windows with everything from welcome notices and personal messages to postings for upcoming parties.

them. There's always sticky stuff on the floor and (the freshmen residents) urinate in them."

Nevin said she and her roommates help clean up some of the mess caused by fellow freshman residents alongside the custodial staff for Building C.

"We have a wonderful group of people who try to maintain the facilities but they really do need the

students help in order to do a good job," Hansen added.

Some students are not surprised when told about rumored lingerie parties and "porn fests."

"It's very possible, I wouldn't doubt it," said Katherine Rolly, a freshman majoring in pre-nursing.

Squinting up at the seven-story Building C, one can see decorative additions to the facade's decor

with messages written on suite windows. Everything from fraternity letters to room shout-outs are posted for the outside world to see.

Students are allowed to place signs and messages in their windows, as long as they are not offensive to the surrounding commu-

see VILLAGE, page 4

Opposing Views: Should the clause "under God" be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance?

YES

The First Amendment protects us from being forced to utter the word "God."

The words "under God" should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance because they violate and contradict the First Amendment, which protects citizens from any governmental establishment of religion.

The Pledge, originally written in 1892 as part of the national school program, was changed in 1954 after President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill adding "under God" into the existing Pledge. This occurred at a time when many Americans feared communism and atomic war with the Soviet Union. Learning that these communists were godless only perpetuated our nation's discontent with an enemy that was so vastly different from us.

Decades later, school children of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States learn the Pledge of Allegiance at a young age without ever being aware of the change. California law requires that each public elementary school in the state "conduct appropriate patriotic exercises" at the beginning of the school day and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America satisfies this requirement.

So every day elementary school students around the country begin their day by reciting something that is in complete contradiction with the separation between church and state.

Those people who don't have a problem with saying "under God" may suggest that non-believers simply refrain from reciting that portion of the Pledge.

This sounds simple enough, but it also creates a line between those who believe in God and those who don't. It makes children feel like they are outsiders if they don't believe in God or believe in another religion that does not worship a god. Being expected to say the United States is a nation "under God" implies that these children who don't believe in God are unpatriotic when in fact, God and our nation don't have anything to do with one another.

Decisions about religion can be crucial in identifying who we are at a young age and repeating a Pledge that praises God may influence that identity. Children of a less "American" religion may feel pressured to disassociate themselves from their religious and cultural beliefs in order to assimilate.

The inclusion of "under God" may be important to some people who believe this is a nation protected and influenced by God. However, it is just as important for those Americans who feel alienated by its inclusion, that it be removed.

Our founding fathers wanted to prevent American citizens from experiencing religious persecution by constructing laws that separate church and state and giving us religious freedom. This nation does not have a national religion and allowing "under God" in our Pledge implies that we do.

Today we have a similar mind frame as when the Eisenhower administration inserted "under God" into the Pledge, in that we are a nation that fears diversity. Saying that we live in a nation "under God" tells the youth of our country that if you are without God, you are un-American. That is the kind of message that leads to religious persecution, the very thing our Founding Fathers were attempting to protect us against when they established the First Amendment.



KELLEY LUGEA



Illustration by AnnaCorey

NO

The clause "under God" is part of our history and should not be omitted.

In my 15-something years of public education, I have recited the Pledge of Allegiance more than a thousand times, and never in my opinion did I feel like I was being brainwashed into believing in God.

The two-word reference to God inside our routine civic exercise is not a prayer, nor was it meant to be one.

When the words "under God" were added to the Pledge on Flag Day of June 14, 1954, it emphasized the American tradition of faith written in the Declaration of Independence.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the addition, saying, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

Those who go against the Pledge know nothing of the values placed by the U.S. Constitution and basically are spitting in the face of our Founding Fathers. These are the grounds on which our country stands.

Had there been a question of the meaning of the added clause when it was first presented in 1954, perhaps we wouldn't be having this debate now. But for more than 50 years, this has been the law, and it should stay that way.

Plus, this issue must be examined in context. Taking out the words "under God" would start a whole series of ridiculous modifications, each affecting every little aspect of our lives. Will we be banned from singing "God Bless America"? Will the term "so help me God" be taken out of the pledge as the president is sworn in? Are the mints going to need to reproduce billions in new currency because "In God we trust" just won't cut it? And I'm sure even Michael Newdow, the man who took the case to court when he said the Pledge was unconstitutional, uses His name in vain like many of us do.

No, there is no need to take out or substitute the words "under God" from our Pledge of Allegiance. In fact, the law doesn't even require teachers to force their students to say the pledge if they choose not to. If you've got a problem with saying the pledge, then don't say it. It's that simple.

Citizens are so lucky to be in a country as free as the United States. Other countries, where religion is the way of life, aren't so flexible.

Stop trying to change the words. They were put there for a reason. And they have worked peacefully for half a century.

The Pledge is not just words — it represents our restored faith in our country. If people want to change the Pledge, then perhaps they should change countries.



PRISCILLA WOO

Priscilla Woo is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Kelley Lugea is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

COMPILED BY DAVIDA ROSS; PHOTOS BY PHIL BEDROSSIAN

campusvoices



"Yes. There should be a separation of church and state."

Morgan Chivers
junior,
global studies



"Yes. Church and school should be separate."

Briana Holland
sophomore,
undeclared



"Yes. Religion does not belong in the classroom."

Vijay Vanniarajan
graduate student,
theatre arts



"No. If people don't like it, they don't have to say it."

Jenny Sun
junior,
nutrition



"No. I just said the Pledge in school. I never really considered the meaning."

Ashlee Jemmott
freshman,
occupational therapy



"No. It is a part of our country's history that should be left alone."

Josh Metzler
graduate student,
psychology

JOHN MYERS
ERIK LACAYO
PETER CLARK
EMMANUEL LOPEZ
KEVIN YUEN
ELIZABETH NGUYEN
AND
SHAMINDER DULAI
RYAN BALBUENA
AND
YVONNE PINGUE
JOE SHREVE
AND
SHANNON BARRY
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Only letters between 200 to 400 words will be considered for publication.

Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

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SPARTAN SOLUTIONS

The days left to drop classes are slowly coming to and end

Hello,

I have a problem and wanted a solution. Actually, I got the waiver of my prerequisite in this semester, but even then I thought of taking it in this semester just to refresh. But the course schedule of that professor seems to be very time consuming, and my other major courses are getting affected. Is there any possibility that I can still drop it? To whom should I go and get the permission to drop?

Meenakshi

We are now past San Jose State University's census date, which is when the campus figures out how many students are in each class and how much funding it needs from the state.

All, however, is not lost. You can still drop a class by submitting a late-drop petition, which is currently available at the front desk in the Student

Services Center. It used to be available online at http://acadsvcs.sjsu.edu/forms/late_drop.pdf, but as of Tuesday afternoon, the link was not working.

On the form, students must select which of the following circumstances are preventing them from completing the class: military service, death in the family, divorce, employment issues, a natural disaster, personal issues or health issues.

Administrators warn that filing a late drop is not as simple as checking a box. Students must also submit documentation of their special circumstances. For example, in the case of military service, students would have to copy the orders from their commanding officers.

Students also need to write a personal statement explaining why they couldn't drop the class before

the drop date.

The forms must be turned in before the last day of instruction of the semester and can be submitted to Academic Services.

In Meenakshi's case, taking too many classes may not get the late drop approved, unless there are other special circumstances.

How can I apply for a San Jose State University e-mail address?

SJSU does not hand out e-mail addresses to its students like many other universities do. Kishwer, a student assistant at the Information Technology Support Services help desk, said the reason SJSU asks students to apply for an e-mail address is so the university can make

sure no one signs up for an account under someone else's name.

The first step is to go to <https://notesapps2.sjsu.edu/apps/admin/unixam.nsf> and fill out the form including your SJSU ID number, your full name, your phone number and your desired codeword.

After filling out the form, a page will state when you can pick up your new e-mail address, usually a few days after you submit the form online. You must pick up your address in person at the ITSS help desk in room 117B of Washington Square Hall. Be sure to bring your Tower Card.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the help desk at 924-2377.

John Myers is the Spartan Daily executive editor. "Spartan Solutions" appears every other Wednesday in print and occasionally online.



JOHN MYERS

SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

Pre-Optometry Club of SJSU

There will be a general meeting from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in room 249 of Duncan Hall. For more information, e-mail preoptsjsu@yahoo.com.

Vietnamese Student Association

There will be a general meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Pacifica room of the Student Union. For more information, contact Chinh Vu at 821-7444.

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry

Mass will be held at 12:10 p.m. in the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel.

Bhakti Yoga Club

There will be a meeting from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Guadalupe room of the Student Union. For more information, e-mail bhrungaraji@yahoo.com.

Career Center

A course titled "Resume Writing 101" will be held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Career Center. For information, contact Marisa Staker at 924-6171.

SJSU Study Abroad Office

There will be an information session at 3 p.m. in room 104 of the Faculty Offices building.

Campus Dialogue

There will be a discussion on what it means to be an educated person from noon to 1 p.m. in room 101 of the Instructional Resource Center. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at 924-3508.

Socrates Cafe

There will be a meeting from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pacifica room of the Student Union. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at 924-3508.

Campus Reading Program

There will be a "Nickel and Dimed" Jeopardy competition from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Peer Mentor Center. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at 924-3508.

NASA Pre-College Program

There will be a presentation of NASA's pre-college program from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 225 of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library.

THURSDAY

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry

Mass will be held at 12:10 p.m. in the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel.

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry

The Alpha Omega Student Fellowship will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. in the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel. For more information, contact Kay Polintan at 938-1610.

Asian Baptist Student Koinonia

There will be a Bible study at 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe of the Student Union. For more information, contact 499-7153.

The Art of Living

There will be a workshop titled "Existence is a fact, living is an art" held from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Grace Church on 10th and San Fernando streets. For more information, contact Sachin Bhatia at 772-5050.

The Listening Hour Concert Series

There will be a chamber music concert from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in room 150 of the Music building.

The Salty Josh Zinman



Got Problems? New column helps students

Got an SJSU related problem or question? Too busy to solve it yourself? Want someone else to help you? Well, worry no longer. In his new column "Spartan Solutions," the Spartan Daily's very own Executive Editor John Myers will do his best to answer two questions submitted by students in each column. Just go to www.thespartandaily.com and click on letters to submit your problem or question. Make sure to include your name, year, major and contact information.

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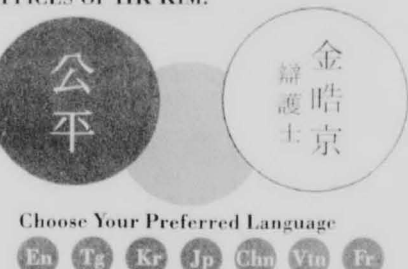
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Broncos trample Spartans in three

BY CHEETO BARRERA
Daily Staff Writer

SANTA CLARA — The San Jose State University women's volleyball team suffered its first loss in three matches as it was swept by Santa Clara University in the opening contest of the 2005 Rivalry Series 20-30, 27-30, 22-30 Tuesday night in Santa Clara.

The Spartans, who fell to 7-7 overall, held their only significant lead in the third game when they went up 7-4 over the Broncos (11-1 overall), who are ranked 15th in the nation by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

"They were very good," said Spartan head coach Craig Choate about Santa Clara. "They were just stronger and faster than us. But the big difference, which has been the case this season, is the girls don't understand how good they are. They can still play with these teams."

Down 22-12 in the third game, SJSU cut the lead to 22-18, but that

was after Santa Clara went on a 9-2 run of its own.

"Craig does a great job with his squad," said Bronco head coach Jon Wallace. "This is a huge match that I never take lightly."

Outside hitter Cassie Perret and middle blocker Anna Cmaylo recorded four kills between them in the third game. They had 14 and 12 kills for the match, respectively.

But the Spartan slayer was outside hitter Brittany Lowe, who led all hitters with 17 kills. Four members of the Santa Clara team ended the night with more than 10 kills.

"We've been like that all season," Wallace said. "We've been strong and our passing has done a great job."

Middle blocker Dyana Thompson was the only Spartan who recorded double-digit kills with 11 on 18 swings with no errors. Behind her was outside hitter Jennifer Senftleben, who scored nine kills.

While the Spartans were able to keep pace in game one — tying the

game at 7-7 — they quickly fell behind to the Broncos.

The Spartans only slightly improved their hitting in game two, scoring 12 kills on 32 attempts while committing five errors — a .219 hitting percentage.

On defense for the night, Santa Clara foiled more attacks than SJSU when the team recorded 52 digs to the Spartans' 37.

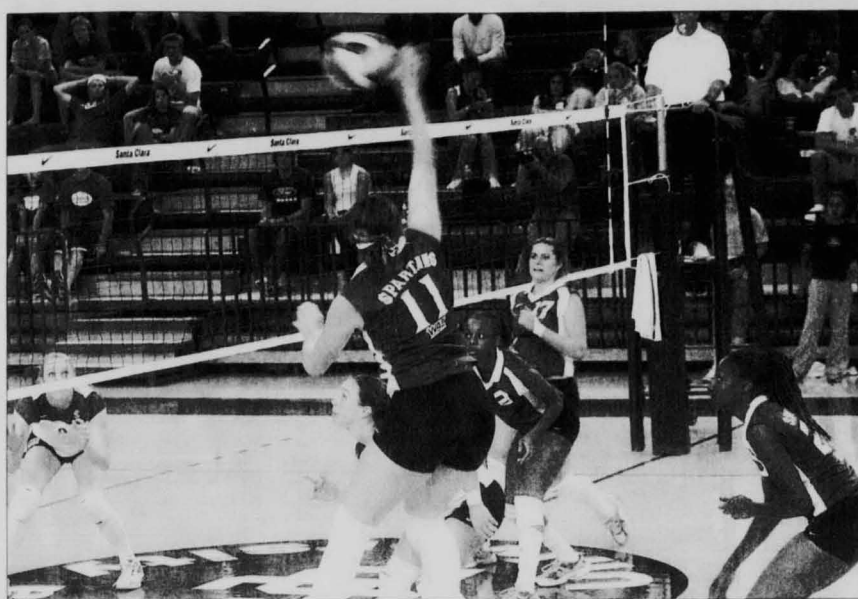
Libero Jessie Shull, who leads the Spartan defense with 285 digs on the season including the Santa Clara game, recorded just seven on the night.

"Now you know that is bad if they are getting it by her," Choate said.

Shull said that after the game the Spartans went up against a strong team in Santa Clara who were just too quick for them.

"We had a hard time getting our attacks through," Shull said. "Everything we threw at them, they were able to dig out."

"We played well, but not with the energy level we needed to have."



PHIL BEDROSSIAN / DAILY STAFF

Kristina Conrad, an outside hitter, spikes the ball during the third game of a nonconference match against Santa Clara University on Tuesday night at the Leavey Center. The Spartans lost the match 20-30, 27-30, 22-30.

Spartans soccer team regrouping, set to face Santa Clara

BY KELLEY LUGEA
Daily Staff Writer

The Spartan men's soccer team faces off against Santa Clara University on Thursday after coming off of two crushing losses last week against the University of San Francisco 3-1 and Cal Poly University 2-1.

MEN'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

Next home game:
Thursday vs. Santa Clara, 7 p.m.

Assistant coach Chris Behler said last week's game against Cal Poly was the team's worst performance of the season.

"The guys know that's a game they

should have won," said Behler. "I hope that sits with them for the rest of the season and they realize that when you lose a game you should have won, you put every ounce of energy and all your heart into every match to follow."

Santa Clara University (5-2-0), ranked 12th in the nation, is going into the game on Thursday after a 3-0 shutout against Florida International University.

"The win over the weekend was a confidence builder for us and FIU is typically a playoff team," said Cameron Rast, Santa Clara University head coach.

The Broncos have outscored their opponents 14-7 in seven games and the Spartans (3-2-2) are expecting what could be their toughest match up yet, said forward Johnny Gonzalez.

"Preparation will help us put the weekend

behind us and get ready for them," Gonzalez said. "They're a tough team and they're high in the rankings. We are going to prepare well and then it's all about performance on Thursday."

The Spartans are hoping the game on Sunday was their final loss and want to build their confidence back up so they can focus on the game against Santa Clara, said midfielder Daniel Perez.

"We just need to put the game against Cal Poly behind us and get ready," Perez said. "We need to communicate more, think and be more consistent."

While the Spartan's attempt to forget their recent losses, the Broncos are hoping to remain confident and bring Santa Clara another win, Rast said.

"We are looking forward to our game against San Jose," Rast said. "It's a great

rivalry and it's a great game. It's always a super-difficult match when we play at Spartan Stadium."

This week kicks off the Rivalry Series between SJSU and SCU.

Several sports will compete throughout the week with each winning team receiving points to be totaled at the end of the series.

Behler is anticipating an exciting match and hopes the rivalry will fuel the Spartans' competitive side.

"Santa Clara is always an easy game to get up for," Behler said. "It's a local rivalry and it's always a grudge match."

If you can't get up for this game, something's wrong," he said.

The Spartans take on Santa Clara University at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Spartan Stadium.

VILLAGE - Some residents hang clothing from windows

continued from page 1

-nity, Hansen said.

One time there were shoes and pants hanging from windows, and those had to be taken down, Nevin said.

Along with being used for verbal expression, windows in Building C have also been used as entryways, especially on the first floor.

"A lot of people sneak in through the windows, not through the doors," Throne said.

Kibbish said consequences for breaking the rules in Building C

include judiciary action through the housing department and possible eviction from the building.

Kibbish added that she thinks some residents aren't being very mindful about the building's upkeep.

"I think the residents are being irresponsible about this building," Kibbish said.

"It's brand new and there are holes in the walls and (ink) on the walls," she said.

She lived in one of the classic residence halls last year and knows what it is like to sleep in a bed and walk down halls where

hundreds have been before her.

"They shouldn't be taking this for granted," she said.

"It's kind of disappointing to me that some people can be like that and completely ruin something that people have worked so hard on."

Hansen believes that the residents of Building C behave well overall, but some residents would beg to differ.

Nevin said no one realizes how lucky they are.

"No one appreciates what they have," Nevin said. "It's turning into Joe West."

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European students pit U.S. bars against home

BY THERESA ALSTER
Daily Senior Staff Writer

Living at San Jose State University has required exchange student Jason Le Miere to make some adjustments. He will return to Roehampton University in London after the fall semester as a media and culture major.

Typically, in England, his classes did not require weekly reading or have midterms. Rather, he crammed at the end of the semester, he said. Students here are expected to speak up in class instead of sitting quietly as they do in England. America's enormous food portions have left him feeling sick. He explained that the most difficult adjustment for him has been living without a university pub.

"That's really hard for me," Le Miere said. "That's a main part of our culture. I really miss that." He said he drinks ales and imported American Miller beer in England.

Thibaut Tertois, a computer engineering graduate student from France, joined him to compare off-campus micro-brews and "European" pubs in the area.

Tertois likes Belgian beer. One of his favorites is Leffe Triple Abbey Beer, he said. In his opinion, there aren't many good French beers. Regarding American beers, he thinks it is strange that practically every brand has a light version. Le Miere said he believes that one should avoid beer altogether instead of drinking light beer.

Tied House

The first stop was Tied House at 67 N. San Pedro. They each ordered a flight of eight house-

brewed beers. A waiter strategically placed each 5-ounce sample on a sheet with corresponding descriptions. A free sample of "Extra of California" was also delivered. The server explained that it was the Tied House version of Corona.

Tertois said that Jacques Chirac, president of France, drinks Corona. The Tied House version was too sweet for him.

With water and garlic fries cleansing the palate, Alpine Gold was next. They both disliked it.

Tertois said that Cascade Amber had a "strong beginning and is weird at the end." After swallowing these micro-brewed beers, they seemed to get stuck in his throat rather than move down to his stomach.

It doesn't taste right to Le Miere, either.

"Something's not right," he said.

After looking forward to the Irish Oatmeal Stout, Le Miere said it was pretty good, but "not on the same level as Guinness, but not bad."

For the seasonal beer listed on the sheet, they were served "Extra Special Beer."

"It's extra bad," said Le Miere, "too sweet and too bitter at the same time."

"Extra bad special, not good," added Tertois.

The last two beers, passion fruit and amber light, were "girl beers," Tertois said. They tasted like beers he had tasted in France after grenadine syrup was added for sweetness.

"It tastes sweeter and the ladies prefer that usually," he said.

After nine micro-brewed beers, Le Miere and Tertois were ready to drink imported beers and rate the "imported pubs."

Katie Blooms

The next stop was Katie Blooms Irish Pub and Restaurant at 369 E. Campbell Ave. in Campbell. The interior was cold and loud. Tertois ordered a Belgian Stella Artois. As soon as the waitress handed Le Miere a Boddingtons, they moved to the patio.

It was the "best beer so far," Le Miere said. "It has a thick head, sweeter than back home."

Tertois describes his beer as not a particularly good beer, just a regular beer.

After trying Boddingtons, Tertois said, "Jason's beer is a typical English beer. It's more like a meal than a beverage."

King's Head

Around the corner, at the King's Head Pub and Restaurant at 201 Orchard City Dr., Le Miere described the English pub decor as "a bit stereotypical and over the top." They both liked the quieter atmosphere and entertainment by singer-songwriter Drew Harrison.

"For someone single who wants to find a girl, Katie Blooms is better," Tertois said. He ordered Newcastle Brown and said it was not perfect, but it was a good English beer.

To Le Miere, the London Pride beer tasted the same as it did in England.

"I like this place," Le Miere said. "It has good music and good atmosphere. I could come here regularly." Tertois agreed.

Tertois appreciated one aspect in particular. "It slides all the way down to my stomach," he said.

And they agreed on something else: European beers are so much better.



DIANA DIROY / DAILY STAFF

Jason Le Miere, a British international student majoring in media and culture, compares American beers to beers from overseas at the Tied House on Thursday.

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- 36 Western plateaus
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- 59 Ostrich kin
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- 69 "Psycho" setting
- 70 By and by
- 71 Humdinger
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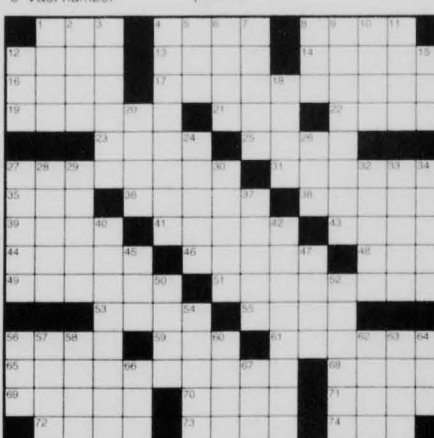
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