

# SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose State University 150th Anniversary

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## Louisiana Winter project seeks national awareness for Gulf Coast

### Students join 25 universities in relief effort

DIANA DIROY

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Surrounded by seashells, cabinet drawers, rusted bed frames, and remnants of what used to be a porcelain toilet, a stuffed Barney doll rests on his side. Barbie is also found stuck in between a fluorescent pink rollerblade and wooden planks from a caved-in roof. And stairs that once led to the porch of a one-story, two-bedroom house now lead to a flat open-air concrete floor surrounded by heaps of rubble.

A year-and-a-half after Hurricane Katrina hit, 25 San Jose State University students walked through the damage left behind in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans.

"The silence was so deafening, the devastation so apparent," Julian Rosenburg, a junior majoring in political science said, when describing the Lower Ninth Ward. "I've been to Africa, Asia and Latin America, and I've never

**"I found the urgency to help others that fell victim to Hurricane Katrina."**  
-Noelle Mundy, sophomore, biological sciences

seen anything like this before."

SJSU students, along with 100 other students from 25 universities, a group who calls itself Louisiana Winter, visited communities in the Gulf Coast for a weeklong trip from Jan. 14 to Jan. 21 to promote a student initiative called the Gulf Coast Civics Works Project.

Project participants say the project aims for Congress to pass legislation that would bring 100,000 career-oriented jobs to residents from Katrina-affected communities with the intent to restore neighborhoods by building housing, schools, hospitals and roads.

"I found the urgency to help others that fell victim to Hurricane Katrina," Noelle Mundy, a sophomore majoring in biological sciences, said. "Everyone has the perception that everything is okay, but the devastation is still there. I felt it was my responsibility to bring it to light."

Louisiana Winter is an idea that emulates Mississippi Freedom Summer 1964, when students went to Mississippi to fight for African American's right to vote. The idea of Louisiana Winter took the interest of several SJSU students when Sociology Professor Scott Myers-



PHOTOS BY DIANA DIROY / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

From right, Rochelle Smarr, Noelle Mundy and Joshua Barousse echo the words, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" Louisiana Winter students marched through downtown New Orleans during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March on Jan. 15.

Lipton collaborated with students about the idea during his Sociology Internship class.

After students watched Spike Lee's documentary film, "When the Levees Broke," during San Jose State's Student Homeless Alliance's event Under the Stars in November 2006, it became imperative to the students that something must be done.

"The media covered the disaster of the hurricane, but they are not paying attention to the continuous effects of the disaster," said Seychelle Martinez, a senior majoring in Sociology.

SJSU students kicked off the weeklong trip

by greeting participants from North Carolina, New York, Mississippi, Oregon, Pennsylvania and several other states during the orientation on Jan. 14.

What followed during the course of the week was a rally in front of the closed-down Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in the Lower Ninth Ward, marching through downtown New Orleans during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, attending a speech given by Cornell West at Tulane University and talking to Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Kay Bethea, a Mississippi resident who said her house was under 26-feet of water, told students, "I expected very little from the government, and got even less."

Louisiana Winter students passed out pamphlets throughout communities, organized town hall meetings and visited residents door to door, which allowed the community to speak to the students about their stories of neglect and hope, and their concerns of what needs to be done.

"Children along the Gulf Coast are going to school in trailers and children are coming home to trailers ... it is continuous trauma," Martinez said. "The nation stopped paying attention to the trauma."

Students who participated in Louisiana Winter will continue to organize and support the Gulf Civics Works Project at their campuses and communities throughout the nation.

Diana Diroy, an SJSU student, traveled to New Orleans as a part of Louisiana Winter. To learn more about Louisiana Winter go to [www.solvingpoverty.com](http://www.solvingpoverty.com).



## SJSU signs with labor rights group

MITCHELL ALAN PARKER

STAFF WRITER

As of Jan. 8, San Jose State University is officially affiliated with the Worker Rights Consortium, a non-profit organization that seeks to ensure colleges and universities don't purchase clothing and goods — bearing their school logo — from factories that don't respect the basic rights of workers, according to their Web site.

The site says the Consortium works with labor experts to inspect factory conditions to investigate wages and benefits (adjusted to the cost of living in each nation), hours of work, overtime compensation, child labor, forced labor, health and safety and women's rights to name a few. According to the Consortium, these codes of conduct are what the organization works to improve on.

The sudden alignment of SJSU with the Consortium after seven years of protests is somewhat of an enigma.

"I thought we were in the WRC five years ago," says current SJSU President Don Kassing.

What happened, according to Austin Geiger, a senior majoring in sociology who says he is responsible for SJSU finally signing an agreement with the Consortium, was that sometime in 2002 a joint resolution was passed by the Associated Students and the Academic Senate for SJSU to become affiliated with the Consortium, but nothing happened. Geiger said that the measure and its implementation got lost in a bureaucratic tailspin. Geiger, and fellow student Darcie Kiyan, said they found the mistake while doing research in a social action class.

After that, Geiger said that along with the SJSU clubs Students for Justice and Students Advocating Global Education, and Megha Patel, director of Faculty Affairs, worked vigorously — and successfully — to push the Consortium pact through.

see WRC, page 4

## Senate alters registration priorities

DAVID ZUGNONI

STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University Academic Senate passed a policy on Dec. 4, 2006 that will change class registration priorities to allow seniors working toward their first baccalaureate degree to register for classes before students working toward their second baccalaureate degree.

Before this policy, the registration priority list did not include second baccalaureate students, who registered for classes along with graduate students, leaving little room in many classes for first baccalaureate seniors.

"The policy didn't mention second baccalaureate students at all, and that had to be cleaned up," said Sigurd Meldal, computer software engineering professor at SJSU and member of the SJSU Academic Senate.

Meldal said that discussions about a new policy were the result of complaints from first baccalaureate students who could not sign up for classes due to classes filling up.

"The second baccalaureate students used to have the same priority as graduate students, and so second baccalaureate students were squeezing out

### Policy polished to place seniors above other groups

With second baccalaureate students mentioned in the priority list for registration, the list now reads as follows:

**Group 1:** Priority students

**Group 2:** First time freshmen

**Group 3:** Graduating students (seniors, graduate students, second baccalaureate students)

**Group 4:** Graduate students

**Group 5:** Seniors

**Group 6:** Second baccalaureate students

**Group 7:** Juniors

**Group 8:** All other students

Students in groups 2 through 8 register based on rotating alphabetical cycles within each group.

see PRIORITY, page 4

## Excellence award nominees announced

Finalists include three professors and vice president of student affairs

JOSH WEAVER

STAFF WRITER

Last month, three San Jose State University faculty members and one administrator were honored with nominations for the 2007 Wang Family Award of Excellence and are eligible for a \$20,000 award.

A statement released by the president's office said the four nominees were selected from, "a list of strong candidates."

This year's nominees representing SJSU are Gloria Weddington, professor of communicative disorders and sciences, Daniel Goldston, professor of mathematics, Amy Glazer, a professor in the television, radio, film and theatre department and Veril Phillips, the vice president for student affairs.

According to the California State University Web site, The Wang Family Award of Excellence was established in 1998 when Stanley T. Wang donated one million dollars to start a ten-

year program aimed at rewarding outstanding faculty and administrators within the California State University system.

This is the ninth year of the original 10-year program that annually awards five \$20,000 awards totaling one hundred thousand dollars a year.

The CSU Web site also explains that the annual award singles out "CSU faculty and administrators who through extraordinary commitment and dedication have distinguished themselves

by exemplary contributions and achievements in their academic disciplines and areas of assignment."

"I appreciate being nominated," Weddington said. "I don't feel I have a chance of winning, but it is still kind of nice."

Since 1992 Weddington said she has single-handedly brought in nine million dollars of federal grant money to help fund SJSU students.

see AWARD, page 5



## MOVIE QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Mama says they was magic shoes. They could take me anywhere."

—Tom Hanks, 'Forest Gump,' 1994

## Fahrenheit isn't the right temperature for college kids



LAUREN SAGAR/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cars pass by Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge located on East San Fernando Street.

David Zugnoni

STAFF WRITER

Seeing Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge from the outside a few times, with bouncers looking like trendy Secret Service agents guarding the gaudy entrance complete with color-changing walls, I thought I was going to hate it, but I was pleasantly surprised.

Fahrenheit, located at 99 E. San Fernando St., on the corner of Third Street, is a one-and-a-half-year-old upscale restaurant/lounge that turns to a nightclub on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

I went for dinner on a Tuesday night, so I didn't see what the place is like when the tables go away and the music gets loud, but in its lounge form it is a comfortable place to eat, drink and do what the name says, lounge.

The lighting is just right with a very red theme and gentle lights hanging from the high ceilings. Color-changing lights like the ones seen on the exterior are nestled above the bar, next to televisions showing ESPN.

The pulsating house music seemed silly to be eating dinner to, but its reasonable volume allowed my guest and me to converse without raising our voices at all.

While it is not my type of place, I was surprised to leave moderately satisfied at a price of \$39 for the two of us, including tip.

We shared three "small dishes," which ranged from \$8 to \$12 a piece, and each got a soft drink. At \$5 for a glass or bottle of beer, and \$10 to \$12 for one of the lounge's specialty drinks, we passed on the alcohol.

However, if you don't mind paying \$10 for something that comes in a glass, the list of 30 unique drinks will rile up your taste-buds. My favorite was the "Kiss of Death," a shooter whose main ingredient is Everclear brand 151 proof grain alcohol, and the only drink on the list that is limited to one per customer. There is also a long wine list and a full bar.

The dinner menu contains "Asian fusion" dishes, many of which I wouldn't expect most college students to have ever seen before.

The wraps and green bean and tofu salad had that peanuty overtone found in Thai food, while the juicy skirt steak tasted like it came from Outback Steakhouse. All of the food was very tasty, filling and fun to look at, but for the price I expected it to be either exquisite or larger than what we were served.

There were a lot of vegetarian options, such as a variety of salads, noodles and the option to

substitute vegetables for meat.

Our waitress was very attentive while waiting on five other parties, and the rest of the employees were friendly and very dressed up, although seeing multiple employees with dyed black hair with red splotches to match their black shirts and red ties was over the top and just plain funny.

Fahrenheit is not really for college students. It might be the perfect setting for a special occasion or a romantic dinner, but there's a reason that most of the patrons are older looking folks in business clothes.

College students looking for a fun dance club would probably fit into the scene better at other downtown nightclubs unless they are feeling and looking extra fancy.

If you have heard that Fahrenheit has karaoke and live jazz nights, don't get excited. Our waitress informed me that karaoke and live jazz nights have been cancelled because they failed to attract big crowds.

Fahrenheit is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. There is a \$5 to \$10 cover charge after 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

## Switchfoot is teeny-boppin'

David Zugnoni

STAFF WRITER

Switchfoot's newest release "Oh! Gravity," kept my hopes up that I might find the needle in today's mainstream rock haystack for two minutes and 15 seconds. That's 15 seconds less than the length of its radio-friendly first track, "Oh! Gravity.."

CD

review



captivate listeners, so I was not surprised that I ended up disinterested in the rest of the album.

If you're not sickened by the same old poppy vocal style that you've been hearing on the radio for the past seven or eight years, then the exhausted clichés that appear throughout the album will be sure to have you checking your temperature.

The lyrics to "American Dream" seem like a collection of lyrics that were edited out of the billion other songs about the shallowness of money for being too cliché, while the lyrics to "Amateur Lovers" and "Head Over Heels (In This Life)" sound like snippets of sappy love letters written by teenagers.

At times, I felt like I would enjoy the music better if I didn't understand English, but perhaps the vocalist's voice would make my skin crawl without understanding the content. While talented, the vocalist certainly caters to the immature ears of early teenagers.

The vocals ruin what could be good musical parts in many cases, but sometimes the music comes off as cheesy by itself.

Like the song, "Oh! Gravity," I was close to putting my stamp of approval on the song "Faust, Midas, and Myself," for its layering of guitars and darker atmosphere than the rest of the album. Unfortunately, before the track was done, that annoying pop-punk sound reared its ugly head from out of nowhere once again.

It seems that Switchfoot just does not know how to write the end of a song.

Some chunks of songs really

work, a few of which last a couple minutes. But no matter how far a song strays, it always returns to some musical or lyrical cliché.

One thing this album does not suffer from is a repeating formula. While each song may contain overzealous music or worn-out sentiments, at least they each have their own identity.

"It seems that Switchfoot just does not know how to write the end of a song."

"Dirty Second Hands" had me somewhat interested with its variety of guitar sounds all playing at once, reminiscent of Days of the New and further off, Alice in Chains, while "Burn Out Bright" and "4:12" carried an R.E.M., Goo Goo Dolls vibe.

The one redeeming factor about the album is that it might stretch open the ears of amateur listeners and help them appreciate other styles of music. Many Switchfoot listeners may not be accustomed to hearing acoustic guitars or a bluesy guitar solo along with their preferred three and four minute pop-punk songs.

Don't buy this CD unless you are a fan of the genre or the band. It's for fourteen-year-olds and record stores will have a lot of used copies of it in a couple months.

All CD reviews are based on a five star rating

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SJSU TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

## WRC- After 5 years on the shelf, Kassing signs anti-sweatshop agreement

Continued from page 1

"Now we can begin the implementation process," Geiger said.

Five years ago, Dale Weaver, a then third-year graduate student majoring in history, said he started the campaign to urge SJSU's then-president Robert Caret to sign on to the Consortium.

"It is a victory, albeit years behind the curve, but a victory nonetheless. It is a victory for all the workers we brought to campus 'back in the day' to discuss why we needed to affiliate with the WRC," Weaver said. "I had hoped SJSU would be one of the first 20-30 WRC member schools, but I'll still take number 166!"

Geoff Crockwell, a student who was involved in the original movement five years ago, then a political science major and member of Students for Justice, said he publicly confronted then-president Robert Caret during a presentation by feminist author Gloria Steinem in the Morris Dailey Auditorium.

According to a Spartan Daily article in February 2002, during a question-and-answer period between Steinem and the audience, Crockwell used his question to confront Caret directly, asking "When is our school going to sign on to the Worker Rights Consortium? When can we meet about this?"

Crockwell said Caret dodged the question by explaining that SJSU was involved with the Fair Labor

Association, which is also known to monitor factory conditions. But the labor association was criticized by students, who said that half of its board was headed by corporations, Crockwell said.

**"It is a victory, albeit years behind the curve, but a victory nonetheless."  
-Dale Weaver,  
SJSU alumnus**

"The real purpose of the confrontation that night," Crockwell says of the altercation that occurred five years ago, "was not only to raise awareness of the issue, which I was helping Dale [Weaver] and SFJ, but to get Caret on record that he would indeed agree to meet with Students for Justice to talk directly about the issue. It was a very important moment and something I remain proud of."

And it worked, sort of. Crockwell and the Students for Justice were allowed to meet with Caret and SJSU administrators.

"It turned out to be pure lip service as several months later Caret refused to sign on the WRC after several other bureaucratic hoops had been cleared," Crockwell said.

Scott Nova, executive director of the Consortium, said that signing on means that "universities require public disclosure of factory

locations, and because universities support independent monitoring through the WRC, it is possible for us to bring a great deal of pressure to bear on individual factories, and it has resulted in significant improvements for workers in a number of production facilities."

"By joining the WRC, a university becomes part of the most effective labor rights enforcement mechanism currently in operation in the global apparel industry and the only one that operates independent from the apparel industry," Nova said.

The fight, however, is not over, Nova said. Although signing the Consortium is a good first step, more still needs to be done to enforce the codes of conduct, which Nova said are "seriously undermined by the manner in which global apparel brands deal with their overseas supplier factories."

"It's important to bear in mind that universities don't buy anything from factories," Nova said.

Schools license their name and logo to sports apparel companies. That company then gives a contract to one of its suppliers that manufacture the clothing and goods. The problem, Nova said, is with the pricing practices of the apparel companies.

"Most factories have neither the financial means, nor the incentive, to respect workers rights," he said. The factories, Nova said, don't receive sufficient funding to cover the cost of producing goods under

favorable conditions and apparel companies don't reward factories with long-term orders for making the appropriate improvements in the rights of workers.

The next step, Nova said, would be to affiliate with the Designated Suppliers Program, which the Consortium helped design.

"The DSP solves this problem by ensuring that factories receive fair prices for their products and that those factories that do comply with university codes are rewarded with long-term commitments of business," Nova said. "Under the DSP, it will make economic sense for factories to respect the rights of workers—which is not the case under the apparel companies' existing practices."

Nova said the prices companies give factories are so low that the only way they can afford to manufacture goods is to ignore workers' rights.

The apparel companies, Nova said, under pressure from student activists and university administrations, tell factories to improve their working conditions, but because the companies are unwilling to pay the factories prices that would ensure favorable conditions, these improvements never develop.

On the other hand, Benjamin Powell, director of the center on entrepreneurial innovation at The Independent Institute and assistant professor of economics at SJSU, headed a group that researched factory conditions overseas and

published their report in the Christian Science Monitor.

"We examined the apparel industry in 10 Asian and Latin American countries often accused of having sweatshops and then we looked at 43 specific accusations of unfair wages in 11 countries in the same regions," Powell said. "Our findings may seem surprising. Not only were sweatshops superior to the dire alternatives economists usually mentioned, but they often provided a better-than-average standard of living for their workers."

**"I was happy to hear that SJSU finally agreed to join the WRC."  
-Geoff Crockwell,  
SJSU alumnus**

Furthermore, the report places some blame on activists.

"Anti-sweatshop activists—who argue that consumers should abstain from buying products made in sweatshops—harm workers by trying to stop the trade that funds some of the better jobs in their economies," Powell said.

Nevertheless, after all these years, those involved and those who are passionate about the issue, are breathing a sigh of relief now that the Consortium has indeed been signed by SJSU.

"I was happy to hear that SJSU

finally agreed to join the WRC and applaud the efforts of the students who continued to pursue this cause after myself and others had moved on," said Crockwell, who now works in Washington, D.C. in the office of Congressman Mike Honda.

"This was a huge victory for social justice, and has been seven years in the making," Scott Myers-Lipton, associate professor of the sociology department at SJSU, whose students have worked on the issue over the years, said. "It is the single most important victory for social justice at SJSU in years. We're thrilled."

While many are quick to praise it as a factory, some agree that there is still plenty left to fight for. "The WRC is also a 'first step' based on the demonstrated need for a 'next step,' like the DSP," Weaver said. "If the Universities don't take this on, who will? Tell your student activist readers that they still have a campaign: the need to get SJSU on board with the DSP!"

Although SJSU could have technically skipped the Consortium and gone directly to the Designated Suppliers Program, Geiger said he felt that it was too much of a symbolic victory for those who have been involved for the past seven years.

"It meant a lot more to get the WRC passed since we've had this ongoing issue," Geiger said. "Our plan is to continue on and work toward the DSP. We're going to work to get the entire CSU system on board as well."

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## Priority- New policy may allow seniors better access to classes

Continued from page 1

first baccalaureate students," Meddal said.

Graduate student Elizabeth Kowal said she had trouble registering for classes when she was a junior and that all first baccalaureate students should have priority over second baccalaureate students.

"They really should let first baccalaureate students (register) before the second baccalaureate students because they are the ones who are really struggling to get their first degree and they need their classes," Kowal said. "It's a really important time for their career. It's really frustrating not to

get your classes."

Junior Jason Bryans said that his former college, Michigan State University, had a similar registration policy and that it worked out well.

**"I can definitely see why they would implement something like that."  
-Jason Bryans, junior**

"As you get to the end, you know what you need to take, and if you don't take it, then you're going to be waiting longer," Bryans said. "I can definitely see why they

would implement something like that."

Freshman Dameyon Ford said he thinks registration priorities should be done away with all together.

"It should be first come, first served," Ford said. "If the class fills up, that means we need more teachers. If the campus can't afford to have more teachers in that department, then they need to find a way to get more teachers in that department."

Zack Busse, a senior majoring in Sociology, pointed out that registering for classes could be easier for students in one department than students in another.

"I'm in Sociology and there's no trouble in getting classes at all," Busse said.

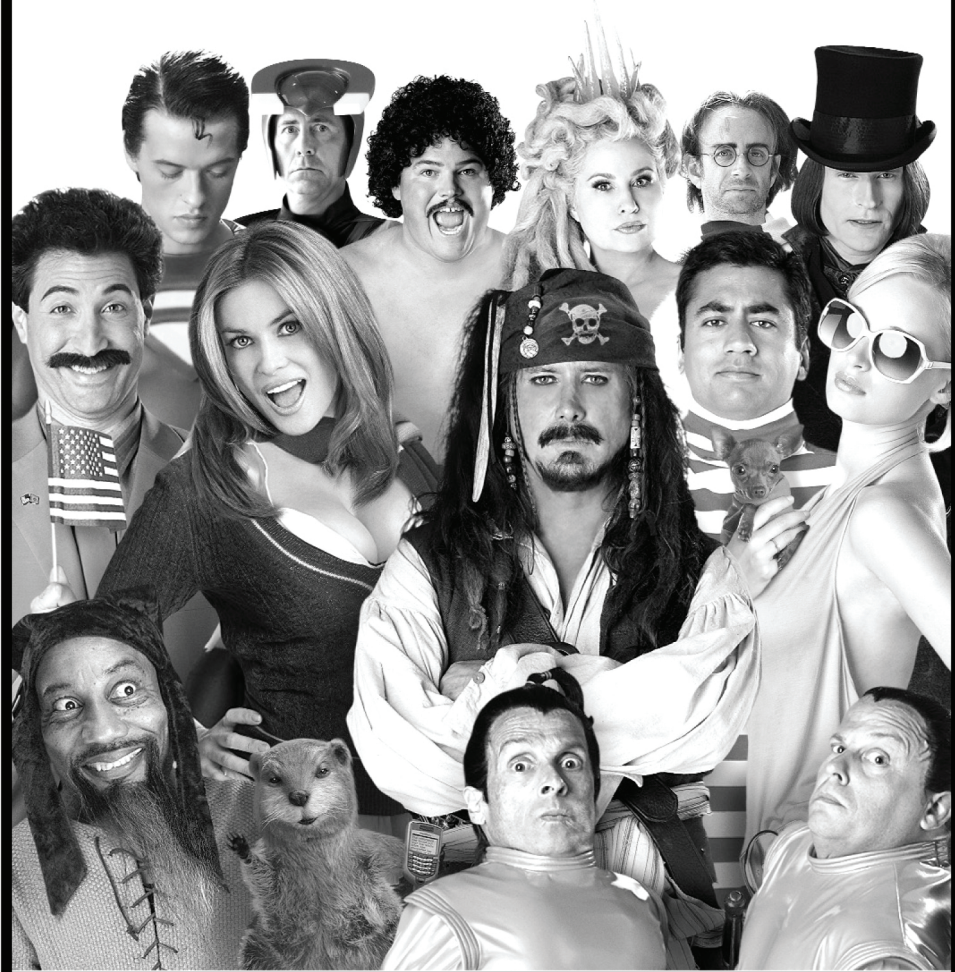
According to the SJSU Web site, second baccalaureate students accounted for 583, 1.9 percent, of SJSU's 29,975 students in Fall 2005.

The Academic Senate aims to implement the new policy for the Summer 2007 session if possible, and no later than Fall 2007, according to the policy statement.

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## BOWL BONANZA

ABOVE: The San Jose State University marching band and cheer squad stand before kickoff at University Stadium in Albuquerque.

RIGHT: SJSU students Lennon Protho-Jones (left) and Amanda Maneri (right) offer their full support to the Spartan football team at the New Mexico Bowl on Dec. 23.



ABOVE RIGHT: Cheer team members bundle-up and prepare for a rally that was held the night before the bowl in downtown Albuquerque.

RIGHT: Two SJSU fans kick back a few drinks at the pre-game party.



PHOTOS BY MARK POWELL/ STAFF WRITER



# NEED CLASSES?

CURRENT LIST AS OF 9/19/07

COURSE	SEC	DAYS	TIMES	ROOM	INSTRUCTOR	OPEN SEATS	
ADV 123	Radio-Television	1	W	1800-2045	DBH 133	ECKSTONE	48
ADV 130	Advanced Layout	1	W	1800-2045	DBH 222	BALDWIN	13
JOUR 61A	Online News Writing	80	ONLINE	ONLINE	ONLINE	LUNDSTROM	11
JOUR 132	Info Gathering on the internet	3	W	1200-1445	DBH 226	STOLL	8
JOUR 142	Beg Visual Journalism	1	MW	1030-1145	DBH 209	CHEERS	9
JOUR 142	Beg Visual Journalism	2	TBA	TBA		CHEERS	9
JOUR 145	Advanced Visual Jour	1	MW	1500-1615	DBH 209	CHEERS	13
JOUR 145	Advanced Visual Jour	2	TBA	TBA		CHEERS	13
JOUR 153	Magazine/Online Article Writing	2	TR	1330-1445	DBH 213	GOTLIFFE	10
JOUR 163	Audio/video streaming for Web "New Media Technologies"	1	MW	1500-1615	DBH 226	RUCKER	7
JOUR 163	Audio/video streaming for Web "New Media Technologies"	12	TR	1030-1145	DBH 226	GREENE	8
JOUR 163	Audio/video streaming for Web "New Media Technologies"	3	T	1800-2045	DBH 226	SLOAN	14
JOUR 163	Audio/video streaming for Web "New Media Technologies"	4	W	1800-2045	DBH 226	MCCUNE	6
JOUR 164	Electronic news gatherin TV	1	TR	1030-1145	DBH 221	BRAUNSTEIN	10
MCOM 72	Mass Comm & Society	1	MW	0900-1015	DBH 133	MCMANUS	15
MCOM 72	Mass Comm & Society	2	MW	1630-1745	DBH 133	CRAIG	21
MCOM 72	Mass Comm & Society	3	TR	1630-1745	DBH 133	CRAIG	39
MCOM 100W	Writing Workshop	5	TR	1330-1445	DBH 222	ULRICH	10
MCOM 101	Media Law & Ethics	1	MW	1030-1145	DBH 133	STAFF	35
MCOM 101	Media Law & Ethics	2	TR	1030-1145	DBH 133	SOKOLOFF	26
MCOM 101	Media Law & Ethics	3	TR	1200-1315	DBH 133	SOKOLOFF	31
MCOM 105	Lifestyles, Diversity & Media	1	MW	1330-1445	DBH 133	RUCKER	33
MCOM 106	Global Mass Communication	1	T	1800-2045	DBH 133	TILLINGHAST	36
MCOM 136	Press & Camps: WWII	1	TR	1030-1145	DBH 213	GOTLIFFE	12
MCOM 139	SPECIALIZED WRITING "NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINE DESIGN"	1	T	1800-2045	DBH 224	ULLOA	20

# NEED CLASSES?

FIRST-PERSON GAME EXPERIENCE:

## Coach Tomey's bowl trip

MARK POWELL

STAFF WRITER

but Tomey is so good that he can lead his team to a bowl win even while taking a bathroom break.

Lowery was fine, and no one watching on ESPN ever saw these moments in history occur. Only those of us lucky enough to attend the inaugural New Mexico Bowl this past Dec. 23, 2006 had such a privilege.

But there was much more to enjoy about the New Mexico Bowl other than one of the most famous "timeouts" in Spartan sports history. The city of Albuquerque had a whole week's worth of bowl-related experiences. I was lucky enough to take part in a couple days worth.

Night rallies, dinners and tailgating were some of the many events that took place to hype up Saturday's big game. And for even just a few days, SJSU appeared to really matter on a national scale. After the downtown rally that was held the night before the game, I looked for Coach Tomey to wish him luck, but I couldn't seem to find him anywhere.

Then it hit me: you have to drink a lot of water to stave off altitude sickness in a city like Albuquerque.

As Spartan football player Dwight Lowery lay on his back under the gaze of San Jose State's athletic trainers, head coach Dick Tomey did what he always does when one of his players suffers an injury: he ran onto the field to evaluate the extent of the injury for himself.

The blue- and gold-clad Spartan faithful, which grew louder than the hometown Lobo fans as the game progressed, were on the verge of chaos as Tomey sprinted toward a ready ambulance. He was possibly looking to help carry the All-American Lowery off the field. The situation looked serious. Tomey, however, raced past the ambulance and didn't stop until he reached... a portable toilet next to the end zone bleachers.

As the plastic door banged shut, a cheer went up from SJSU's fans.

This is awesome, I remember saying to myself. Not only were we going to win our first bowl game since the other George Bush was in office,



PHOTO BY MARK POWELL/ STAFF WRITER

Spartan Squad members, some of whom drove from San Jose to New Mexico just hours before the game, prepare to rush the field in the closing moments.





# Students' trip tours disaster-ravaged Lower Ninth Ward



ABOVE CENTER: Photos left in an abandoned home in New Orleans. ABOVE RIGHT: Students walked around the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans.

PHOTOS BY DIANA DIROY/ SPECIAL TO THE DAILY  
ABOVE: A car is stuck under a house in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, a year-and-a-half after Hurricane Katrina. RIGHT: As Jafar Pierre, center, receives a hair cut, Noelle Mundy, right, a sophomore majoring in biological sciences, announces to clients and barbers at the Crown Royal Barber Shop in New Orleans about Louisiana Winter.

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