

# Spartan Daily

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OCTOBER 2, 2007 // TUESDAY

## Library server out since Sunday; databases, catalog inaccessible

By NICK VERONIN

Copy Editor

Those trying to access the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Web site remotely or on campus have been unable to do so since Sunday when a power outage caused the library server to crash, a library clerk said.

As a result, SJSU students and all other library patrons cannot access the library's catalog and other online services — at least for the time being.

Mike Imada, a clerk at the library, said a circuit breaker went out on Sunday, causing the power outage and subsequent server failure.

Daniel Rabara, a junior accounting major, said he has not been inconvenienced by the power outage and its effects but could see how some students might be, especially if those students were trying to get assignments done at the last minute.

Chan Sek, an undeclared freshman, said he was having trouble finding the books he needed for class.

"Usually I type in my topic and it will narrow down a bunch of books," Sek said. "Without the database, you're basically looking at hundreds of books not knowing what you're looking for."

Sek said he needed the books

soon for upcoming homework assignments and said buying them didn't make sense.

"You only need them once for a certain project or an essay, and that's it," he said.

Rabara was able to log on to the SJSU wireless Internet service on his laptop while in the library, which is what he said he came there to do, but he was unable to access the library's Web site.

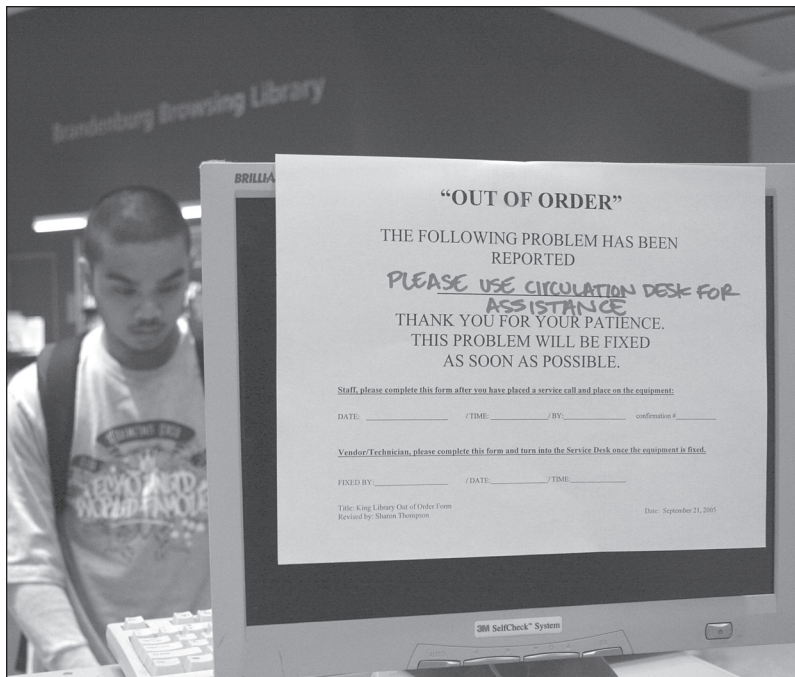
He said the library would benefit from having a physical card catalog system as a backup to the online catalog.

Imada, the library clerk, said that students in a hurry to access the library's online catalog would have to wait.

"The best estimate we have of it coming back up is tomorrow afternoon," he said of the library's server, "but most likely everything's not going to be up until Wednesday."

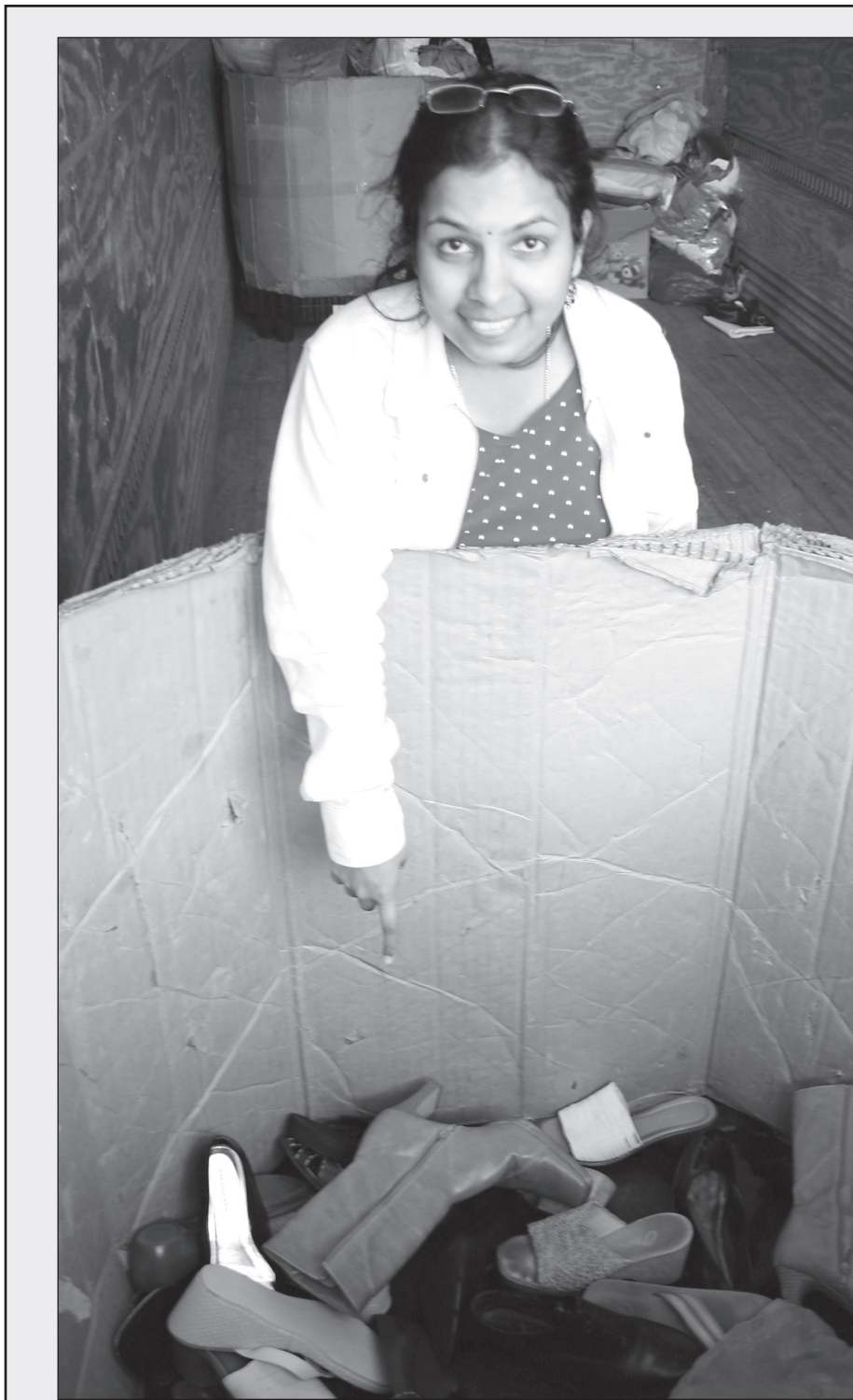
Imada also said students trying to access scholarly databases, such as Lexis-Nexis or JSTOR, through the library will be unable to do so until the server is back up.

"They need to be authenticated through our server, which is down," he said of students trying to access such academic resources. "Other than actually paying for a subscription to those databases, they won't be able to get in."



NICK VERONIN // Spartan Daily

Daniel Rabara, a junior accounting major, was able to connect to the university's wireless service on his laptop Monday while library systems were down due to a power failure. However, he could not connect to the library Web site, which was also down for the time being.



JENNIFER SKIDMORE // Special to the Daily

Sandhya Dittakani, a graduate student in the school of business, shows off the donations collected in yesterday's Goodwill Clothing Drive while standing in the back of the donation truck.



JENNIFER SKIDMORE // Special to the Daily

Francisco Jimenez, a supervisor for Goodwill, collects donations from Professor Asbjorn Osland at the employee parking lot off of 10th street.

## Assignment inspires donation drive

By SAMUEL LAM

Staff Writer

More than 30 donations of pants, shirts, socks and home furniture were made by SJSU students at a Goodwill trailer stationed in the parking lot behind the ATMs off of 10th Street on Monday.

Sandhya Dittakavi organized the drive for her Business Leadership class project. Dittakavi, who is in her first year at SJSU for a Masters of Business Administration, said the class project required students to take leadership roles in an organized event.

She said she wanted to get SJSU more involved in a project that can help the community.

"I saw schools like Stanford and Santa Clara having done a drive with Goodwill," Dittakavi said. She said she wanted SJSU to also work with Goodwill.

Joyce Osland, who teaches the Business Leadership class, said the assignment has resulted in many different kinds of projects since she began assigning it three years ago.

"Some of them have taught classes in community centers and organized a training program for people," Osland said. "It's an opportunity to learn; it's not just an assignment."

Dittakavi started the donation drive at 9:30 a.m. and received five donations within the first hour.

Professors in the business department promoted the drive to their students last week.

Kelly McGlinchy, a

sophomore business major, said that business lecturer Yudhi Ahuja promoted the drive to her class. She said 18 students from her class signed up to participate.

"At home, we donate clothes twice a year to Goodwill," McGlinchy said. "We had bags to donate, and we brought it to this."

Raj Modkharkar, a first year Masters of Business Administration student who helped donate glassware, said donations are a great tool for bringing people together.

"Life is an opportunity to make the world a better place," Modkharkar said. "Donation is a strong bond between society."

Goodwill of Silicon Valley Lead Francisco Jimenez, who organized the drive with Dittakavi and oversees different Goodwill donation sites, said there are other opportunities for students to get involved with Goodwill.

"You can always drop off donations at different Goodwills," Jimenez said, adding that "Goodwill is always hiring."

Osland said she is glad there is an opportunity for students to get involved.

"I think it's wonderful," Osland said. "It's good for students to get in the habit to recycle their belongings. I think it makes it convenient to help them learn about Goodwill."

With the success of the clothing drive, Dittakavi

See DRIVE, page 2

## Organization focuses on mentoring youth

### Collegiate 100 to give out more than 20 scholarships

By LEAH BIGELOW

Staff Writer

The Collegiate 100, a group of young men who are a part of the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley at SJSU, will start "mentoring the 100 way," according to the chapter's facilitator Hewitt Joyner.

Mentoring, one ingredient of the Collegiate 100's "Four for the Future" plan, is the chapter's main focus, Joyner said. He said the men will go to different high schools and junior high schools in the area to mentor younger black students.

"We're still in progress with the mentoring program," said Will Turner, a sophomore physics major. He said they have to decide what schools to visit and which members

will go each week. This will depend on who is available each week, but each member is required to do at least three hours a month, he said.

Joyner said the Collegiate 100 will most likely go to Bernal Intermediate School twice a week, as well as go to two high schools in the area. There the men will teach several programs, including one called "Dollars and Sense," which is intended to help the kids learn about investing and the stock market, he said.

Joyner, who is a member of the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley adult chapter, said that the adult chapter wanted to include the Collegiate 100 in their mentoring program because, he said, "Whatever they say to the young people is usually gospel. They don't want to see us old guys."

The older members will also get a chance to mentor the college students, he said, adding that the adult chapter will teach the Collegiate

100 certain skills before they begin mentoring the younger students.

Joyner said the collegiate chapter will teach students at the high schools and junior high study skills, as well as develop their interests. This, he said, will hopefully help them create a vision for the future.

In addition to the mentoring, the Collegiate 100 will also help out at the Scholarship and Awards Gala on Oct. 20, said Fred Mitchem, director of the Silicon Valley chapter.

He said that the Silicon Valley chapter read through applications and performed Socratic interviews, a series of questions applicants must answer to show their ability to verbalize answers and think on their feet.

Once finished with the screening process, the chapter chose more than 20 high school students to receive scholarship money at the gala.

Mitchem said the gala has been

a "flagship" event for the program. "It really helped us move forward," he said.

After receiving sponsorships from the community, as well as donations from corporations and individuals, Mitchem said the organization has been able to give \$400,000 in scholarships over the last 13 years.

Issac Newton, a sophomore marketing major, said he is in charge of a group program called "Sex on Your Mind," which will be held in Campus Village on Nov. 27. This program will teach students how to communicate with the opposite sex, Newton said.

The chapter will also hold a formal informational for those who are interested in joining the Collegiate 100 on Oct. 14, Turner said.

The group also invites SJSU students to come "Meet the 100" on Nov. 4, he said, although specifics on the event have not yet been finalized.

**SPORTS**

**SJSU VOLLEYBALL TAKES A HIT**

The University of Nevada – Reno Wolfpack took straight sets from the Spartans, sweeping SJSU on Saturday.

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**OPINION**

**IS THE BOOK YOU'RE READING BANNED?**

Turn the page to the "open forum" section, where Professor Annette Nellen asks important questions about censorship.

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**STUDENT LIFE**

**WHEN IT'S TIME TO HIT THE BOOKS**

Discover the campus' ideal study spots and the places to stay away from when cramming for midterms.

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# Maybe you should read this column. Maybe.



By MICHAEL PASAOA  
Staff Writer

Twenty-one; the last milestone. You're all on your own now. Sometimes I forget how old I am. Degrees. Bachelor's. Master's. It's crazy to think about it this way. You know those Playstation2s, those XBoxes, those video games — you know, "NCAA March Madness 08," or whatever? Those are college basketball players. I'm in college. Those are people my age well on their way to making millions of dollars. They have their own basketball cards. They live inside a video game.

Maybe you sell cell phones or fold clothes and go to the back to see if there are any more in size large.

While I write my name in the upper right hand corner of my homework, they jot their signatures on the dotted line of advertisement deals.

Then there are celebrities. Actors, actresses. MTV.

There are singers, rappers, musicians, artists.

Everyone's trying to hit it big in their own way.

Some people do the doctor thing or take the lawyer route.

Or they win the lotto.

Or their family goes on "Family Feud" and wins \$20,000.

Maybe you dropped out of college and decided to spend all your time working at your minimum-wage job, thinking those \$800 checks are more important than a future.

Maybe you make stupid videos of yourself and now millions of people search for you on YouTube.

Maybe you sell weed and just breeze through life as you hustle, making more money than your parents who see less of you as the days (and your funds) add up.

Maybe you sell cell phones or fold clothes and go to the back to see if there are any more in size large.

Maybe you ask if I want fries with

that. Most of the time I don't, but if they're curly and I get three sides of buttermilk, then we're good.

Maybe you're involved in your church, and although you don't make money, you devote all of your time to something important to you. You feel good. You help the younger crowd, and you're a positive influence on their lives while faithfully fulfilling yours.

Maybe you just got a used \$2,000 car and are the happiest driver on earth knowing that the road, no matter where you go, leads to independence.

Maybe your parents just bought you a brand new BMW or Mercedes Benz and feel compelled to have the rest of the world handed to you.

Maybe you don't really do anything with your life.

You invest everything in your friends. You tighten up your circle.

You go out every night, and it never gets redundant.

You have the time of your life, and that gives you the hope that you'll be happy as long as you're around your top eight.

To you, smiling means you're successful.

Maybe you broke up with your girlfriend and stopped caring if the glass is half empty or half full. You just realize

how much you don't even like what you're drinking.

Maybe you're just going to sit back and wait for an opportunity to come your way even though you've seen so many people succeed by reaching out and grabbing what they want.

Maybe you look at everyone else and think, "that could be me," but never looked at yourself to find out who you already are.

So to come full circle, what am I doing with my life? What are the "maybes" that connect with me?

I could write about what I haven't done, what I haven't finished, write down all of my problems and set myself up for a Rocky-like success story, but I hate when people believe they have it worse than somebody else.

Maybe someone is reading this and doesn't know exactly what they're feeling, but they know that they're feeling it.

And maybe, just maybe, I'll write about things other than my opinion. There's no point — just my point of view.

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

OPEN FORUM

## Do you know which books are banned?

### The debate on your freedom to read

By ANNETTE NELLEN  
SJSU professor

Day to day, we probably don't think much about our reading choices. Students have plenty of assigned reading, and professors must read a lot to stay current. We might feel we have little choice in our reading because we have so much assigned reading.

Aside from time constraints, are there any forces limiting our reading choices? Does your local bookstore carry books from a wide variety of publishers, or just a few? How are selection decisions made? Could the person responsible for buying books for your local bookstore or library avoid books on topics they don't agree with? Have any titles been removed from school libraries or school curriculum due to parent or teacher disapproval of the subject matter?

These are important questions to think about periodically. The American Library Association and others encourage you to think about them, at least annually, during "Banned Books Week." The SJSU Campus Reading Program is joining this tradition with events on Oct. 2 and 3.

"Banned Books Week" celebrates our freedom to read. Individuals should be allowed to make their own decisions as to whether a book is suitable for them to read. Parents should be able to help their own children with that decision rather than the parents of other children making reading decisions for them. When individuals impose their values to restrict the makeup of library and bookstore shelves, the freedom to read suffers.

Every year many challenges are made, particularly in kindergarten through high school and public libraries, to various books, often because of their sexual, religious or political content. Challenged books in the U.S. include the "Harry Potter" series, due to the focus on witchcraft. Classics such as "Huck Finn," "Catcher in the Rye," "Beloved" and "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" are also on banned or challenged book lists in some libraries or communities.

Please take a few minutes away from your assigned reading to think about how important your freedom to read is. When ideas are held hostage by those who disagree with them, we all suffer. Discussion and debate on ideas makes our democracy work and keeps it strong. The freedom to read supports the freedom to choose for one's self, to express new ideas, to engage in public debate, and to keep intellectual engagement vibrant. Don't take the freedom to read for granted — exercise it and protect it in your communities.

Please join the Campus Reading Program in celebrating our freedom to read. For more information on banned books and events on campus, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/reading/BannedBooks.htm>.

Annette Nellen is a professor in the College of Business and Director of the Campus Reading Program.

"Open forum" is open to the SJSU community. Consideration for publication is based on relevance and clarity.

# TMI: No more talking about personal issues in class

By SAMANTHA SALAS  
Staff Writer

At what point does the red light in someone's mind flash, "Stop talking"? Recently I've come to the conclusion that some people either do not have a flashing light at all, or they choose to ignore it.

Now, I'm not talking about the people who can talk your ear off for days or the people who can have a one-on-one conversation with you over lunch or coffee.

I am talking about the people who just give too much information.

TMPI: too much personal information. And more importantly, I'm talking about the outgoing people who give TMPI in the classroom setting.

Consider this scenario: You're in a philosophy class with maybe 25 students. The topic of discussion is "Plato's perfect city-state system" — definitely more interesting than it sounds.

The professor is lecturing, and out of the blue a student decides to share a comment.

Fair enough. And to the excitement of the other students, it's a new voice or a new idea to help them understand.

Um, no. It's an angry story about this person's sex life.

How does your sex life relate to Plato, at any level?

It doesn't. And why even bring it up?

Why do you think anyone in a class wants

to hear about your sex life? I promise you, they don't.

I understand that people need to vent, and maybe they just need to get things off their chests. That's fine. But in the classroom?

There is no reason whatsoever to put everyone else in that awkward situation.

No one laughs, no one comments.

... out of the blue, a student decides to share a comment. How does your sex life relate to Plato, at any level?

No one even gives you the sympathy you think you deserve.

It's just awkward.

And what's more awkward than hearing about someone else's open promiscuity, road rage or ex-roommate grudge is that it is unrelated to the topic being discussed and paid for.

It could be just an impulse thought that a student accidentally shares, but if they're conscious enough, they will probably stop themselves after 10 seconds.

But not these TMPIs.

I don't think they pay attention at all to the reddening, shocked faces around the room.

And from what I hear, it's not just in a super-interesting class like philosophy, which

may need sprucing up at the end of a cool afternoon in October. It happens in English, biology, political science, child development, math and dozens of other classes.

I am seriously embarrassed for these students who lack the attention they want, the TMPI students who view their classroom as a stage and feel the need to perform their unwanted monologues.

At this point it's not even comic relief and it has to stop.

Please understand I am not a prude, and I am not naive in any way.

But maybe when it comes to learning or the time I plan to spend at school, I feel it should be slightly more focused.

Maybe I'm just conservative, and there's nothing wrong with people who aren't. Just take it outside with your friends.

So to those who think they might be intruding through the all red lights flashing, "stop zone": No one wants to hear about your personal life.

And if it does have a slight chance of relating to the topic being discussed, I'm sure everyone will gladly give you the floor and the response you deserve as an intelligent student.

Otherwise, shut up.

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Only letters 200 words or less 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.

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## HOMECOMING

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION; OCT. 2, 4 P.M.  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY

## EVENTS 2007

BEST AND WORST PLACES TO STUDY  
WORST

## Student Union walkway

The benches along the Student Union walkway are very enticing for a student in need of studying. I tried studying while sitting on the bench, and it was difficult. Even though it is great to be outdoors, the students who walk past can be very distracting. Sometimes there will be live music from the amphitheater, and that makes it more difficult to concentrate. Of course, if you're outdoors, you need to be aware of windy and rainy days. Try to avoid studying at a place where you can't control the surroundings.

Samuel Lam



“In your own bed. You end up getting lazy and going to sleep.”

Darren Hawkins  
sophomore  
undeclared

## Student Union cafeteria

Trying to study in the Student Union Cafeteria is like trying to study at a mental institution — not that I've ever been to one or anything. Trying to find an empty table is like a sick game of musical chairs between you and the 30 other table-hungry students. The noxious smells of sickeningly sweet Jamba Juice and the usually comforting smell of baking bread from Subway make my stomach turn, and trying not to hurl quickly trumps my learning about ... wait, what am I supposed to be studying again? Political science homework will just have to wait. Right now I'm simply having too much fun being a voyeur.

Megan Wood



“Seventh and eighth floors of the library. Those floors are supposed to be silent. Sometimes they just aren't.”

Sieni Ulukivaiole  
junior  
nursing

## Tower Lawn

Between a full class load, a couple of jobs and a rapidly fraying social life, some college students find it hard to lock themselves away in study session confinement. My solution for your hitting-the-books blues? Tower lawn. With lush green grass, the soothing sounds from a nearby fountain and a perimeter lined with shady trees, all you need is a blanket and your riveting “Local Government” textbook and you're well on your way to academic success. This tranquil atmosphere not only gives you time with your books, but it also gives you time with Mother Nature. Pack a tasty lunch, wear your favorite oversized sunglasses and take the afternoon to actually study. As for the fraying social life? While you're out there, you might even make friends with a squirrel. Just be careful. I hear they bite.

Chrissy Ramoneda

## BEST

## Student Union music room

From experience, one of the best places to study is in the Music Room in the Student Union. Located right next to the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center on the top floor, the room provides three private listening booths to sample the collection of 1,500 records or your own music.

The main room provides a

great variety of music, ranging from rock to classical. If you don't want to listen to music, you can use the room for your own private study. Whether you want a relaxed atmosphere or a private listening booth, the Music Room provides the comfort you need for studying.

Samuel Lam



LINDSAY BRYANT // SPARTAN DAILY

Andrew Weiglein, a philosophy graduate student, and Charles Tadas, a senior economics major, study in the Music Room located in the Student Union on Monday.



LINDSAY BRYANT // SPARTAN DAILY

Ashton Fitzpatrick, 7, does homework on Monday in what a staff writer says is one of the best places to study: the Clark Hall Academic Success Center.

## Clark Hall Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center on the first floor of Clark Hall is my go-to spot for studying. The dull roar of Clark Hall, which doesn't have a strict “no talking” policy, is perfect for a finicky student. The Academic Success Center is equipped with 30 computers, each with all the necessary software like Microsoft Word and Excel that are available to students who present their Tower Card for

two-hour time increments. Another great aspect is the collaboration booths, which are designed for small groups to work on projects and are also perfect for a person who likes to spread out. The booths have power

outlets and Internet hookups, plus an additional cable to connect a laptop to an 18-inch screen fixed to the wall of the booth, so everyone can help with that PowerPoint project.

Megan Wood

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2007 **FIRE** ON THE **FOUNTAIN**

SJSU'S HOMECOMING BONFIRE AND PEP RALLY  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 TOWER LAWN**

**4:00 - 10:00 P.M. : UP 'TIL DAWN**  
BRING 50 NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL'S LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT AND RAFFLE PRIZES.

**7:00 - 8:00 P.M. : FREE BBQ**  
ENJOY A GREAT HAMBURGER AS THE SUN GOES DOWN.

**8:15 P.M. : BONFIRE LIGHTING**  
BE AMAZED AS THE FIRE DANCE TROOP FIRE PIXIE ARTFULLY IGNITES THE BONFIRE ON THE TOWER LAWN FOUNTAIN.

**8:30 P.M. : PEP RALLY**  
FIGHT ON FOR SAN JOSE STATE WITH SJSU PRESIDENT DON KASSING, COACH DICK TOMEY, MEMBERS OF THE SJSU FOOTBALL TEAM, THE CHEER TEAM AND THE PEP BAND. ALSO, SEE YOUR HOMECOMING COURT GET CROWNED!

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