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## partan ISSUE 20 VOLUME 129 OCTOBER 2, 2007 // TUESDAY THESPARTANDAILY.COM

# 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 is down," he said of students of books," Sek said. "Without the trying to access such academic database, you're basically looking resources. "Other than actually 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.

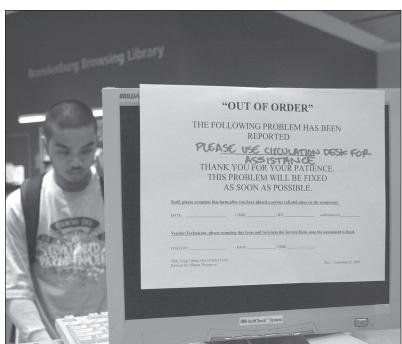
He said the library would benefit from having a physical card catalog system as a backup to the online catalog.

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

"They need to be authenticated through our server, which paying for a subscription to those databases, they won't be able to



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.

## **SPORTS**

## SJSU VOLLEYBALL **TAKES A HIT**

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

PAGE 2

## **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.

PAGE 3

## 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

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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

tions 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 to work with Good-

ment has resulted in many with Goodwill. 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

More than 30 dona- 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

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 Joyce Osland, who donation sites, said there teaches the Business Lead- are other opportunities for ership class, said the assign- students to get involved

"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 chap-

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

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

Mitchem said the gala has been

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

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

## **SPORTS:** Wolfpack takes three straight from Spartan volleyball team

By JOVANNI COLISAO

Staff Writer

With a record of 6-8 entering Saturday night's game against the University of Nevada, SJ-SU's volleyball team made Nevada earn its win in the second

The Spartans came out strong in the third game with a 15-11 run, which forced Nevada to call a timeout. The Spartans kept it close in the third game, but lost the match three games to none.

The Spartans played hard, but Nevada won every game, 30-25, 30-18 and 31-29.

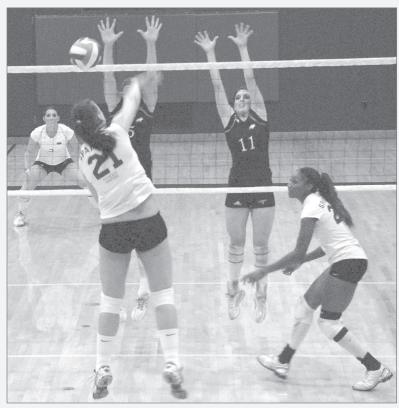
"Sometimes we start well, and sometimes we end well," said Jennifer Senftleben, a senior outside hitter. "I think we're getting better in keeping our intensity up."

Senftleben had team bests of eight kills, along with three service aces. She contributed four digs to the team's total of 53.

Senftleben is currently the 10th Spartan with 1,000 career kills and seventh all-time with 1,274 kills.

Head coach Oscar Crespo said his team improved from Thursday's defeat against Utah State University.

"I know its tough for the girls to look at it right now and say this is a direction we need to be going," he said, "but I thought the match was well played."



DANIEL HERBERHOLZ // Special to the Daily

Jennifer Senftleben's spike attempt is quickly blocked by Nevada during the second game of SJSU's loss on Sept. 29. Senftleben finished with

siana Tech University just a few days away, Crespo said he respects every team.

"We're putting things together week by week as it goes along and trying to get better every single time," he said. "We don't look down to any of those teams."

The Spartans, with an overall record of 6-9 and a Western

With the game against Loui- Athletic Conference record of 0-4, will go against Louisiana Tech University on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Spartan Gym.

> See full story online at www.thespartandailly.com



## **DRIVE // Campus donation bins suggested**

Continued from page 1

said she would like to set up Goodwill donation bins for students in the future.

bins on campus and for off-cam-

pus locations," Dittakavi said. "I would like to have this for an ongoing basis, that it's not a one-time opportunity.'

McGlinchy suggested that on-"We hope to have donation campus donation bins would be

"They should have bins in Campus Village when people move out," McGlinchy said. "They can just donate it to Goodwill," referring to students who throw away unused clothes at the end of the

## **CORRECTIONS**

**CAMPUS NEWS & SPORTS** 

## From "The Crime Blotter"

The Spartan Daily reported on Monday, Oct. 1, that Daniel Ajeigbe was arrested for battery at the Sigma Nu fraternity house on Friday, Sept. 28. This was incorrect.

Sgt. Mike Santos, a Public Information Officer for the University Police Department, said UPD misidentified the suspect in its crime log. The name of the suspect arrested on suspicion of battery was David Krause. Daniel Ajeigbe was the victim.

From "Professor's discovery of kelp may lead to removal of species from endangered

The Spartan Daily reported on Thursday, Sept. 27, that Michael Graham's research — involving the discovery of a species of kelp once believed to be endangered or extinct — was published in a journal called "Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences." This was incorrect.

The name of the journal is "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences."

In the same article, the Spartan Daily reported that no students were involved in Graham's expedition. This was incorrect.

The story should have reported that no SJSU students were taken on the expedition, but that students from other CSU and UC schools did participate.

Furthermore, it was reported that SJSU students will be included in Graham's next expedition. This was incorrect. The story should have reported that SJSU students may have the opportunity to be involved, but it is not guaranteed.

Write letters to the editor and submit Sparta Guide information online. Visit our Web site at www.thespartandaily.com. You may also submit information in writing to DBH 209.

### **TODAY**

Magazine Day

The magazine club will be having its annual Magazine Day. Hear guest speaker David Friend of Vanity Fair at noon in room 189 in the Engineering building. Panel discussions begin at 10:30 a.m. in room 226 in Dwight Bentel Hall. For more information, contact Scott Fosdick at 550 - 5072.

Gabriel Wiese: Corkart Exhibition

Opening night of the exhibition is Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Natalie and James Thompson Gallery in the Art Building. Open hours until Nov. 2 are Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Gallery Office 924 – 4330 or mail to: tbelcher@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu.

### Oct. 3

Africentric Theology Seminar: Famous African Cities and their Links to Biblical History

From 12 to 1 p.m. in the Cultural Heritage Center in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. library. For more information, contact Dr. Oscar Battle, Jr. at 924 - 6117.

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 submission. Entries are printed in order in which they are received.

#### Oct. 4

Letter Writing Campaign for St. Jude's Children's Research

From 4 to 10 p.m. on the Tower Lawn, Up 'Til Dawn will be having a letter writing campaign for St. Jude's, so bring 50 addresses! For more information, contact Jenny at (714) 329 – 4979.

Weekly Catholic Feminist Mass Begins

At 5:15 p.m., Spartan Chapel Weekly Catholic Masses will continue at this time throughout the semester. All are welcome at the table! Victoria Rue, professor of Women's Studies and Comparative Religious Studies, will preside. For more information, contact Rue at victoriarue@cruzio.com.

Students with Disabilities - Weekly Discussion Group From 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. in room 604 of the Student Services Center. A supportive environment to share, discuss and explore personal experiences. Bring your own lunches. Drop-ins welcome. For more information, contact Sybille Ulrike and Carolyn Rittenbach at 924-5910 or mail to: georgette. gale@sjsu.edu.

Look for our special pull-out section highlighting Fall Sports and Homecoming in Thursday's edition of the Spartan Daily

# ussitieds

### **RECREATION LEADERS NEEDED!**

LGS Recreation is hiring Recreation Leaders to work in our After School Programs. We are looking for energetic and engaging individuals. Parttime positions available 2pm-6:15pm Monday through Friday. Pay starts at \$10.00/ hr and increases depending upon experience. Send your resume or letter of interest to Kathy at kathy@lgsrecreation.org. (408)354-8700

ATTENTION SPARTANS Welcome back! Are you looking for part-time/ full-time work to help you get through the school semester? Well, look no further. Corinthian Parking Services is looking for valet parking attendants for our local shopping malls, hotels and private events. We will work around your school schedule.

- Requirements for an interview: · Valid California Class C license
- Current DMV printout
- · Responsible, well-groomed and punctual. EXCLT CLIST SERVICE
- If you qualify, please call Kyle 408-981-5894 or

Rick 408-593-9612 for an interview. MAKE A DIFFERENCE Do you like being on the

go, not stuck in an office all day? Help someone learn to cook, dance, read, work on their job and live the life they choose. We seek dedicated people to work with our clients who have disabilities to help them make community connections. Creativity, caring and commitment define us. Have CA license, clean DMV, car insur, bkgrd ck. Instructors, Community Support Facilitators, Job Coaches,

Roommates & Companions. PT and FT opptys. E mail: jdevine@hopeservices.org

**EASTER SEALS** seeks Lifeguards, Instructional Lifeguards & Aquatic Specialists, part or full time in San Jose (Bascom & Moorpark). Flex hours/ days, Mon-Sat. Call Tiago@408 295-0228. Send resume to jobs@esba.org or fax to 408 275-9858. \$11-\$13+/ hour DOE

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## REC LEADERS, INSTRUCTORS, Program Fa-

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#### AFTER SCHOOL TEACHERS JrK-4th grade school seeks responsible individu-

als for extended daycare. P/T in the afternoon M-F. No ECE units are required. Previous experience with children preferred. Please contact Stephanie at 248-2464 or fax resume to 248-7433.

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#### Difficulty: 2 (of 5) 9 6 8 1 5 9 7 6 3 5 1 2 5 8 7 6 7 4 6

2

1 9 4

5

3

# **PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

HOW TO PLAY Each row must conta the numbers 1 to tain the numbers 1 9; and each set of 3 b 3 boxes must contai the numbers 1 to 9.

45 Hawaii's Mauna —
46 Infrequently
48 In shape
50 Lampoon
51 Main drag
54 Auctioneer's word
55 Reconsider
(2 wds.)
57 Vitamin D source
61 Sunrise locale
62 Rock music, to
some

some
63 Where Mongolia is
64 Diner desserts
65 — down (softened)
66 Conservative hue

1 Garden planting 2 Jackie's tycoon

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iin 9;	6	3	8	1	4	7	5	9	2
n- to	3	5	1	7	2	9	8	6	4
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	2	7	3	5	1	6	9	4	8
	1	8	5	4	9	2	6	3	7
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## **TODAY'S** CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Hindu noble
5 Formula One car
10 Isle off Sicily
14 Kind of hygiene
15 Sudden
16 In the vicinity PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED 15 Sudden 16 In the vicinity 17 Piece of chicken 18 Soup accompaniment 20 Dwindled 22 Spooky sounds 20 Dwindled 22 Spooky sounds 23 Wreckage 25 Refuge 26 Loud squawker 27 Baby food 28 Latin I verb 32 King Mongkut's nanny 32 King Mongkut's nanny
33 Daytime dramas
35 Gloom's partner
36 Hard water?
37 ER personnel
38 Jungfrau or Eiger
39 In case
41 Stuck around
43 Worry too much
44 Young lady of Sp.
45 Hawaii's Mauna –
46 Infrequently

3 Cold mo.
4 Math course
5 Cottontails
6 Realty units
7 Fed a line
3 Sweater letter
Baggage
handlers
Keyed 9-18-07

9 baggage handlers
10 Keyed in data
11 Spunky movie princess
12 Provide capital
13 Clumsy vessels
19 Mr. in Bombay
21 Slangy pal
23 Tango partner
24 Papa Hemingway
25 Trivial sort of error
26 Beach toys
27 Bearlike animal
29 Went sky-high
30 Exclusively
31 Unfurnished

ad Feature Syndicate, Inc.

34 Winter
constellation

40 Special
aptitudes

41 Obvious

42 Exhausted

43 Diver, maybe

47 Prince Val's
eldest

49 Mouse alert

50 Ease of manner

51 Footfall

52 Siamese, now

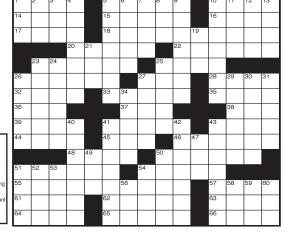
53 Work, as yeast

54 Gridiron advance

56 Slime

58 My mind — blank

50 Med Lillmann blank 59 Ms. Ullmann 60 Boastful knight



## DISCLAIMER

aper. Certain advertisements in these columns may refer the reader to specific telephone numbers or addresses for additional information. Classified readers should be reminded that, when maki

Each line averages 25 spaces. Each letter, number, punctuation mark, and space is formatted into an ad line. The first line will be set in bold type and upper case for no extra charge up to 20 spaces. A minimum of three lines is required. Deadline is 10:00 am , 2-weekdays prior to publication

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"Whoop-dee-damn-doo"

## THESPARTANDAILY.COM

# 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. the lawyer route. Degrees. Bachelor's. Master's.

It's crazy to think about it this way. You know those Playstation2s, those XBoxs, 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.

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

Some people do the doctor thing or take

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

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

curly and I get three sides of buttermilk, drinking. 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

While I write my name in the upper that. Most of the time I don't, but if they're how much you don't even like what you're

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.

# 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,

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

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 stu-

Otherwise, shut up.

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor. A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan

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

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) 924-3282, e-mailed to spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San José State University, One Washington Square, San José, CA 95112-0149.

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**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

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.

the subject matter?

"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.

# WORST

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007

## **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 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

## **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.

## **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

your own music.

The main room provides a

From experience, one of the great variety of music, ranging best places to study is in the Mu- from rock to classical. If you don't sic Room in the Student Union. want to listen to music, you can Located right next to the Mosaic use the room for your own pri-Cross Cultural Center on the top vate study. Whether you want a floor, the room provides three pri-relaxed atmosphere or a private vate listening booths to sample listening booth, the Music Room the collection of 1,500 records or 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.



The (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) Library. It has its quiet floors.

> Brvan Mann sophomore



The dorm rooms. People stay in their rooms to study.

> Marissa Williams sophomore

Campus Voices compiled by Briana Hernandez

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

nursing

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

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 studier. 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

spread out. The booths have power

The Academic Success Center two-hour time increments. Another outlets and Internet hookups, plus great aspect is the collaboration an additional cable to connect a lapbooths, which are designed for small top to an 18-inch screen fixed to the groups to work on projects and are wall of the booth, so everyone can also perfect for a person who likes to help with that PowerPoint project.

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