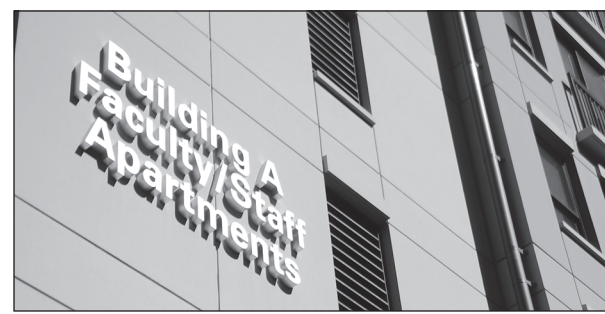




**THE BOYS OF SPRING**  
Baseball team wrapped up another series win Sunday; record now 11-5

See SPORTS, page 6.



**LIVING THE HIGH LIFE**

See INSIDE, page 2.

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# SPARTAN DAILY

66° / 47°  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

FREE SINCE 1934

## Driven off campus: Blood donations



A phlebotomist extracted blood from his patient at a blood drive in Grace Community Baptist Church on 10th Street on Monday.

*Students host donor drive a block away*

By **TOMMY WRIGHT**  
Staff Writer

Students held a blood drive across the street from SJSU on Monday for the first time since university President Don Kassing suspended on-campus blood drives Jan. 29.

The blood drive, which took place at the Grace Baptist Church, was originally organized by the fraternity Tau Delta Phi. But they were informed four days before the event that organizations affiliated with SJSU cannot hold blood drives off-campus. Instead, those involved must be volunteers with no official affiliation to the university.

The church is on 10th and San Fernando streets.

Mona Helmhold, account manager for donor recruitment with the American Red Cross, said the volunteers did a great job for an off-campus site.

"For every one unit (of blood), you can save up to three lives," said Helmhold.

Blood drives were halted on campus due to the Food and Drug Administration's policy that bans men who have had sex with other men from donating blood. The policy violates the nondiscrimination policy at SJSU.

"They have good intentions," Tau Delta Phi President Dominic Fass said about the decision to suspend blood drives on campus. "I just don't feel like they should be making people who have no say in this unwanted participants of this protest. Because in the end the people who are suffering are those who need (blood) daily."

Kassing met with representatives from the FDA two weeks ago, but he said they told him there wasn't enough

*Blood big topic at SJSU president's news conference*

Staff Report

Sitting at the far end of a long conference-style table, with two microphones pointed toward him, President Don Kassing spoke at a news conference in SJSU's Tower Hall on Monday, addressing questions from student media.

Though question topics varied, the prevailing conversations involved the CSU's finances, campus safety and — in the issue that demanded the most attention — blood drives.

"Not ban —" Kassing said about on-campus blood drives, "suspend. I just want to clarify that we haven't banned blood drives. We've suspended blood drives on our campus because we feel they discriminate against, or they violate, our nondiscrimination policy."

Since Kassing declared the suspension Jan. 29, he has clarified the suspension restricts SJSU-affiliated entities from off-campus donor sites.

Members of the Spartan Daily and the SJSU broadcast program's "Update News" asked Kassing for his opinion about Monday's blood drive — one which was held across the street from campus by members of the Tau Delta Phi fraternity.

Kassing replied by saying that it's "a good thing" to donate blood off campus.

A member of student media asked Kassing if he himself donates blood, and Kassing said that he had not recently.

"But I've found myself thinking about it," he said.

Though Kassing defended his po-

## Club cooks up awareness for Darfur

*Leaders hope community service will bring together religions*

By **DINA BASLAN**  
Staff Writer

Michael Grossman, a senior global studies and Spanish major, started the Muslim-Jewish-Christian Coalition this semester with the belief that students following the Abrahamic religions can work

together for community service.

The organization takes in students from different religions as long as they support the cause of giving back to the community, Grossman said.

On Monday afternoon, the 15 members of the organization held its first event on campus — a ko-

sher/hallal barbecue in recognition of the war in Darfur, Sudan. Along with barbecuing hot dogs and hamburgers, they attempted to spread awareness about warfront area in Sudan, Africa.

"We are focusing on Darfur because it's a big conflict, a big problem," Grossman, 21, said. "Because all three religions focus on helping people, we decided to come together over that goal and help them out."

Mohammed Yousef Nawabi, a senior biology major, said the group is trying to raise money for the Darfur case through student contributions. He said a clothing drive will be held in April to help the homeless in the area.

"Our main goal is to raise awareness," Nawabi, 21, said, "and let people know that we're here, and that it's an open environment for anybody of any faith to come and join us and work for a good cause."

Members of the organization played the documentary "Voices of the Sudan" on a TV by the barbecue pits. They distributed informative fliers and invited speakers Peter

Akau and Mach Gong to talk about the importance of understanding conflicts in their home country — Sudan.

Billal Asghar, a senior global studies and health science major, thought it was important to hear what students from Sudan have to say to others on campus.

"People know what Darfur is, but not many people know what exactly is going on," Asghar, 22, said. "And to humanize it, it's good to put a picture of somebody who's actually been through a genocide."

Gong and Akau talked to students about a number of conflicts in Africa, including China's supply of weapons in return for its use of Sudanese oil.

They said they appreciated other students' interests and efforts in raising awareness about what is happening in Sudan.

"Whatever somebody can do, it can make a difference," Akau said. "Regardless of whether it's not gonna succeed, you can try. Then you don't blame yourself because later on you may say, 'If I had done something these things wouldn't have taken place.'"



DINA BASLAN / SPARTAN DAILY

Karimah Al-Helew, a sophomore social work major and member of the Muslim-Jewish-Christian Coalition, stands behind a table showcasing T-shirts and fliers about the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

See **BLOOD**, page 2

See **PRESS**, page 2



LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Kassing met with about 15 members of SJSU's student media Monday afternoon to discuss issues ranging from campus construction to the proposed budget cuts — and blood drives.

### INSIDE the DAILY

**BREAK TIME**

Do you plan on staying local for the upcoming break? Check out these hotspot suggestions.  
See **STUDENT CULTURE**, page 3

**AGORAPHOBIA**

A daily editor's self-discovery pushes his battle to stay in, and finish, school at SJSU.  
See **OPINION**, page 5

**INDEX**

- Classifieds.....4
- Columns.....5
- Crossword,Sudoku.....4
- SpartaGuide.....2
- Sports.....6
- StudentCulture .....3

**A BALANCED PERFORMANCE**

Gymnastics team swept a quadrangular meet Sunday to improve its record to 14-3.  
See **SPORTS**, page 6

## From the pages to the big screen — to the Wall

*Committee hopes Wall of Reading will 'build a culture of reading on campus'*

By **KIMBERLY TSAO**  
Staff Writer

While astronauts can see the Great Wall of China from the moon, students can see the Wall of Reading from the second floor of Clark Hall.

The wall is a large piece of paper that allows students and employees to scribble down their thoughts on a literature-related theme. This semester, the theme is "books made into movies."

"The committee just thought that was going to grab the most attention," said Annette Nellen, director of the campus reading program. They

considered other themes, such as books about immigrants, science fiction, mothers and daughters as well as books about fathers and sons.

When the wall first went up, there were already comments about books such as "Harry Potter" and "Gone with the Wind" to jumpstart responses. Now, the space is filling up.

"There's a remark about the 'Artemis Fowl' series," said Kim Nguyen, a junior accounting major. "So I supported that remark."

"The lobby of Clark Hall seems to be working for us," Nellen said. "It's a high-traffic area there both for stu-

dents and employees."

In the future, the campus reading program committee might put the wall on wheels and move it around campus.

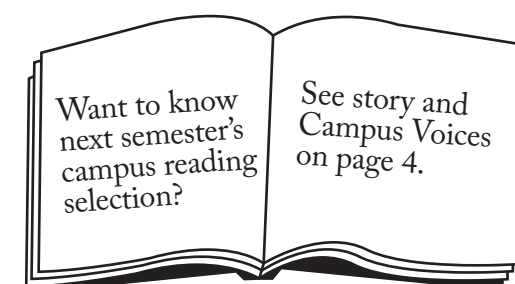
"It should be moved around so it's more accessible to students 'cause I didn't even know what it was 'cause I don't even go to Clark Hall," said Sharmika Higgins, a graduate social work major. "I just haven't been in there I guess since they changed it into, like, a study room."

She said she goes to the Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr. Library or the Student Union instead.

"One of our goals in the reading

See **WALL**, page 2



Want to know next semester's campus reading selection?

See story and Campus Voices on page 4.

# WALL | Poster available through March

*Continued from page 1*

committee is to help build a culture of reading on campus," Nellen said. "We run into people who have never heard of the campus reading program."

"I don't know much about it," Nguyen, 21, said. "It's good that it's out there because nowadays people don't take time to actually read out of enjoyment. It's more of just reading textbooks because you have to — if that."

The wall will stay up until April 1. The committee started it last Spring to tie into SJSU's 150th anniversary celebration. The theme was "great novels of the past 150 years."

It was so successful that it's now an annual spring event, Nellen said.



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Jamie Murakami, a junior nutrition major, contributes to the Wall of Reading, which can be found just inside the main entrance to Clark Hall.

# BLOOD | Second drive planned for April 8

*Continued from page 1*

evidence to change the policy.

"Red Cross indicated that they might do something very close to the campus, and we encourage that," Kassing said at a news conference Monday in reference to the drive. "I'm not saying to anybody don't give blood. In fact, I'd say please give blood. But we're not going to do it on campus."

During the blood drive, Helmhold said that about 40 percent of the original 80 people who signed up to donate blood didn't show up.

"It's moving smooth, we've had the beds full all day," she said. "But I think we're going to obtain a lot less. But I don't know if it's being off campus as much as maybe being St.

Patrick's Day."

Another student who volunteered for the drive, Marlyn Adalawan, 27, a senior social science major, said the event was going really well.

"From what I understand we've been booked all day," Adalawan said.

Gabriela Hill, 22, a senior political science major, donated blood at the drive. She said she has volunteered at blood drives and donated blood before. She decided to donate due to the controversy surrounding the suspension of blood drives.

"I think it's a sticky situation," Hill said. "It's a matter of people in the administration on campus deciding whether they are going to advocate for people that are being discriminated against, you could say, or if you are go-

ing to allow the population to have the ability to have blood transfusions."

"Now in this area, we have the least amount of donors in the whole United States," said Helmhold. "Nationally about 36, 37 percent of the population are eligible at any one time, and out of that about 5 to 6 percent donate. But here in this area, Northern California, it's only 2 percent."

Helmhold said that between blood drives SJSU held on campus and drives held by Stanford Blood Center at SJSU, there could be about 600 units of blood that don't get donated because of the suspension of blood drives.

Unaffiliated SJSU students will be holding another blood drive on April 8 at the First Christian Church, across the street from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, said Fass.

# SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

## Today

### Counseling Services' Students with Disabilities Weekly Discussion

A supportive environment to socialize, share and discuss personal experiences. Bring your own lunch. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 201

Contact: Sybille Ulrike and Carolyn Rittenbach, Administration Building, Room 201, 924-5910, cs0035@email.sjsu.edu

### Live Music: Sinfonietta: The Seasons

Student Showcase. Featuring soloists and flute choir. 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall

Contact: Joan Stubbe, 924-4649, jstubbe@email.sjsu.edu

### Counseling Services' Help Me! I Have Test Anxiety!

Have you ever gone into a test well prepared and then when you sat down, you couldn't remember a thing? Test anxiety is normal, but you can control it. Spend 60

minutes of your time, play Tic Tac Testing and make the test-taking experience more pleasant. 3 to 4 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 269

Contact: Deanna Peck, 924-5910, dgalest@sjsu.edu

### Art & Design Lecture: A place for artistic dialogue between art, new technologies and industrial creation

Rosina Gomez-Baeza, director of the LABoral Centro de Arte y Creacion Industrial at the Universidad LABoral in the Northern Spanish city of Gijon, will discuss the programs and projects of this new innovative arts center. 5 p.m. in the Art Building, Room 133

Contact: 924-4327, tbelcher@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu

### Dress For Success

The Men's Wearhouse district managers Timothy Henning and Salwa Chaahan show you how to dress professionally for any occasion, whether it's for a business meeting, interview or a social gathering.

Presented by Delta Sigma Pi.

9 to 10:30 p.m. at the Student Union Pacifica Room  
Contact: Christopher Lozano, christopher.lozano@dpspsjsu.org

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 the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at [thespartandaily.com](http://thespartandaily.com) or in writing at DBH 209.

# Faculty members make home at Campus Village Building A

By ANGELO LANHAM  
Staff Writer

Students living — or partying their lives away — in the Campus Village residences may not have noticed that just feet away from their buildings, faculty and staff are living in Building A.

"It's really quiet, I can say that much," said Neil Torrefiel, the university Web master who lives in Building A. "It's pretty cool. I like how quiet it is."

Torrefiel, 25, has worked on campus since August and said he also likes the convenience of being able to walk to work, although he thinks he probably enjoys living where he works more than longtime faculty who are more familiar with the campus.

Building A has housed faculty and staff since the building opened in 2005 with the rest of Campus Village, said Kevina Brown, community relations coordinator for university housing.

"It started out transitional, where it was two years maximum," Brown said, "but what was happening is the space. We weren't completely full, so there was no reason to drive people out."

Brown wrote in an e-mail that occupancy in Building A is at 65 percent of capacity.

"They haven't turned anyone down yet," said David Patino, the senior planner, scheduler, estimator and TMA systems administrator.

Patino, 28, who lives in Building A, said that originally, after a two-

year period, residents were to be asked to appeal for their next year of residency.

Brown said that while there is still space now, the demand of the space is increasing, so campus housing is going to "play it by ear" as to whether they will begin enforcing the policy.

The latest word, Brown said, is that housing will not be returning to the two-year maximum.

With 35 percent of the building available, there should be plenty of room for graduate students, who Brown said have begun to live in Building A.

"For the 2008-2009 academic year, we will be expanding our marketing efforts to attract more grads to CVA," Brown wrote in an e-mail.

Although the marketing efforts have not begun, graduate student Bill Beaumont already lives in the building.

"It's certainly to my benefit, I was afraid I was going to get stuck in some four-bedroom apartment with four rambunctious kids," Beaumont said.

Some residents feel quite at home in Campus Village.

Sutee Sujitparapitaya, associate vice president for institutional research, said his only complaints were that parking gets crowded and the residence's parking garage doesn't have an elevator from the second floor.

"I feel bad for people with kids, or getting groceries, going up and down," he said.

Other than that, though, said he Sujitparapitaya enjoys the short walk

to work and what has so far been a peaceful stay, unburdened by any noise from students living nearby.

"The only noise I hear is from my neighbor," Sujitparapitaya said.

A couple of Building B students also appreciate the quiet of living across from the faculty residence halls.

"It's actually kind of peaceful," said Jessica Frank, 20, a junior broadcast journalism major. "I used to live on the other side, with all the freshmen coming back."

She also said quiet hours are enforced pretty strictly in Building B, so it's peaceful for Building A as well.

Patino agreed, saying "This has been one of the nicest places I've lived. Period."

He continued, "It is great. I've made some great new friends, and I have a six-minute commute."

The prices range from \$965, for a single-room unfurnished occupancy, to \$1,645, for a two-bedroom furnished occupancy, Brown said.

Patino, who said he's done the math and checked out all of the alternatives, said the prices are very competitive for apartments of the caliber of those in Building A.

He also said utility prices are supposed to go up, and his rates are locked in, so he's safe.

Patino said he previously lived in Watsonville, which created a situation for a lengthy and expensive commute.

Now, though, in Building A, Patino said he has a six-minute walking commute to work, has lost all of the stress of sitting in rush-hour traffic and is even saving money from the gas he's not using.

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## PRESS

*Continued from page 1*

sition to keep blood drives suspended from campus, questions and answers remained civil in tone.

Kassing was, however, staunch in his position regarding a proposed ballot initiative to freeze student fees — an initiative supported by Associated Students.

"I hope it wouldn't happen," he said, "because it would just devastate (SJSU). It would be very, very harmful."

Kassing said that freezing tuition hikes at the CSU level would negatively impact the quality of education.

With regard to an armed robbery early Friday morning in front of Campus Village, Kassing iterated what advice he would give to the SJSU population, saying, "Be alert. Walk in groups. Protect yourself."

He added, "I would cross this campus anytime. It's a safe place."

The 45-minute conference ended with a brief Q-and-A format discussion about on-campus gender-neutral bathrooms.

"That would be good question for the new president," Kassing said.

Kassing will hold two more news conferences before his term ends at the end of this semester. They are scheduled to be held April 8 and May 6.

**SPEAK UP!**

## What are your plans for spring break '08?



**Gabriela Vasquez**  
senior  
graphic design major

"Just hang out with the family and work here in San Jose ... the friends, eat some hamburgers and get fat."



**Kevin Starks**  
sophomore  
biology major

"I'm going to go to Henry Coe State Park and go backpacking for three days."



**Rosie Lin**  
freshman  
biology major

"I think I'm going to go back to San Francisco, and I might go on a cruise, but it's not sure yet."



**Sue Cay**  
junior  
business major

"I will be doing lots of studying and also lots of things going on for my pledging for a fraternity."

RESPONSES COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY HEIDI ROMSWINCKEL-GUISE

## Nine ways (in no particular order) to \$pend break

BY HEIDI ROMSWINCKEL-GUISE

### 1 Sky High Sports

**Admission:** \$9 per hour; Parking: Free  
**Location:** 2880 Mead Ave., Santa Clara  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 12 minutes

**Reason to go:** This place has trampolines on the floors as well as the walls. There are foam pits that you can jump into, or jump from trampoline to trampoline. Dodgeball is also available at this facility.

### 4 Raging Waters

**Admission:** \$29.99 at the gate;  
Parking: \$6 (subject to change)  
**Location:** 2333 S. White Road, San Jose  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 15 minutes

**Reason to go:** There are many waterslides and swimming areas to choose from. Grass surrounds the park, which is perfect for picnicking. Food and beverages are available in the park, and prices vary.

### Paramount's Great America

**Admission:** \$51.99 at the gate;  
Parking: \$10 (Free if you take the VTA — just show your sticker)  
**Location:** 4701 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 10 minutes

**Reason to go:** This theme park has a variety of rides that appeal to a wide range of people. Food and beverages are available in the park, and prices vary. This activity is a little more on the expensive side but will be a lot of fun.

### 2 Malibu Grand Prix & Castle

**Admission:** Varies (\$7.99 and up); Parking: Free  
**Location:** 320/340 Blomquist St., Redwood City  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 25 minutes

**Reason to go:** There are many different activities to attempt at this place. They have batting cages, bumper boats, go karts, video games and miniature golf. Go to their Web site for special prices and deals on certain days at [www.malibugrandprix.com](http://www.malibugrandprix.com) and click on the "Redwood City" link.

### HP Pavilion: San Jose Sharks

**Admission:** Varies (\$19 and up);  
Parking: \$20  
**Location:** 525 W. Santa Clara St., San Jose  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 5 minutes

**Reason to go:** Hockey games are pretty fun to watch, and the Sharks were on a recent 10-game winning streak and are in second place in the Western Conference in the NHL. If you are a sports fan, you have to check out this Bay Area team. Their game schedule is available at [www.sharks.nhl.com](http://www.sharks.nhl.com).

### 7 Winchester Mystery House

**Admission:** \$23.95 for Mansion Tour;  
Parking: Free  
**Location:** 525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 10 minutes

**Reason to go:** The Winchester Mystery House is unlike any other building around. It has rooms with nothing in them and staircases that lead to nothing.

### 3 Kelley Park

**Admission:** Free; Parking: \$6  
**Location:** 1300 Senter Road, San Jose  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 7 minutes

**Reason to go:** This park is a great place to have a picnic or barbecue with friends. Facilities such as the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo and History Park Museum cost an additional \$6 to get in, and the Japanese Friendship Garden is free.

### 3 Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

**Admission:** Free; Parking: \$10 in lot, varies on street  
**Location:** 400 Beach St., Santa Cruz  
**Drive time from SJSU:** 45 minutes

**Reason to go:** Go check out the boardwalk, beach or the wharf. If you want to go on some roller coasters, tickets are 75 cents each. There is also an arcade, laser tag, miniature golf and a bowling alley nearby.

### 9 SJSU Aquatic Center

**Admission:** Free with SJSU Tower Card; Parking: Garage or street (cost varies)  
**Location:** On campus, next to the Dining Commons.

**Reason to go:** If the weather is nice, you can swim and tan for free from noon to 7 p.m.

"Nothing is certain  
but death and taxes"

- Ben Franklin

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Saturday, April 12  
5:00 pm  
Tickets: \$32.50

**Gigantour**  
featuring  
**Megadeth**  
Monday, May 19  
5:30 pm  
Tickets: \$37.50

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## University Scholars Series

hosted by Provost Carmen Sigler

## Katharine Davies Samway



Katharine Davies Samway is Professor of Education in the Connie L. Lurie College of Education, Department of Elementary Education, where she teaches language and literacy courses. She is also the Co-Principal Investigator for the federally funded research project, VINE (Vocabulary Innovations in Education), which is investigating the impact of word consciousness/vocabulary development on 4th graders' reading and writing. Dr. Samway's research focuses on the literacy development of children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, especially English language learners (ELLs), and influences on teachers' beliefs and practices. Three of her recently published books are:

*Teaching English Language Learners, K-5: Strategies that Work* (2007)  
*Myths and Realities: Best Practices for English Language Learners*, 2nd Edition (2006), and  
*When English Language Learners Write: Connecting Research and Practice* (2006).

Dr. Samway's presentation will focus on what research tells us about the writing development and writing processes of English language learners, and how her research has led to innovations in her own teaching at the university level.

Connie L. Lurie College of Education,  
Department of Elementary Education

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**LOCAL LOUNGE NIGHT**  
ONE GOOD ROUND & ECHO BRIDGE  
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**Wednesday, March 19**  
**POWDER TRAIN & PLASTIC FANTASTIC LOVER**

**Thursday, March 20**  
PACIFIC ART COLLECTIVE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
**THE SH'T KICKERS & MAIDS OF HONOR**

**San Jose Bar and Grill**

**Tuesday, March 18**  
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**Wednesday, March 19**  
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**Tres Gringos**

**Tuesday, March 18**  
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**Wednesday, March 19**  
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# Hitting the books: Skimming through pages for fun

## Committee chooses Fall's university-sponsored book

By **KIMBERLY TSAO**  
Staff Writer

The circus is in town. Annette Nellen, director of the campus reading program committee, revealed that the committee chose the book "Water for Elephants: A Novel" by Sara Gruen for the next school year.

The novel chronicles Jacob Jankowski's life in the circus as he takes care of the animals, falls in love with Marlena and meets quirky characters along the way.

For the committee's pick, some restrictions apply, Nellen said. The book shouldn't have been adapted for the big screen yet. Also, it should have been published in the past four years, be available in paperback and be fewer than 400 pages.

Nellen said the committee, composed of employees and students, started with a long list of books last year and narrowed it down to a short list of six. That list included "The Glass Castle: A Memoir" and "Color of the Sea," which were voted by two committee members, Nellen said. The 16 other members vouched for Gruen's novel.

The other books on the shortlist were "Jesus Land: A Memoir," "Run" and "The Whistling Season," Nellen said. They previously selected "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," "The Kite Runner" and "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere" since 2005 in that order.

Sokha Sou, a senior business management major, said she had heard about the 2005 book choice, "Nickel and Dime" in high school.

"It was something the teacher said, 'You should read this during your leisure time,'" she said. "I remember reading an excerpt from it. It was pretty interesting."

For the committee's future choices,

students have their own suggestions. "The first book that pops into my mind is probably 'A Child Called 'It,'" said Caroline Nguyen, a senior nursing major. "That's one of my favorites; I guess because it's a true story, and it's really interesting."

Mabruka Abudra, a junior English major, suggested, "Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail."

"I think it's really interesting," she said, "because you get both a political view and a historical view of a whole different, another culture."

Nellen said "Banned Books Week" was popular last year, so the committee plans to have that again in the first week of October.

Other events include group discussions and professors' lectures on topics related to the book. Nellen said the committee usually approaches the professor, but interested faculty is more than welcome to approach them.

Nellen said the Center for Literary Arts is in charge of having the author come to campus.

On whether Gruen will come next year, Nellen said, "Probably not."

The committee will also coordinate with the Steinbeck Center for Spring 2009 events. They've also enlisted an SJSU advertising intern to help promote the book.

They came to a decision early on to start giving copies of the book to incoming freshmen. Nellen said that while most colleges limit their reading programs to freshmen, this one is open to the all SJSU students and employees.

They are encouraged to read Gruen's book over the summer. Several professors have required the committee's pick in their classes, which range from sociology to international business.

More information can be found on [sjsu.edu/reading](http://sjsu.edu/reading).

## Campus Voices: What book are you reading right now? Why?



**"The Plague"**  
by Albert Camus and Stuart Gilbert  
"It's about an outbreak of the bubonic plague but in the 1940s. I'm reading it for class."

**JEREMIAH COUCH**  
Graduate student, history  
Age: 28



**"The Order of the Stick"**  
by Rich Burlew  
"It's kind of like a comic book. It's funny. Also because I've played (Dungeons and Dragons), I get the jokes. I'm kind of a gamer geek."

**KAREN ONG**  
Junior, theatre major  
Age: 20



**"The Automatic Millionaire"**  
by David Bach  
"It's a book about how to save for retirement. It's written a little simply, and it kind of sounds like a snake oil thing, but when you add it up, it makes sense."

**MEGAN YOUNG**  
Junior, political science major  
Age: 22



**"Letters From a Skeptic"**  
by Gregory Boyd  
"It's a conversation that a guy, who's an apologist, has with his skeptical father about the tenets of Christianity. It's totally cool. It's very intellectual and philosophical stuff."

**KRIS MOTT**  
Graduate student, Spanish  
Age: 23



**"You're In Town, the musical"**  
"It's basically about how government enforces crazy laws. It's also about environmental issues as well. I'm reading it for Contemporary Theater."

**MERIDITH PORTER**  
Junior,  
occupational therapy major  
Age: 28



**"The Little Mischief"**  
"It's the second time I am reading this book. My friend said, 'If you read it, you're not going to put it down.' I read it in one week."

**AQUA SHERIFF**  
Sophomore, linguistics major  
Age: 22



**"The Road"**  
by Cormac McCarthy  
"It's about a father going on a journey across the American landscape. I saw a movie based on another of his books. That was 'No Country For Old Men.'"

**MO KHAN**  
Graduate student, electrical engineering  
Age: 25



**"A Voice in the Wind"**  
by Francine Rivers  
"It's just about this young girl who's surviving in Rome during a time when basically the Jewish people have been desecrated. It's just her life story and her struggle. I love the author. It is my first time reading this book."

**MATTIE MOTT**  
Junior, hospitality tourism major  
Age: 21

\*Compiled by Briana Hernandez, senior staff writer

# Classifieds

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\* EXCLT CUST SERVICE  
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### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

### SUDOKU

Difficulty: 1 (of 5)

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### TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

- Hill builder
- Twig shelter
- Feelings
- Between ports
- Not sunnyside up
- Love madly
- Use the overhead
- Roman holiday
- Start a fire
- Look at
- Loaf end
- Cook shack specialty
- Gambler's town
- Not cheat (2 wds.)
- Sumptuous repasts
- Poetic adverb
- Spurred on
- World-weariness
- With, to Maurice
- Divvy up
- River sediment
- "Walk Away --"
- More accurate
- Downgrade
- Apple goody
- Annually
- Blunders
- Barely managed
- Type of antenna
- Close off
- Apply a mudpack
- Pen part
- Sports division
- Opera manager
- Downy fungi
- Pilot's aid
- MGM mascot
- Agas
- Car pin
- Jiffies
- Workout facility

**DOWN**

- spumante
- Gaudy sign
- Sleazy
- Oats holders
- Ms. Longoria
- Cliques
- Before zetas
- Minibus
- Latin I verb growers?
- Tree trunk
- Buffalo's lake
- Close off
- Try to find out
- Yachting hazard
- Precious thing
- Yearning sounds
- Maiden-name indicator
- Polar explorer
- Embankment
- Stadium
- Domain
- Take potshots at
- Red flower
- Locations
- Robot
- Of the brain
- Party cheese
- Taiga denizen
- Latin I verb
- Urges
- London's river
- Makes a phone call
- Soap target
- Delhi nursemaid
- Salon creation
- Party cheese
- Sticky stuff
- Bone below the elbow
- Newsroom VIPs
- Previously
- Winter Games org.

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## Solitude chews its way to the core



By **ANDREW HERNDON**  
Staff Writer

When I was 19, I moved to Las Vegas. Big mistake. I tried to get a job, but no one wanted an inexperienced teenager with a mere high school diploma. Apparently, Vegas wants at least a bachelor's degree from a would-be obedient member of a gambling empire. So basically, I sat around for a few months, slowly siphoning the money out of my Wells Fargo gas tank. People in my own apartment building ignored my "hellos" and "good mornings." No matter how hard I tried, I could not make one friend in that foul city. This caused me to develop feelings of loneliness and despair. Depression slowly draped itself over my heart, crippling my view of myself and the world around me. Speeding south on Interstate 15 toward Barstow, I left the desert with my tail between my legs, while the stench of failure slithered into my tear ducts. I swear there was something in my eyes. Enough about Sin City.

*I feared the notion  
of conversing with a stranger,  
or even standing near  
anyone in such a confining area.*

I transferred to SJSU in 2005. Not only was San Jose a new place for me, so was attending a real university. I lived on the third floor of Campus Village with three other men around my age. I reached a point where I was afraid to take the elevator; I feared the notion of conversing with a stranger, or even standing near anyone in such a confining area. I convinced myself that taking the stairs would ease my psyche. This worked to an extent, even though many people took the stairs. It was faster than taking the elevator. This salvaged time is what I used to tolerate my self-diagnosis of agoraphobia. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, agoraphobia is fear of open spaces or public places. The term originally stems from Greek language: "agora" meaning marketplace and "phobos" meaning fear. Although I was not officially diagnosed, I displayed a handful of symptoms: feelings of detachment from others, lightheadedness and chest pain, to name a few. While living in the "apartment," as the Campus Village markets it, I would periodically converse with my roommates, but they too kept to themselves. Granted we all had different schedules, but when the planets were aligned, we would run across each other. But even with this cosmic occurrence, we still acted as if we were ships passing in the night. Living with roommates can be beneficial in terms of saving money and possible friendships, but I have come to a realization that I prefer living alone at this point in my life. I grew up as an only child and never had a problem with entertaining myself, but this solitude may have chewed its way into my very core, beginning with Las Vegas and, hopefully, ending with San Jose. I don't get the same stomachaches or anxiety attacks as I did before. I'm not sure why; maybe I'm just older now. If I could give advice to a nameless person suffering from similar experiences as myself, it would be: You're not going to have fun worrying about what could be. Or better yet, to quote the great Kool and his ever timeless Gang: "How you gonna do it if you really don't want to dance, by standing on the wall? Get your back up off the wall."

## The dangers of the road you wouldn't see



**JOSH WEAVER**

*The Way I Live*

Driving to work at 7:45 a.m. the other day, listening to a local radio station's morning show — with a bagel in my right hand — it suddenly dawned on me that I had traveled two miles and I had no recollection of how I ended up in the far left lane. The best way I could describe it is a case of extreme daydreaming, except in this case I wasn't dreaming about anything. Sleeping with my eyes open — are you kidding me? I shook my head, rubbed my eyes, tried to catch up with the morning show conversation, and continued on my way at 70 mph.

Although I made it through the situation unscathed, and without dropping my bagel, the dangers of driving under the influence of sleep deprivation cannot be taken lightly.

In the state of New Jersey, under Maggie's Law, which was passed in 2003, a sleep-deprived driver can be convicted of vehicular manslaughter and serve jail time for the offense.

What I experienced is what has been referred to as highway hypnosis.

According to a February 5 article published in the Wall Street Journal, approximately 60 percent of Americans said they have driven while drowsy, and an even more staggering 37 percent said they have dozed off behind the wheel.

The article also reported that more than half of the accidents caused by sleep deprivation involved drivers under the age of 25.

On its Web site, the National Highway Traffic Administration lists "personal demands" as one of the main contributors to drowsy driving.

Under the title of "personal de-

mands," there is a brief synopsis of what the phrase means, and it reads, "Many Americans do not get the sleep they need because their schedules do not allow adequate time for it."

How profound.

Using broad terms, the statement describes the life of a typical college

*What I experienced  
is what has been  
referred to as  
highway hypnosis.*

student, juggling work, school and a social life, leaving little time for sleep.

The National Sleep Foundation, among others, suggests that adults sleep seven to nine hours each night to feel refreshed the following morning.

I average five-and-a-half, maybe six.

The foundation conducted a survey in 2005 titled "Sleep in America," which revealed that 17 percent of the respondents felt fatigued or not fully

awake almost every day of the week.

No joke. No exaggeration.

I haven't felt completely awake for about a year-and-a-half.

There is no clear-cut solution to cure sleep deprivation other than perhaps, well, sleep, but who has time for that? Recommendations of a consistent sleep pattern or healthy eating habits have little positive effect among college students.

In 2004, Duke University eliminated 8 a.m. classes from its schedule, lending its sleep-deprived students a helping hand to conquer drowsiness.

What a phenomenal idea. It is worth considering.

It's unfortunate, but I have missed more classes that began at 8 a.m. or earlier for no other reason than to get a few more minutes of shut-eye.

The roads may be a little safer if I am awake during my entire commute.

*"The Way I Live" appears the last publication Tuesday of every month. Josh Weaver is the Spartan Daily sports editor.*

## Letter to the editor

### The Holocaust of our era

Zionism: a political movement for establishing and developing a national homeland for Jews in Palestine.

Today, in a region with the largest refugee population in the world, exists a few million hungry, homeless, malnourished Palestinians fighting for their lives.

Their voices are unheard of to the rest of the world because their faces and lives have no value to the Zionist regime of Israel.

It's nearly impossible to grasp the hardships and difficulties Palestinians face because they are treated as third-class citizens.

Just visit Palestine or meet a fellow Palestinian: Their stories have no happiness nor joy. They do, however, have a sense of bravery for standing up to oppression.

Today in Palestine, an apartheid wall continues to be constructed around the region with land grabs at every corner cutting through college campuses and dividing families.

Some would say the apartheid state of Israel is "protecting itself," but from what? The Zionist regime has nuclear weapons and F-16s courtesy of the United States. By contrast, Palestinians have their bodies as their F-16s.

Following the Holocaust, Europeans eradicated the Jews out of Europe and into Palestine to encourage Zionism. Jews and Muslims had lived in peace for many centuries. When Jews were persecuted around the world, they found many Arab states giving them protection and shelter.

At a time when Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai threatens Gaza with a bigger "shoah," a Hebrew word usually reserved for the Holocaust, that relationship is threatened. Interior Minister of Israel Meir Sheerit followed with a statement that "We must take a neighborhood in Gaza and wipe it off the map," according to the Associated Press.

We as American-educated college students must stand up against this injustice, these inhumane acts and demand dignity for the Palestinian people. The occupation continues to brutally kill, oppress and starve the Palestinian people, but we must not silently wait for change.

We must ask ourselves why people blow themselves up. They blow themselves up because they are desperate for what we as Americans cherish the most, which is freedom.

*-Humza Chowdhry  
Graduate student, civil engineering*

## Will New Orleans produce the next American gangster?



By **KIMBERLY TSAO**  
Staff Writer

If the government moves any slower, New Orleans will be what Harlem was in the 1970s. New Orleans may even produce what Harlem did back then — an American gangster. History has a way of repeating itself.

In the '70s, Harlem gave birth to Frank Lucas, one of the biggest drug lords in the United States, if not the biggest. Yes, he's the same man who Denzel Washington brought to life in the movie "American Gangster."

Lucas imported pure heroin all the way from Vietnam. He would hide the drugs in the coffins of dead soldiers. Lucas' heroin product "Blue Magic" launched him to an estimated worth of \$52 million.

Decades later, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina unleashed her wrath on New Orleans. It was only recently, however, that the California Assembly and Senate passed the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act to help the city.

The bill still has a long way to go before it can help anybody. Once the government gets a move on, however, the act, according to the project's Web site, will provide New Orleans with \$4 billion. This means civic workers will be paid a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

Until that bill is implemented or help comes in some other form, much of New Orleans has to live without proper housing. The homes will lie in ruins there just like the Roman Colosseum.

According to a 2005 article published in the Washington Post, Katrina forced at least 240,000 people to seek refuge in Texas. Post-Katrina, some of the abandoned houses in New Orleans became infested with drug traffickers.

The Web site for New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development states that in the 1970s, the city took over multiple buildings in Harlem. Similarly, that left the majority of a

thousand buildings vacant during the same period as Lucas' drug cartel.

Without exterminators for the drug centrals in New Orleans, the city could be looking at another kingpin. The number of police officers dwindled from 1,668 to 1,275, according to a 2006 article published in USA Today.

Hurricane Katrina didn't just leave floods. It also provided the drug dealers with a pool of potential customers. Since the hurricane hit, there have been 46,600 children coping with mental problems, according to a study by the Children's Health Fund and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Not all of them will just take drugs, though — some may sell them. Education is the key to prevention, but after Katrina, many children were uprooted from their schools.

Moreover, at least one penitentiary, the Orleans Parish Prison, was left to the mercy of the hurricane. The prisoners weren't evacuated right away. It

*Hurricane Katrina  
didn't just leave floods.  
It also provided  
the drug dealers with a  
pool of potential customers.*

wouldn't be difficult for a prisoner or two to break out in the midst of all that chaos. That one escaped convict could return to his old ways exponentially.

The homicide rate in New Orleans is "73.5 murders per 100,000 residents," according to a 2006 USA Today article. The same article states that New Orleans took the crown from Compton, Calif., which previously held the record for "67 murders per 100,000 people."

If actual help doesn't arrive in New Orleans soon, all Third World countries may not be outside of the U.S. anymore.

Imagine someone who suffered the effects of a Third World but has access to the resources of a superpower country.

Behold the wrath of the next American gangster.

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## the DAILY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"We spent the weekend reviewing your messages, and while your reasons vary widely, the consensus is clear: Florida doesn't want to vote again. So we won't."*

**KAREN THURMAN**

*Florida Democratic party chairwoman*

# Spartans swat Hornets, win series 3-1

By ANDREW HERNDON  
Staff Writer

The SJSU baseball team defeated the Sacramento State Hornets 5-4 in the final game of a four-game series at Municipal Stadium on Sunday.

The Spartans took the series finale by way of a walk-off hit to left field by freshman center fielder Jason Martin.

"I just tried to get the run in however I could," Martin said. "It was just a hanging slider, and I just swung at it. I got lucky and got a base hit."

Martin said he was waiting on the pitcher's off-speed pitches.

"It looked like he was throwing a lot of sliders, a lot of changeups, a lot of off-speed stuff," Martin said. "I was kind of sitting on that a little bit, and ... he gave me a good one to hit."

Martin extended his hit streak to 10 games, going 5 for 12 with a .417 batting average in the four-game series.

Head coach Sam Piraro said his

team performed well defensively but struggled offensively in the beginning.

"I thought defensively we did a really good job," Piraro said. "Offensively, you know, we didn't do a lot early. I thought we got dominated with the fastball."

SJSU did eventually have some quality at-bats, producing enough runs to beat the Hornets, with five runs on seven hits.

"We had some good at-bats that got us the four runs," Piraro said, "and in the ninth inning, you know, we had obviously three really good at-bats when we really needed them."

Junior catcher Anthony Aguilera got the Spartans on the board in the bottom of the second inning with a sharply hit ball, splitting the third baseman and shortstop, tallying the first two runs of the afternoon.

"It felt good to finally clutch up and get that base hit," Aguilera said. "I've been looking for (RBIs),

because I've come up in situations like that before and haven't come through. And it felt good to come through for your team, finally."

The Spartan pitching held the Hornet offense to four runs Sunday afternoon and nine runs over the entire series. The Spartan offense scored 24 runs over the four-game set.

Sunday's starting pitcher, sophomore Spencer Snodgrass, got many Hornet batters to ground out to the infielders behind him.

"I was just trying to throw strikes early in the count, so that they could roll over and try to get themselves out," Snodgrass said. "They're a good hitting team, and if you fall behind in the count they're really going to make you pay."

Sacramento State had a total of 11 hits and found themselves on base on multiple occasions during Sunday's contest, but the Spartan pitching extinguished its rival's chances with key ground outs.

"I was trying to throw low-quality strikes and try to get some early contact ahead in the count — throwing breaking pitches for strikes," Snodgrass said. "Coach (Justin Santich) Hughes did a good job calling pitches, keeping them off balance."

The four-game series stretched from Friday through Sunday, with a doubleheader on Saturday.

The Spartans fell short 3-1 on Friday night but battled back to win three games in a row.

"After losing the first game, it takes, to me, a lot of character to come back and win the next three," Piraro said. "With that being said, being the home team we felt we had to win three out of four and we did it the hard way."

The team needs improvement, Piraro said, but it still performed well under pressure.

"We certainly have a lot of holes to fill," Piraro said. "Nevertheless, the guys hung in there and found a way to win that in the ninth inning. And that to me is kind of a trademark of this club."



PHOTOS BY ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

ABOVE: Right fielder Michael Maehl checks his swing at pitch in the dirt by a Hornets pitcher Sunday. ABOVE RIGHT: Second baseman Karson Klauer runs home from third base after a sacrifice fly to right field by teammate Jason Martin in the Spartans 5-4 win.



## Spartan Sports Trivia

How many seasons has the Spartans baseball coach Sam Piraro been at the helm?

Answer will appear in Wednesday's edition of the Spartan Daily

## Team, personal bests propel gymnasts through weekend meet

By HEIDI ROMSWINCKEL-GUISE  
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's gymnastics team clinched first place in a nonconference quadrangular meet against UC Berkeley, Cal State Fullerton and UC Davis in Berkeley on Sunday.

The Spartans scored their second-highest team score of the season with a 194.825, and they now have a 14-3 record.

The team also scored two season-best scores, with a 49.100 on the floor exercise and a 48.575 on the balance beam.

"I was very proud of our floor team, especially since we started floor first in the competition," coach Wayne Wright said. "And our beam team has kept us in meets and sealed the victory. Both teams kept their focus and composure and did well for us."

Seniors Emily Stebbins and Casey Jay both earned their season-high marks on the floor exercise.

Jay scored a 9.800, and Stebbins scored a 9.900 to take first in the event.

"I went into the meet really relaxed and ready to do my best," Stebbins said. "Toward the end of this season, I've been getting more confident with myself."

The Spartans' confidence also showed on the balance beam, the team's final event of the meet.

Senior Leah Bigelow and junior tri-captain Veronica Porte tied for third place on the balance beam, each with a 9.800.

"We started on floor, which was very high energy, and that carried on throughout the meet," Porte said.

"We had a fall on bars and beam, but we were all still energetic. I think that made the other girls feel less pressure to hit."

Porte took first place in the all-around competition with a total score of 39.150, including a first-place finish on the vault.

Porte earned her fourth all-around win this season.

"It was fun to have a solid meet and help the team out," Porte said.

Stebbins said the Spartans want to keep doing well in order to

*"I went into the meet really relaxed and ready to do my best,"*

EMILY STEBBINS  
SJSU gymnast

qualify for the NCAA Regionals, a tournament for the top 36 schools in the region.

"The better our scores are, the better our chances are to make it to Regionals," Stebbins said.

Coach Wright said the team's objective is to make it as far as it can. "Every meet we continue to go toward our goal," Wright said. "We want to finish in the top three in the WAC and make it to the NCAA Regionals."

Wright said this team has a good chance of accomplishing its goal and is probably the best team SJSU has ever had.

"Everybody plays a part, and everybody counts," Wright said. "We have no superstars — we have a team."

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