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Spartan Daily

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST
27 2008

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Cool down with Indian Rain

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Wally Pleasant's debut and college life have not changed since 1992

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| | | | |
| 102 | 89 | 84 | 84 |
| 60 | 62 | 59 | 59 |

First-time freshmen flood campus



MYSJSU CONFUSION AFFECTS HOUSING AND G.E. CLASS AVAILABILITY

DAVID ZUGNONI and ADAM MURPHY
Executive Editor and Staff Writer

SJSU admitted more first-time freshmen this fall than it previously expected, despite the failure of 515 incoming freshmen to complete the enrollment process on the university's online student system, MySJSU, said Pat Lopes Harris, SJSU media relations specialist.

In May, 1,057 high school seniors who were accepted to SJSU were notified that their applications were being withdrawn because they had not signed up for student orientation. About half of those students had planned on attending SJSU, while the other half consisted of students who chose to attend other universities, Lopes Harris said. After receiving letters through U.S.

mail, a handful of students and parents called and showed up to the SJSU Student Affairs office to say they had planned on enrolling at SJSU but were unaware of the three-step, intent-to-enroll process at MySJSU. "Most of them felt like they had done what they needed to do, and they were frustrated when they received the letter," said Veril Phillips, SJSU's vice president

Students crowd the Dining Commons at dinner time.

CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily

of Student Affairs. "And some were very delighted when they found out they would in fact be admitted."

►► **FRESHMEN**page4

Parking problems persist

Packed lots and permit prices continue to frustrate students

CORINNE SPECKERT
Staff Writer

Despite SJSU's 19 campus parking lots, three garages and a free shuttle going to and from campus, students are having trouble finding parking. "Parking is definitely a problem," said Steve Hardin, a freshman business marketing major. "It's an issue that needs to be addressed."

Hardin said finding parking is possible, but it's difficult and students have to be willing to take their chances by parking on streets.

"I was here at quarter to 7 a.m. and was already on the third floor," said Debbie Walde, a junior business major. "I heard if you get here at 9, just forget it."

With a record number of freshmen attending SJSU this fall, university police has been out in full force, trying to manage the overflow of students.

Sgt. John Laws of the University Police De-

partment said traffic control has been lighter this year compared with others and to help accommodate SJSU's 32,000 to 33,000 students, the department is directing students to parking lots, encouraging the use of the Park and Ride lot and hiring more staff.

"We just hired one new bus driver, so we're hiring staff and making sure we have bus drivers to get people where they need to be," Laws said.

Students who manage to find parking may be hit with a fine for violating parking restrictions, said UPD Sgt. Mike Santos.

"There is no such thing as a free two-week period where no one gets cited," Santos said. "Generally,

►► **PARKING**page5

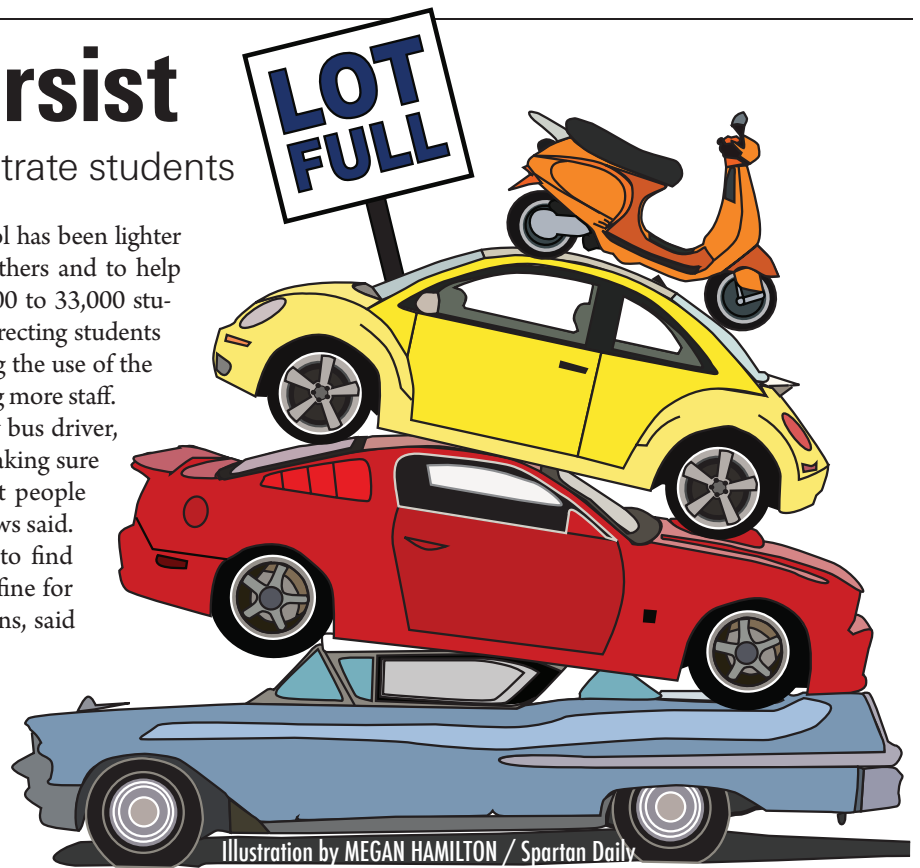


Illustration by MEGAN HAMILTON / Spartan Daily

New year, new recruits for fraternities and sororities

CHRIS CURRY
Staff Writer

Once again, SJSU's 35 fraternities and sororities are going through their biannual recruitment efforts known as rush week. The entire new recruitment effort runs from Aug. 16 to Sept. 13.

Strategically placed rows of small tents line the corridor next to the new Cesar E. Chavez Monument.

Groups of recruiters wearing T-shirts displaying their colors and creeds occasionally darted out to offer fliers to prospective members.

"I think it's a pretty cool thing," said undeclared junior Mario Castillo. "It's a nice day to recruit freshmen. They have, like, a 'wow' moment when they see this little alley here."

While these fraternities and sororities are intent on bringing new people in, that is not the sole intention of rush week. "It's yearlong recruiting, but this is just so that we can stand out

and let people get to know us," said Hector Garcia, who was recruiting for Gamma Zeta Alpha.

Fall rush week is typically the biggest of the year, and the recent substantial increase in student population has provided plenty of new people for recruiters like Garcia to get to know. By 10:30 a.m., most booths already had their own small huddles of interested people.

Chris Jones, a senior radio television and film major, said he can already tell the difference.

"You can definitely tell that there's more student body on campus," he said. "It seems like a great deal of them are actually interested in Greek life, which is refreshing."

The increased interest has caught a few houses by surprise.

"We had a rush barbecue last night," said John Miranda, a sophomore journalism major. "We used up our whole stock of barbecue meat for

two weeks in one night."

Jones and his fraternity had the same experience.

"We had a barbecue last night at 7, and at 7:05 we had, maybe, almost 100 people there," he said. "We have barbecues every year, but this barbecue went from 7 to like 11:30, people coming in and out. From what I heard every house was like that."

Rush week gives recruiters the chance to meet new people.

"Meeting all the new people is really fun," said Mark Lahlouh, a junior mechanical engineering major. "At first they're just strangers, but over the rush you really get to meet all these new faces. It makes you appreciate when you were in their position and you didn't know anyone, and you got to meet new people and make new friends."

Students' opinions on Greek life were mostly positive.

►► **RUSH**page5



HANK DREW / Spartan Daily

Members of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity have some fun during rush week events on Tuesday.

University's internationalizing vision close to home for new chair of Academic Senate

DINA BASLAN
Features Editor

Outside the four walls of a classroom and beyond the borders of the university's campus, instructors and students interact actively in each other's lives and cultures, sharing their diverse backgrounds for a better understanding of the world.

That's what the chair of the computer engineering department envisions. Professor Sigurd Meldal has seen a

133 percent rise in international students at San Jose State University and sees it as an opportunity for student exposure and bonding.

"The university becomes a semi-parental figure," Meldal said, "and if we take good care of students' rights, we become part of their extended family."

The Norwegian professor said the notion of an extended family is very important for the university as it means that students have access to

"family" resources around the world.

This semester, however, Meldal is taking on a new role within the family of SJSU. He is stepping in as the new chair of the Academic Senate after one year of apprenticeship as a vice chair.

"It's a wonderful job," he said. "To be in the thick of being part of the conversation, determining how the university is going to run — that's very exciting."

On campus, the Academic Senate carries out the role of a legislative as-

sembly, similar to the House of Representatives of the U.S. government, Meldal said.

Eva Joice, administrative analyst and the only full-time employee in the office, said the Academic Senate's job is to recommend policies to the president, who ultimately has the power to accept or reject proposals.

She said it also has the power to re-

►► **MELDAL**page5

Date set for unveiling of Cesar Chavez arch

SPARTAGUIDE



The site of the Cesar E. Chavez Monument remains surrounded by chain-link fences.

HANK DREW / Spartan Daily

CHRIS BAUSINGER
Copy Editor

Located between the Music Building and the new Associated Students print shop, the Cesar E. Chavez Monument, also known as The Arch of Dignity, Equality and Justice, is near completion.

The Arch's dedication ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 4 at El Paseo de Cesar Chavez after last April's projected date of completion was pushed back to between late June and late August.

SJSU President Jon Whitmore and the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Community Committee will be at the reception, which will include a Native American blessing at 2:30 p.m. followed by the dedication ceremony at 3:15 p.m.

Artist and UCLA Professor Judith F. Baca designed the monument and its murals.

It is "modeled on a Mayan corbelled arch combined with mission colonial arches. This site pays tribute to Chavez's respective Spanish and indigenous roots while referencing the conquest. The plaza is treated with colors derived from the Pre-Hispanic Codices, while the arch is finished with a pearlescent white to create a sensibility of reflective light within the architecture," according to the Social and Public Art Resource Center's Web site.

"The five murals are made from Venetian glass," Baca said. "The interior mural depicts (Cesar) Chavez peering across a vineyard during his 21-day fast during the grape boycott."

The project's near completion comes as a warm welcome to some students.

"When construction first be-

gan, I didn't consider it to be a pain," said Stephanie Hwang, a junior nursing major. "But because it has been around for so long, it has become an annoying obstacle to walk around."

Other students seemed excited to see the monument nearly completed.

"I think that once the finishing touches are made, it will look great," said Jason Lee, a senior business finance major.

El Paseo de Cesar Chavez is getting a face lift with new tiling around the existing fountain and a fresh coat of paint. The arch stands proudly waiting to be adorned with murals.

The project had been delayed after its initial dedication date due to technical difficulties with glass pieces that make up the logo of the United Farm Workers' Union, an eagle with an ap-

proximately 15-foot wingspan, according to a report in an April 15 Spartan Daily article.

"It took engineering and know-how to produce the glass eagle," Baca said.

Since the report, the logo has been placed inside the monument and covered during the remainder of the work.

"The way the light reflects off of the turquoise glass eagle is truly remarkable," Baca said. "The outcome has truly exceeded my vision."

"The construction has gone exactly to plan and the past delay came when the art met the construction," said Tony Valenzuela, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations at SJSU.

He added that the five murals are finished and should be installed within the coming week.

EVENTS CALENDAR

27 TODAY

Bible Study

Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible studies 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room. Contact: Justin Foon, jfoon1@yahoo.com, 415.786.9873

02 TUESDAY

Game Development Club

Come to the first meeting of the Game Development club. 7 to 9 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room. Contact: Edgar Miranda, edgar86m@gmail.com

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 or in writing at DBH 209.

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Farmacias Remedios

News-based exhibit adds to art in King Library

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

A spin has been put on the children's riddle, "What's black and white and red all over?" The answer can be found on the second floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

Allied Artists West, a local group of professional painters, created an exhibit described as "a visual response to the written news." In the exhibit, "Black and White and Read All Over," each piece of art is displayed along with corresponding articles that provided the artists' inspiration, according to the organization's Web site.

Junior English major Jackie Smith, who was exploring the library during a break in her schedule, said her favorite piece in the exhibit was a large pastel of an endangered primate.

The painting was contributed by local artist Deborah Matlack and titled "Orangutan

At Home." Matlack said she chose this subject based on an article in the San Jose Mercury News about Happy Hollow Zoo and its effort to raise money for The Orangutan Conservatory by collecting

"I think it is a powerful way to communicate a step further."

JACKIE SMITH
junior, English major

unusable cell phones. According to the Mercury News, the zoo collected 11,000 phones, raising \$13,000.

"Retribution," a watercolor painting by artist Jane Hofstetter, was inspired by an article about a mother dealing with the loss

of her only child in the Iraq war. Hofstetter's picture stands in the forefront of the exhibit, showing a black background and two soldiers painted red with strings attached as though they were puppets.

Other pieces in the exhibit portray a variety of issues including stem cell research and local sports.

"I think it is a powerful way to communicate a step further," Smith said. "It definitely supports different ways to get the message across."

The exhibit has been in the King Library since Aug. 2 and ends on Aug. 31. Smith said she thought the exhibit will be interesting to other students and encourages them to see it because an appreciation for art is important.

The Allied Artists West Web site includes pictures of the art, additional commentary and the opportunity for students to acquire instruction provided by the featured artists.



MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

Jackie Smith, 20, an English major from Colorado, looks at a watercolor piece, "Retribution" by Jane Hofstetter, in the Black and White and Read All Over art exhibit on the second floor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

San Jose to put \$14 million into sports complex

PETER HIRONAKA
Staff Writer

The new sports complex on SJSU's South Campus is still in its early conception as the representatives of San Jose's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services met with the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee on Aug. 14.

The CSU Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the new project in May. The plan for the new sports complex would consist of four artificial turf soccer fields covering 13 acres of

land. It also includes a concession stand, new parking spaces, two basketball courts and four volleyball courts.

The construction would take place where Bud Winter Track currently resides. The SJSU campus uses that area for field kinesiology courses, intramural sports and public use.

Juan Borrelli, San Jose senior planner, said production on this project is still in its early stages.

Like the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, the artificial turf soccer fields will be used and co-managed by the city and the

university. The library's mission statement is to provide the city and the school with a "high quality library dedicated to excellent service." According to the CSU agenda committee on finance, the city of San Jose will be funding the project at a total estimated cost of \$14 million.

During the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee meeting on Aug. 14, District Four Councilman Kansan Chu brought up the issue of parking. The area has been used as a parking lot for the school's baseball and football games.

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Representative Matt Cano mentioned during the meeting that football games contested at Spartan Stadium potentially bring in anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 filled parking spaces per game.

Another big problem with the construction is that it could potentially be an inconvenience for those who use the Bud Winter Track as a place to exercise.

During the meeting, Cano shed some light on the dilemma.

"We do recognize that it is a huge asset to the community out

there," he said. "We're working towards a solution that will include a walkway around the new fields being constructed."

Cano mentioned during the meeting that he and his co-workers have been consulting with the city about the surrounding areas for spectators to park their cars to help alleviate the situation. They have talked to landowners in that area for possible spaces. Additional possibilities for parking spaces include the lot at Kelley Park, which is adjacent to Roberts Avenue.

Darryll Crummie, a junior

justice studies major, said he had never heard of any projects in the works. He was not alone as several other students were unaware of a possible sports complex being built.

Cano said he plans to come back to the City Council in October or November with solutions to the parking problem. Cano said he believes he will return to the City Council with formal agreements in early 2009.

According to the City of San Jose Web site, the estimated time of completion of the project is between 18 to 24 months.



MOVING FORWARD FALL WELCOME DAYS

Fall Welcome Days is a series of exciting social and academic programs designed for incoming students. Make connections with fellow students, staff, faculty and the community, and learn about campus resources and opportunities. For a complete schedule of free Fall Welcome Days events visit getinvolved.sjsu.edu.

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► **FRESHMEN** About 100 students wait for housing, others struggle for spot in remedial class

Don Kassing, who served as SJSU president until Aug. 1, made the decision to admit those students because some were "counting on" attending SJSU, Lopes Harris said.

"That was the deciding point for him," she said, "that if these students really wanted to come here, let's see what we can do."

An unofficial head count of first-time freshmen is 3,584, said Sutee Sujitparapitaya, associate vice president of institutional research.

Campus Housing

As a result of a large group of incoming freshmen, some students are on a paid waiting list for campus housing, said Kevina Brown, community relations coordinator for University Housing Services.

"We filled up a lot sooner, and our numbers increased a lot sooner than they have in the past," Brown said.

About 100 people were on a waiting list for housing as of Tuesday, Brown said.

"That does not mean that they won't be assigned a space," she said. "It just means as soon as there is a cancel, they will have a place."

Lopes Harris said that in the first few weeks of school, residents often drop out, opening spaces for other residents.

Malcolm Purdy, a freshman aerospace engineering major, said he now pays \$895 a month to live off campus.

"I guess I applied too late, and I got a letter saying I didn't get (housing)," he said.

In Joe West Hall, some rooms meant for two people are currently housing three.

"That is a direct result of us trying to service our student population as best we can,"

Brown said, "just trying to make sure that everyone, especially those from far away, have a safe place to live. Certainly it's a better option that having to drive people away."

Lopes Harris said potential campus housing residents who have family in the area have been encouraged to stay with family while they wait for on-campus housing.

Not enough class sections

Most freshmen have gotten into the undergraduate classes they need, but not everybody's needs were met, said Bob Cooper, associate vice president for the department of undergraduate studies.

"We identified the classes that were most likely to have excess demand, and we worked with the department chairs to provide some extra sections of those classes," Cooper said.

Some students have been encouraged to take classes at community colleges through the cross-enrollment program, which allows some SJSU students to pay \$10 for community college classes, Cooper said. However, the program is restricted to students who have spent at least one semester at SJSU, leaving first-time freshmen out.

Other restrictions require that students take six or more units at SJSU and that they are California residents.

Cooper said one of the most in-demand classes is LLD1, a remedial writing course taken mostly by students whose first language is not English, most of whom are international students. He said 47 students still have not gotten into an LLD1 class.

"We haven't been able to add sections because LLD1 has a lab component," he said.

MySJSU problems

Lopes Harris said that due to the confusion many incoming freshmen had regarding MySJSU, the university reconsidered its system for enrollment and will combine the three steps needed — articulating intent to enroll, signing up for orientation and signing up for placement exams — into one step for future semesters.

"For a lot of young people these days, the college application process is a joint effort between student and parent, and many parents expect everything to come in through U.S. mail," she said.

"But some very important correspondence does come through MySJSU."

Two graduate students at SJSU said MySJSU is generally an easy-to-use system for students, but it does have its drawbacks.

"I've used other systems before, and this one's very organized," said Varun Buxi, a business administration major. "It's a little difficult to find the breakdown of fees you're supposed to pay ... Everything else is fine: finding your classes, adding them. That's all fine. It's when you want to pay for your classes. That part is a little tricky."

Social work major Michelle Brown said the system has been down frequently, including on her scheduled day to enroll for classes, which resulted in her not being able to get some of the classes she wanted.

"I've been around for years," she said. "And when I was doing my bachelor's, they were just starting (MySJSU), so I've been here through all the glitches. It's a lot better now."

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► **MELDAL** 'Anybody in the university community has the right to be heard,' new chair says

wise already existing policies. "The Senate picks up an issue where there is vagueness and tries to solidify it and make it clear," Meldal added. For example, issues such as cheating and disabilities were reviewed and reformed by the Academic Senate to ensure students' fairness and equality on campus. "It is a co-governance model where administration, students and faculty run the university as a joint project," Meldal said. SJSU President Jon Whitmore is a senator on the board as well as Associated Students President Vosa Cavu-Litman. As for the chair, he carries out the United Nations figure of the facilitator, Meldal said: setting an agenda, facilitating an environment that promotes dialogue and carrying out the flow of the meeting. "Except I don't have any black helicopters," he added. He said he is preparing for the first senate meeting on September. Three main areas of focus Meldal talked about for the next two years are improving retention and graduation rights, creating a plan to internationalize the

campus further and making efficient use of the teaching resources of the university to ensure students' success without burning out teachers' energies. Meldal also encouraged students to get involved with the Academic Senate by requesting refinement of some policy issues through what are called referrals, forms that students can drop off at the Academic Senate office. "Anybody in the university community has the right to be heard," he said. "Talk to the senators. You as a student have actually two groups of people who can speak for you directly: your college senators and the student senators." Cavu-Litman said it is an honor for him to represent students on the board of senators. "I think it's very important to have student input," he said, "because if you are going to put policies and write resolutions that affect students, I think there should be a student voice." The task force on sustainability issues, for example, was created as the result of university community members requesting the Senate to act upon it.



Sigurd Meldal, new chair of the Academic Senate, sorts a busy schedule on his palm pilot.

CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily



HANK DREW / Spartan Daily

► **RUSH** Worth the trouble

"I think it's good for the freshman to have a nice display of all the different sororities and fraternities, and they have a nice chance to talk to them," said Sarah Bronstein, a junior political science major. Jones summed up rush week

like this: "It's a hassle standing out here in the sun, getting stuff ready, getting events ready and stuff like that, but when it comes down to it, it's fun because you get to know guys who could potentially be in your house. I think it's worth it."

A member of Delta Sigma Phi ready to hand out fliers.

► **PARKING** Housing to grow

when students are cited, they just have to pay the fine but risk the chance of getting a hold placed on their record (if they don't pay)." Tony Valenzuela, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations, said that to help accommodate students the school plans to increase student housing, which would decrease the need to drive, and leave

more parking for commuters. Valenzuela also said the extra freshmen may help turn SJSU into a residential campus because of the higher demand for housing. The school plans to increase student housing in Hoover, Royce and Washburn Halls from 600 beds to 2,200 by 2010, and until then, he hopes the school's 7,846 parking spaces will be sufficient enough.

FOURTH STREET

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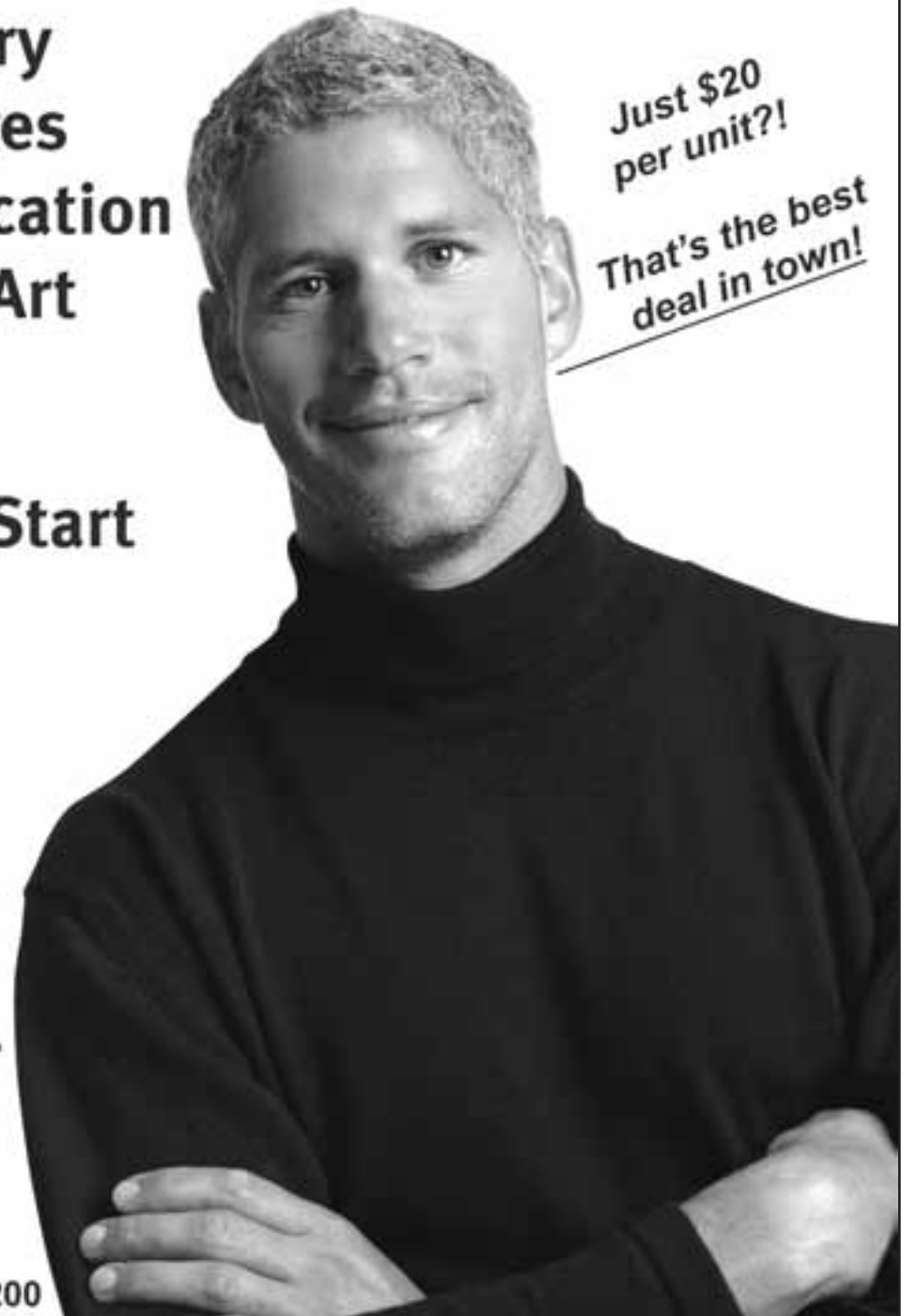
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FROM THE WIRE

Clinton calls for party unity in advance of Obama's acceptance speech

Associated Press

DENVER — Hillary Rodham Clinton closed the book on her 2008 presidential bid with an emphatic plea for the party to unite behind Barack Obama.

Now the Democratic convention spotlight turns to her husband, as former President Bill Clinton takes to the prime-time television stage Wednesday evening.

He is expected to launch attacks on the Republican's presumptive presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain, and on the

Bush administration.

Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Obama's choice as a running mate, will get prime-time exposure as well.

Hillary Clinton, who won 18 million votes but still failed to earn her party's nomination, planned to meet with delegates who still want to cast ballots for her during the nominating roll call Wednesday evening - a symbolic move before Obama is nominated, presumably by acclamation.

Clinton's aides said it re-

mained unclear how exactly the meeting with the delegates would play out, or how her supporters will react.

"It's not Hillary's job to bring this party together," said Jennie Lou Leeder, a Clinton delegate from Llado, Texas. "It's Barack Obama's job to bring this party together."

It's the kind of talk that Clinton tried to discourage. "I want you to ask yourselves: Were you in this campaign just for me?" she said Tuesday night in her convention speech, addressing her supporters.

Clinton used her prime-time convention appearance to try to silence infighting over how to honor Clinton's campaign without distracting from Obama's upcoming contest against McCain.

"Barack Obama is my candidate, and he must be our president," she said.

Even so, bringing the Democratic Party together is going to take more than a single speech. The best unifier among Democrats going into the final sprint might just be McCain.

"Arizonans are also proud of

their political tradition, from Barry Goldwater to Mo Udall to Bruce Babbitt. There's a pattern here," Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano told delegates Tuesday as part of the chorus eviscerating McCain. Goldwater, Udall and Babbitt all sought the presidency; none succeeded.

"Speaking for myself, and for at least this coming election, this is one Arizona tradition I'd like to see continue," Napolitano said.

Bill Clinton, whose reputation took some hits during the primary season, stayed away from his

wife and daughter Chelsea - who introduced her mother on stage Tuesday evening. Instead, he watched his wife's speech from convention floor box seats.

Obama, 47, formally receives the nomination Wednesday. He delivers his acceptance speech Thursday night at a football stadium. An estimated 75,000 tickets have been distributed for the event, meant to stir comparisons with John F. Kennedy's appearance at the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1960.

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FROM THE PAC TO THE WAC

Spartans reload on defense, thanks to BCS conference transfers

RYAN BUCHAN, Staff Writer

Defensive end brings skills, new focus to SJSU

Coming out of San Jose's Valley Christian High School in 2004, Jeff Schweiger received a five-out-of-five-stars rating and was the fourth-ranked defensive end in the country by scout.com, a Web site that grades collegiate recruiting every year.

Like many top recruits, Schweiger chose to go to the University of Southern California, which is known for being one of the elite football programs in the country by winning the last six Pac-10 titles.

Schweiger said he made mistakes on and off the field at USC.

"I just got into a lot of crazy stuff out there and wasn't really focused," Schweiger said. "L.A. is an area where you can get into a lot of trouble, and I did. I kind of left that behind me and started a new belief, starting my life right with the Lord."

Nick Garratt, Schweiger's former USC teammate, said, "I thought he played hard. As each year went on, he got better and knew what to do on each play. He had a quick outside move, which helped him sack the quarterback."



MARK POWELL / Spartan Daily

Jeff Schweiger (center) works with fellow defensive linemen during an afternoon practice this past spring. The former USC Trojan was one of the nation's top recruits coming out of San Jose's Valley Christian High School in 2004. Schweiger said his life has been "right with the Lord" since leaving Los Angeles.



MARK POWELL / Spartan Daily

Coye Francies (left) practices with defensive backs coach Keith Burns and fellow cornerback Christopher Owens this past spring.

Francies to replace All-American at cornerback

After two-time All-American cornerback Dwight Lowery was drafted by the New York Jets in April, Oregon State transfer Coye Francies stepped into big shoes on a strong Spartans' defensive backfield.

"I am honored," Francies said, "... last year to play with him,

learn stuff from him and look up to him as a football player."

Francies comes to SJSU after being kicked off Oregon State's team for a violation of team rules after being arrested in June 2007 for possession of a loaded firearm, according to The Oregonian.

The Oregonian reported that

Francies' charges were dismissed on July 2, 2007.

"I want to help my team anyway I can: special teams, defense or just help an incoming freshman," he said, "... help my teammates with any off-the-field problems, anything I can do to help somebody out."

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Women's soccer begins season with two defeats

Danielle Torralba
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's soccer team kicked off its season with two home games this past weekend at Spartan Stadium. The Spartans lost to the Santa Clara University Broncos 3-0 Friday and 3-1 to the Cal Bears Sunday.

After starting the season against two nationally ranked teams, head coach Jeff Leightman said the Spartans probably played two of the toughest teams they'll face all season.

"We are trying to build foundation for success," Leightman said after Sunday's game. "Winning is the only acceptable outcome."

The Spartans started the game by keeping the Bears' offense controlled. But the Spartans would have communication barriers that would affect the early first half.

"Communication needs to be constant," Leightman said. "It brings urgency to the game."

The Bears scored the first goal of the game 10 minutes into the first half. The Spartans' defense was put to work, holding tight defense and only allowing the Bears one goal the rest of the first half.

SJSU goalkeeper Jordan-Michelle Santos was kept busy the entire game as the Bears attempted 15 shots in the first half and 18 in the second.

Santos had 11 saves during

Sunday's game. Two of her more exciting saves were at the start when the Bears tried to take an outside shot that hit the crossbar, which Santos managed to snatch off a volley from a Cal player.

Through most of the game, the Bears were winning a majority of 50-50 balls, which are balls that either team has an equal opportunity to capture. However, they failed to execute on several occasions at the net.

Returning after the first half, the Spartans had a lot of game time left and came back to score.

Roughly five minutes deep in the second half, junior forward Emmy Belding stole the ball from the Bears, found an opening in the upper left corner and nailed a shot past the goalkeeper to tie

the game 1-1 in the second half.

"Playing the best makes you the best," Belding said. "In the second half, we just really connected and we knew we could do it."

In the second half, the Spartans were gaining more possession of the ball than they had in the first half.

Not long after the Spartans tied up the game, the Bears scored a second goal to lead 2-1.

With the second half almost at an end, the Bears managed to take the ball back down field and scored once more, making the final score 3-1 Bears.

One of only three seniors this season, midfielder Kaila Waitley said even though there are several new additions, everyone assumes

important roles.

"Everyone is a leader in their own little way," Waitley said. "We're a very strong family unit."

The Spartans continue their quest toward Western Athletic

Conference play this Friday by playing at non-conference opponent UC Davis.

SJSU returns to play Seattle University on Sunday at Spartan Stadium.

| SCU 3, SJSU 0 | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------------|
| GOAL | Time | Team | Goal Scorer | Assists |
| 1. | 22:29 | SCU | ORLAND | JOHNSON |
| 2. | 32:57 | SCU | LAPONTE | ORAND, REYNOLDS |
| 3. | 50:22 | SCU | PATTON | BOSIO |

| CAL 3, SJSU 1 | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|-------------|---------------|
| GOAL | Time | Team | Goal Scorer | Assists |
| 1. | 10:34 | CAL | KEVORKIAN | MORGAN |
| 2. | 50:09 | SJSU | BELDING | (NONE) |
| 3. | 58:43 | CAL | KEVORKIAN | MORGAN, DAISS |
| 4. | 76:44 | CAL | MORGAN | RICHARDSON |

Spartan Sports Schedule

- Aug. 29**
 - Volleyball @ Sheraton Four Points Wildcat Classic
 - Women's Soccer @ UC Davis
 - Men's Soccer vs. Notre Dame de Namur, Spartan Field
- Aug. 30**
 - Men's/Women's Cross Country @ USF Invitational San Francisco
 - Volleyball @ Sheraton Four Points Wildcat Classic
 - Football vs. UC Davis, Spartan Stadium
- Aug. 31**
 - Women's Soccer vs. Seattle University, Spartan Stadium
 - Men's Soccer vs. Stanford, Spartan Stadium

- Sept. 1**
 - Volleyball vs. St. John's, Spartan Gym,
- Sept. 4**
 - Men's Soccer vs. Cal State East Bay, Spartan Stadium
- Sept. 5**
 - Volleyball @ Sacramento State Invitational
- Sept. 6**
 - Football @ Nebraska
 - Volleyball @ Sacramento State Invitational
- Sept. 7**
 - Men's Golf @ Michigan State Invitational
 - Women's Soccer @ UC Riverside

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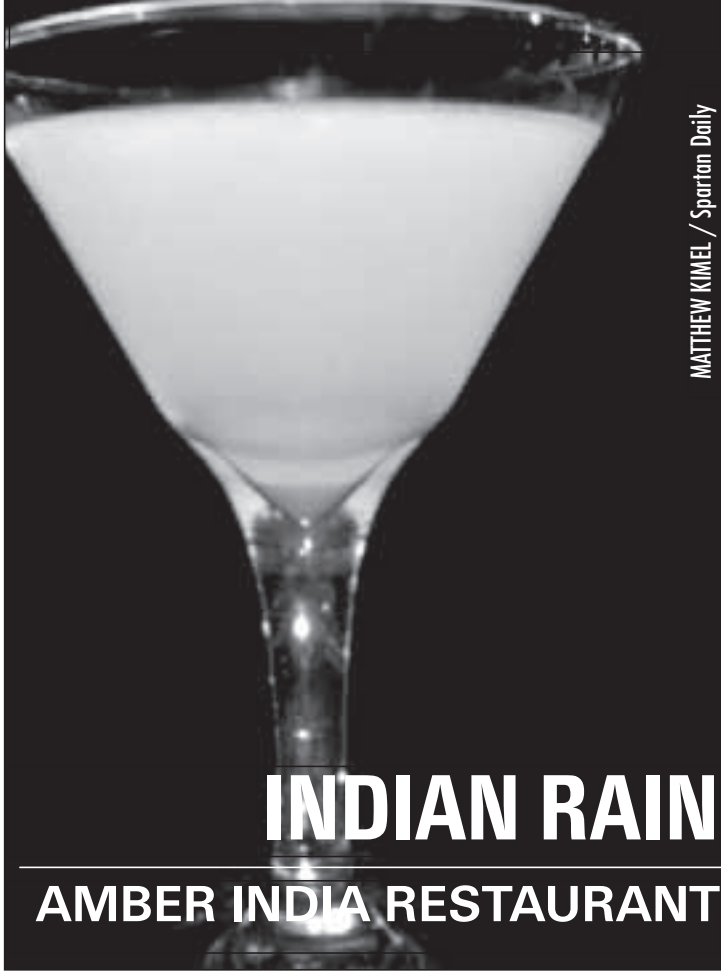
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Pouring, not drizzling, 'Rain'

DRINK of the WEEK



MATTHEW KIMEL / Spartan Daily

INDIAN RAIN

AMBER INDIA RESTAURANT

MATTHEW KIMEL
Staff Writer

After a long, tiring first day of school, two classmates and I went out for a drink at Santana Row.

We decided to search for a soothing, relaxing cocktail to release the tension of getting ready for a long semester.

After a quick glance at the drink menu, I ordered an Indian Rain (\$9), which the bartender said was the "signature drink" of Amber India Restaurant, located at 377 Santana Row, Suite 1140.

The thick, blue drink is served as a shaken cocktail in a martini glass, but it is made in an ice-cube-filled pint glass.

The bartender would not

reveal the exact measurements of the recipe, but in my expert opinion, I would estimate that the pint glass was filled one-third with Hpnotiq, approximately the same amount with Whaler's Pineapple Paradise rum and topped off, way short of the brim, with a touch of lime juice.

The ice was crushed with a shaker covering the pint glass and then poured from the pint glass to the martini glass.

The drink smelled and tasted sweet at first, more like juice from the supermarket than an alcoholic beverage, which can probably be attributed to the various tropical fruit juices that are mixed with cognac and vodka in Hpnotiq.

From a bird's eye view, it had a

slight resemblance to a Slurpee.

As I continued to indulge my beverage, a sour taste, the lime juice, became more prevalent.

The drink was a great form of relaxation. We had no intentions of getting loaded on the first day of school, so it was nice to find a drink that was not too strong.

From a bird's eye view, it had a slight resemblance to a Slurpee.

While some people may have considered it to be a girlie drink, I thought of it as an intellectual appetizer.

Ironically, just like the drink, the customer service went from sweet to sour as well. Nonetheless, the drink was cold and refreshing.

The host of the restaurant was nice enough to give us a menu, even though the restaurant was getting ready to close soon.

The host resembled the sweet part of the drink. The bartender, on the other hand, resembled the sour part. She did not have friendly manners.

During the whole way home, we were irritated by how messed up the service at the bar was.

We were not aware that we had ordered a side of attitude with our drink, but we were served one.

We couldn't get over the fact that the bartender did not smile once, nor display good customer service skills.

While it is extremely likely that we will never return to Amber India Restaurant, there is a good chance that I may order an Indian Rain elsewhere.

Or maybe, when the semester is over, and I find that thing called free time once again, I will make Indian Rain myself.

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Jason Statham stars in "Death Race."

Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures



'Race' to this movie

JON XAVIER
Staff Writer

There are some movies that have a kind of transcendent quality to them. The writing, the cinematography, the acting and even the Foley work all combine to create something much greater than the sum of their parts.

Viewers walk out of such movies changed, their perceptions, not just about film but about life itself, rocked at a very fundamental level. These movies are enduring works of art.

"Death Race" is not one of them. In fact, it's difficult to imagine a movie farther from that standard of art house excellence. But that's okay because sometimes that's not what moviegoers are looking for. Sometimes, just sometimes, they want to see an angry man in a heavily armored muscle car blow things up in the most spectacular fashion possible.

These people are in luck because the makers of "Death Race" seem to have realized this. It is very unabashedly a movie about a man in a car with machine guns, and it doesn't waste much time trying to be anything more.

It's the year 2012, and the United States' economy has collapsed to the point where its prison system is run by private corporations on a for-profit basis. How does one make money on a prison? By staging brutal gladiatorial matches between the inmates and putting the footage on pay-per-view, of course.

The most popular of these matches is the Death Race, a three-stage, automotive free-for-all that's sort of like Mario Kart with muscle cars and missile launchers.

When fan favorite Frankenstein, an enigmatic racer who's never seen without a full-face mask, is killed in what would have been his final race, ex-racecar driver Jensen Ames (Jason Statham) suddenly finds himself in prison and out of retirement.

The prison's sadistic warden Hennessey (Joan Allen) wants him to be the next Frankenstein, and she's not above framing him for the murder of his wife to get what she wants.

You would think that Jensen would be a little reluctant to race under those terms, but she makes him an offer he can't refuse: Win the Death Race, and he can go home to his infant daughter.

Of course, in order to do that, he'll have to eliminate every other racer in the game, including Machine Gun Joe (Tyrese Gibson), the man responsible for the first Frankenstein's demise.

If all this sounds familiar, it's probably because it is. While "Death Race" is nominally based on the grindhouse classic "Death Race 2000," it actually hearkens more to another cult favorite: 1987's "The Running Man," starring our dynamic and talented governor.

"Death Race" is basically a less schlocky version of "The Running Man," where opera singers clad in LEDs are traded for sociopaths who carve marks into their faces for each kill they make.

Certainly the acting doesn't do much to distance "Death Race" from the campiness that came before it. Jason Statham plays essentially the same character he's been stuck on since "The Transporter": the

gruff, car-obsessed killer with a heart of gold. Academy Award nominee Joan Allen delivers a flat, emotionless performance as Hennessey that seems like it's supposed to hint at icy, psychotic depths but instead comes across as the boredom of a decent actress in an overly simplistic role.

Although to her credit she delivers one of the most incomprehensibly mixed metaphors in the history of one-liners with enough verve to elevate it from cringe-worthy to merely confusing. Every other character is either stock, forgettable or both.

All this is fairly irrelevant, however. Much like the tricked-out Ford Mustang that Statham's character drives, the plot and even the acting in "Death Race" are just vehicles. The real point of the movie is automotive mayhem, and "Death Race" does this very, very well.

The driving sequences are spectacular and manage to escape the trap of being too frantic for the audience to follow the action. At the same time, it avoids the sterile, computer-generated feel of many modern car chases.

A head-to-head battle between Jensen, Machine Gun Joe and a giant vehicle that looks like the illegitimate lovechild of a semi-truck, a B52 and an Abrams tank is especially thrilling. It's not "Rashomon," and from the way that the plot takes a backseat to explosions and revving engines, this film knows it. However, moviegoers looking for a cheap, high-octane thrill ride could do much worse than "Death Race."

When your roommate uses up all the toilet paper again, skip to 'Psycho Roommate' and crank it up.

Wally helps make college life more Pleasant

ANGELO LANHAM
Student Culture Editor

Sometimes you have to dig a little to find the soundtrack of your life.

Finding a soundtrack to your life isn't always easy, either. Right now, your soundtrack should have quite a bit to do with your college experience. As far as I know, no one has encapsulated said phenomenon as well as Wally Pleasant. This means that you have to dig all the way back to 1992 to find the most appropriate tunes to serve as a backdrop for this period of your existence.

During your stay at San Jose State University, have you ever had a psycho roommate? Partied all night and slept most of the day, resulting in a 1.7 GPA? Drank cheap beer while watching reruns of "Cheers"?

If anything here rings a bell, then you may be interested to know that these are direct quotes from an album that belongs in every college student's CD rotation.

With a reedy, uneven voice, Wally Pleasant blows through 14 folksy tracks of angst-ridden college experience on his 1992 debut, "Songs About Stuff."

Penned during his stint at Michigan State University, tracks run the collegial gamut of tales of slackers ("Small Time Drug Dealer," "Cool Guy with a Car"), rock star ambitions ("I Wanna Be a Pop Star") and just plain old college lament ("She's in Love with a Geek," "Bad Haircut," "Restless College Years").

When four eight-page papers are all due tomorrow morning, and you still have to head to work at 5 p.m. today, you know you're basically screwed, so why not pop in "Songs About Stuff" and unwind? Just bring the teacher an apple or something. Pleasant gives you plenty of reasons to pump your fist and shout, "Here, here."

When your roommate uses up all the toilet paper again, skip to "Psycho Roommate," and crank it up at the verse, "If she stepped in front of my car, I wouldn't

even swerve."

When you're polishing your mom's hand-me-down Chrysler, put on "Cool Guy with a Car" and pretend you think your ride is sweet.

Maybe you're crying over a beer. There are many reasons for this. When you're crying over a beer because the love of your life is hopelessly trapped in the clutches of a dweeb, for example, put on "She's in Love With a Geek":

"She doesn't even know that she's breaking my heart, well I'm 10 times cooler and half as smart."

Can't find a date? That's another reason to cry with a beer, but the problem may be beyond your control. Check out "That's Evolution!" If you sound anything like the guy he's singing about, chances are you've been eliminated from the gene pool by natural selection, and you may need more than one beer.

Had too many beers now because of your shoddy love life? Have said beers made you a barstool philosopher? "If I Were" gives you nice thoughts to concentrate on while you sober up for your studies:

"If I were a 1970s TV show, I'd be M*A*S*H, which is also the way one could prepare a potato."

In fact, for the entire range of time you think, in terms of semesters, there's really no reason to take this out of your CD player.

For those interested in selling pot for some extra cash and who are wary of the consequences, Pleasant shares his take on what might happen in "Small Time Drug Dealer":

"I got busted just the other day, now I've got something I want to say

say say, like I could have been killed in that county jail, but fortunately my dad supplied the bail."

Or maybe you're tired of getting flyers thrust at you around every corner. You might be interested in Pleasant's parody of the uber-left, "Hippie's Lament":

"I boycotted work last week because I had to attend a political rally, and I boycott tuna fish because I was told to by Kirstie Alley."

In any event, "Songs About Stuff" is all the therapy you need to relieve your stress and supply

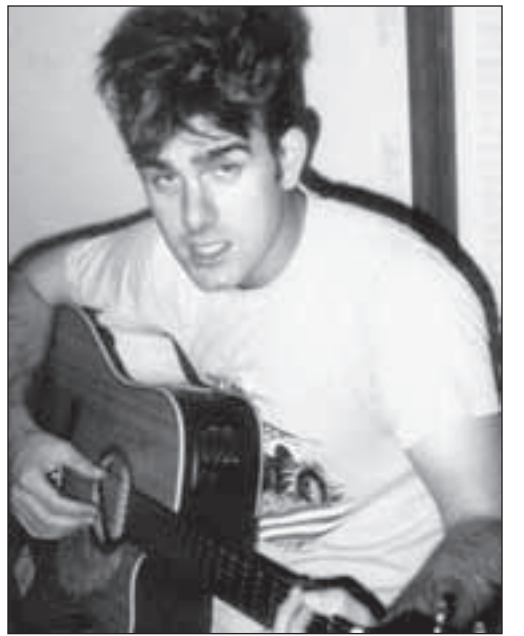


Photo courtesy of Wally Pleasant

Wally Pleasant strumming songs about his restless college years.

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It is very unabashedly a movie about a man in a car with machine guns, and it doesn't waste much time trying to be anything more.

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The price of independent living, hurdles included free of charge



I've always thought of myself as a pretty independent person. I mean, I'm almost 30 and I haven't died yet, so there's a plus.

But I have recently realized that maybe I wasn't as independent as I thought I was. I went from living at home to living with roommates to living with a boyfriend. Well, two months ago, I went to living alone.

Living by yourself is a lot different than living with someone else. You pay all the bills, you have to do all the cleaning and you don't have to argue about what to watch. But there are some things that I've come to realize about living alone that I might not have otherwise ever known. So here are some things that I've learned in the last two months:

The refrigerator doesn't magically restock with food; you have to actually go to the market and buy food. Also, no matter how many times you look in the fridge, that chocolate cake you've been dreaming of isn't going to be there.

The stupid pasta sauce jar is obscenely hard to open. And often when I thought I wanted pasta what I really wanted to do was scream in frustration while trying to twist off a now fused-to-the-top lid, eventually giving up and getting Chinese food. Mmm, chow mein.

Finding a good Chinese food place is the key to happiness, but a mediocre Chinese food place will get you by.

I could live without an oven, but the microwave is my master, and I will do whatever it says so that it will never leave me. But you should not run the microwave and the toaster at the same time. Your apartment will get mad at you

and throw you into complete darkness, and then you will have to wander the halls looking for the fuse box.

When you're sick, you still have to feed yourself, and making ramen while almost dead really sucks. And when sick, you should take your friend's advice and get some medicine so that you can actually function for the day.

I've realized that if I suddenly die, it would take a few days for anyone to notice. Thankfully, my apartment gets unbearably hot, so the smell should alert the neighbors before too long.

If you live on the third floor and only have windows that look into a light shaft, your apartment will turn into an Easy-Bake Oven every day. But if you lay on the floor, you can actually see blue skies.

I've realized that if I suddenly die, it would take a few days for anyone to notice.

Egg cartons burn incredibly easily, especially when left on a gas burner that you mistakenly lit. They smell rather sweet and make a prodigious amount of smoke.

The smoke alarm is really loud. It's probably best not to make friends with your neighbors when your walls are paper-thin. You get funny looks sometimes, and some of those noises you hear you really don't want to associate with other people. (I'm mainly talking about those people that crank up Nickelback; I don't want to give them a face.)

You shouldn't try to "eyeball" shelves. Sure, it's not like they're perpendicular, but I definitely can't put anything even kind of roly on them.

Crooked pictures rock. If you can't figure out how the IKEA table goes together, go get a beer and try

again later. Repeat until said table looks kind of like the picture.

An old television set with a built-in VHS is really heavy, and there's a good chance you will throw out your back trying to carry it up three flights of stairs before the cable guy finally helps you out eight feet from your door.

You can fall in love with a guy just because he was able to hook up your DVD player. (Admittedly it was fleeting, but for a few minutes I worshipped the ground he walked on.)

Having only two outlets in an apartment (none in the bathroom) will make you homicidal.

No matter how much you scream, that spider isn't going anywhere unless you actually do something about it.

Even though nobody is around to hear me, I'm still going to scream at spiders.

I can go almost 48 hours without actually saying a single word.

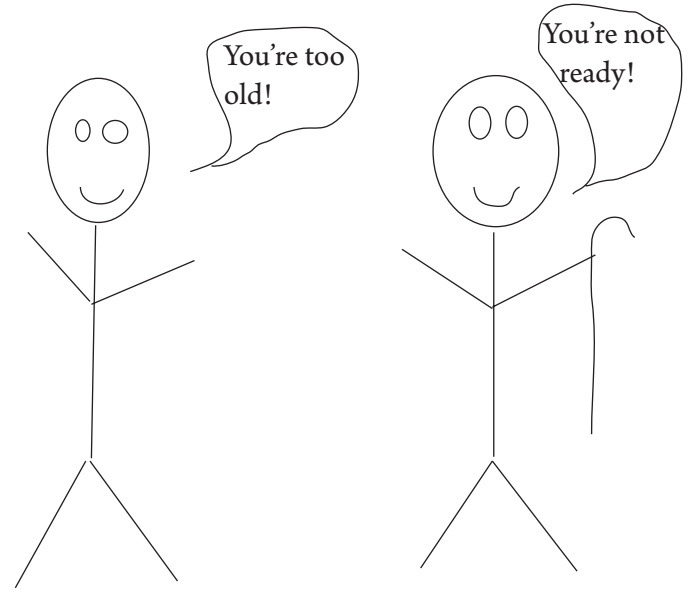
It's not drinking alone if you are talking to a friend online.

Sometimes you have to ask for help. There are just some things that you can't do alone.

Although I've almost burned down my apartment, felt like I broke my toe and smacked my head rather hard on the counter, I love living alone. I love that the crooked pictures on the wall are mine and that I put them up. I love the sink with the overflowing pile of dirty, mismatched plates. I love my tiny, cramped apartment that could double as a phone booth because it's mine.

My favorite thing is that when I turn the key in my lock and open the door, I walk into my apartment, and it hits me that I can survive on my own, and it makes me smile.

"Chronicling Mediocrity" appears every Wednesday. Colleen Watson is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.



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theSPARTANDAILY.com online poll
Should the legal drinking age be lowered to 18?

QUOTE of the DAY
"Just consider this the Ministry of Truth."

DICK WADHAMS

Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party said in regards to the Republican Headquarters in Denver during the Democratic National Convention.

Classifieds

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Almost shut
- Greasy spoons
- He played
- Obi-Wan
- Misplace
- Florida city
- What's cooking
- Answered a judge
- Excellence
- Ancient Roman poet
- Museum piece
- Most tomatoes
- Prono to
- Prickly husk
- Good jumper
- Underway
- Jackie's tycoon
- Coffee brewer
- Freak out (2 wds.)
- Backed out
- Hieroglyphics
- Not shiny
- Fizzy drink
- Electric swimmer
- Powdery residues
- Parachute openers
- Vanquish a dragon
- Not just mine
- Flag (2 wds.)
- Eerie get-together
- "La - Bonita" (Madonna tune)
- Cholla and nopal
- Half-moon tide
- Organize
- UFO passenger
- Jeer at
- Cushy
- Primitive weapon
- End of a threat

DOWN

- Hannibal's route
- Shock
- On board ship
- Kind of sale (2 wds.)
- Really happen (2 wds.)
- High card
- Way off
- Mr. Yale
- Woodland deity
- Love, to Ovid
- Name in jeans
- Oklahoma town
- Cows' chews
- Work - sweat
- Boasts
- appetit!
- Emanations
- Fields
- Beethoven symphony
- California fort
- Friend or -?
- Movie with a posse
- Wild ducks (2 wds.)
- Paris season
- Fresco base
- Pierre's king
- Against
- Use a crowbar
- Pool hall item
- Citrus tree
- "Star Wars" director
- To any degree (2 wds.)
- Dice spots
- Ibسن's city
- Wheeze name
- Wheeze
- 59 Diamond or Simon
- Truck fronts
- "En garde" weapon
- A fifth of DX
- Late evening

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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Traveling into a history of sadness



**KIMBERLY
TSAO**
THE MOST YOU
EVER KNEW

Vacations transform almost everyone into tourists. Many flock to places like the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower and the Great Wall of China. Others embark on trips to cemeteries, battlefields and concentration camps, as well as disaster, genocide and assassination sites in a growing phenomenon known as “grief tourism.”

Grief tourism entails visiting places of countless, unimaginable deaths. It’s another form of “memorialization,” which can also morph into movies, books or college courses, according to a 2008 CNN article.

Since visits to prisons and supposedly haunted places are included, the trend is also called “dark tourism.” Popular spots include the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Alcatraz Island, the Ninth Ward of New Orleans,

Rwandan genocide memorials and Dallas’ Dealy Plaza where JFK was assassinated.

According to a 2008 CNN article, 5.6 million people visited the World Trade Center site in 2006 — and the memorial and museum aren’t even finished. Once they’re done, that figure is expected to double, according to the same article.

Grief tourism doesn’t only stir up the same excitement other tourist spots do. All the places are educational in themselves, and some even have museums in place. Others boast survivors as speakers or tour guides — their old ages urge people to tour the sites sooner rather than later.

Like it or not, the financial benefits of dark tourism are undeniable. The countries that house these memorials experience increased tourism and a better economy.

The Robben Island prison, which caged Nelson Mandela, generated \$8.2 million and provided 12,000 jobs, according to a 1992 New York Times article.

At the Killing Fields, where Pol Pot and his soldiers killed 1.7 million

Cambodians, beggars today — most of them with amputated limbs — can earn \$1,000 a year from tourists and passers-by, according to a 2003 National Geographic Today article.

Dark tourism may be cashing in on other people’s grief, but name an industry that isn’t in it for the money. Grief tourism could help the mourning process, not only for the survivors but for everyone else. Acceptance is the first stage, but

Like it or not, the financial benefits of dark tourism are undeniable.

some haven’t reached that yet.

In the case of the Solingen firebombing, which killed five Turks, the German chancellor at the time didn’t visit the site and had an unfavorable opinion of grief tourism, according to a 1993 New York Times article.

More recently, 4-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing. The media frenzy had so many people visiting makeshift memorials

on her behalf that McCann’s hometown suspended grief tourism, according to a 2007 Washington Post article.

Grief tourism, however, allows people to pay their respects. It could put just enough pressure on the government to convict the people behind the genocides who went unpunished, such as the men responsible for the Cambodian Killing Fields.

The more tourists who come, the more the government sees how much the tragedy resonates with others.

This type of tourism offers the world the means for an outpouring of its grief. People can mourn for a world that lost Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; 800,000 Rwandans or 21 percent of the Cambodian population.

Grief tourism serves as a reminder that sometimes repeating history isn’t historical. Dark tourism actually has the future looking a little brighter.

“The Most You Ever Knew” appears every Tuesday. Kimberly Tsoo is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

Baseball gives itself a face lift with instant replay addition



**MARK
POWELL**
BINGE THINKING

Get ready for a double take.

Major League Baseball announced Tuesday that it will install instant replay systems tomorrow in ballparks in Anaheim, Chicago and Oakland, making the dinosaur of American sports the last of the Big Four to institute an official video replay system.

The league declared the system, which will be included in all stadiums by Friday, would be used in games during questionable calls regarding home runs, which were largely the reason for making the push toward accepting replay.

This is one move that, so far, should be well-reviewed. At least by yours truly.

Though I’ve largely considered myself a bit of a baseball purist (I’m still against interleague play), I no longer buy the argument that the human aspect, a.k.a. human error, is uniquely beneficial to the game.

Manager-umpire or player-umpire arguments over questionable calls can prove to be memorable and even hilarious, but there is no substitute for getting a call right.

If people are worried about a drop in in-game confrontations because of the inclusion of replay, they shouldn’t — arguments following a replay will be grounds for automatic ejection, the league announced, though one can debate if that will matter to the Lou Piniellas and Ozzie Guillens of the game.

The new system will look to determine essentially three things: whether home run-distance hits were fair or foul, whether there was fan interference on potential home runs and whether big flies actually cleared the fence or just ricocheted off a thin, solid, yellow line that runs the length of most outfield fences — the same yellow line that’s supposed to make it easier to detect whether or not a fly ball cleared the fence.

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig said yesterday he was confident instant replay would not conclude in “a significant delay to the game,” though that remains to be seen.

While we will wait to see how effective replay will be, we can ponder right now what might have happened had replay been in place years before.

Just imagine how much different baseball history could have been written had the sport adopted instant replay before the turn of the 21st century.

Take a glance at 1996, for example.

In Game 1 of the American League Championship Series that year, New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter lofted a fly ball to right field at Yankee Stadium. Baltimore Orioles right fielder Tony Tarasco settled under the ball, but before he could catch the ball, a 12-year-old fan named Jeffrey Maier reached into the field of play. The ball hit off Maier’s glove and fell into the stands.

The play was ruled a home run, despite replays showing the ball would not have fallen into the seats unimpeded.

The Yankees took a stranglehold on momentum, won the playoff series and eventually took a world title, ushering in an era of dominance.

It would honestly be foolish to suggest that the Yankees weren’t simply better than just about anyone else in the league for about a five-year period beginning in 1996, but what if instant replay had existed then?

What if Jeter’s fly ball was initially called a home run, but was overturned after replays showed that Maier’s protruding reach caused the ball to end up in the stands and not in the waiting glove of Tarasco?

What if the Orioles won the game and went on to sweep the downtrodden Yankees out of the playoffs? The latest Yankee dynasty would have never happened, Baltimore would have become America’s team and Maier would have been transformed into the original Steve Bartman, allowing the Cubs to at least get to the 2003 World Series before losing.

Those are over-the-top assumptions, for sure.

But instant replay, in its proposed form, will help the game be played as it should. A foul ball goes foul, a fair ball is called a fair ball, a double doesn’t soar over the fence, a home run is earned — even by an inch.

Outcomes still won’t be 100-percent perfect, though.

Performance-enhancing drugs, corked bats and the remote-but-possible idea of playing poorly on purpose (see: Manny Ramirez vs. Boston Red Sox, 2008) will always put the circumstances surrounding wins and losses in doubt to some degree.

Instant replay, as evident in basketball, hockey and football, won’t solve every sport’s problems, but will continue the march towards legitimate outcomes and legitimate champions.

Until further review, the addition of instant replay is the right choice for baseball.

“Binge Thinking” appears every other Thursday. Mark Powell is a Spartan Daily sports editor.

Obama, not perfect but better than the alternative



**DAVID
ZUGNONI**
RECYCLED
TOILET PAPER

Smart politician, that Barack Obama, giving something the old, white Democrats can relate to in a 66-year-old, experienced senator, Joe Biden, a “lunch-bucket Democrat,” in the words of New York Times columnist David Brooks.

I’m happy with the decision, not because Biden particularly thrilled me, from what I know about him anyways. Rather, the vice presidential candidate’s mass appeal should help Obama win this November’s election, and I am one of the millions who may just weep if the Democrat loses.

I don’t care what the Obama/Biden tandem does on its way to victory; I only care that they win.

I don’t care if Obama lies; there’s no room for honesty in presidential politics.

I don’t care how shameless the television ads are; I don’t watch much TV.

I don’t care if Biden pretends he’s content to be second to a man who is 18 years younger than he is; every vice president ever probably wanted to take the job away from his superior.

I only care that they win.

In a tight election, the results really come down to a mind-numbingly complex mathematical equation in which the Electoral College, hot-button issues, voters’ ages, races and income levels regional values and other factors play a role.

I want Obama and Biden and their campaign crews to do whatever they need to do to swing that mathematical equation in their favor. They can’t chance being honorable.

If John McCain takes California, it would take a miracle for Obama to win. So, while the chance of that happening might be next to nothing, it’s worth your vote to make sure it doesn’t.

I don’t care what the Obama/Biden tandem does on its way to victory; I only care that they win.

Presidential candidates can’t be honorable, but I can try.

And being the brutally honest person I am, I can’t help saying some things that do nothing to help Obama’s cause.

You see, I want the guy to win, but I’m alarmed at how much some of my fellow party members have praised him.

“He’s electrifying people,” they say.

Yeah, whatever — maybe

electrifying like the rubbing your feet on a carpeted floor in a computer store and zapping your buddy kind of way.

Is it because he’s not an old, white guy?

He’s close enough. He’s actually half-white, half-Kenyan and from Hawaii. To call him black is pretty much an insult to Americans who are 100 percent black.

“Hope, blah, change, blah,” they continue.

Yeah, two fitting slogans, as in, “We *hope* you don’t screw it up. We *hope* you do actually make some *change*. We’re voting for you because you’re the country’s only *hope*.”

To believe that Obama is the perfect saint many want to paint him as, for example Rolling Stone Magazine and the UC Santa Cruz student who came to my door asking for money for the Democratic Party, is plain gullible.

Those Rolling Stone covers that display some nifty Adobe Photoshop work on pictures of Obama, namely the March 20 and July 10-24 issues, are ridiculous and an insult to readers’ intelligences.

The McCain campaign commercial that implied Obama was more a celebrity than a politician had a point.

But the guy is a politician, and that’s exactly my point.

His supporters know he can’t do anything to change being labeled as inexperienced, so they may as well

make him out to be not a politician at all.

But he is one, which means he’s stepped on a few people to get where he is.

He’s also running for president, which means he’s an egomaniac.

“I can run the most powerful country in the world,” he said to himself.

Can you imagine looking in the mirror and saying that to yourself?

If you think that Obama is relatable, you’re half as cocky as he is.

The truth is he relates to almost no one who will vote for him. He’s nothing like any of us.

But, as I said before, he’s our country’s only hope.

He’s the lesser of two evils.

So, unless you want to see McCain — the third coming of Bush, the fourth coming of Reagan — take the helm next year, vote for Obama.

But if you’re expecting Obama to be the ground-shaking, revolutionary savior many of us wish he would be, don’t get your hopes up.

“Recycled Toilet Paper”

appears every Wednesday.

David Zugnoni is the Spartan Daily executive editor.

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The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

Campus Voices: What are your goals for the new semester?



"My goals for this semester are to not procrastinate on any of my assignments and to go to every class."

"My goals are to get straight A's in all of my classes."

"To finish my last semester stress-free."

Allison Armas
senior, nutritional science

Kimberley Larry
junior, nutritional science

Fiona Young
senior, health science



"To make it to nationals for boxing and win the gold."

"A friend of mine and I want to start a club for ethnic women in business like the 100 African-American Collegiate Men, but for women in the business world. I also want to get really good grades again, and I kind of want to lose weight."

"My goals are to try my best and to make my mama proud."

Ramzy Eldabbajh
junior, criminal justice

Mayra Villegas
junior, marketing and corporate finance

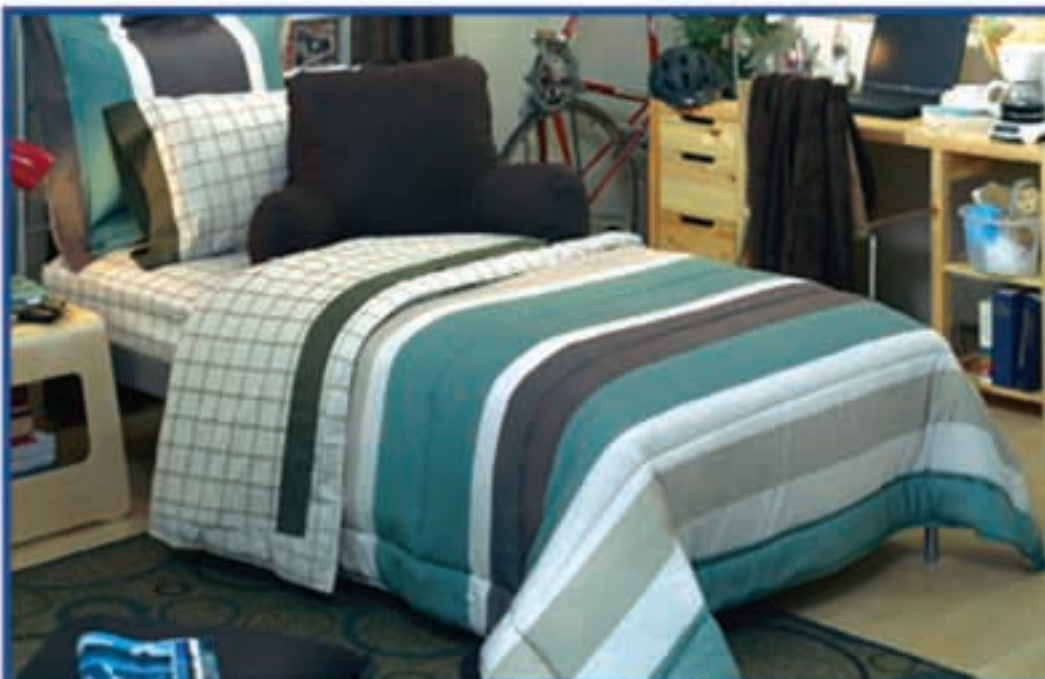
Michael Farrales
junior, business

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