

THURSDAYSEPTEMBER

11

2008

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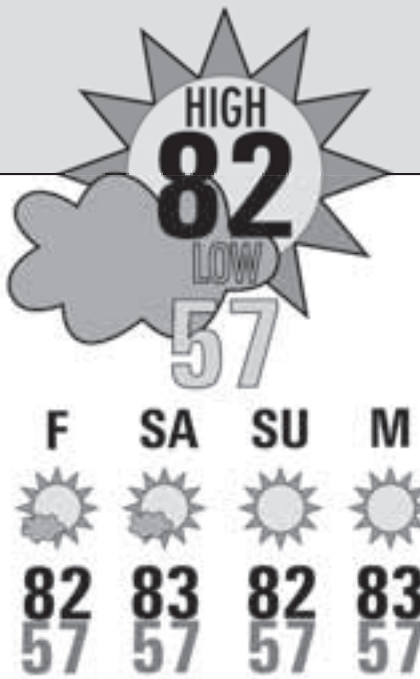
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It takes two!
Men’s soccer wins 1-0
in double overtime



“They ran into those buildings and those buildings were blazing. That was UNCOMMON BRAVERY”

-Former NYPD Captain and current SJSU Police Special Services Lieutenant Frank Belcastro

RICHARD STERN
Staff Writer

It was a Tuesday morning and New York Police Department Capt. Frank Belcastro was not scheduled to work until later that day. But as was his habit, he called the desk commander at his Staten Island precinct to see how things were going.

It was a call that would change his life forever.

“I spoke to my sergeant and he told me my unit was on alert for mobilization to Manhattan because a plane had hit the World Trade Center,” Belcastro said. “The thinking in my unit was that it was a small plane. We were on standby so I told him to get everyone together and I’d make my way in.”

Before he left his home he called his office again. As he was speaking with his sergeant at the office, which overlooked New York Harbor and had a view of the World Trade Centers, the sergeant saw the second plane hit the towers.

“That’s when we knew that it was a terrorist attack and not just an accident,” he said.

It was 9:03 a.m., Sept. 11, 2001.

“I rushed to the office and when I arrived my unit was ready to go with other units from Staten Island, police officers that had been mobilized along with firefighters. We staged on the Staten Island

Ferry,” Belcastro said. “The ferry proceeded across the harbor. We were a little more than halfway across, discussing what we were going to do when we got on the scene, when the first building collapsed.”

It was 10:05 a.m.

Belcastro described a scene on the ferry where there was so much smoke, dust and debris in the air that the ferry captain stopped the boat because his view of the terminal on Manhattan was obstructed.

“I had to decide what to do,” he said. “The captain was hesitant to proceed because of the smoke and because we didn’t have masks, but the call was mine. I had firefighters with equipment and trained rescue personnel onboard and my call was we would go in.”

When they reached the ferry terminal in Manhattan, the second building came down, Belcastro said.

It was 10:29 a.m.

“After the second tower came down and we were exiting the ferry, the smoke and dust was so thick we couldn’t see the hoods of our emergency vehicles,” he added. “There were masses of people running down the street away from the disaster and toward us. I directed our team to go to the secondary mobilization point.”

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Courtesy of San Jose University Police Department

Bicycle thefts put students and UPD on notice

ANDREA FRAINIER
Staff Writer

The number of bicycles stolen from campus has already reached double digits this semester.

During the first week of the semester, 10 bicycles that were locked with cable or chains were stolen from various places on campus, according to a Bicycle Theft Alert put out by the University Police Department.

Tommie Nguyen, a freshman film major, said he was surprised his bike had not been stolen yet.

“When I see another bike locked somewhere, I just park my bike right next to it so it would be more secure,” he said. “I don’t think a bike-stealer would steal two bikes from the same place.”

According to a pamphlet put out by the University Police Department, on average five bicycles are stolen from campus every month,

most of them mountain bicycles.

Mark Rafael, a senior electrical engineering major, said he secures his bicycle in a private lab.

“I have a safe place for my bike,” he said. “But I’m scared for my friend’s bike because I hear the worst place to park your bike is in the cages. I hear about people’s bikes being stolen from the cages all the time.”

The cages, called the A.S. Bicycle Enclosures, can only be accessed by SJSU students and employees.

Their are five locations on campus: San Carlos Plaza, MacQuarrie Quad, Spartan Memorial Paseo, Paseo de Cesar Chavez and Ninth Street Plaza. Students must have a key to access the enclosures, according to SJSU Transportation Solutions.

Maria Kouvmengo, a sophomore business marketing major, said she doesn’t lock her bicycle

in the enclosures because it’s easier to lock it up at the racks outside of Clark Hall.

Michael Cabebe, a senior biological science major, said he thinks the safest place to park his bike is within the enclosures.

“I think it’s safer in here,” he said. “Plus we’re really not supposed to lock it against the fences or the lamps.”

Bicycles are supposed to park in racks or in the enclosures. Bicycles not parked in the designated area are subject to impound by the UPD, according to a sign posted on the enclosures.

Lianne Lum, a sophomore graphic design major, said she protects her bicycle by locking it with a U-lock. Shaped in the letter U, a U-lock is designed to resist hand held tools such as bolt cutters.

►► **THEFTS**page2



MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

Sophomore civil engineering major Evan Edwards locks his bicycle to a rack outside Campus Village Building B on Wednesday.

Cal Grant students confused

MySJSU notifies financial aid students their classes wouldn’t be dropped, but not all received the message

SELMA SKOKIC
Staff Writer

With no progress made on the passing of the California state budget, Cal Grant recipients are still uncertain of when they will receive their grants.

“The school should extend the grace period, allow more time for students rather than drop them out. They are kind of stuck in a bind. Let the politicians handle it,” said Korrie Macierz, a junior economics major.

The passing of the state budget is beyond the control of anyone on campus.

“You can’t put all the blame on administration,” said Tiffany Tran, a senior psychology major.

A message that was sent out to students via MySJSU informing them that their fee deferrals will expire on Sept. 10 resulted in a long

line at the Financial Aid Office.

Yesenia Ramirez, a junior sociology major who is also a recipient of Cal Grant B, said she didn’t receive any messages via MySJSU.

Cal Grant B is a grant that provides a living allowance, tuition and fee assistance for low-income students, according to the California Student Aid Commission Web site.

Coleetta McElroy, assistant director of financial aid at SJSU, said the message is sent out every semester as a reminder that students’ tuition payments are due soon.

McElroy added that a separate e-mail was sent out to students who are receiving Cal Grants, informing them that their classes were protected from

►► **GRANT**page2

Students simulate handling of murder

MATTHEW KIMEL
Staff Writer

A mock shooting occurred Wednesday by the Tommie Smith and John Carlos statue at SJSU as a learning experience for students to understand the processes of handling a crime scene first-hand.

“It’s an experience for incoming freshmen,” said Professor Steven Lee, who teaches a general education course, “The Real CSI.”

The course is geared toward introducing first-semester freshmen to university life, helping them make the transition from high school to college, Lee added.

Lee’s students were notified of information about the crime scene by a witness who heard five shots and saw a

gunshot victim running along the path toward the Event Center, Lee said.

Students had to collect evidence from the scene, which included Halloween blood and bullet casings that had been originally collected by students from a shooting range, Lee said.

Students mimicked a real-life crime scene by setting up a barrier around the scene, keeping media out and making sure people who weren’t part of the scene didn’t get inside the barrier, Lee said.

“They basically do what CSI’s do, but to a certain extent,” said Sandy Ng, a peer mentor for the class.

Lee said students often get really interested in the forensic science ma-

►► **CSI**page2

Engineering project is cool as ice

ADAM MURPHY
Staff Writer

A device constructed by a group of SJSU engineers has the potential to keep food and medicine cold in environments with no electricity.

The solar icemaker is the product of recent SJSU engineering graduates Jeff Yansamaran, Randy Pascua and Jeremy Locquiao, senior engineering student Jorge Guerrero, engineer faculty advisers Jinny Rhee and Jim Mokri and Anu Basu as the business faculty adviser.

“(The) idea came from me and another instructor, Jim Mokri,” Rhee said. “Jim had seen a similar solar icemaker in a magazine and I remembered a movie I had seen called ‘Mosquito Coast’ as a kid. (The main character) goes through the jungle and makes this fire-powered ice-making machine.”

Sunlight is used instead of fire to make ice and is how the icemaker gets its nickname, Solar Ice, according to the SJSU engineering Web site.

Two materials are used to create a chemical reaction, which becomes so cold that anything near the chemical reaction freezes, like water, according to the engineering Web site. To make ice continuously, the chemical reaction must be produced over and over by separating the two chemicals, with the heat of the sun, and then combining them again, at night, according to the Web site.

The amount of ammonia used determines the output of the ice, Guerrero said. One pound of ammonia can make four pounds

of ice in one day, he added.

“It doesn’t have to be a warm climate, just a sunny climate,” Rhee said about the environment needed for Solar Ice to work well.

“This is where you put all your theory that you learned in the class room and all the hands-on skill that you learned in the lab on everything.”

JINNY RHEE
associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering

All engineering students must complete a final project over their last two semesters to graduate.

GRANT▶

being dropped.

Some financial aid students who are not receiving Cal Grants are still affected by the state budget.

Yoonmoon Park, a senior anthropology and behavioral science major, said her financial aid process is being delayed.

Carol Yu, an undeclared sophomore, said that she did receive a message via MySJSU, explaining that the fee deferral will be extended.

According to the financial aid and scholarship Web site, campus housing has been notified of the delay in disbursements and is willing to work with students who have a payment due.

Representatives for university Housing services were unavailable for comment on Monday through Wednesday.



Steven Lee, director of SJSU’s forensic science program, speaks to students from his “The Real CSI” class during a crime-scene investigation exercise outside of Dwight Bentel Hall on Wednesday. **WILLIAM COOLEY / Spartan Daily**

CSI▶

major after taking this class.

“My point of taking this class was this is going to make it or break it if this is what I really want to do,” said Ray Sabala, a freshman forensic science major.

Sabala, who played the role of a security guard at the mock crime scene, said he is twice as interested in the major now that he has been in the class for a few weeks.

“It’s an opportunity for freshman students to experience a smaller class where they can be interactive with their fellow students,” said Ng, a sophomore hospitality management major.

The class is limited to 18 students so they can get a lot of attention and move as a cohort. However, Lee allowed 21 to enroll this semester, he said.

“You can interact and actually get to know other freshmen,” Ng said.

SPARTAGUIDE

EVENTS CALENDAR

11 TODAY	15 MONDAY
<p>The Four Seasons of Japan Piano Suite</p> <p>Visiting artists: Yumi Tayama and Hiroko Mizuno perform Nakata, Mozart, Brahms, Dvorak, Khachaturian, Stravinsky and Lutoslawski. Free admission and open to the public.</p> <p>12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall.</p> <p>Contact professor Joan Stubbe at 924-4649.</p>	<p>“From Prominence to Prison: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things”</p> <p>Patrick Kuhuse is speaking on “From Prominence to Prison: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things” 12 to 1:15 p.m. in the Engineering Building, room 189.</p> <p>Contact Maricris DeMayo at maricris.demayo@sjsu.edu</p>

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.

A.S. Board of Directors fills vacancies

PETER HIRONAKA
Staff Writer

After elections left Associated Students short several positions, SJSU’s student government appointed Megan Baker as the new director of extracurricular affairs Wednesday during a Board of Directors meeting.

The school wide-elected A.S. staff members were appointed in May, said Government Administrative Assistant Christy Riggins.

With the addition of Baker, the A.S. board is now complete with 13 student leaders.

During the board meeting, the Board of Directors asked Baker if she had any goals for her term as the director of extracurricular affairs.

“I’m still just getting the basics of it down,” Baker said. “As of right now, I’m just trying to get situated with starting out.”

She also said that with her role on A.S., she will be involved with sorority and fraternity life and student involvement, as well as serving as a liaison to the school’s athletics board.

A few of her new colleagues have expressed confidence in her.

“I have full faith in Megan that she is going to be able to fulfill all her responsibilities that are outlined in her job description,” said A.S. President Vosa Cavu-Litman.

A.S. Vice President Albert Hsieh said he was happy to have Baker on the A.S. board.

“Like with any team, the more heads the better,” he said.

Baker was not the only one to become part of A.S., as several others were elected to A.S. groups such as the programming board, lobby corps and the student affairs committee.

One of the students elected as part of the lobby corps was political science major Bob Chen.

“I am looking forward to next Wednesday’s meeting with (Director of External Affairs Kathryn Linder),” he said.

“There are still spots open for the lobby corps, so I’m hoping to get more people involved,” Chen added. “I’m looking forward to do whatever they need me to do

to make sure lobby corps runs smoothly and help out the Board of Directors on A.S.”

A.S. is involved with several events, one of which is A.S. 55. Hsieh said the event recognizes 55 “unsung leaders of the university.”

Students are able to nominate their fellow students in this event to showcase those who have excelled at SJSU.

“It’s been going on for about ten years now,” Hsieh said. “It’s a great way to leave their legacy behind.”

Cavu-Litman said that there are other events coming in the near future.

“In the month of October, we are having a month-long event that pertains to voter registration,” he said.

Riggins said SJSU will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Olympic gold medal winners Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

Among the guest speakers will be Public Enemy’s front man Chuck D. Riggins.

THEFTS▶

“It deters people with cable cutters from cutting your lock,” Lum said.

Lum added that a U-lock doesn’t always protect against theft, so she parks her bicycle within the enclosures.

“I know people have to at least have a key to get in the cages and it’s not like people are going to steal your wheel when it’s in here.”

The UPD alert stated that the department will conduct extra patrol checks and surveillance of bicycle racks and enclosures around campus.

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***BURN AFTER READING (R)**
2:40, 7:30, 9:30 • Fri-Sat at 11:40pm

***RIGHTERUS KILL (R)**
3:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35 • Fri-Sat at 11:30pm

***THE WOMEN (PG-13)**
1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25 • Fri-Sat at 11:05pm

TELL NO ONE (R)
1:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 • Fri-Sat at 11:20pm

***BARKING DOGS (R)**
1:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 • Fri-Sat at 11:20pm

BOTTLE SHOCK (PG-13)
1:20, 4:05, 6:30, 9:15 • Fri-Sat at 11am

TROPIC THUNDER (R)
2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55 • Fri-Sat at 11:05pm

LOS GATOS CINEMA
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***THE WOMEN (PG-13)**
1:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 • Fri-Sat at 11:20pm

***BURN AFTER READING (R)**
12:45, 5:15 • Fri-Sat at 9:30

CAMERA 12 DOWNTOWN
201 S. Second St., San Jose • 998-3300

***STEARING AMERICA: VOTE BY VOTE (NR)**
6:40, 8:20 shows • 9:15-11:15 • 3:40, 6:20, 9:50, 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 8:20 • Fri-Sat at 11:50pm

***THE WOMEN (PG-13)**
1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25 • Fri-Sat at 11:05pm

***SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND (R)**
1:20, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20 • Fri-Sat at 11pm

ELEGY (R)
1:10, 3:50

***RIGHTERUS KILL (R)**
12 noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7:25 • Fri-Sat at 11:40pm

***TYLER PERRY'S FAMILY THRA PIERES (PG-13)**
1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 • Fri-Sat at 11:05pm

***PING PONG FLORA (PG-13)**
1:15, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 • Fri-Sat at 10:45pm

FROZEN RIVER (PG-13)
1:20, 4:30, 8:45

***BARKING DOGS (R)**
1:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 • Fri-Sat at 11:20pm

***TRAITOR (PG-13)**
1:05, 3:30, 6:10, 8:40 • Fri-Sat at 11:10pm

TROPIC THUNDER (R)
2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55 • Fri-Sat at 11:05pm

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R)
4:25, 6:50 • Fri-Sat at 11:20pm

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Camera 3 Cinema • Cafe Teal • Comedy Sports
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***TROUBLE THE WATER (NR)**
12:15, 4:45, 7:15 • Fri-Sat at 9:30

TRANSIBERIAN (R)
1:45, 4:15 (ex Sun), 6:45 • Fri-Sat at 9:15

Showtimes for Fri, Sept. 12th-Thru, Sept. 18th
* = No Parking () = Sat-Sun only * = Final Week

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BELCASTRO

“IN AN ERA WHERE HEROISM IS USED TO DESCRIBE ATHLETES AND MOVIE STARS, THEY SHOWED US THE TRUE MEANING OF HEROISM.”

FRANK BELCASTRO

Capt. Belcastro’s team was eventually put on patrol in the area around ground zero. The assignment was to look for stragglers and people who were injured.

“We didn’t have masks and there was debris raining down for what seemed like forever,” he said. “There was fiberglass in the air. You could literally feel it cutting your skin.”

When asked what he remembers most about that day, Belcastro focused on two memories.

“I think of all the rescuers that gave their lives that day. They ran into those buildings and those buildings were blazing. That was uncommon bravery. A lot of good people and a lot of innocent citizens lost their lives. It’s a day that I will never forget.”

“The other thing that I remember and something that sticks with me was the eerie silence — with all that devastation, the fires and the dust raining down on

you. It was like a big snowstorm where it is eerily quiet.”

During a separate interview, he said, “In an era where heroism is used to describe athletes and movie stars, they showed us the true meaning of heroism.”

Capt. Belcastro didn’t get home until 3 a.m. the next morning. For

“We didn’t have masks and there was debris raining down for what seemed like forever.”

FRANK BELCASTRO

the first week following the tragedy, he and his team were assigned to ground zero security and were involved in the recovery operation.

In 2004, after a 22-year career with the NYPD, Capt. Belcastro

retired. For the next three-and-a-half years, he was in charge of security for a Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library.

Today he is Lt. Belcastro, in charge of the Special Operations Division of the San Jose State University Police Department.

“When this position opened, we were looking for someone who would run emergency services for us,” said UPD Chief of Police Andre Barnes. “We have a population of over 30,000. So, we were looking for someone that had dealt with those numbers and possibly more. Lt. Belcastro’s background, coming from the NYPD and having experiences like 9/11, was exactly what we were looking for.”

According to its Web site, the Special Operations Division coordinates anti-terrorists efforts by working with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that the UPD management team is

aware of and prepared to deal with any terrorist threats.

“I oversee emergency preparedness and response for the campus as well as the security of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library,” Belcastro said. “I ensure that we are all properly trained, that we have the right equipment and the equipment is maintained.”

“As far as the college community is concerned, I ensure the building coordinators, managers, owners obtain the equipment, training and information they need to do their jobs properly,” he added.

He is also responsible for getting critical information to students — information that “could save their lives, prevent an injury and certainly help them in an emergency,” he said.

Lt. Belcastro described Alert-SJSU as the centerpiece of getting emergency information to students. It’s an opt-in phone, text

message and e-mail system that contacts students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency. There is also a component with speakerphones in the classrooms that UPD can use to make a reverse 911 call and put a broadcast out to all classrooms. He also said that UPD was looking to implement a loudspeaker system that can broadcast emergency messages throughout the campus.

“First and foremost, we need to get the students to sign up for Alert-SJSU,” Lt. Belcastro said. “At the moment, participation is not where we would like it to be. “Naturally we would like every student and faculty to sign up for it. Certainly that would put us at a much higher level of preparedness in the event of an emergency, which would make our job easier as far as response and being able to take care of a situation that develops,” he added.

When asked how he would

rate SJSU’s current emergency preparedness, he said, “I think the school is very well prepared. All the officers have received excellent training. We have the emergency supplies and equipment placed throughout the campus to deal with virtually any situation. Our preparedness is top notch, but naturally you can always do better.”

Belcastro said he misses his friends and the people with whom he developed relationships over the years, but that he has received many calls from friends who want to visit when the weather gets cold on the East Coast.

“My wife and I came out here and fell in love with Northern California,” he said. “It is a different feel out here. You walk down the streets of New York City and everybody looks down or away from you. Here, they smile and say hello. It is a good feeling.”

REMEMBERING 9/11

SJSU students relive their memories

RYAN BUCHAN
Staff Writer

Today marks the seven-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

Since the four planes crashed, three into buildings, many things were never the same.

Many students still remember their experiences of that day.

“I felt numb, like it wasn’t real, like it wasn’t happening,” said Danielle Doria, a senior interior design major. “That turned into anger and frustration. It wasn’t fair. Why would you take civilians in a political feud?”

Nipun Tandon, a junior electrical engineering major, said he awoke to the newscast of the event. His radio alarm clock was set to a music station, but on that day it had a different sound. Due to the different radio wake-up, he knew there was something wrong, he said, so he rushed to the television to see the devastation.

He later went to school where constant updates on the event were available as the events were discussed throughout the school day.

Tandon said he felt he experienced some of the effects of the attack by having gone through extra thorough searches at the airport. He said he thought it was because his ethnicity matched the profile of a terrorist.

“I understand why,” Tandon said. “If it takes five minutes to put everyone at ease and make everyone safe, I’m willing to go through that.”

Even thousands of miles away in different countries, current SJSU students knew about the catastrophic events that oc-

curred across seas in America.

Neehar Athalye, a computer engineering graduate student, was in India at the time hanging out with some friends when his sister told him about the tragedy.

He said he was shocked and felt really bad for the Americans who lost their lives or loved ones.

Elsabeth Alemayehu, a freshman nursing major, was in Ethiopia and read about it in an extra edition of the newspaper. She said she was frightened of the news because she knew she was going to move to America.

She said the attack helped her see the world differently.

“There are people who want people dead, who want bad things to happen,” Alemayehu said.

The Associated Press reported that Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said that airlines are still at risk of a terrorist attack, because they are still targeted by al-Qaida.

Some SJSU said they didn’t like students don’t like America’s reaction to Sept. 11.

Kenneth Rosales, a sophomore environmental studies major, said the United State’s actions were unwise and have resulted in a hypocritical situation. He said he did not think it was right to retaliate to killing by killing.

Some students, however, disagreed and think the war on terrorism is a just cause.

“There has been no terrorism since 9/11, since we have been chasing them out,” said Tre Kendrick, a junior aerospace engineering major. “Brownie points for the war on terror. ... If you give them eight years of safe haven and give them guns, like Clinton (did) you get 9/11.”

“I felt numb, like it wasn’t real, like it wasn’t happening.”

DANIELLE DORIA
senior interior design major

“If it takes five minutes to put everyone at ease and make everyone safe, I’m willing to go through that.”

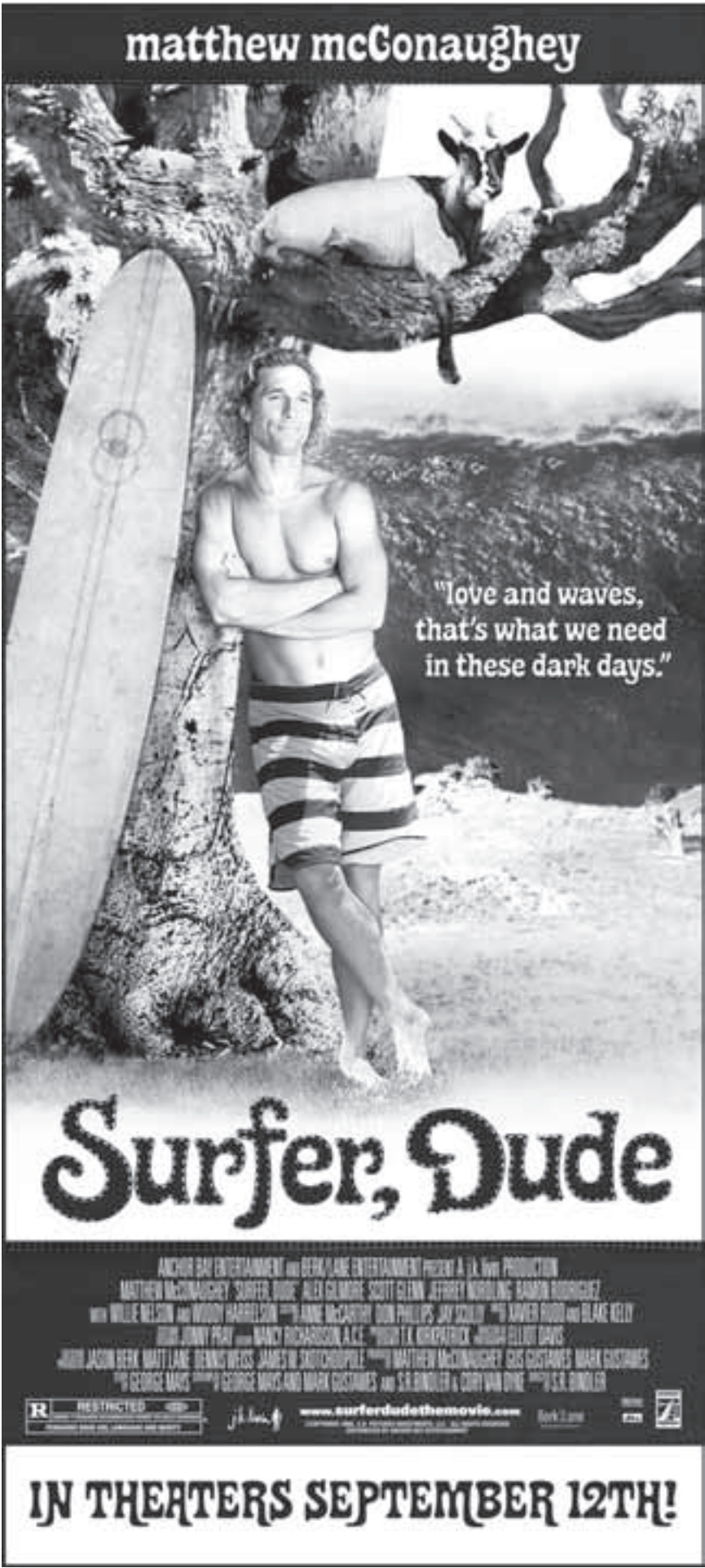
NIPUN TANDON
junior electrical engineering major

“There are people who want people dead, who want bad things to happen.”

ELSABETH ALEMAYEHU
freshman nursing major

“There has been no terrorism since 9/11, since we have been chasing them out.”

TRE KENDRICK
junior aerospace engineering major





Down go the Dons

SJSU 1, USF 0
San Jose State prevails
in double overtime

Hiroki Akiyama of SJSU fights for possession of the ball with USF's Johnathan Levi early in the first half of SJSU's 1-0 win.

JOE PROUDMAN / Spartan Daily

JOE AKELEY
Staff Writer

Playing a man down in double overtime against the University of San Francisco, the Spartans (2-0-1) were on the verge of settling for a scoreless draw.

SJSU's Nick Cukar had different plans.

With just five minutes left in the second overtime, Cukar stunned the Dons with a shot into the left corner of the net that gave the Spartans a dramatic 1-0 win.

"I just cut in and ran the lane and I just tried to put it past him," Cukar said. "I didn't even see it go in. I just shot it and heard everybody (react)."

Lost in the triumphant goal was the Spartans defense, which

did not allow a shot on goal for the entire game.

"I'm very pleased with the shutout," said head coach Gary St. Clair. "The defense has been extremely solid. I didn't think USF was going to score tonight, even when we went a man down."

The physical play started in the second half when midfielder Hiroki Akiyama got taken down by a Dons midfielder. SJSU forward Colby Moore reacted and came charging in for the ball, knocking a Dons defenseman to the ground. Moore received a red card, which forced the Spartans to play at a one-man disadvantage for the rest of the game.

The teams combined to pick up three more yellow cards in

the second half. The first overtime had more controversy when it appeared that Dons keeper Jeremy Coupe threw an elbow at Spartan Stephen Cordova, but no foul was called.

"USF is a big, physical team, and it's a bloody war out there, isn't it?" St. Clair said.

After a scoreless first overtime, the Spartans seemed to have fresher legs and had a breakaway opportunity that was nullified by an offside call.

Coaches and players on SJSU's sideline were visibly upset with the official's decision. Moments later, Akiyama found Spartans midfielder Ricky Dorrego in the middle of the field with a pass, who saw an open Cukar.

"I heard people screaming to play the ball to him," Dorrego said. "Once I played it to him I didn't even have to look because I knew it was going in."

Dorrego chalked the late win up to SJSU's team preparation.

"I believe we have worked harder than any other team in the country," Dorrego said. "With as many opportunities we had with a man down, (we) showed our heart and how well we played."

The win over USF marked the first time that the Spartans seniors have defeated the Dons.

"Our goal is to keep very solid and to keep shutouts," said senior captain Ed Brand. "Our philosophy is if we don't concede, we don't lose."

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Football preps for SDSU game

MARK POWELL
Spartan Editor

For SJSU football this past week, it's been a process of moving from a near upset against the University of Nebraska to preparing for a winless San Diego State team.

The Spartans (1-1), who hung close late with traditional power Nebraska before falling 35-12 last Saturday, play SDSU (0-2) on Sept. 13 at Spartan Stadium.

SJSU head coach Dick Tomey said his team had several opportunities to knock off Nebraska last week.

"There were parts of the game I felt like we didn't just hold our own but we had the upper hand," Tomey said in a press conference Monday. "But the score didn't reflect that."

The Spartans trailed 14-12 in the fourth quarter before the Cornhuskers exploded for 21 points to pull away.

"They made the plays at the end," Tomey said. "They had to."

Nebraska kick returner Niles Paul's 85-yard touchdown following an SJSU field goal caused the team's sideline to deflate, Tomey said.

"You can't let your opponent talk you out of winning," Tomey said. "I don't think we were the same team after that."

SJSU linebacker Travis Jones said the Nebraska loss was similar to previous games against Boise State University and the University of Hawaii.

opened and we couldn't climb out of it."

In 2006, the Spartans lead No. 14 Boise State 20-12 in the fourth quarter before losing 23-20 on a field goal as time expired.

Last season, SJSU was leading 35-21 in the fourth quarter against No. 16 Hawaii, but lost in overtime 42-35.

Both Hawaii and Boise State eventually finished the regular season unbeaten and played in Bowl Championship Series bowl games.

Jones described playing at Nebraska's Memorial Stadium as, "a whole bunch of them and not a lot of us."

SDSU's season has been similar to SJSU's so far, Tomey said.

The Aztecs lost to Football Championship Division (formerly Division I-AA) Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 29-27 in Week 1.

In Week 2, SDSU led Notre Dame 13-7 before a fumble and two late scores allowed the Fighting Irish to pull out a 21-13 win.

"I think Cal Poly is a better team than (UC) Davis," Tomey said. "I think Nebraska is probably better than Notre Dame."

The last time SJSU played SDSU was in 2006 when the Spartans defeated the Aztecs 31-10 in San Jose.

The all-time record between the two schools stands at 16-16-2.

Sticking with Strubeck

After missing two field goal attempts and having an extra point attempt blocked in the season's opening contest versus UC Davis, SJSU place-kicker Jared Strubeck succeeded on two of his three attempts at Nebraska.

The senior has also made one of two extra point attempts, while backup Will Johnson missed both his field goal and extra point

attempts against Nebraska.

"Makes and misses are a part of a field goal kicker's life," Tomey said. "Jared will be all right."

In 2007, Strubeck made just two of his first 10 field goal attempts, but finished the year on a hot streak and was successful on eight of his final 10 tries.

"He's failed to make some kicks," Tomey said. "Sometimes guys can't putt. Sometimes they can't make free throws. It's one of those skills — you can't try harder to make a free throw. You can't try harder to make a four-foot putt. You've got to relax and trust your training and hit it. And sometimes you've got to work through a tough time."

Tomey added that SJSU will continue to send Strubeck onto the field as normal when field goal chances arise.

"He's going to be fine," Tomey said. "If everyone just won't try to psychoanalyze him, he'll be fine."

More action for running game

Senior running back Yonus Davis averaged 8.3 yards per carry against Nebraska, but was handed the ball only seven times. In the season opener, Davis also rushed seven times, for 28 yards.

"He needs to get the ball more," Tomey said about Davis. "(Freshman running back) Brandon Rutley needs to get the ball more. We need to get the ball in our backs' hands. We'll get that done."

Davis said that he would like to see more carries in the coming games, but said that he would try to perform whatever task the coaching staff asks of him.

"I can do whatever the play is called," Davis said. "I'm not the offensive coordinator. I don't call the plays or anything like that. If my job is to block then I'll block. If my job is to run then I'll run."

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New players bring hope to struggling men’s rugby program

RYAN BUCHAN
Staff Writer

The Men’s Club Rugby Team started practice Tuesday hoping to erase the memories of a disappointing season the year before. Members of the team did not want to say exactly how bad the season was.

With larger amounts of players coming out to practice, many of them with previous experience, team members said they believe a brighter future is in store.

“Having the experience on this team should benefit the club,” said Matt Caffiero, a wing and the team captain.

Caffiero said the team struggled last season due to its inexperience.

“As the season went on we were able to build a cohesive unit,” Caffiero said.

With a more experienced squad, Caffiero said he thinks the team can make the playoffs.

“This year we want to continue the improvement,” said assistant coach Rolle Toste.



JAMES JEFFREY/ Spartan Daily

Freshman Matt Adgar (right) receives a pass from team captain junior Matt Caffiero during men’s club rugby practice at a South Campus practice field.

“We want to be more consistent in scoring.”

The Rugby team held its first practice of the school year on Tuesday. The practice began with about 30 players in attendance but the number continued to grow closer to 40 as players were late showing up. Elijah Castro, a lock, said this practice was better than ones from last year because of the large turnout.

“We had very few who were new to the game,” Castro said.

Assistant coach Alan Barker

said he thinks it will be a better year and that they are going to focus more on some new issues.

“We are going to get through to them,” Barker said. “They have to work out more on their own time. When you’re fit, you don’t tend to get hurt as much.”

The coaching staff has long roots in the program with Toste who played in the very first rugby game at SJSU in 1972 and later had a 10 year coaching stint, before returning last year after being away from the team, he said.

Toste said he would like to bring the program back to glory days of the ’70s when the team was the league champion.

In the ’70s, the team was led by dual-sport athlete Carl Ekern, Toste said.

Ekern also played collegiate football and went on to play 12 years of professional football with the Los Angeles Rams according to the New York Times.

Ekern died in 1990 after his Jeep crashed in Kern County, according to the New York Times.

Caffiero and scrum half Hideki Maniwa said they aim to make the All-American list. Last year, not a single player on the team received All-American honors said Caffiero.

Caffiero said that last year Maniwa was the team MVP playing the most important position in rugby, scrum back, a position similar to the quarterback in football.

Maniwa has four years of experience, two of those coming from Cal State Fullerton, from where he transferred.

Maniwa said he likes rugby because it never stops. It has 40 minute halves with no timeouts.

The season never really ends with a fall preseason, the regular season that begins in January and finishes in the spring, topped off with seven-man tournaments in the summer.

The team has a long way to go before the regular season begins Jan. 14 with a tournament in Southern California.

Santos achieving, defending goals as vital part of SJSU’s women’s soccer

KAAJAL MORAR
Staff Writer

Freshman SJSU goalkeeper Jordan-Michelle Santos grew up in a soccer-loving family.

“I remember waking up at two in the morning to watch the Germany final (in the 2002 World Cup),” Santos said.

Her father played soccer in Germany until he moved to the United States at age 14, where soccer wasn’t as big.

“When I started playing it was like reliving his childhood for him,” Santos said.

She picked up the sport when she was five and became interested in playing goalkeeper before age 10. According to the SJSU Athletics Web site, Santos

was born in Westminster, Calif., on Jan. 4, 1990, and grew up in nearby Cypress.

She came to San Jose to achieve one of her lifelong goals: to get a scholarship and make it to Division I soccer.

Within a few weeks, Santos received the Western Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week title.

“I think it’s a pretty cool honor,” Santos said.

She also said she feels like she can do better and wants to see the conference’s opinion when she is doing her best.

Senior co-captain Lauren Moniz said she wasn’t surprised when Santos was given the WAC honor.

“I’m excited to see her after her freshman year, sophomore, junior year to see

what she becomes because she is definitely the silent leader, always working hard and trying to better herself,” Moniz said, who is a psychology major.

Coach Jeff Leightman said Santos is a high-quality player, adding that, “She’s got all the tools capable of being a top-notch Division-I goalkeeper.”

Moniz said, “It’s nice to play and know that as the last line of defense, you have a keeper back there that will save your butt.”

Santos made 11 saves against Cal, the 17th-ranked team in the country. After going down 1–0 in the first half, the Spartans tied the score before falling to Cal, 3–1.

“We’ve opened up against two na-

tional-ranked teams and she really takes the plate against Cal, she kept us in that game,” Leightman said.

“I feel like every game, you should be able to improve from the last game,” Santos said.

With 30 saves under her belt over a period of five games, Santos has certainly shown her ability as a goalkeeper.

Even academically, Santos is able to stay on top of her game.

“Wednesdays are 12-hour days for me,” said Santos. “I wake up at 8 a.m. for my math class and end at 8:45 p.m. from my psychology class.”

Even though she misses her Southern California home, she still wishes it was as diverse as San Jose, she said.

Santos’ teammates are supportive of her and have helped her adapt to the city life, Santos said.

“I’m so thankful for (my teammates), because I came in from a completely different environment,” she said.

Santos said she has successfully completed many of her athletic goals. She said that now that she’s in college playing the sport she loves, she wants to push herself to see what more she can do.

For the upcoming season, Santos hopes to learn as much as possible from her trainer and coach Jeff Leightman.

Leightman said the goalkeeper is the team’s anchor and that he has and will continue to see quality work from Santos.

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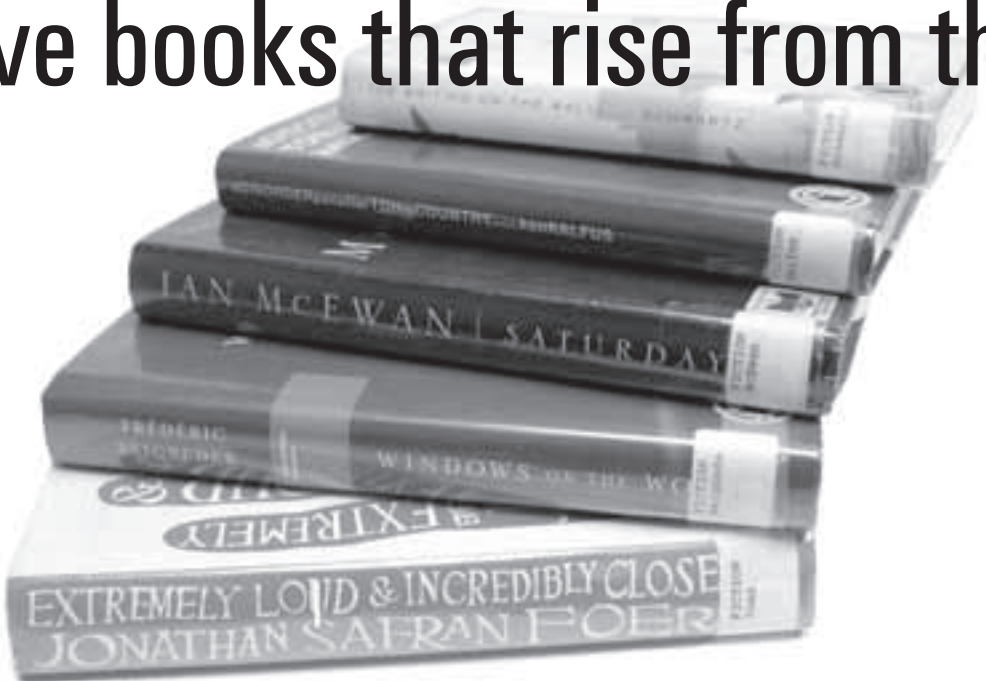
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Five books that rise from the ashes

CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily



“Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” by Jonathan Safran Foer (Hardcover, 2005)

From the setting to the design that runs throughout the book, Foer’s “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” does not come across as an ordinary Sept. 11 novel to me.

A 9-year-old boy named Oskar Schell is on a mission to find the lock that matches a key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of Sept. 11.

Foer uses photographs, word-play and even blank pages that give the book a visual dimension. It’s a good choice for some readers who prefer books that include more than just text. It’s a journey about family ties. Flipping to the last page of the book, I feel like it’s a dark diary with humor.

“Saturday” by Ian McEwan (Hardcover, 2005)

If you have read “Atonement,” you know how McEwan is able

to draw out the small variations in mood, thoughts and subconscious. I enjoyed the early chapters in the book simply because McEwan shows me how much the world has changed since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The story revolves a single day in the life of 48-year-old Henry Perowne in London after the Sept. 11 attacks and before the London bombings on July 7, 2005. Henry is a renowned neurosurgeon and a loving family man, but he is not perfect. He is human and flawed, like us.

As the day progresses, he struggles like we do: with fear, his own undecided feelings about the war and the combined effects of media and politics on people’s consciousnesses.

“Windows on the World” by Frederic Beigbeder, English translation by Frank Wynne (Hardcover, 2004)

This is French author Beigbeder’s Interallié Prize-winning story of a divorced father and his sons

having breakfast at a restaurant called Windows on the World on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center.

With so many people personally connected to those who were killed on that fateful morning, some American readers are hostile toward Beigbeder’s approach to the events of Sept. 11 with a hypothetical minute-by-minute narration by the father from 8:30 to 10:29 a.m.

As I read some of the angry customer reviews on Amazon.com, I cannot help but wonder if we should try something that does not only make us feel good, but try to take into consideration how we are viewed by the others and why. Beigbeder makes every minute a chapter. Try it, be critical, and maybe after the last minute you will find that what you treat as taboo can be informative.

“The Writing on the Wall” by Lynne Sharon Schwartz (Hardcover, 2005)

This is probably one of the few

occasions when I don’t think I understand the protagonist until one-third of the way into the novel, but I am still writing a comment for it. Renata, a librarian who always keeps her involvement with people to the minimum, has a long history of family trauma and the bad memories come back to her one after another since the collapse of the World Trade Center.

As you read through the pages, you will discover layers of truth about Renata and understand how the Sept. 11 attacks affect a life that has already been traumatized long before. It is not entirely about Sept. 11 attacks, but it’s also about loss, love and the need to stay connected to other human beings — something to which you and I may feel connected.

“A Disorder Peculiar to the Country” by Ken Kalfus (Hardcover, 2006)

Even though the book cover has one of the tackiest designs I’ve ever seen, one shouldn’t judge the book by its cover.

When practically the entire nation is calling for unity and love, Marshall and Joyce are at war: a bitter divorce battle that turns into a full-fledged conflict with tapping phone calls and anthrax-laced envelopes.

It’s a dark comedy that depicts a microcosm of the post-Sept. 11 world. It’s not a regular Sept. 11 book about heroism and patriotism in the wake of tragedy, but so what?

You may enjoy the irony of how public events affect people’s private lives and they still can’t help but be the self-obsessed individuals they are.

DRINK of the WEEK

DEREK SJUDER / Spartan Daily



HAZEN’ NUTS SMOOTHIE

BIJAN BAKERY

SELMA SKOKIC
Staff Writer

Who says only alcoholic concoctions can become a drink of the week? I love non-alcoholic beverages and you will too. Take a few extra minutes, walk past the Starbucks of which you have become a faithful member and stroll over to the Bijan Bakery and Cafe located on 170 S. Market Street.

Bijan Bakery is the perfect spot to grab a little afternoon delight.

Look around; feel like you are in Europe yet? If the interior of the Cafe does not make you feel like you are in Europe with its high tables and high chairs, then its “Hazen’ Nuts” smoothie made from espresso, chocolate hazelnut gelato, peanut butter and chocolate milk will. You’d think that the peanut butter and hazelnut gelato would overpower one another, but it is a perfect marriage of flavors. Watch out, Starbucks.

In every sip you take, you can taste the elements of each ingredient that makes up the mixture. All the flavors are layered to give the drink a perfect balance of a coffee beverage and a sweet ice cream treat. The barista, Kimberly Vieyra, was nice enough to give me the recipe. You can try making this delight at home, but I think paying the \$4.99 for this pureed pleasure is well worth it.

Fill a 16-ounce cup full of ice. Add three-fourths of espresso. Put a scoop of chocolate hazelnut gelato and half a scoop of peanut butter in a blender and blend it all together. Fill the cup that already has the ice and espresso with chocolate milk and add the peanut butter and chocolate hazelnut gelato mixture. If it is too thick, you may add more chocolate milk.

Add a dollop of whipped cream and voila, you’ve got a European masterpiece.

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54 Mental picture
55 Fine sediment
56 Two pounds, plus
59 Sheep

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Palin is exactly what the Republican Party needs right now



Sarah Palin is the ideal vice presidential candidate for the Republican Party. It amazes me that more of the mainstream media has failed to realize this.

This is not an opinion dependent on whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, or whether you believe that Sarah Palin has any of the necessary credentials to run the country.

Simply, having Sarah Palin, as opposed to any of the other publicized alternatives, on the ticket with John McCain gives the Republicans a better chance of staying in the White House.

Media reports have focused on the belief that McCain plucked Palin from

anonymity, purely because she is a woman. A desperate ploy to steal disgruntled Hillary Clinton voters away from the Democrats has been the bottom line of much of the news media's analysis. Well, according to a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll taken before Palin's unveiling, McCain was running dead level with Obama.

It would be naive then to think that McCain would risk ridicule in the media by picking a candidate out of nowhere just to gain some publicity and the votes of female chauvinists across the nation. He must believe that Palin offers a more complete package than this to help him get elected come November.

That is not to say that this package includes her ability to lead the nation. It's time we did away with the idealized notion that this is one of the leading attributes upon which a vice presidential candidate is chosen.

Running mates are picked because of their ability to attract voters that the presidential candidate does not. This is why Palin is such a good choice.

If nothing else, Sarah Palin must not be denied her contribution of having reinvigorated this election.

To undecided voters who aren't convinced by the promise to shake up both party and politics as a whole coming from a man who adheres precisely to the stale image of the Republican Party, Palin looks and sounds like a force for change.

The McCain campaign, after all, needs a fresh face. They are running under the same party banner as the most unpopular President in American

history. Palin has a reputation for being an outsider and for standing-up to the Republican establishment: qualities that will need to be emphasized if the Republicans are to triumph come election time.

If nothing else, Sarah Palin must not be denied her contribution of having reinvigorated this election – particularly for the Republicans. In complementing McCain in not only age, personality, background – and hair, Palin inspired a surge of true excitement and pride among Republicans.

Her small-town upbringing, candid appearance and burgeoning family are all but a few of her refreshing charms. Palin's flip, yet witty attacks on Obama at the Republican Convention further highlights her innervating appeals to the Republican Party.

With increasing zeal, Republicans now have more than a figurehead for

whom to cheer. For Republicans, Palin is – more than a candidate – a cause worth fighting for.

Of course, it is entirely possible that such a cause is reflective of the fact that Palin is a woman. Naturally, Palin's being a woman does constitute a significant step forward in not only American politics, but also American culture and society.

The hopes of having a first female president for this election may have been dashed when Hillary Clinton lost to Barack Obama, but the endeavor of this monumental advancement in history is carried on by Sarah Palin.

Just as Clinton had, Palin's candidacy as the Republican running mate serves to articulate the embodiment of a new age and a new mentality in the U.S.

Jason Le Miere is a Spartan Daily staff writer

Matt Damon's views on the election and other celebs plaguing the news



Maybe I'm oh so very naive. But as I trolled the CNN Web site yesterday afternoon, I assumed I'd be able to help myself to a buffet of tender 2008 election-related material, free of hard-spun, biased preservatives or overcooked celebrity commentary.

Little did I know, I was ordering from the political world's discount dollar menu.

My palette transformed from savory to sour. My appetite from aroused to anorexic, however, as one story on the site's political ticker hit me like a ton of month-old bologna: "Damon rips Palin, calls her 'terrifying.'"

The headline, of course, refers to one of America's most well known figures, who has made a career of spouting lines and making people cheer — and Matt Damon.

The actor, who supports Barack Obama and who was made famous by Oscar-winning film "Good Will Hunting," told the Associated Press that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's saga from down-home Republican hockey mom to possibly the most talked-about vice presidential candidate ever, has taken the shape of a "really bad Disney movie."

Damon, justly portrayed in the 2005 film "Team America: World Police," went on to say it was likely that Republican presidential nominee John McCain would die in office, creating a "terrifying" reality in which Palin became commander-in-chief.

"And it's absurd, it's totally absurd, and I don't understand why people aren't talking about how absurd it is," the AP quoted Damon, who may or may

not think that whole Palin story is, in fact, absurd.

Now, I'm in no way ready to throw all my chips at the McCain-Palin ticket, nor am I prepared to fall headlong in the Obama-Biden campaign the Democrats are riding.

Call it walking the line or call it weak — I don't care.

Both sides have their positives and their drawbacks, I think, and I want to have embraced every speech, every debate and every issue stance right up until that moment I enter my voting cubicle and participate in Superpoke Across America in selecting the nation's next high chief.

I think it's unhealthy to saddle up with one side extremely early in an election, with absolutely no intent to divert from your flock for any reason.

But have no fear, because as long as we have voices of reason like Damon and other tumbling celebrities telling us who and who not to side with, voting has never been easier.

To be fair, though, Jason Bourne isn't the only celebrity who thinks he's doing everyone a favor by enlightening us on our politics. Other celebrities have thrown their hackneyed election analysis around or have bought themselves an extra 15 minutes by supporting recent presidential candidates.

Actor and Internet sensation Chuck Norris momentarily revived his career after he lent support to Republican nominee Mike Huckabee early in the former Arkansas governor's campaign.

Here's a random fact for Norris: No one cares, and endorsing Huckabee ended up being about as successful as endorsing that corner-of-the-garage cobweb collector known as the Total Gym.

Former pro wrestling champion Ric Flair also endorsed Huckabee, though it should be noted the master of the figure-four leg lock was recently beaten up by his

22-year-old daughter in a North Carolina parking lot, according to TMZ.com.

Completing Huckabee's Jimmy Everyman trifecta, rock musician Ted Nugent advised Obama to "suck" on his "machine guns," according to Newsweek.

Oh, Ted, I loved you when I saw you in concert eight years ago, but your comments are like your eight-minute guitar-riff-laden hit "Stranglehold": entertaining, but dated.

In the world of Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign, adult film star Jenna Jameson stated that she wanted another Clinton in the White House because Bill Clinton's eight years on top were "the best years for the adult industry," Newsweek supported.

Yes, Jenna, and I'm sure Mrs. Clinton would completely agree those eight years were the happiest of her marriage.

One of McCain's celebrity supporters was actor Sylvester Stallone, who I think may have been delusional, thinking that he in fact saved McCain from imprisonment in the final, climactic, tear-jerking scene in Rambo: First Blood.

Fish, barrel.

Perhaps I've been somewhat unfair to celebrities. After all, they are American citizens too, and their input should be taken just as seriously as anyone else's. In fact, celebrities are sometimes more in the know than just ordinary people, right, Mr. Damon?

"I think there's a really good chance Sarah Palin could be president, and I think that's a really scary thing, because I don't know anything about her, and I don't think in eight weeks I am going to know anything about her," Damon told the AP.

How naive of you, Mr. Damon.

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

QUOTE of the DAY

"I am not convinced that we're winning it in Afghanistan."

ADM. MICHAEL MULLEN

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the House Armed Services Committee Wednesday.

COMMENTS from the WEB

In reference to the article "Of course they can dish it out, but they definitely can't take it," by Adam Browne which ran on Monday, Sept. 8

My goodness people, are we still in high school? Can we not think of anything more interesting or useful to put in our paper? Our society has made it OK for underage girls to get pregnant and more and more people are encouraging abortions, yet the second a vice presidential candidate for the Republican side has a daughter who gets caught up in this, all of a sudden it's OK to judge and say there is some type of double standard. The double standard is strictly with people who say conservative evangelicals should be more accepting of teen pregnancy and abortion, then jump all over someone whose daughter gets pregnant.

We are all individuals. We all lead our own lives. We all make our own decisions in life and are responsible for our actions. Sure Palin has her values and her stance on certain issues, but why the heck would anyone assume that her daughter agrees with everything she has to say?

There are atheists who have

children that attend church, pastors whose children don't believe in God.

We shouldn't hold people accountable to what their children believe or decide to do.

Her daughter got pregnant. ... Let's move on, her daughter isn't the one running for office.

-Luke

I am changing my vote for Obama to McCain after hearing Governor Palin's speech and I am amazed at the audacity of the Democratic Party and the media.

For so many years they have been pushing equal rights for women and said absolutely nothing when Hillary was disrespected and mocked in front of the entire nation and then overlooked for the vice president nomination. Obviously, the powers that be in the Democratic Party never had any intention for a woman to take on such a responsible position.

They ridicule the one woman, Sarah Palin, who actually has a chance to hold the second highest office in the world. And look at Hillary; beaten down and answering, yes sir, to Mr. Obama while listening to Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man." What a sell out!

-Jill G

In reference to the article "This CD doesn't save 'souls'" by Adam Murphy, which ran on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Did you even listen to his record? Have you ever listened to Mark Lanegan? The album is close to flawless. The album is about contrast: a slow and brooding voice vs. electronic beats.

You say you are baffled. Baffled by what? Lyrical meanings that aren't spelled out for you? Contrasting styles that ultimately make the sum of the two parts greater than when they are separate? I have no problem with those who disagree with my choices in music. I have a problem with "journalists" who clearly don't have a grasp on what they are listening to and publishing their uninformed opinions for the masses to see.

-Jimmy Wells

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Terrorism fades as issue in '08 election

Washington Post

The joint appearance at Ground Zero Thursday morning by Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama will not only commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks but also will mark a rare moment in the campaign when both candidates focus on terrorism, an issue that has lost salience for American voters as the deadly attacks recede in the public memory.

Once the key concern that propelled Republicans to big electoral victories in 2002 and

2004, terrorism has often seemed the forgotten issue of 2008. Both candidates touched on the subject only briefly in their convention speeches and are instead emphasizing the economy, change for Washington and other issues on the stump.

The shift reflects a nod to the changing attention of the electorate. At this time in 2002 and 2004, about a quarter of all Americans polled by Gallup called terrorism or national security the country's top problem. That dropped to 16 percent in 2006, and now 4 per-

cent of those polled deem those issues the most important challenge facing the United States.

"The whole issue has not gotten anywhere near the attention most people would have predicted four years ago," said Paul Pillar, a leading authority on terrorism and a retired CIA analyst. "It is kind of striking that this set of issues that became such a huge national preoccupation in the years after 9/11 has faded so much."

Pillar and other experts say concern over terrorism has traditionally waxed following dramat-

ic incidents such as the Sept. 11 attacks or the wave of attacks by Hezbollah in the 1980s, only to wane as public attention drifts. In the current political climate, analysts said, the absence of a subsequent al-Qaida attack on U.S. soil has left the electorate with a mistaken view that the terrorist threat has diminished.

Still, both Obama and McCain have tried to use the terrorism issue to emphasize larger themes about their candidacies and to question the judgment of their adversary.

Evacuations Ordered in Texas as Ike Approaches Wharton, Texas

Los Angeles Times

With Hurricane Ike gathering strength over the warm Gulf of Mexico waters Wednesday, authorities ordered mandatory evacuations in four low-lying counties along the Texas coast as frail and elderly residents were bused to safety inland.

Ike barreled across the Gulf past Cuba, strengthening into a Category 2 hurricane with maximum winds near 100 mph. Forecasters predicted that the storm would become a Category 3 — possibly a Category 4 — before making landfall somewhere between Corpus Christi and Houston early Saturday.

A Category 4 storm on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale packs winds of up to 131 mph and storm surges 13 feet to 18 feet above normal.

The state's coastal areas are home to the nation's largest col-

lection of refineries and chemical plants. Texas has a quarter of the nation's refining capacity, with most of the facilities in the hurricane's predicted target "cone."

As highways began to swell with traffic heading inland Wednesday and people jammed stores to stock up on supplies, state officials prepared 1,350 buses to ferry people out of harm's way. More than 1 million people live along the coast between Corpus Christi and Houston, which has a population of about 4 million.

To accommodate those fleeing, state troopers opened the shoulder of the northbound lanes of Interstate 37 between Corpus Christi and San Antonio.

Along interstates in Houston and its suburbs, overhead electronic signs read: "Hurricane forming in gulf — Fill your gas tanks."

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MIKE ANDERSON/Spartan Daily

Students watch the new Indiana Jones movie, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," during a sponsored Associated Students open movie night held outside Campus Village.

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