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Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER
08 2008

STUDENT CULTURE

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SJSU organization
thinks pink

STUDENT CULTURE

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Biden's
autobiography
'promises' to be a
worthwhile read

OPINION

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Karma: You get
what you give

A.S. budget increases to \$7.1M

PETER HIRONAKA
Staff Writer

Since the tail end of last semester, Associated Students received a \$300,000 increase in budget. The increase is directly due to the rise of SJSU's student enrollment, said Irene Baba, A.S. controller.

According to the A.S. Web site, the budget has increased from \$6.8 million last year to \$7.1 million this year.

Baba said student organizations would receive a budget increase of \$25,000.

"If student organizations want money, they can come to A.S.," Baba said. "We can provide up to \$3,000 annually for them to use for their programs, events, anything."

Student organizations are permitted to receive funding through A.S., but there are not too many who know this, Baba said.

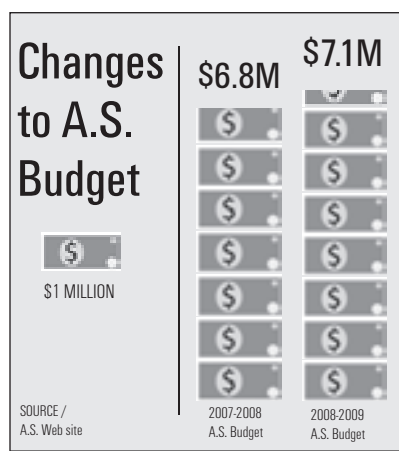
"We are trying this semester and next (semester) to increase awareness about how A.S. can help student organizations," she said.

Akbyan Pilipino Club is a student

organization that receives funding from A.S. John Limpin, a senior television, radio, film and theatre major, said Akbayan has used the funding for events.

"For our show, Maboohay, we used the funding for the venue and to pay the performers," Limpin said.

Another student organization gets that money from A.S. is the Management Information System Association. Kaity Poon, a senior business management information systems major, said



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LET THE GAMES BEGIN



DANIELLE TORRALBA
Staff Writer

Monday kicked off Greek Week and SJSU students involved in the Greek system have a jam-packed itinerary for this week's Homecoming festivities.

"Homecoming week and Greek Week are incorporated together to help generate school spirit," said Melissa Cerda, a junior justice studies major and member of sorority Kappa Delta. "It helps generate the com-

munity within the Greek system and helps bring everyone together."

From the Greek Olympics competitions to house-decorating contests, sororities and fraternities participate in various events throughout the week that are geared toward promoting Spartan spirit.

"I look forward to being part of the events that take place during the week and showing off my pride for my fraternity," said Daniel Ruelas, a junior

business major and member of fraternity Sigma Alpha Delta.

At the beginning of the week, fraternities and sororities partnered up with one another and began building chariots.

House-decorating competitions also began this week with members of each house decorating their houses in festive school spirit.

"We get paired off with other houses to decorate our houses," Cerda said. "It

creates teamwork and bonding and it's really fun.

The Greek Olympics will take place today on the Spartan Complex Lawn at 6 p.m.

Each of the teams that were paired up for house-decorating and chariot-building compete together in relay type games and various other activities.

Qais Haider, a junior civil engi-

►► GREEKpage3

Blood drive suspension still stands, President undecided on future of policy

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

Blood drives at SJSU are still suspended, but hope for their reinstatement is in sight a university representative said.

Former SJSU President Don Kassing suspended all blood drives on campus last semester on Feb. 1.

"The blood drive is suspended because the FDA has made a lifetime ban on gay men," said Larry Carr, associate vice president of public affairs. "President Kassing found that it violated the non-discriminatory laws at SJSU, which forced him to suspend it."

President Jon Whitmore has not attempted to change anything yet, Carr said.

"The current status is that the suspension is still in place," he said. "President Whitmore is taking his first 100 days to learn about SJSU and is not making any changes yet."

Carr said that he thinks blood drives would serve the campus community.

"We would love to have blood drives on campus again," Carr said. "We would be very committed to what

SJSU can provide for blood drives."

President Kassing spoke with representatives of the FDA last spring, Carr said, but there has been no dialogue since.

In March, San Jose-Evergreen Community College District followed suit by suspending blood drives as well.

Carr is confident that the future will have blood drives back on SJSU's campus.

"I suspect after the election that we may be able to talk to the FDA and have more cooperation with them," Carr said.

According to the FDA's Web site, "Men who have had sex with other men, at any time since 1977 are currently deferred as blood donors. This is because MSM are, as a group, at increased risk for HIV, hepatitis B and certain other infections that can be transmitted by transfusion."

Some SJSU students said they want to give blood and help those in need.

"The blood drive is always a good cause," said Russel Gapsin, an undeclared sophomore. "It saves people's

lives. Some people might have rare blood that they can use in life-threatening situations."

Eliseo Quiroz, a sophomore chemistry major, said he is befuddled with the current suspension.

"Blood drives are needed to help people out who need a blood transfusion," he said. "It does not matter if you are homosexual or not. Blood is blood. If the blood is infected, you can't use it, but there are also heterosexual people that have AIDS and other diseases that homosexual people don't have."

According to the FDA, "Men who have had sex with other men account for the largest single group of blood donors who are found to be HIV positive by blood donor testing."

Still, there are homosexuals who want to give blood but can't due to the FDA's ruling.

"If you know you have infected blood, and you have documentation saying my blood is infected, then, yeah, you should not give blood," Quiroz said. "But if you know your blood is fine, then you should be able to give blood."

Professors talk election during symposium

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

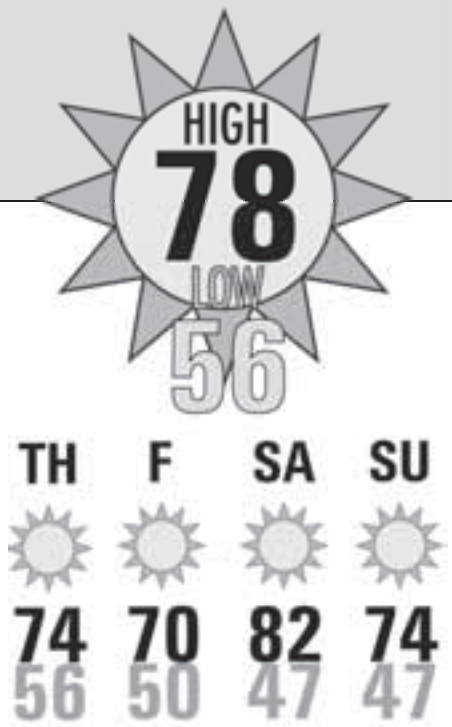
A crowd of more than 200 watched the College of Science Symposium at the University Theatre Tuesday, which featured professors saying what issues the presidential candidates should be discussing.

"The purpose of the symposium was to provide education on the subject of the presidential elections," said Tim Hegstrom, dean of the College of Social Science, who hosted the event. "We wanted to also be able to show people that when you look at a question from different disciplinary perspectives, they will have a different take on an issue. This symposium showed us that a political scientist has different views than an economist who has different views than a sociologist and so on."

The speakers were Larry Gerston, a professor of political science, Lydia Ortega, a professor of economics, Scott Myers-Lipton, a professor of sociology, and James Lull, a professor of communication.

Gerston said the candidates

►► ELECTIONpage3



First of four computer courses teach students the ways of the database

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

The department of computer science has partnered with the IBM Silicon Valley Lab to provide new courses designed to equip students with skills and certificates necessary for careers in the computer industry.

Beginning this Fall, CS 185C, Fundamentals of IBM DB2 for z/OS will be offered to students in computer science, engineering and business.

DB2 stands for Database 2 and is one of the oldest, quickest and most reliable database servers in the world, said course instructor Teng Moh.

According to the department's Web site, the course is an introduction to managing a Database 2 system running on an IBM System z mainframe, a 64-bit operating system.

The goals of IBM and the department of computer science is to provide students with the re-

sources to make them more qualified in the computer industry.

"As a software developer, I understand that quality and performance are equally important. DB2 serves as a good example for us," said Raymond Wong, a computer science graduate student. "With the experience from the classes, I hope I can utilize the fine tuning tricks that I am learning in my future projects for my job."

This is the first and most basic of the four-course series projected for the upcoming semesters.

Very few campuses are being given the opportunity to conduct the course. Along with SJSU, Cal-State Long Beach and Cal-State Sacramento are adding this course into the schedule of classes.

Next semester, CS 286, database application development will be offered to students wanting to improve the performance of program applications, said Surya Bhagvat, a computer science graduate student.

"It is a rare opportunity at an inside look at the most famous server," Moh said about the server that provides the foundation for other database technologies.

Wong said he took the class as a recommendation from Moh.

"There are several server products on the market," said Wong, "and I have always wanted to know the difference between them from the development aspects."

Moh said the server is used by Microsoft, Oracle and the top 56 banks.

"Having programmers educated on DB2 is important to help rebuild the financial industry in crisis," Moh said.

Eight graduate students and two undergraduate students are currently enrolled.

With proper promotion, Moh expects enrollment to increase next semester.

"Other than fliers around the building, we did not do a great job of promotion."

Moh said the low enrollment is likely because students only take the required classes with no extra effort.

Bhagvat said the class is intensive and students interested should have previous knowledge of structured query language, used in standard programming.

"This class helps to understand what's happening behind the scenes," Bhagvat said about the course.

Although 30 years old, Database 2 is a staple in the computer industry, Moh said.

"Without knowledge of DB2, students will be missing valuable pieces in technology," he said.

Information technology has accounted for 16,220 job openings since 2004, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor.

"Halfway through the semester, I have already started applying the principles in my day-to-day work," Bhagvat said.

SPARTAGUIDE

EVENTS CALENDAR

08 TODAY

School of Library & Information Science Colloquium Series

David Tyckoson, associate dean at CSU Fresno, will speak on "The Future of the Library: Why Libraries Matter in Today's Networked Society." All are welcome to attend. 12 to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. Contact Marcia Laughrey at 924-2490 laughrey@slis.sjsu.edu.

Counseling Services Test Taking Teddy Plays to Win

Play Testing Jeopardy with Teddy and find out some tips to help you pass those exams. 3 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. Contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

SJSPIRIT meeting

Come learn about a progressive and fully inclusive Christian organization on campus. 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Church on the corner of 10th and San Salvador. Contact Kelsey Mac at kelsey@sjspirit.org.

Free LDS Religion class

The San Jose Institute of Religion sponsored by LDS offers a free religion class every Wednesday. 7 to 8 p.m. at 66 S. 7th Street, adjacent to SJSU. Contact Brother Bohn at

sanjoseca@ldsces.org,
286-3313 or www.ldsces.org/
sanjose.

09 THURSDAY

Student Showcase Hour

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall. Contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4649.

The Rock

Are you a musician struggling in the midst of this business-esqu atmosphere? Come to the Rock where you can find musicians, play music and be heard. 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Montalvo Room. Contact Jeremy Mallard at Maljeremy@gmail.com.

Up Til Dawn

Raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. 5 to 7 p.m. at the Tower Lawn. Contact Alison Abernethy at alioop56@hotmail.com

Bible Study

Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible studies on Thursdays. 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room. Contact Justin Foon at jfoon1@yahoo.com or 415-786-9873

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.

BUDGET Increased enrollment led to additional funds

it is a place for business majors in the management information systems focus to network with fellow students as well as experience working on social events.

"We don't have money unless we hold a fundraiser, so A.S. has been a great help to us," Poon said.

Baba said A.S. will continue to try to benefit student organizations with more money.

"For next year, we're trying to increase for student organiza-

tions because they benefit the SJSU community in such a positive way," Baba said. "We really want to help them out because we think they support our mission statement."

Christy Riggins, A.S. government administrative assistant, said the budget was voted on by the finance committee during last semester.

"Our executive director goes through and talks to everybody

to see what it is they're going to need for the upcoming year," she said. "Once they have a good, balanced budget, it goes to the board and gets voted on."

As a result of SJSU's rise of enrolled students, A.S. uses the tuition money as well as additional student government fees to provide to the university.

"The student fees become what A.S. has to work with," Riggins said. "From that, we are able

to offer all the different services that A.S. does, including student organizations."

A.S. Vice President Albert Hsieh said another one of their goals was to tackle environmental goals such as fighting against global warming and encouraging recycling.

"We plan on hiring a full-time coordinator to get students on campus more proactive with global issues we face today."

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2008

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ON THE
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8:00 P.M. : FIRE DANCERS

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Homecoming
08

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ELECTION

‘It touched a lot of issues I think are going on right now about the election’

should be talking about, “the economy, the war, global issues and their own qualifications.”

A prominent topic of his speech was the role of the U.S. in a changing world.

“We have pitiful assistance in foreign affairs,” Gerston said. “We are not a respected nation.”

Gerston also mentioned the amount of oil the U.S. is using.

“This population has 4 percent of the world’s population, this population has 3 percent of the world’s oil, and this population uses 25 percent of the world’s oil,” Gerston said. “There’s a problem there.”

He also said the government needs to tell voters what they need to hear, not what they want to hear.

“Part of leadership is telling people what they need to do to accept their end of the agreement on the democratic society,” Gerston said. “That may mean sacrificing resources if you can’t afford anything. That may include living with less to live a better life. That may include adjusting our standard of living.”

Ortega focused her speech on the future of the economy and the greed of the U.S.

“By 2030, the deficits from Social Security and Medicare will require the government to spend one out of every two dollars on them,” Ortega said.

When speaking about greed, she talked about people losing their houses to foreclosure and those who used to work for Enron, the energy giant that abruptly crashed years ago.

“There has been a lot of cheating in housing because first time buyers have no experience,” Ortega said.

She then called the students into action.

“If we do nothing, taxes will be increased, benefits will be decreased, inflation will increase and people will feel cheated and dissatisfied,” she said.

Myers-Lipton said the candidates need to focus on rebuilding our infrastructure, the Gulf Coast and civic work.

“Seventy-seven thousand bridges are insufficiently built,” Myers-Lipton said. “During Hurricane Katrina, levees were improperly designed and maintained, and they broke in 53 places.”

He said the Gulf Coast still does not have adequate resources three years after Hurricane Katrina.

“In fact, the situation is so bad that the United Nations condemned the U.S. for violating civil rights for not allowing them return to their homes,” said Myers-Lipton. “The homes and schools have not been built yet.”

James Lull said the candidates need to focus on communication and the effects media have had on voters.

He said he believes that Barack Obama is currently communicating to voters well.

“What is happening in the Obama camp spreads way beyond the political side of things,” said Lull. “‘The Audacity of Hope’ is a fundamental evolutionary principle because hope is a fundamental evolutionary principle.”

Lull also spoke of how new sources of media are affecting the election.

“Obama’s success comes from the grassroots level,” he said. “It comes from an unprecedented amount of small contributions by wide ranges of sources.”

Students said they found the event was a great opportunity to learn a different point of view on the issues.

“It touched a lot of issues that I think are going on right now about the election,” said Jehannah Hakim, a senior child and adolescent development major. “It was very informative, and it was nice to see a different perspective on the election and what should be addressed.”

The theater was nearly filled by information-seeking students.

“It was good to have a lot of students here,” said Nick Underwood, a senior liberal studies major. “I know that some came because of a class requirement, which is good because they were still able to be here, but I definitely would like to see more students come here on their own recognizance. I’m glad I came because there were a lot of interesting topics being discussed, and this was a good way for students to discuss them with another.”

CAMPUS IMAGES



Navdeep Sandhu, a member of the Bay Area Apna Virsa dance group, practices the traditional Indian folk dance called Bhangra on the top level of the Event Center last Wednesday. Apna Virsa translates to “our tradition.” **MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily**

GREEK

Will also help children’s hospital

neering major and member of fraternity Delta Upsilon, said that on Thursday, sororities and fraternities that participate in Greek Week will take part in the “Up ‘Til Dawn” event, which is a philanthropic project that supports St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

“We gather together on

Tower Lawn and address envelopes with pre-written letters in them asking for donations for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital,” Haider said. “It’s a really great project to take part in.”

On Friday, the Greeks will host a barbecue and the winners of the house-decorating competition will be announced. Chariot races will also commence on Friday.

All of the events of the week lead up to Saturday’s football game against the Aggies of Utah State at 4:30 p.m.

“During Greek Week and Homecoming week, we all have one common goal, and that is to win,” Haider said. “Greek Week really helps to boost the spirit of Homecoming week.”

CORRECTION

In the Tuesday, Oct. 7 edition, the article “SJSU student dies at 22” identified the fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha as Phi Kappa Alpha.

BLOG

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Monday, October 13
7:30 pm // Tickets: \$49.50 General

THE ROOTS and GYM CLASS HEROES
with Estelle
Saturday, October 18
7:30 pm // Tickets: \$36 General, \$99 for four tickets

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Spartans go for 2-0 in WAC

MATTHEW KIMEL
Staff Writer

The SJSU football team, led by a hard-hitting defense, seeks to improve its Western Athletic Conference record to 2-0 on Saturday against Utah State in a homecoming game that will be televised on ESPNU.

The Spartans (3-2) are coming off a bye week after a win at Hawaii and are 43-26-2 all-time in homecoming games.

Head coach Dick Tomey said the team got a chance to "rejuvenate" with a week off after a taxing trip to Hawaii.

The bye week allowed the team to work on basic fundamentals, scrimmage with younger players and watch a lot of tape that helped "know what our plusses are and our minuses are," Tomey said. "It was very productive."

Senior wide receiver David Richmond said the team worked on ball security over the bye week to prevent any turnovers.

The Spartans had no turnovers against Hawaii and the defense forced the Warriors to give up the ball six times.

Richmond said that every time the team holds a scrimmage, a different player stands out.

"We're still studying tape," Richmond said. "The biggest thing for us right is to try and stack wins."

The Aggies (1-4) were defeated by No. 8-ranked BYU 34-14 last week and are 10-19-1 against the Spartans all-time.



Junior linebacker Justin Cole (right) **JOE PROUDMAN / Spartan Daily** takes off after picking up a fumble on Sept. 13 against San Diego State. Cole, the conference player of the week after the win at Hawaii, leads the team with two recovered fumbles.

Both teams are 1-0 in WAC games in a four-way tie for first place in the conference standings, along with Nevada and No. 15 Boise State.

Tomey said he would like the Spartans to be 2-0 in conference play after this week to put them right in the middle of the race for the WAC title.

"There's a lot of good teams in our conference," Tomey said. "Interestingly enough, Utah State has the longest winning streak in conference play going into this game."

Utah has won three straight conference games. The Spartans, with two conference wins in a

row, have the second longest win streak in the conference.

"I think we've given ourselves a chance to do everything we want to do, and we just need to maximize every week and play better each week," Tomey said.

Holding their opposition to just 286.8 yards per game, the Spartans are ranked No. 9 in pass defense efficiency, No. 22 in rushing defense and No. 22 in total defense. SJSU has not held its opponents to fewer than 300 yards per game in its first five games since 1990.

The Spartans have held their opponents to just 11 touchdowns thus far, with only four

of those scores occurring in the second half, three of which were recorded by Nebraska.

The Spartan defense has not given up a passing touchdown since the first quarter of the first game of the season against UC Davis, which is the only touchdown the defense has given up in its first two home games.

Boston College is the only other team in the nation that has given up only one passing touchdown in its first five games.

Several Spartan players are heading lists of individual WAC statistics, but even more impressively, some are ranked in top 25 statistical categories around the nation.

Junior defensive end Carl Ihenacho and junior linebacker Justin Cole lead the WAC in sacks with five apiece and are tied for No. 5 in quarterback sacks overall.

Heading into this week, Ihenacho is ranked No. 1 in the WAC for sacks, tackles for loss (tied with teammate Jarron Gilbert with seven a piece) and forced fumbles (three).

Nationally, he is also ranked in the top 25 for tackles for loss and is ranked second in forced fumbles.

Aside from Ihenacho, no Football Bowl Subdivision defensive lineman has recorded enough tackles to make the top 100 player list for solo tackles.

Cole is ranked No. 2 in the conference and No. 7 in the nation for his 2 recovered fumbles.

SJSU golfer takes seventh out of 81 in tournament

Staff Report

Mark Hubbard, an SJSU sophomore and member of the men's golf team, tied for seventh place with a score of 213 at the Northwestern University-hosted Windon Memorial tournament in Glenview, Ill.

Jorge Campillo of Indiana University won the individual 54-hole, three-round event with a final-round score of eight-under 63, and an overall score of 204.

Following Hubbard, four other SJSU golfers placed in the event.

Matt Montez finished at a No. 36 ranking with an overall score of 221. Peter Gibbs placed 58th with his 228 score. Jay Myers' score of 231 was good enough for 63rd place, and Aaron Conrad came in at No. 80 with a 242 score.

Hubbard shared the No. 7 slot with three golfers who also finished with a score of 213: Mike Van Sickle of Marquette University, Peter Malnati of the University of



Courtesy of SJSU Athletics
Mark Hubbard

Missouri and Matt Hoffman of the University of Illinois.

In team competition, the Spartans finished 13th of 15 schools.

The University of Illinois squeaked by Indiana 843-848 for first place.

SJSU rival Santa Clara finished in last place in the competition.

SJSU Oct. 16, SJSU will compete in Long Beach State's Del Walker Intercollegiate tournament at the Virginia Country Club.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

ALMADEN VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB seeking professional, self-motivated and energetic individuals who demonstrate excellence in customer service for the following positions: member services desk, cafe service, personal trainer, swim teacher, child care provider, tennis instructor. Please forward your resume to Stephanie at smudgett@avac.us.

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LOS GATOS SWIM & RACQUET CLUB is currently accepting applications for the front desk. Applicants are to be outgoing, able to multi-task and have great customer service skills. Part-time AM shifts are available Tues, Thurs, & Friday 5am-1pm. Must be a morning person. For more info email chris@lgsr.com or call (408) 356-2136.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

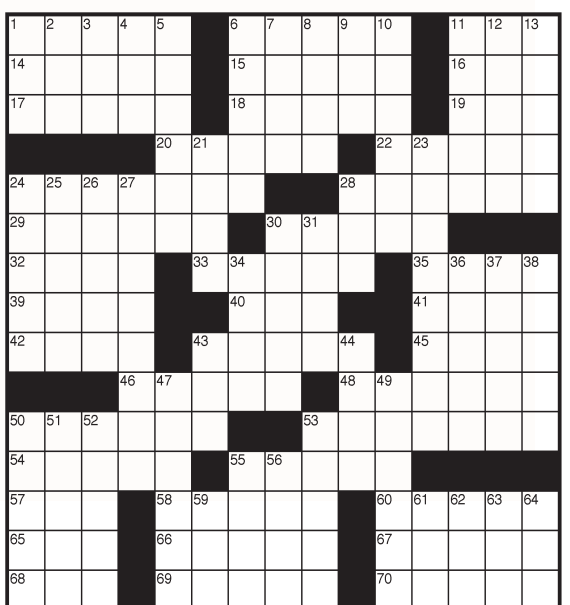
- Immigration factor
- Sphere
- Police alert
- Say
- Matterhorn echo
- Library abbr.
- Down the hatch
- Peacocks do it
- DDE
- Caravan halts
- Archipelago dots
- By the book
- Messages
- Mention casually
- Jet jockey
- Groovy
- Pang
- Willow
- Beige
- Wheel buy (2 wds.)
- Graceful wrap
- Mushroom part
- Expeditions
- Still snoozing
- Prose work
- Roswell visitors?
- Meat on skewers
- Omelet pan
- Jump for joy
- Turnstiles
- Buddy
- City near Syracuse
- Chewy roll
- Not well
- Take aim
- Alpha opposite
- Hog's abode
- Inches forward
- Mr. Spock

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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4	5	6	3	9	2	7	8	1				
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Not embarrassing yourself does not equal a win



DAVID ZUGNONI
RECYCLED TOILET PAPER

I couldn't watch last night's Obama-McCain debate, so I don't know anything about it — so I'm going to pull a Palin.

"You know, Gwen, what I really want to talk about is how blatantly Sarah Palin avoided giving straight answers at last Thursday's vice presidential debate."

Dodging a question involves giving the impression that you're answering a question before seamlessly going off on a long spiel that confuses everyone.

That's not what Gov. Palin did.

Less than 15 minutes into the debate, she failed to answer the same question twice. Sen. Joe Biden pointed out that Gov. Palin didn't answer a question that was presented to her, then debate moderator Gwen Ifill asked Palin to answer the question, and again Palin changed the subject.

After Palin — who directed almost all of her speech to the camera, short of breath yet sporting a huge grin — went through the same few talking points numerous times regardless of the question, I said to myself, "She can't keep this up."

She kept it up. What happened? The media commended her for it.

The expectations for Gov. Palin's performance were so low that she got credit just for keeping her mouth moving throughout the 90-minute debate.

In an editorial from last Friday titled "The Palin Rebound," New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote: "Governor Palin does not know how to dodge a question, or bluff her way through a subject she knows nothing about. This is an endearing trait in a world of professional filibusterers."

This could be slightly endearing for a sixth-grader who didn't do the homework and opted not to lie to the teacher about it, but it doesn't cut it for a vice presidential candidate — especially when the behavior becomes repetitive.

Another New York Times editorial published on Friday, titled "Palin Recaptures Her Image," by Alessandra Stanley, pointed out that Palin asked Biden, "Can I call you Joe?" as the debate started, and Biden said yes but referred to her as "Governor Palin."

However, Palin referred to Biden as "Senator Biden" except to say "Say it ain't so, Joe," one of many sayings meant to paint her as a folksy, everyday American.

It is the identity she is using to turn her average speaking skills and lack of knowledge about the federal govern-

ment into positive forces, although "shtick" would better describe it.

Given the situation, one wouldn't expect Palin to win the debate, but she didn't even try.

She stuck to a few scripted tactics in an effort to make the inevitable loss less apparent.

According to many political commentators, halfway hiding the loss was a win in itself.

This could be slightly endearing for a sixth-grader who didn't do the homework and opted not to lie to the teacher about it, but it doesn't cut it for a vice presidential candidate.

This logic is like giving a high school basketball team credit for losing 23-203 to a professional basketball team. The high school team would have to be pretty good to put up 23 points against the pro team, but no such game would ever happen because high school teams just don't play pro teams.

Similarly, Biden and Palin belong in different leagues.

Things that make you say 'huh?'



COLLEEN WATSON
CHRONICLING MEDIOCRITY

I've been wandering aimlessly around this campus for about two years. And there are a few things that I usually just pass by. When I give them a little more thought, though, they make me pause.

Like all those helpful little kiosks that dot the campus, for example. I have found myself staring at them, at least three times a semester, while trying to find one building or another.

These are interesting because near the bottom it reads "Visually impaired persons needing assistance with this map call..."

Now if they are visually impaired, how are they supposed to find this little tidbit of information? And it's not in brail. Why even bother putting it on there? OK, so it is in slightly bigger print, but that's about it.

The General Classroom Building has a chimney. Why do they get a chimney? None of the other buildings have a chimney. Yes, there is a big fireplace inside as well. Is it ever used? Can we make smores? This is also the only building on campus with children. Is there some kind of weird connection between the two?

When exactly did Whatsername Winchester become a contractor at SJSU?

Dwight Bentel Hall has a set of stairs that leads to a wall. That just seems like a lot of extra work for nothing. Was the building changed at some point in the past? When exactly did Whatsername Winchester become a contractor at SJSU?

I want a sign explaining this oddity. I'm sure I could go ask some older professor in the building, but I don't actually care enough about the stairs to do any research on it.

Which is why a sign would be nice. Robert D. Clark Hall has exit signs on glass doors, just in case you didn't realize that what you were seeing was indeed, the outside, a small little sign will confirm this.

And who was that person, walking on a university campus, who couldn't figure out that the glass doors were in fact doors to the outside world? Did they ask someone if those automatic doors were an exit? Were there enough people asking that administrators decided a sign was needed?

Those same doors have a warning on the bottom, "Caution: Automatic Sliding Doors, door may close without warning."

Technically, isn't that a warning? Has someone been squished by the doors before? And did the doors cause so much damage that a warning saying that there was no warning need to be applied?

Why are there no convenient bike racks? Bikes are here to stay. You could put up a few racks near the buildings so that they aren't randomly locked to light poles and handrails.

On the Music Building, why does the "wheel chair accessible" sign point toward the stairs?

And if the Spartan Daily comes out four out of seven days, that's not exactly daily. It's more like it should be called the Spartan Almost Daily.

I'm sure there are millions of things that I am missing, but these are the ones that I see often. I don't think anything should be done about them. But seeing them over and over puts a smile on my face.

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

It's true, what goes around comes around



DANIELLE TORRALBA

It's Thursday night, you decide to go out for just a couple hours because you have an interview in the morning

for a job that pays much more than what you're earning now. You and your friends (assume that you're a girl in this scenario, if you aren't already) make a group trip to the bathroom, and while you're in there, you notice a girl in the third stall who had one too many cranberry vodkas and is hugging the toilet. She hears you laughing at her as you're fixing your hair in the mirror and gives

you the stink eye, but you don't care because it's not as if you're ever going to see her again.

Now it's the morning of your interview and you have your lucky Steve Madden pumps on, (assume you're a girl still, if you're not already) so nothing feels like it can go wrong ... except that one of the people interviewing you is the toilet-hugging girl from last night, and yes she remembers you.

Boys and girls, I'd like to introduce you to karma.

I consider there to be many forms of karma, whether it's in the form of your actions, thoughts or energy.

It is originally a product of Eastern religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.

According to Merriam-Webster, one of the many interpretations of karma is the belief that all of your actions will have equal repercussions that will affect you.

Nonbelievers might say that karma is just a concoction of the mind and conscience. It is just something that we as individuals like to blame for bad things that happen. But believers like me feel differently about it.

My personal belief on karma doesn't come from a religious influence, but it is something that is religiously a part of my daily life. I consider it a helpful daily reminder to not to be judgmental and to remember the kindergarten golden rule: Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

I don't mean you have to go around hugging everyone you meet, but why not try to be considerate and transfer some bad energy into good?

In his book, "Karma: The Ancient Science of Cause and Effect," Jeffery Armstrong discusses how there is no way to have free will without having both negative and positive consequences from its use.

Armstrong explains how free will, reincarnation and present day are a big part of karma's many forms.

It is not hard to be nice to someone. It is not even hard to be tolerant, but as individuals we forget that and all the bad energy that is put out in the universe eventually comes back to us in one form or another.

I am not telling you to believe in karma, or if you do I am not telling you to let karma have a Vulcan death grip on your individuality or who you are as a person. All I am saying is that it is something to be conscious of.

Don't worry, I'm not going to call the karma police on you.

So, on a lighter note, next time you are in a similar toilet-hugging girl situation like above, just remember this friendly little piece of advice: Karma, it will eventually come back to bite you in the ass. I promise.

Danielle Torralba is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nailing down Senator Obama's tax proposals is like trying to nail Jell-O to the wall."

JOHN MCCAIN

The Republican presidential candidate said during Tuesday night's debate.

theSpartanDaily.com
POLL

Who do you think won the presidential debate?

Sen. John McCain
or
Sen. Barack Obama

Spartan Daily

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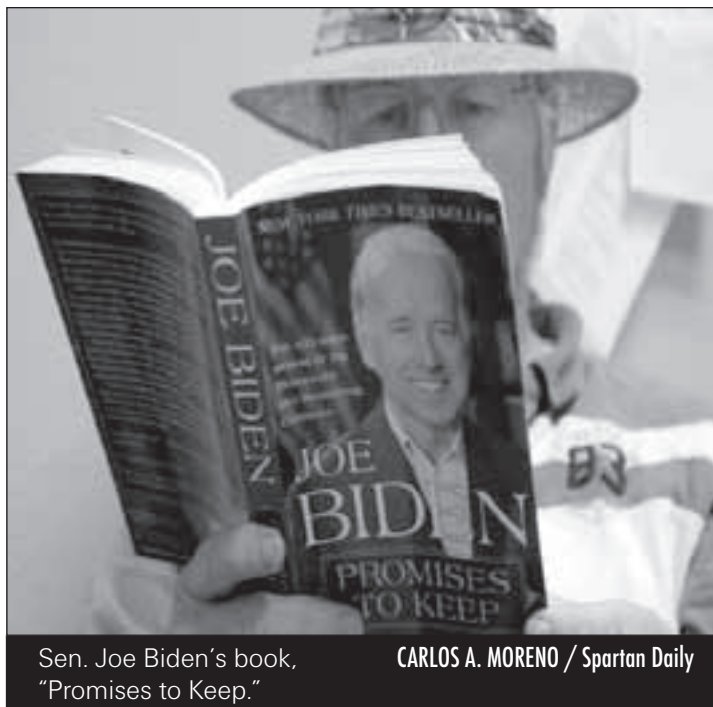
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BOOK REVIEW: 'PROMISES TO KEEP'

Biden's autobiography is for the people



Sen. Joe Biden's book, "Promises to Keep."

CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily

JOHN ELLIS
Staff Writer

Sen. Joe Biden is the product of his upbringing. The choices he's made float right alongside his Catholic teaching and family guidance.

In his autobiography, "Promises to Keep," Sen. Biden wrote about how his middle-class childhood was the foundation of moral principles and physical triumph. By the time he graduated high school, Biden had conquered a wicked stutter, had become a successful athlete despite being one of the smallest boys in his class and found a calling that would guide the rest of his life — politics.

In Biden's junior year of high school, he looked up the Congressional Directory and read through the biographies. "What struck me

while thumbing through their personal histories was that a lot of them were from wealthy and well-established families," Biden wrote. "The ones who got there on their own hook were almost all lawyers. So that set my course."

Sen. Biden started college in the early 1960s and admitted that he didn't "buckle down" for the first two years and that he was "a little too interested in football and meeting new girls," but that he frequently talked about important issues with friends at a local lounge.

Biden's early years in college saw the rise of the Civil Rights movement, the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis, among other important events. There were plenty of topics on which Biden "could always find a

good argument." After receiving a bachelor's degree in political science and history, Biden married his first wife, Neilia Hunter, while attending law school at Syracuse University in New York.

During his first year in the program, Biden was accused of plagiarizing a law review article, an accusation that has followed him his entire political career. The deans and professors cleared him of any wrongdoing but his political opponents have never let him forget it. "The truth was, I hadn't been to class enough to know how to do citations in a legal brief," Biden wrote.

Biden seemed honest when writing about his education. He said he was proud to go to college, being the first in his family, but doesn't hesitate to acknowledge his missteps and laugh about his mistakes. There are many moments in the book that were easily relatable.

The future senator claimed to be a quick study and that he enjoyed juggling numerous obligations at once, such as spending time with Neilia, practicing football, working as a resident adviser, and then playing catch-up for exams. But by the end of his first year in law school, he found himself far behind.

"I had 10 days to cram for the entire year. It was the first time in my life I ever drank coffee."

Biden's first job as a lawyer was at a firm that represented big business such as oil, insurance and railroads companies. He quit because he felt like he was on the wrong team. "I wasn't built to

look the other way because the law demanded it. The law might be wrong, I felt like I should be representing the plaintiff."

Biden found work with the city attorney. "Being a public defender was never easy, but it was the first time I felt like I was an actor in upholding the Constitution. Most of my clients were poor African-Americans. ... I did my best to make sure they were well represented at trial."

Biden didn't spend too much time as a lawyer. He went from graduation to senator in less than four years — an accomplishment only a few could claim. By the age of 28, Biden was elected councilman of New Castle, Del. A few years later, in 1972, he was elected senator of Delaware.

Tragedy struck within weeks of Biden's senatorial career. His wife and young daughter were killed in an automobile accident that also left his two sons in the hospital. Biden wrote, "Most of all I was numb, but there were moments when the pain cut through like a shard of broken glass. I began to understand how despair led people to cash it in; how suicide wasn't just an option but a rational option."

This was the darkest part of Biden's book. He kept it short, maybe because it was too hard to talk about, and the words seemed genuinely sorrowful. It is easy to feel his pain, then go back and read it again to revel in it a little more.

Before Biden's second term as senator was over, he married Jill Jacobs, 10 years his junior. For

"Suicide wasn't just an option but a rational option."

SEN. JOE BIDEN

Biden, this was an awakening that made his family whole again. "When I fell for Jill, I started to feel normal again."

Biden has had a long senatorial career — more years in than out. He was a member of the Judiciary Committee and, more notably, he is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Biden has also served in numerous subcommittees. He has run for president twice and received marginal votes but is now united with Barack Obama as the vice-presidential candidate for the 2008 presidential election.

In his memoirs, Biden is always optimistic. It's a first-person account of his life, both personal

and political, and a testament to a politician wanting to do what he thinks is right. He has worked closely with many national and international leaders and acknowledges what he sees as the mistakes he's made. He is a religious man who credits his Catholic upbringing to a strong moral judgment and has shown the ability to separate his beliefs from his political actions.

"Promises to Keep" is an uplifting story that proves ordinary people can do extraordinary things. It's a glance into the life of a politician, where family and public responsibility are sometimes hard to separate, and even harder to prioritize.

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Cancer should look out for these SJSU students

DANIELLE TORRALBA
Staff Writer

To help raise cancer awareness and support the cause to find a cure, a group of students at SJSU began a club.

"We're more of a group of interested volunteers that want to help in the fight against cancer and help with the American Cancer Society as best as we can," said Megan Young, co-president of Students for a Cure.

According to the American Cancer Society's Website, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, and last October, the student group hosted a "Bounce Your Boobies Against Breast Cancer" event on campus. The group rented out a jump house, so that whoever walked by to check out the event could bounce and get information about breast cancer and early detection from the information booth.

"We offered our cell phones to the people who came to our event to call their loved ones and to remind them to get checked up and tell them to get a mammogram," said club member Maaheem Akhtar, a sophomore conservation and organismal biology major. "We want people to be more aware of the resources that they have and to be healthier."

This year, Students for a Cure will participate in a non-competitive 5K walk called "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer."

On Oct. 25, San Jose will celebrate its first year as a hosting city for this annual event.

"For the past 10 years, people who have wanted to walk had to drive up to San Francisco to participate, but now the American Cancer Society decided to give San Jose the opportunity as well to host its own event," said Patrick Male, manager of corporate relations for the American Cancer Society. "Last year, 21,000 people walked in the event and \$1.6 million were raised in one day."

According to the American Cancer Society Web site, the event is to unite friends, families and co-workers to raise funds and

awareness to fight breast cancer. Donations that participants raise for this event will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Before Students for a Cure was established at SJSU last year, it was formerly known as Colleges Against Cancer on other campuses.

"If you have a personal experience with cancer ..."

MEGAN YOUNG
co-president of Students for a Cure

"Our goals or objective have not changed, only our name," Young said.

"We want to make more aware of the severity of cancer and the information and resources that we have for them about prevention and cures," Akhtar added.

Students for a Cure directs its efforts toward raising cancer awareness on SJSU's campus.

"If you have a personal experience with cancer, or care about finding a cure, we are here for you,

absolutely," said Young, a junior political science major.

Everything that is given goes to fund local programs such as one that provides cancer patients transportation services to their treatments, Young said.

"When you go out and do a walk or deliver flowers or hats to cancer patients and your work more directly with what you're passionate about, it's a lot more interesting for the students to be able to see what they are giving back," Young said. "Everything helps in the fight against cancer."

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