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Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

TUESDAY OCTOBER
21 2008

OPINION PAGE 7



FDA restrictions consistently inconsistent

ONLINE



Multimedia Exclusive
For an audio slideshow on Ping Pong, go to www.TheSpartanDaily.com

SJSU's hidden ping pong greats

STUDENT CULTURE PAGE 5



Frank: impersonator extraordinaire



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CITY COUNCILWOMAN TO FACE RECALL



ANNE RIGOR / Spartan Daily Archives
Madison Nguyen

BIANCA deCASTRO
Staff Writer

A San Jose City Councilwoman's job is in danger following a controversy over the naming of a Vietnamese-American retail area.

District 7 residents who supported the name "Little Saigon" submitted a petition on Aug. 29 to recall Councilwoman Madison Nguyen, who proposed the name "Saigon Business District" for the strip of land on Story Road between U.S. Highway 101 and Senter Road.

The City Council decided to use the name Nguyen proposed but removed the designation amid resistance from community members in March.

"The banners went up," Nguyen said. "They had their celebration. They won, and at this point I'm not sure why

they want to go through with the recall efforts."

Section 1603 in the San Jose City Charter requires that a recall petition must contain signatures from 12 percent of the residents in a council district, which in this case would be 3,162. According to records from the Santa Clara County Registrar's Office, the petition contained 5,180 signatures, 4,775 of which were validated.

At tonight's meeting, the City Council is scheduled to accept a certificate of sufficiency from the Registrar's Office, which would ensure a recall election, said Michelle McGurk, public information officer for Mayor Chuck Reed.

The City Council is expected to decide upon a date for the recall election on Nov. 4, McGurk said.

"A recommended resolution was submitted, calling for a special recall election on March 3, 2009," said Dottie Barney from the Office of the City Clerk.

Although estimated costs for the recall range from \$300,000 to \$500,000, actual estimates will be presented to the City Council at its Nov. 4 meeting, according to a memorandum from City Clerk Lee Price.

Recall supporters are firm in their efforts to have Nguyen removed from office. Some members of the Vietnamese-American community alluded to the idea that the councilwoman went against her constituents' wishes.

"I don't think the naming was the issue," said Hai Truong, a senior ki-

▶▶ **RECALL**page2

Stoplight at 7th Street set for December



George Romero, 26, and Manuel Avila, 50, work for Ebert Corp. They have been working for weeks to construct a street light at the intersection of Seventh and San Salvador streets. CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / Spartan Daily

KELLY ENOS
Staff Writer

A new traffic light will be fully operational at the intersection of South Seventh and East San Salvador streets near the entrance of the Seventh Street Garage. The project is supposed to be completed sometime in mid-December.

Amy Olay, a senior civil engineer for the San Jose Department of Transportation, said the design was originally started in Feb. of 2007 and then completed in May of 2007. However due to the funding shortage the advertisement for the project was delayed.

Larry Carr, associate vice president of public affairs, said this project has been in the works for some time and is not just a university effort.

"This is an ongoing partnership with the city of San Jose," he said.

"Even the residents near the area requested this, to help ease traffic and make it a safer intersection."

University Police Department Sgt. Mike Santos, said traffic was an important factor in the decision.

"Even the residents near the area requested this to help ease traffic and make it a safer intersection."

LARRY CARR
associate vice president of public affairs

"We have wanted to put the traffic light there forever, and it was just approved recently and in the long run

will be very beneficial for the first two weeks of the semester," he said.

"There are not always officers out there the first two weeks of school, and when we are not out there, the light will help direct traffic for us."

The new traffic light will mirror the one at East San Fernando and South Ninth streets near the Tenth Street Garage and will feature a left turn arrow for northbound traffic and all-way pedestrian crossing, or a pedestrian scramble, said Olay. A pedestrian scramble, she said, stops traffic in all directions to allow traffic to cross in all directions.

"Pedestrians will be able to cross diagonally as well as straight across," Carr said. "This will keep the pedestrians moving more quickly and will

▶▶ **LIGHT**page3

Fall sees decrease in thefts

BIANCA deCASTRO
Staff Writer

A recent off-campus robbery alert issued by the University Police Department noted two incidents of SJSU students being robbed since the beginning of the Fall semester.

The first incident occurred during the day in an area south of Campus Village along 10th Street while the victim was entering or exiting his vehicle, said UPD Sgt. Mike Santos.

The second incident took place at night in an area north of the Park and Ride lot, Santos said.

The victim of the crime near Campus Village was a male and the other victim was a female, Santos said.

Santos cautioned people to be aware of their surroundings. Both robberies likely were random acts.

"If you're talking on an iPhone and not paying attention to your surroundings, you're a better target for theft," he said.

Although the robberies occurred off campus, the alert was issued to heighten awareness among students.

"I think that the regular police should take care of it because it was off campus," said Paul Nakamura, senior communication studies major.

Nakamura said he still feels safe on campus, despite the warning.

The UPD Web site has a link on its main page labeled Crime Prevention and Safety Tips. The site gives tips such as avoiding walking alone and having car keys ready while approaching a car.

▶▶ **CRIME**page3

Black students' acceptance rates lower than all others

RYAN BUCHAN
Staff Writer

SJSU is known for its cultural diversity and does not have one ethnic group that makes up more than 50 percent of the population.

Statistics show that black students have been turned away at higher rates than any other racial group, according to the Web site of the Office of Institutional Research at SJSU.

In 2008, 61.8 percent of applicants were accepted to SJSU. Whites, the largest racial group with 9,309 students, were accepted at a rate of 71.6 percent, the Web site reported.

Black students who applied to SJSU were accepted at a rate of 46.2 percent, the only group to be accepted at a rate lower than 50 percent. The next lowest ethnic group is Pacific Islanders, 58 percent of whom were accepted, almost 12 percentage points higher. Pacific Islanders only comprise 277 stu-

dents at SJSU, while blacks are more represented with 1,551 students.

"There are standards a student must accomplish to get in here," said SJSU President Jon Whitmore. "I guess some subsets of students have met those targeted requirements more

"Our goal is to help as many students as possible to get into college. We don't care what they look like."

PAT LOPES HARRIS
SJSU media relations specialist

fully than others. I do think there is an inappropriate dropout rate of many different races in our public school systems. And the university has a number of very good programs to try and prepare students."

SJSU and the California State Uni-

versity system have adopted the Super Sunday program, in which affiliates of CSU's go to black churches once a year to help guide potential attendees on what needs to happen to go to college, said Pat Lopes Harris, the director of media relations at SJSU.

The entire CSU system has seen similar numbers, with black students being accepted at a rate of 41 percent for the 2006-07 school year, said Erik Fallis, a representative for the CSU Chancellor's Office.

Each campus in the CSU has made attempts to remedy this situation.

Fallis said Cal-State Sacramento has a program called "Sac State for All." This program waives all application fees for students at Valley High

School in Sacramento who meet the requirements.

In recent years, the acceptance rate for blacks has increased. In 2003, only 33.2 percent of the black applicants who applied to SJSU were accepted. However, acceptance rates for all races are higher today than they were in 2003, when only 47 percent of applicants were accepted.

Some students said the low acceptance numbers reflect racism at the university.

"They are trying to keep a certain look," said Jae Byrd, a junior sociology major and member of the Black Student Union. "We are diverse, but also we are trying to keep it at a certain level to keep from being too diverse."

Amani Banks, an undeclared sophomore, said she has seen racism on campus.

▶▶ **BLACK**page3

Faculty apply for yearly awards

DANIELLE TORRALBA
Staff Writer

The SJSU community will have the opportunity to nominate faculty members for their efforts, contributions and accomplishments to the campus. There are four awards and each have specific criteria that are required to be fulfilled by each nominee.

The 2008-2009 Faculty Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Professor Award, President's Scholar Award and the Outstanding Lecturer Award are the four categories for which faculty members may be nominated.

"Each of the four awards focuses on a different area of excellence," said Sigurd Meldal, chair of the Academic Senate. "The candidates are to reflect someone who is civic-minded as well as community-oriented to improve our community."

Students, faculty and staff are allowed to submit nominations. Each nomination must be accompanied by an up-to-1,500-word letter stating the reasons for nominating the faculty member or lecturer and describing the nominee's accomplishments appropriate to the award criteria, according to the Academic Senate and President's Office.

Nominations must be submitted by Oct. 31 to be accepted, according to the application.

"You can't get by by being

popular. You have to show effectiveness and a level of substantial scholar," said Tim Hegstrom, dean of social sciences and chair of the Outstanding Professor Award Committee. "The nominations vary each year depending on how many are submitted."

The committees decide who they think is a viable candidate and then ask the nominee to complete a dossier. Hegstrom said a dossier consists of an actual curriculum vitae; sample syllabi; letters of support from faculty members, administrators, students and sometimes alumni; student evaluation reports; a personal essay; work about their vision and how they tried to make a difference; student outcome reports and a sample of their scholarly writing.

"There is always somebody from the Associated Students who is appointed by the students to be on the committee; then the Academic Senate appoints three faculty members. The faculty members are all previous winners of the award," Hegstrom said. "And, once the committees narrow down the nominees to three finalists, the president will make the final decision."

The final decisions will be announced during the Spring semester, and the winners of each award will be recognized by the SJSU academic community at the Faculty Service Recognition and Awards

Luncheon, as well as at the commencement ceremony, according to the memo from the President's Office and Academic Senate.

They will receive a plaque, recognition on the university's Web site, a monetary award and an opportunity to speak at the Commencement Ceremony.

"Receiving the award is an honor," said Jeanne Linsdell, the 2008 winner of the Outstanding Lecturer Award and a lecturer in general engineering. "The Outstanding Lecturer Award would not have been possible without the team of amazing staff I work with."

Marlene Turner, a professor of organization and management and winner of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award, expressed how hard faculty members on campus work and how these awards are great recognition of that.

"I think it is important for students to know that their faculty, staff and administrators are truly dedicated to making this university the best that it can possibly be," Turner said. "The awards celebrate and recognize all of them who continuously work to make the university a learning community where lives are transformed in so many ways, be it through teaching, through creating new knowledge or through service and outreach to our many vital communities."

CAMPUSIMAGES



Yu-Ting Wang, a junior music major, practices a Bach dance suite in an empty classroom on Monday night.

STEFAN ARMUJO / Spartan Daily

RECALL 'Little Saigon' banners unfurled

nesiology major. "When you elect someone, you should follow what people want. You don't have to do exactly what they want, but do your best to fulfill your promises to the people who elected you."

Truong, who is Vietnamese-American, said his father is a Vietnam refugee who feels strongly about the issue.

"My dad has a 'Recall Madison' sign on my front lawn," Truong said.

On Oct. 11, community members gathered along Story Road as banners bearing the name "Little Saigon" were unfurled. Nguyen was not invited to the celebration.

"I was not the person who named the area," Nguyen said. "I was the person who proposed to designate the area. I wanted to designate this area as the Vietnamese Business District in recognition of Vietnamese merchants who came to this area to help it develop into a more vi-

brant commercial area. There is a big difference in the naming and the designation."

Carena Ng, a freshman business major, said she met Nguyen last year during an Asian celebration called the Mid-Autumn Moon festival and the councilwoman spoke about the issue of naming Little Saigon. She said Nguyen spoke to the audience about her being Vietnamese but having to represent the whole community, not just the Vietnamese-American portion.

"I don't think (the recall) is fair because she did a (good) job in considering everyone's opinion," Ng said.

According to demographic statistics from the city of San Jose's Web site, 35.7 percent of District 7 is Asian.

Although Nguyen has a list of accomplishments and community contributions – such as creating affordable housing, building neighborhood parks and working on the improvement of schools

and roads – recall supporters are not backing down.

Nguyen said comments that attack her knowledge of the struggles of Vietnamese-Americans are offensive.

"I came here by boat, just like a lot of them," she said. "My story isn't different from their stories. We were on the boat at seas for seven days until we got picked up and they brought us to the Philippines, where we were refugees. I thought that's where I was going to spend the rest of my life, until we were sponsored and we came here to America."

"I went to school on scholarships and financial aid. My parents didn't put out a penny. They couldn't because they didn't have anything," she added.

"Dealing with this Little Saigon controversy is truly a test of will," Nguyen said. "Everything that I've ever learned and thought about politics, this is truly a defining moment for me up to this point."

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QUESTIONS
Call 408-924-5975 | Email Alissa.Christenson@sjsu.edu | Visit Us www.sjsu.edu/orientation

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Orientation and Transition

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A project of the ACLU Foundation of Northern California

BLACK ▶ Some say inner city high schools ill-equipped

"If you change how people view African-Americans at the school, I am sure they will be accepted more," Banks said. "They will be motivated to come here and go to college because who wants to come hear and deal with all that foolishness?"

Lopes Harris said the university accepts students who meet the academic criteria and does not consider race. She added that it is illegal to consider race when reviewing applications and that universities require that applicants designate their race solely for statistics.

"Our goal is to help as many students as possible to get into college," Lopes Harris said. "We

don't care how they look like."

Neelam Rattan, a psychology lecturer who teaches the class "Psychology of Prejudice," said that when students experience prejudice, it's hard for them to overcome.

"It's a constant uphill task to prove they are up to par with the rest," Rattan said.

Rattan cited studies by Claude Steele, a professor at Stanford, that state that prejudices create an implicit barrier among blacks that makes them think they are never good enough.

Some black students blamed high schools for their low acceptance rates.

"My math book was from 1986," said DeJohn Muhammad, the vice president of the Black Student Union and a sophomore justice studies major. "It was not up to par with the modern day SAT test. Our teachers did not want to be there. We had students that the counselors told them they can't make it, and the atmosphere was not welcoming."

Claynisha Alford, a pre-nursing sophomore, had similar thoughts.

"It's the lack of knowledge at the high school about the procedure, what colleges are looking for, what they require, counselors who actually care about the

students," she said. "I think inner city schools really lack that."

Kenneth Williams, a senior aerospace engineering major, said black students have a lot more on their minds, which makes academic success harder to achieve.

"They have other things they have to deal with in life besides going to school," Williams said. "Once they do go to school, there are things outside of school they have to be aware of. They got to make sure they are safe when they are going home, they talk to the right people, things like that. You have all these other stress factors, they are going to play a huge role on the student's performance."

CRIME ▶ SJSU had highest number of larceny-theft crimes in CSU system in 2007, only two this semester

"I used to park in the garage and I used to have night classes, but I never felt unsafe or threatened, although one time I did have my license plate stolen off my truck," said Julia Villaire, a history graduate student.

The UPD offers an escort service after dark. The service can be obtained by calling the UPD or by using the Blue Light Phone.

"The UPD should patrol the areas more," Villaire said.

Santos said crimes called in as robberies are reported as robberies. However, the actual classification comes after investigation.

During a service call to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Li-

brary earlier this year, Santos said the initial report was robbery but the final classification was later changed to theft from a person.

There have been two larceny-theft crimes for the current academic year, Santos said, while the total of SJSU larceny-thefts from 2007 was 344, according to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program Web site.

The data stated that within the California State University system, SJSU had the highest number of larceny-theft crimes in 2007.

"We just want people to be aware and not put themselves in situations that could be harmful to them," Santos said.

LIGHT ▶ University to pay for one-third of light's budget

allow a faster flow of traffic."

One lane of traffic in each direction will be open at all times.

Olay said the total budget for the project is about \$600,000 with the university contributing \$209,000.

"The city of San Jose has entered into a cooperative agreement with San Jose State University to construct all of the improvements at this intersec-

tion," she said.

Olay said the project will improve the area and pedestrian ramps.

"The project will install a new traffic signal including new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant curb ramps, upgraded street lighting at the intersection, drainage improvements and new curbs and gutters. In addition to the existing through lane for

northbound traffic on Seventh Street, the new traffic signal will add one left turn lane for northbound traffic," Olay said.

One student said she thought a new stoplight would help traffic flow.

"There is always a large amount of traffic and a lot of people run the stop signs, said April Toman, a senior library science major. "Now the light will force

people to slow down," she said.

Angela Alvarez, a junior business marketing major, had a differing opinion on the stoplight being installed.

"I don't think it will make a difference because it will slow the process of leaving in-and-out," she said. "It might create more tension than needed considering parking is already a hassle," Alvarez said.

BLOG

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NEWS BLOG

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How meaningful are grades?

SPARTAGUIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

21 TODAY

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

Free Lunch Every Tuesday for San Jose Students
The San Jose Institute of Religion, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, invites students to lunch every Tuesday, 12 p.m. at 66 S. 7th Street, adjacent to SJSU.
Contact Brother Bohn at sanjoseca@ldsces.org, 286-3313 or www.ldsces.org/sanjose.

School of Art & Design Galleries
Gallery shows running from October 20 - October 24: Gallery 2: Natsumi Ono, Gallery 3: Payson McNett, Gallery 5: Alicia Telfer, Gallery 8: Rod Ayers Black, Gallery: Rudy Faulkner Herbert Sanders, Gallery: Kristoffer Kamrath
Contact Ace Antazo at SJSU_Student_Galleries@yahoo.com.



International Youth Fellowship
Topic: "The Secret of Forgiveness of Sins and Being Born Again."
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Guadalupe Room.
Contact Ricardo Godinez at 509-9549.

21 WEDNESDAY

History of LGBTQ Communities in San Jose
The History of LGBTQ Communities in San Jose, Exhibit of materials chronicling the LGBTQ communities in San Jose. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library 150 E. San Fernando St. Special Collections Lobby, 5th Floor. Now through Sun, Dec 7, during library hours.
Contact Special Collections at Special.Collections@sjsu.edu

School of Library & Information Science Colloquium Series
David de Lorenzo, Associate Director at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, will speak on "The Future of Special Collections Libraries in the 21st Century. All are welcome to attend.
12 to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall Room 322.
Contact Marcia Laughrey at 924-2490 or laughrey@slis.sjsu.edu.

Counseling Services' Gut Reaction Workshop
Coming to college will bring many questions that may not have just one answer. Knowing yourself is one important aspect of answering these questions.
3 p.m. in Clark 118.
Contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu



SJspirit Meeting
Come learn about the only 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 for Everyone.
Come join us at the San Jose Institute of Religion sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).
7 to 8 p.m. at 66 S. 7th Street (adjacent to SJSU).
Contact Brother Bohn at sanjoseca@ldsces.org or 286-3313, www.ldsces.org/sanjose

GLOBAL LENS 2008 PHOTO CONTEST



An International Photo Contest for SJSU students, alumni, staff, faculty and retirees
co-sponsored by Global Studies, SJSU Alumni Association and the School of Journalism and Mass Communications

- Open to SJSU students, alumni, staff, faculty and retirees
- All entries must be received by Friday, October 31st 2008 5 p.m. PST

A total of NINE Awards will be given out! First, Second, and Third Place Winners in the following categories: student, alumni, staff/faculty/retirees! Plus lots of Honorable mentions!

A maximum of three photographs per entrant may be submitted. All pictures must be taken outside the United States. Entries must be in digital format. No video entries. Although color shots are preferred, black and white entries are welcome. All pictures should be taken no earlier than November 2007.

Entries from professional photographers will not be accepted. Judging will be completed by December 1, 2008. Winners will be notified ASAP. San José State University reserves the right to use any submitted photo(s) in university publications.

For more information, see the official contest rules and entry form at: <http://gs.sjsu.edu>, or contact the SJSU Global Studies program at 210 N. Fourth St. (corner of St James), San Jose, CA 95192-0135
Tel: 408-924-7197, Fax: 408-924-7203
Or email: globalstudies@gs.sjsu.edu

HP speaker gives sneak peek into cloud computing technology at weekly Engineering speech

JON XAVIER
Staff Writer

Imagine you are on an airplane. The in-flight movie is something you really wanted to see, maybe the latest Adam Sandler movie. It's really good, and you're getting pretty engrossed in it. Just as it's getting to the exciting climax, the plane lands. The movie shuts off.

Unperturbed, you leave the airport and check into your hotel. The hotel computers know what plane you were on, and they know what movie was showing, so the instant you turn on the TV in your room, you're given the chance to pick up right where you left off. You haven't missed a thing.

This was just one of the applications for new technology being developed at Hewlett-Packard Labs that Senior Vice President of Research Prith Banerjee discussed in a talk he gave to a packed Engineering Auditorium on Thursday. The talk, which was organized by the Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium, focused primarily on HP Labs' latest research and long-term goals.

One of the centerpieces of the talk was "cloud computing," a new form of networking that allows consumers to access the combined power of a "cloud" of networked computers.

"Through virtualization technology, you have this virtual processing cell, virtual storage cell, that you can compose at massive scale," Banerjee said. "We're not talking about tens of processors;

we're talking about tens of thousands of processors, hundreds of thousands of processors, millions of processors and storage."

"I think cloud computing is pretty exciting," said Colin Constant, a sophomore electrical engineering student. "I like the idea of someday in the future being able to buy some sort of cheap, disposable computing device and being able to just tap into this powerful network."

HP is currently working on a number of applications for cloud computing, from the aforementioned in-flight movie example down to personalized, on-demand printing.

"In the area of digital printing, HP is making a very big bet," Banerjee said. "Today when you pick up your copy of the Wall Street Journal or The New York Times, it is essentially the same copy of The New York Times that the entire nation is reading. But you as an individual may care only about football and not about baseball and basketball and so forth."

"Imagine a world where you can have your custom version of your newspaper printed on demand for Prith Banerjee in Palo Alto who only cares about... well, when I was in Chicago, I loved the Chicago Bears. So I could really customize it for Prith Banerjee. The world of digital printing allows you to customize content and do it at a speed that you can print a custom version for every individual," he said.

Another area that Banerjee fo-

cused on was HP's commitment to green technologies. Banerjee said that although information technology companies only account for 2 percent of the world's energy consumption, innovations in information technology could form the basis for wider environmentally friendly practices.

Banerjee gave the example of a new technology developed by HP called Dynamic Smart Cooling, which reduces the power consumption of data centers by targeting cooling to the chips that need it most, rather than simply air conditioning the entire room. This technology could very easily be adapted to commercial air conditioning solutions for people's homes, he said.

"If you are air conditioning a room, do you really care if (the ceiling) is air conditioned? No, not really," Banerjee said. "But you don't have that control now, so you're just blasting air conditioning from the top. If you think about the demand and supply, you could really start to do smart things."

"The most exciting thing for me is how they really want to remove the carbon footprint in the world, their emphasis on sustainability," said Alan Au, a freshman computer engineering major. "I thought it was really interesting how the IT companies only make 2 percent of the problems but that their research could affect all the other 98 percent. They may not be able to remove the 2 percent they're causing, but they can indirectly help everyone else."

International House quiz tests students on global knowledge

JASON LE MIERE
Staff Writer

At SJSU's International House on Friday, 11 teams competed for the prestige of winning the International Quiz, but on this occasion, it really was the taking part that counted.

The event, now in its fifth year, is held every semester and brings together many of SJSU's international community.

"It's a great way to draw people together to be aware of what's going on in the world," said International House director Leann Cherkasky Makhni, "and to bring people together for lot of fun, and give people

there were prizes for the top two teams, including Camera Cinema tickets and bottles of La Victoria's famous orange sauce. The winners of the event also had the prestige of lifting the International Quiz trophy.

The quiz was moderated this semester by Roy Avila, the director for community affairs at KICU Channel 36 TV and an SJSU alumnus.

"I love young people, and the whole concept of an International House, aside from politics, just from culture, was very intriguing to me," Avila said. "It was an exciting thing to participate in."

The teams faced three

In the end, it was the team represented by Spain that came out on top, despite only being assembled upon arrival on the day.

"I'm actually surprised that we won," said Cliff van Amen, a former International House resident. "There were a lot of questions that we just didn't have a clue. None of the team members knew each other. We were just put at a table."

Cherkasky Makhni said that she thought every team deserved credit.

"I thought it was a pretty challenging quiz," she said. "I'm amazed, as I usually am, by how much people know."

The questions for the quiz were written by International House residential adviser James Herrin.

"I think it went pretty well," he said.

Like others, Herrin also said that he was impressed by the atmosphere among the competitors.

"I think there was a lot of companionship made during this quiz, a lot of friends, a lot of team camaraderie," he said. "There were a lot of people who were cheering together, laughing together, crying together."

It was left to Avila to sum up the benefits of the event.

"You look around and you see people from every kind of background and culture and they are all smiling, having a good time," Avila said. "If more people throughout the world could have this kind of experience, I think there would be less problems in the world."

"It's a great way to draw people together to be aware of what's going on in the world."

LEANN CHERKASKY MAKHNI
International House director

some awareness of the International House."

For almost three hours, more than 80 students who were packed tightly into the International House dining room were tested on categories ranging from world currencies to famous quotes.

The bulk of the competitors were supplied by the event's co-sponsors, the International House and Studies in American Language, an intensive English language program at SJSU. There was also a team present from the global studies department.

As a result of donations,

rounds of questions from a total of nine categories. The focus of the questions was designed to be split equally throughout the globe. When a question came up that referred explicitly to one of the competitors' home countries, all attention turned to him or her as others pleaded for help.

After each question was announced, frantic murmurings engulfed the tables as each team tried to reach consensus on an answer. Occasionally, there was a team who was assured of the answer and could sit back smugly and watch on as the others struggled.

Palin disagrees with party line, supports national amendment outlawing same-sex marriage

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin says she supports a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, a break with John McCain who has said he believes states should be left to define what marriage is.

In an interview with Christian Broadcasting Network, the Alaska governor said she had voted in 1998 for a state amendment banning same sex marriage and hoped to see a federal ban on such unions.

"I have voted along with the vast majority of Alaskans who had the opportunity to vote to amend our Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman. I wish on a federal level that's where we would go. I don't support gay marriage," Palin said. She said she believed traditional marriage is the foundation for strong families.

McCain, an Arizona senator, is supporting a ballot initiative in his state this year that would ban gay marriage. But he has consistently and forcefully opposed a federal marriage amendment, saying it would usurp states' authority on such matters.

As governor, Palin vetoed a bill that would have denied benefits to the partners of gay state employees. In a debate with Democratic rival Joe Biden, Palin said she was "tolerant" of gays and said she supported certain legal protections for same-sex couples, like hospital visitation rights.

Biden, meanwhile, said during an appearance Monday on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" that if he lived in California he would vote against a ballot measure that seeks to ban gay marriage. DeGeneres, who is gay and newly wed to actress Portia de Rossi, has urged Californians to reject Proposition 8.

"I think it's regressive," the Delaware senator said. "I think

"I wish on a federal level that's where we would go. I don't support gay marriage."

SARAH PALIN
Republican vice presidential candidate

it's unfair, and so I vote 'no.'"

Biden added that he and Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee, opposed a similar initiative nationally. In the debate with Palin, Biden said he supports partnership rights for gays and lesbians, although he also opposes same-sex marriage.

In the CBN interview, Palin also said she would speak out if she heard a supporter at a rally yell violent or threatening comments about Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee.

"What we have heard through some mainstream media is that folks have hollered out some atrocious and unacceptable things like 'kill him,'" Palin said, referring to a Washington Post story two weeks ago about angry supporters at a Palin rally in Florida. "If I ever were to hear that standing up there at the podium with the

mike, I would call them out on that, and I would tell these people, no, that's unacceptable."

CBN released excerpts of the interview Monday and planned to broadcast it in its entirety Tuesday.

Palin also claimed religion and God had been "mocked" during the campaign, although she offered no evidence to support that.

"Faith in God in general has been mocked through this campaign, and that breaks my heart and that is unfair for others who share a faith in God and choose to worship our Lord in whatever private manner that they deem fit," she said.

Palin is a conservative Christian who was baptized and grew up attending Pentecostal churches. In September, Obama defended Palin's religious beliefs and said it would be "offensive" to portray her faith as strange or wrong.

Palin also reaffirmed her view that Obama had been "palling around with terrorists" because of his association with Bill Ayers, a 1960s-era radical who helped found the violent Weather Underground group to protest the Vietnam war. The group was responsible for bombings of several government buildings.

"I would say it again," she said. Ayers and Obama live in the same Chicago neighborhood and have served together on charity boards. Ayers also hosted a house party for Obama when he was first running for the Illinois state Senate.

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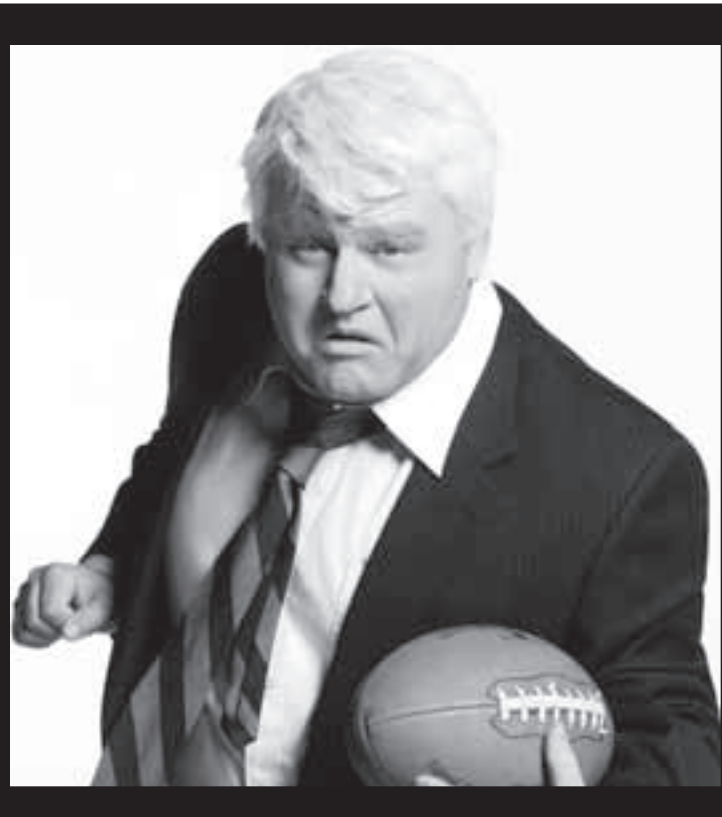
TV SHOW PREVIEW: 'FRANK TV'

'Frank TV' keeps blunders of our celebs fresh



Courtesy of TBS

The many faces of Frank Caliendo. From left to right, Frank as President Bush, himself and John Madden



SELMA SKOKIC
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered where former president Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky have been hiding?

Well, wonder no longer because they are back.

Not the way you think, though.

Master impressionist Frank Caliendo is reviving them in a segment portraying Bill Clinton's fall in the Monica Lewinsky Scandal.

New episodes of TBS's late night sketch comedy series "Frank TV", starring Frank Caliendo, begins today at 11 p.m.

Since its initial launch in November, "Frank TV" has gained

popularity all over the U.S.

Its premiere episode pulled in more than 3.2 million viewers.

Caliendo will be joined by two other impressionists, Mike MacRae and Freddy Lockhart.

He takes on roles such as President George W. Bush, Senator John McCain, John Madden, Jack Nicholson, Sean Connery, Charles Barkley, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Al Gore, Jim Rome, James Gandolfini, Donald Trump and many more.

Some animated segments will be featured in the show, as well as a special election-night episode full of political sketches featuring Caliendo as President George W. Bush.

The show, produced by

TBS Production, recently won an Emmy for outstanding costume design.

Caliendo is one of the writers and executive producers of the show.

I don't really watch late night comedy shows, but an advance copy of "Frank TV", kept me laughing and entertained through its entirety.

When it comes to impressions of political figures and famous people, such as Donald Trump, Caliendo is masterful.

Caliendo has a way of bringing back issues that have been forgotten by many as well as incorporating new issues we are facing in the wake of the new election.

Remember a few years ago when President Bush was criticized for taking too many vacation days?

Well, Caliendo has certainly not forgotten.

How about the race issue in the upcoming election?

He is not letting us forget that either.

However, there is one particular sketch that people should be wary about.

I must agree it was funny, but I saw it as a child endangerment issue.

It dealt with how to quiet down a crying baby and involved the baby being thrown through a ball of fire.

Now it may just be me,

but I found that to be very disturbing.

However, that was the only sketch that I did not like.

ic relief or to learn some politics, it will be well worth your time.

I must admit, there is nothing like a master impressionist

If you are looking for a new way to look at politics and to get a few laughs along the way, this is the show for you.

If you are looking for a new way to look at politics and to get a few laughs along the way, this is the show for you.

You may learn a few things about politics.

Either way you look at "Frank TV" be it a way to get some com-

trying to make our politicians work for their buck by pointing out their faults.

So tonight, turn your TV on at 11 p.m. and watch Frank Caliendo crack jokes at the expense of our politicians and celebrities.

CD REVIEW: KEANE'S 'PERFECT SYMMETRY'

More from Keane — same old stuff, and still sans guitar

JOHN HORNBERG
Managing Editor

British band Keane's instrumental lineup is conspicuously missing something — a guitar. The trio from East Sussex hasn't had a guitar player since one of its founding members left in 2001, and the trio has found success anchoring its music with a keyboard and a bass.

So far, it's a formula that has worked. All three of Keane's albums, including its latest release, "Perfect Symmetry," have shot up the British charts to become the top album in the nation.

America has yet to get on board the Keane bandwagon, and rightfully so. Much of the music the band puts out is repetitive.

But with "Perfect Symmetry," Keane has improved somewhat on producing the same song multiple times in a row. It features two ballads, which would have been great breaks in the album if they weren't the last two tracks and a few minuscule attempts at a more electronic sound.

Keane has polished its keyboard-oriented alt-rock sound to a mirror shine, and aside from a few awkward attempts to try different things, it's largely the same album fans heard and enjoyed the previous two times.

"Perfect Symmetry," more so than any of Keane's other albums, relies on the vocals of singer Tom Chaplin. He possesses a strong singing voice, but uses it as a vehicle for lyrics that aren't especially deep or meaningful.

The trio has tried for a more power pop approach on "Perfect Symmetry" in an attempt to ditch the upbeat but softer tracks on its previous album.



Courtesy of Keane

Keane's latest album, "Perfect Symmetry," is available now.

The song "You Haven't Told Me Anything" makes less use of the keyboard in the introduction, but is the best song on the album. The vocals consist of a short chorus and repeating the title of the song, but combined with the strategic use of the both the piano and the bass, it feels like singer Tom Chaplin is pleading.

"Black Burning Heart" is an overly upbeat song about running away with someone, and proves that a catchy melody will always trump heavy lyrics.

The title track opens with a distracting screech before breaking into piano introduction that can be heard on no fewer than five tracks on this album, and probably 15 total across Keane's three albums.

A difference from its last album is the inclusion of sound effects in certain songs, which often doesn't work.

The song "Better Than This" would be less annoying if it ditched the clap lines on the song that are also interspersed throughout the album. It could

have been the best song on the album, with a flowing melody and above average lyrics, but is bogged down by clapping that is inserted throughout the song.

The song "The Lovers are Losing" is difficult for anyone lacking at least an admiration of disco music to stand.

The two ballads at the end of the album — "Love is the End" and "Time To Go" — are if anything unremarkable songs that don't stand out either as individual songs or as part of the entire album. "Time To Go" does make nice use of the band's long lost friend, the acoustic guitar.

"Perfect Symmetry" is a good but unoriginal effort from a band that has found a formula and is intent to stick with it. Keane wasn't going to go through any monumental change to its sound, especially after two chart-topping albums in Great Britain.

Fans of the band will appreciate that it stuck to its guns while taking a few chances, but others are better off starting with previous work by the band.

Do you have any story ideas?

Tell us about them at www.theSpartanDaily.com

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TheTech

Shared cultural heritage builds bonds and friendship



My heavy backpack pulls on my little shoulders as my short legs stumble down the bus steps.

It is autumn, and Jordan's climate is that of a desert. The cold, dry wind blows against my face and I squint, with my short golden bangs dancing across my forehead.

A teacher helps me down the steps. She looks at me and smiles.

"Are you Circassian?" she asks, noticing my unnaturally pale skin and "foreign" facial features.

I nod, smiling bashfully back and run off to my classroom.

Yet another day at elementary school, and it begins.

I am surrounded by unfamiliar people, but thankfully my best friend is there, smiling to see me enter.

She has saved me a seat by her side.

I interact with my classmates, but I never get as close to anyone as to Lina, my best friend.

I later learn that she is Palestinian, before even learning the difference between Jordanians and Palestinians, but her strong longing toward the occupied territories of her homeland connects me to her — somehow, somehow.

I don't understand fully why I am different from the rest — but being around Lina comforts me.

At home, Mother speaks to me in a language I later learn is called Circassian. It is the language my grandmother speaks as well, but since other family members and friends spoke Arabic, it grew to be my first language.

A couple of years roll by and I continue to feel "different" until one day a new boy enters the classroom. The girls whisper to

one another and I learn he is Circassian, just like me.

His name is Yaldir. It sounds familiar — it's a Circassian name. Hearing the name being pronounced in the classroom seems alien to me. How come there is another Circassian in the same classroom as I am?

He becomes another best friend of mine. We speak about Circassian dancing, some mutual friends. I enjoy having him, another Circassian, around.

When I think of it today, I cannot help but wonder: Was I discriminating against my fellow classmates just because they were not of the same ethnic background as mine? ***

It is March 2009, and I am finally living in my home country, the Caucasus.

I wake up to the dripping lullabies of the morning rainfall drumming on my window's front.

It is 6 a.m.

I hear my neighbor speaking to someone in Circassian. I pull myself out of bed and peek outside the window, hiding behind my colorful, flowery curtain.

He is speaking to the old lady sweeping the streets. Her gray fuzzy hair is covered with a light piece of cloth. She smiles and wrinkles on her face arrange themselves in a way that accentuates her happiness.

I look in the distance, and I see the world known as Mount Elbrus. We call it Uashkhemakhue' in Circassian. It translates to the mountain of happiness.

I stand at the edge of a sidewalk, watching the cars pass me by in the capital Nalchik. I watch people's lives and happiness fills me to know I am home. But when will I really feel like a native to this beautiful land?

I glance around me and whisper: "When Circassian becomes my first language."

"From the Caucasus to the World" appears every Tuesday. Dina Baslan is the Spartan Daily features editor.

Police auction Web site raises money and questions



Imagine yourself at a funeral for a loved one and he has just been taken from you. The funeral home charges you for sending that relative to the greater beyond. That is somewhat normal; you set aside money for a funeral and want it to be respectful.

Now imagine the funeral home sells off the valuables placed in the coffins.

That is a comparison I link to a police collaboration called PropertyRoom.com that sells seized and unclaimed items.

I was watching the 10 o'clock news when I heard about this service. Property Room specializes in the auction of stolen, seized, found and surplus goods and vehicles, serving more than 1,100 law enforcement agencies nationwide according to its Web site.

Initially, I thought this was a good idea. Police departments need space in their inventory rooms and have few options to help clear out acquired items. When watching the news report, the reporter showed viewers

the assortment of items, from power tools to designer handbags. Jewelry, cameras and even out-of-service police cruisers are available for bid on this site. What could be better than a boosted gravestone?

The way the story was presented made me feel like the police were providing a service that was of benefit to the general public. I was terribly misled.

Sure that laptop or that beat-up Honda Civic was previously in possession or used by a convicted felon, but what the heck, a car for as cheap as \$500, what's wrong with that?

In my opinion, this site is a misuse of the Internet by some police departments. The items that are available for auction have been cleared for sale by the department after an "attempt" to return them to their original owners.

This site gives police departments an excuse to not try as hard to return items to their owners, with the incentive of bringing revenue to the force.

According to its Web site, Property Room harnesses the power of the Internet to quickly move items out of police property rooms, reduce personnel costs and generate revenue well beyond traditional police auction methods.

It sounds like an ideal situation

for both cash-strapped consumers and our boys and girls in blue, but is it a greed-driven ruse?

I feel their problem with available space could be solved with a couple more man-hours in the checking of property serial numbers and increased awareness of seized property that needs to be claimed.

A few years back, my sister's car was stolen and her personal belonging were taken from inside the vehicle. She filed a report with the local police and didn't hear back from an officer for a while, eventually getting a new car considering the old one lost.

After purchasing the new vehicle she was told that her car was found and was almost sold in an auction when a representative of the towing company who found the car finally checked the serial number.

I am not tar-and-feathering the police department. They do a good job serving and protecting, but this site seems to go step to the side of the basic services of the police department.

Is it right to sell the inventory items when they are the stolen property of someone else?

If you are browsing the pages looking for something that was stolen from you, the Web site also offers a service through a sub-category called stealitback.com. The stolen goods repository can help theft victims be reunited with their stolen property by checking serial numbers of recorded auction items.

Again, why should you have to search to find your stolen goods? Wouldn't you like a little help in finding your missing merchandise? Isn't that the idea behind filling out a police report?

"Playing the Odds" appears every Tuesday. Chris Bausinger is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Taking more from a small business or small business owners or from a hard-working family, and then redistributing that money according to a politician's priorities, there are hints of socialism in there."

SARAH PALIN

The Republican vice presidential candidate said on Sunday.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Pool cover
- Fundamental
- Donkey pin-on
- Reed instrument
- Unaccompanied
- Widespread
- Fuel from a marsh
- Eye enhancer
- "Born Free" lioness
- Warfare
- Mentions (2 wds.)
- Frog cousin
- Job to do
- Sweet wine
- Keep out of sight (2 wds.)
- I, to Claudius
- Spring fragrance
- Platitude
- Sofa end
- Jeweler's weight
- High dudgeon
- Requires
- Buddha's land
- Workout unit
- Four-door models
- Refuge abroad
- Coolidge
- or Hayworth
- Bath decor
- Be proud (2 wds.)
- Scoff at
- Um-hmm (2 wds.)
- Stroke of good fortune
- Hunch
- Puts up food
- Fairway shouts
- Stein fillers
- Macrame unit
- Skin coolant
- Orpheus' harp

DOWN

- Summits
- Egg on

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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ODORS	OLEO	AJAR
ROBIN	GAGS	SIRE
ELLS	IRAN	SPIREA
	OVER	DIALED
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ATALL	TASSELED	
POPE	VAULT	WARE
SMARTING	DEMON	
	ION	SPAREST
WADDLE	ALMS	
REDEYE	BUYS	SHE
ODIE	NEAT	ENTER
AGED	CONE	LEARN
DEUS	ENDS	EYRE

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FDA's labyrinth of rules for drugs hurts patients



KIMBERLY TSAO
THE MOST YOU EVER KNEW

Suppose we live in a time when the FDA and National Institute on Drug Abuse give us free marijuana every month.

For eight people, that's a reality. Since marijuana relieves AIDS symptoms, the compassionate access program offered the drug until the early '90s, according to a 1999 New York Times article.

Compassionate drug use may seem like an oxymoron, but the program provides patients with medications that are still in the middle of clinical trials and haven't been passed by the FDA.

Several groups, such as the Abigail Alliance for Better Access to Developmental Drugs, have been pushing for compassionate access since the program is usually the patients' last resort.

No matter what your thoughts are on marijuana's medicinal purposes, the sad fact remains: It isn't the only drug that's out of most patients' reach.

Colon cancer carries the second highest mortality rate among the different types of cancer. Between 2001 and 2003, 80,000 people succumbed to colon cancer, according to a 2003 Wall Street Journal article.

Yet, Erbitux, a potential colon cancer drug, was rejected in 2001, according to the same article. Erbitux showed off its tumor-shrinking powers in 23 percent of the test subjects. The drug also deflected cancer for over four months. And to think its only side effect was a rash.

The article also suggests that Avastin, another colon cancer drug, hasn't been given the thumbs up because the FDA is fickle over things like medicine labels.

Moreover, the FDA's approval process is akin to a turtle, but in the race of life and death, slow and steady does not win.

According to the Wall Street Journal article, about 43,000 people were denied one of the two colon cancer drugs — and that figure applies to just the six months when the FDA was sorting out papers.

In addition, the FDA can't make up its mind on the requirements for approval, according to U.S. Rep. Diane Watson's 2008 news release.

In 2005, the FDA endorsed Gefitinib since the drug worked on 10 percent of lung cancer patients. While Erlotinib offers a similar one-two punch for kidney cancer patients, the drug didn't get the FDA's seal of approval because of new eligibility criteria. According to the news release, the road to FDA approval changes every year.

The FDA's approval process is akin to a turtle, but in the race of life and death, slow and steady does not win.

Apparently, 10 percent doesn't cut it anymore. There are currently 14 cancer drugs in limbo, and 95 percent of possible cancer cures don't even bend that far, according to a 2008 St. Petersburg Times article.

Furthermore, the FDA appears to be indecisive about how it judges the results of clinical trials, according to a 2007 Wall Street Journal article. Rather than simply going over the data (which is what they've done in the past), the FDA applied "a nonstandard statistical approach" to determine the effectiveness of Genasense, a melanoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) drug.

When the drug's approval was put to a vote, the FDA dismissed the only CLL expert at the meeting, according to the same article. Surprisingly, Genasense hasn't moved to the front of the line since then.

In the St. Petersburg Times article, Greg Luter, a cancer patient, was quoted as saying, "You would assume the FDA's goal would be looking

out for patients and making it easier for them to get drugs. ... That's not the case."

The FDA claims it wouldn't fight companies that choose to give away investigational drugs, according to the 2003 Wall Street Journal article. Most companies, however, maintain that they can't afford to do that. Apparently, they've never heard of tax write-offs.

Another one of the FDA's defenses is that it isn't safe for people to receive developmental drugs, but the patients should be able to decide that for themselves. It's their lives that are at stake. If the drug doesn't work, they'd still face the same outcome they would have before — death. On the other hand, if the medicine does work, then the people's right to life would be upheld.

Besides, every drug that the Abigail Alliance wanted compassionate access to (but didn't receive) eventually secured FDA approval, according to a 2007 written testimony to the Energy and Commerce Committee. The Access Act would include "built-in safeguards" for eyeing the drugs that go through the experiment's three phases, according to the press release.

In fact, before the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act, the government didn't dare mess with people's use of the latest medicines, according to an Abigail Alliance v. von Eschenbach court document. Technically, we have the separation of church and state, so why not a separation of health and state?

Other viable options include having "single-patient studies" or experiments in which only some people have to meet the requirements or have their results published, according to a 2008 New York Times article.

After all, compassionate access isn't false hope. It is hope.

"The Most You Ever Knew" appears every Tuesday. Kimberly Tsao is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

Adult content and ideas make comics and anime not just for kids anymore



KAAJAL MORAR

Cartoons and comics are usually marketed toward kids. Shows such as "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "Sonic the Hedgehog" and "X-Men" are engaging for children.

There are cartoons and comics that are geared toward an older audience, too. And just because they are animated doesn't mean they are immature or meaningless.

Take the graphic novel "Johnny the Homicidal Maniac" by Jhonen Vasquez (that's right, the guy who created "Invader Zim"). The comic includes explicit (and sometimes meaningless) violence as well as vulgar language and a strong suicide theme.

Main Character Johnny C. suffers from dissociative personality disorder. His negative personalities take form in the shape of Styrofoam creatures Psycho Doughboy, Mr. Eff and Nailbunny, a rabbit he fed once and nailed to a wall for three years that provides the only positive voice in Johnny's life.

Yeah. Not for kids.

Beyond the violence, Johnny has a fascination with the meaning of life and is constantly trying to find out how he turned into a psychotic murderer, giving the comic a strange, philosophical edge.

He even speaks with Satan, who helps him understand how the world works. God also plays a part, although he is less than helpful and turns out to be more of a nuisance.

Anime is also regularly written off as eccentric, Japanese cartoons. Anime isn't just about robots and big boobs; if you look deep enough, there exists meaningful stories with moving themes.

Even Sailor Moon, an anime geared toward girls, had a controversial theme, although North American companies tried to change it.

Take the 1988 movie "Akira" by Katsuhiro Otomo. Although there is societal rebellion, grotesque mutations and human experimentation, the violence is not pointless and it plays a part in telling the story of post-World War III Tokyo.

Gang member Tetsuo is involved in an accident with child psychic Takashi. Takashi is under observation by a government experiment group.

After displaying psychic potential, Tetsuo is taken in by the government experiment group where he is put under the same experimentation as Takashi.

Chaos ensues when the scientist who heads the group is unable to restrain Tetsuo, who rampages around Tokyo with a god complex and horrific telekinetic abilities. The movie addresses political unrest, gang violence, terrorism and taking responsibility for controlling superhuman powers.

Even Sailor Moon, an anime geared toward girls, had a controversial theme, although North American companies tried to change it.

In the original series in the fourth and fifth seasons, Sailors Uranus and Neptune were depicted as lesbians. Optimum Productions made them cousins, even though it was more than clear that their relationship was far more intimate.

Comics marketed toward teenage girls also have more adult themes. Serena Valentino's collection of comics in "Nightmares and Fairy Tales" includes lesbians, child abuse and murder.

The comics are retellings of classic fairytales through the eyes of a rag doll whose ownership is passed along many times.

The doll encounters the story of Snow, whose mother tried to steal her pure heart, but her stepmother becomes possessed by her wicked mirror; Cinderella, whose stepmother summoned a demon to get rid of her, but the plan backfired; and Gwen, whose closet was full of real monsters but whose parents didn't believe her.

Beyond the grotesque images, Valentino's stories remind everyone that not everything ends "happily ever after." We are exposed to cartoons at a young age, and because we are comfortable with this as entertainment, it seems as though it would be the better choice to relay important messages and themes.

Graphic novels and animated movies have been shunned as a form of entertainment for children. However, this aspect of entertainment contains messages that are just as meaningful as any published book or documentary; they are just given a different form.

So when you're watching a cartoon or reading a comic, don't be surprised if a deep theme presents itself.

Kaajal Morar is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The letter below is in regards to Corinne Speckert's editorial, "Avoiding racism doesn't mean it no longer exist" that ran on Oct. 9.

When I was younger, I visited small towns in upstate California and was scared to walk down the streets alone. All I've ever learned about small towns full of "white people" were that they were extremely racist and were willing to hurt me because of my skin color.

Now where did I learn about these stereotypes? From the many history classes that I've taken throughout middle school and high school.

I know now that these stereotypes aren't true anymore, for the most part, but that didn't make the fear I felt any less real.

My point is I've never thought of racism as an issue of the past because of everything I've learned

and because it is still an issue even today. I feel that no one is ignoring the issue of race at all, but perhaps people are just uncomfortable with sharing their own experiences or talking about it.

If someone brought up the issue of race, I for one would not ignore it or change the subject, but I can't speak for others. Also on the issue of self-segregation, don't you know how hard it is to make friends? For some people it's pretty hard and because of it, they may stick to the type of people they are most comfortable with and that's including race. That doesn't at all mean they are trying to ignore racism or are racist themselves.

I think that at the end of the day a person can either deal with these issues or ignore them. The idealist in me says they deal with them.

- Dave Lawrence Cabebe
Photojournalism major

The ultimate goal of any institute for higher education should be the graduation of its students.

In my experience as a student, I feel as if San Jose State has become distracted from this ultimate goal and perhaps forgotten about it altogether.

Being enriched is all well and good, but the main reason I'm here is because I want that diploma.

I've heard horror story after story from friends who have graduated from SJSU, only to receive a letter a few months later informing them that they are not, in fact, done with their degree and need to return to SJSU to resume classes.

I quickly decided to not let said horror story delay me further. At the advice of a counselor, I applied for my estimated May 2009 graduation in February 2008.

I was told that I would receive my official advising report, that letter of doom that so many of

friends received too late, in four months.

What I didn't know was that submitting my application would bar me from seeing a counselor further.

The advising report still has not arrived, and I am informed that it shouldn't come until at least December, a full 10 months after application and most likely past when I register for my final semester.

I understand budget cuts and being short staffed, but no one can accuse me of exaggeration when I say 10 months is an excessive time to wait.

Until more money and effort are put into making the administration system more efficient, students' ultimate goal for attending San Jose State will be continually compromised.

- S.J. Cabana
Spanish major

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First conference win of year for men's soccer

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

After four consecutive conference losses and a mediocre first half, the SJSU men's soccer team needed a spark.

Head coach Gary St. Clair's halftime adjustment provided that spark in the Spartans 1-0 win over the Air Force Falcons (4-9) at Spartan Stadium.

SJSU (5-5-3) played the first half with poor body language and went into halftime with just one shot on goal.

At halftime, St. Clair changed their formation to be more offense oriented, adding an extra forward to their attack and focusing more on scoring.

"We changed our system," St. Clair said. "We thought this was a team that we could defend against, so we went from a 4-5-1 to a 4-4-2, which gave us an extra striker up top and it worked great. (Efrain Burgos Jr.) was who was added up top."

The Spartans came out of the second half locker room with more energy and a fresh Burgos, a sophomore forward who did not play in the first half.

Two minutes into the second half, Burgos created a scoring chance for the Spartans.

He dribbled past a Falcon defender and his shot was deflected by another defender and saved by Falcon goalkeeper Jim Gullo. Two minutes later, Burgos' shot from just outside the penalty box was blocked by a Falcon defender's head.

In the 10th minute, Burgos shot a missile at Gullo, who blocked the ball but left a rebound that bounced chest high to junior forward Colby Moore. Moore could not get his foot on the top of the ball as his shot sailed over the net.

After multiple solid chances, an innocent-looking play resulted in the Spartans' lone goal. In the 22nd minute of the second half, senior midfielder Hiroki Akiyama was being defended closely just outside the box. He appeared to shoot the ball off a Falcon defender and the ball traveled to the front of the net and found the opportunistic junior midfielder Nick Cukar.

"Hiroki kind of floated it in there and it went to backside of the goal and I think I hit it with the bottom of my shoe and watched it go in," Cukar said. "I actually thought I was offside, I wasn't sure. And from there, I just put it right in. It was just my instinct."

With less than 10 minutes to go, Spartan junior forward Stephen Cordova was alone in the box chasing a cross by a SJSU teammate. Gullo sprinted out of his net to grab the ball before Cordova could make contact. A collision between Gullo and Cordova ensued. From there, four Falcon defenders confronted Cordova.

Cordova reacted by slapping one of them in the face. The referee gave him a red card, ejecting Cordova from the game and forcing the Spartans to play a man down for the rest of the game.

"It's almost like we have been going through a crash-course of maturity at times," St. Clair said. "You can't try and protect a lead with 10 minutes to go, down a man. That really was foolish of our player to get a silly red card on a retaliation."

Even after the red card and four consecutive losses, Spartans' senior goalkeeper Richard Mann was confident that SJSU would finally prevail late in a game.

"I knew that we had lost the last four games in the last few minutes of the game," Mann said. "I knew that as long as the boys kept their heads up, we were going to win."

Still, the Spartans nearly gave up a late goal to the Falcons.

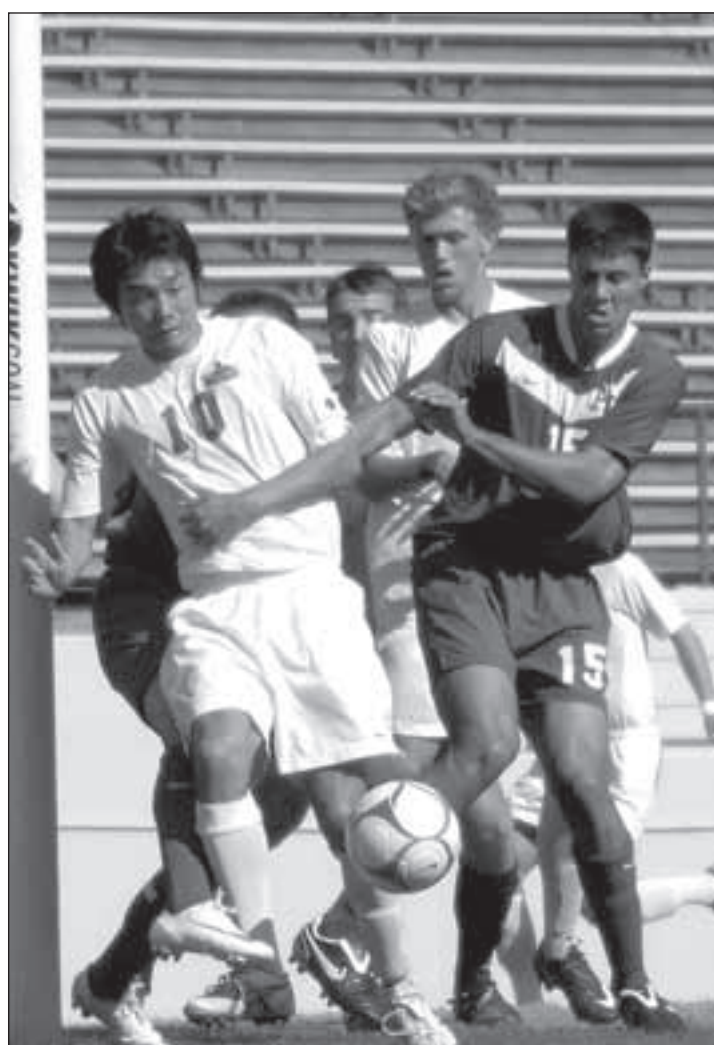
With six minutes to go, Falcon Garret Getschow shot the ball from outside the box and it appeared to go in. The Air Force fans cheered, but the ball actually missed low and to the left.

The Spartans held on from there, giving Richard Mann a shutout in his first start this season and the Spartans their first conference win. Mann made only two saves in the entire game as he posted his 12th career shutout for SJSU.

"I give credit to my team big time," Mann said. "You know it's always a good game for me when I don't have to do anything."

In the second half, the Spartans finished with 18 shots and eight shots on goal. They only had 10 shots and one shot on goal in the first half, showing the importance of St. Clair's halftime adjustment.

"Not many times do you make tactical changes that work, and tactics are not the most important part of the game," St. Clair said. "But we were the better team today, and I think we were unfortunate not to score more goals. We had a number of shots, a number of great chances."



Senior midfielder Hiroki Akiyama (No. 10) tries to beat Falcon defender, Aaron Eshkenazi (No. 15) and expand the lead in a tough fought game on Sunday afternoon at Spartan Stadium. RYAN KALEM / Contributing Photographer

Members of cross country team are ahead of the pack



David Haeefe

Profiles by Rie Nakanishi,
Staff Writer

For the week of Oct. 6 to 12, SJSU's David Haeefe and Jenna Hicks were recognized as the Western Athletic Conference Cross Country Athletes of the Week for their performances at the San Francisco Invitational held on Oct. 10. They didn't run this past weekend in the Santa Clara Bronco Invitational to conserve their energy for the coming WAC championship.



Jenna Hicks

Photos courtesy of SJSU Athletics

Junior runner David Haeefe was rewarded for his performance in an 8-kilometer race which he finished 12th with a time of 26:21.

His performance at the San Francisco Invitational contributed to the team's third-place finish.

He's been one of the top runners every race throughout the season.

"I was really excited," Haeefe said. "It's not like it happens every year. It's really hard to get it because a lot of teams in our conference are really, really fast."

He said that luck played a partial role in winning the award because a strong team such as Utah State wasn't participating in the race that day.

"I kind of got lucky. ... It gave me a shot to get ahead and make sure that I score that position," Haeefe said.

However, his head coach Jeff Argabright and teammates said he is a talented and hard-working athlete.

"He's just naturally talented at running," said Sean Dundon, a senior teammate of Haeefe.

Despite his inborn talents, Haeefe never neglects practices and works hard, Dundon added.

"He really deserves where he is right now," he said.

Jeff Argabright agreed with Dundon and said Haeefe dedicated himself to training with an incredible amount of running during the summer.

"I'm just proud that he won," Jeff Argabright said. "(Cross country) is kind of lower-profile sport, so when they get recognition, it means a lot to athletes."

Haeefe started running cross country in his sophomore year at Villa Park High School in Orange when he was looking for some kind of after-school sports.

"It was something that I always knew that I was little bit gifted at," he said of running.

Haeefe was recruited for the SJSU's men's cross country team.

He said he loves cross country because his efforts directly reflect in the results.

"It's something that basically, if you work hard, you are going to get results," Haeefe said. "So the person that finishes first, 90 percent of the time it's the guy who works the hardest. That's what I really like about it."

He will be competing in the conference championship on Nov. 1.

The women's team captain Jenna Hicks was honored based upon her performance in the same Oct. 10 race.

She finished ninth in a 6-kilometer race, with a time of 22:59 and helped the team take third place.

She was also the first SJSU women's runner to finish in the top 10 this season.

"That was really, really cool because there are a lot of really talented runners in the conference," Hicks said.

Her teammates and head coach Augie Argabright, said she is an amazing team captain who always presents good examples to the team.

"She's a major lifeline of the team," said Hicks' sophomore teammate Jessica Gonzales. "She's always got something to say that will make you feel better. She just turns the bad into the good."

She said Hicks is dedicated to her academic work just as much as training for cross country.

When the team heard that she won the award, they were thrilled, Argabright said.

"What is amazing is that she's improved every single year. You have to do a lot of running to be successful. And you have to have a dedication to do that," he said.

With her track experience from junior high school, Hicks started cross country when she was a sophomore at Stockdale High School in Bakersfield, although she wasn't experienced in it, she said.

She said she loves running, but what makes cross country more interesting to her than regular track running is that "there's aspect of competition in the cross country race. It's on rough terrain, hills, and it's usually pretty bad weather in the fall so it's the challenge of that."

She also noted that cross country is not only about individual performance but also performance on a team that she enjoys.

"We had a lot of talent on the team, so it's not just about anyone in person, but how we do as a group at conference," Hicks said.

The team practices every day starting at 7 a.m. She said she tries to be more conscious of her body, and stay healthy and positive, particularly in the fall when people start getting sick.

BLOG

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Buddha: Scientist of the Mind

Scientists are now analyzing the world down to its smallest particles, challenging the way we look at ourselves and the world.

Who are we? Why are we here? The teachings of Buddha, 2500 years old, draws some surprising connections. Who was the Buddha, and what did he understand?

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Time: 4:30 - 6:00 Date: Tuesday 10/21

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