THESE GUYS 'SUCK LIVE'

NOFX passed through San Francisco as part of their 25th year celebration.

WATER POLO: Cal drowns SJSU

Ranked seventh nationally, the Spartans had trouble scoring against sixth-ranked California.

the Spartan Daily.com Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009

Volume 132, Issue 12



56	62	65	66
TUE	WED	THU	FRI

THE WIRE

State senate adjourns without voting on budget plan

SACRAMENTO – The California Senate abruptly adjourned its marathon weekend session Sunday night, leaving in doubt the fate of a \$14.4 billion tax bill that is a key part of a plan to balance the state budget. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said that lawmakers would meet again Monday to try to salvage the combination of spending cuts, tax hikes and additional borrowing designed to erase a \$42 billion deficit.

NATIONAI

Gas prices unhinged

NEW YORK – As crude oil prices fall to new lows this year, the conventional wisdom would be that gas prices should follow. Instead, prices at the pump have jumped an average of 35 cents since the end of December. It is the case of an energy market turned upside down.

WORLD

Japan economy shrinks at fastest pace in 35 years

TOKYO — Japan's economy contracted at the fastest pace in 35 years as a collapse in global demand battered the world's second-largest economy. Japan's gross domestic product, or the total value of the nation's goods and services, dropped at an annual pace of 12.7 percent in the October-December period, the government said Monday.

Afghanistan to take part in US strategic review

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai said President Barack Obama has accepted his proposal for Afghanistan to take part in a strategic U.S. review of the Afghan war. Karzai said an Afghan delegation, headed by the country's foreign minister, will visit the United States as part of the review. The U.S. is studying the situation in Afghanistan at a time of worsening violence. The U.S. is contemplating sending up to 30,000 more troops to the country to bolster the 33,000 already in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

ACTIVISM



Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March demonstrators are led by Oscar Battle and Marquis Valentine down Fourth Street on Saturday morning. Both Battle and Valentine were on the King 80th Birthday Planning Committee.

CHAD ZIEMENDORF / Spartan Daily

Many march to celebrate Black History Month, remember civil rights leader's 80th birthday

SAMANTHA PATTERSON Staff Writer

A mixture of cultures and ethnicities gathered together to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March in

honor of his 80th birthday on Jan. 15 and Black History Month on Feb. 14.

A few dozen of SJSU students, faculty, community members and children congregated in the lobby of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library to prepare for the

march. Yellow pins with a picture of King and a quote saying "Dream to Reality" were passed out to wear.

"The importance of this march during Black History Month is that it gives prominence in the fact that a lot of rights that we have today is based on King and the civil rights era," said Francis Howard, chair of the King planning committee and SJSU alumnus.

Before the march started, Oscar Battle, the chairman for the march, spoke about the history, present and past in relevance to King. Fellow supporters also shared their thoughts and contributed to why this march was significant in today's society.

"The relevance to King today is that it's a reality that we seek that we have equality across the board," Battle said.

feel a sense of accomplishment that all men are created equal in this society," Howard said. "That little white boys and girls can join hands with little black boys and girls and work together on justice, diversity, and multiculturalism and equal access for all Americans no matter what their ethnicities are."

"I feel that Dr. King would See MARCH, page 2

RECREATION

Hospitality event team help run Pebble Beach golf tournament



View of the Pebble Beach Golf Course on Thursday evening.

SAMANTHA PATTERSON

Among the golfers, celebrities and crowds at the National Pro-Am Golf tournament in Pebble Beach, a team of SJSU students from the department of hospitality, recreation and tourism management became managers, directors and coordinators for the week.

Thirty-three students left on Feb. 9 and traveled to Pebble Beach where they oversaw up to 25 employees and volunteers at one time.

The students, who are also referred to as the special event management team, supervised food and beverage cash concession stands serving tournament guests, corporate-sponsored skyboxes and tents.

"I've learned a lot working

in cash concession, a lot of time management," said senior Ashlee Alberdi. "We have to have our inventory in by a certain time, so we can have our product for the next day and have it put away before we leave for the night."

"The students get hands-on

See **BEACH**, page 2

ECONOMY

Workshop shows students ways find work during tough economic times

STEPHANIE VALLEJO Staff Writer

More than 40 students attended the "Tips to finding a job in a slow economy" workshop held by the Career Center last Friday.

"Students should be aware of what is going on in the world today, how that affects our economy and how that affects their own personal job search strategy," said Jill Klees, the resume specialist of the Career Center.

Klees said there are a few things students should know about the economy:

- Baby boomers are retiring in large numbers.
- There is a global demand in exports and health initiatives.
- There is a high demand in alternate energy and green jobs.

come with people retiring. "Think bigger about your job search," she said. "Be more open-minded and think

more strategically about your

She said students should

be positive and take advantage

of the new job openings that

job search." She also said students should consider all industries and put themselves there. For example, nonprofit jobs and green jobs have a wide selec-

tion of positions ranging from

finance to advertising. Another important tip she had for students was to build a strategy and start job hunting now, regardless of when they will graduate.

"Start to research, identify your strengths and know how they can add value to a company and be able to talk about

See **JOB**, page 2

Sports Blog: www.spartandailysports.wordpress.com www.spartandailyphoto.wordpress.com

www.spartandailynews.wordpress.com

NEWS

The Filipino club hosted "Know Your Rights," an interactive demonstration of police brutality last Thursday.

About thirty students participated in speed dating on singles night last Thursday.

SPORTS

The SJSU club hockey team defeats Long Beach 10-2 on Saturday.

SLIDESHOW

Have a look at "Bike Show," an exhibition of bike art and culture located at the City Windows Gallery on Fourth and Santa Clara streets.

A&E

Chinese and American art and culture is displayed at the "East Meets West in My Art" exhibit, which is running in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library through Feb. 28.

PHOTO BLOG

Photo Editor Carlos A. Moreno talks about photographers' rights.

Right: Racecar slideshow by Derek Sijder.

SPORTS BLOG

Check out Sports Editor Matthew Kimel's commentary on SJSU's new quarterbacks coach Terry Malley.



16 Today

First in My Family to Go to College: Now What?

Learn about scholarships and financial aid. 3 to 4 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room

Contact Veronica Mendoza at Veronica.Mendoza@sjsu.edu

LGBTQQI Discussion Group

Co-sponsored by LGBT Resource Center and Counseling Services. 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the LGBT Resource Center. For more information, call 924-6158 or 924-5910.

Pride of the Pacific Islands

General meeting. 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Ohlone Room at the Student Center. Contact Kristen Tom at ppi sjsu@yahoo.com

Pride of the Pacific Islands

Hula and Tahitian practice. 8 p.m. in the Aerobics Room at the Event Center. Contact Kristen Tom at ppi_sjsu@yahoo.com

17 Tuesday

Burton Folsom

The author discusses his new book "New Deal or Raw Deal? How FDR's economic Legacy Has Damaged America." 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 225. Contact Jack Estill at john.estill@sjsu.edu

Cypress Strong Quartet.

12:20 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall. Contact Joan at 924-4673.

Farmer's Market

Fresh fruit and veggies. 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Clark Hall rain or shine. Contact Luisa Garrett at luisa@postalmodern.com

Overcoming Stress

Discover tips and techniques and how to combat stress. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. Contact Veronica Mendoza at

18 Wednesday

Veronica.Mendoza@sjsu.edu

Investing in **Entrepreneurship in Turbulent Times**

Ron Conway, an SJSU alumnus, will share his experiences as a serial investor who has invested in many successful startups. 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 225/229. Contact Anu Basu at 924-3593.

Taming the Monkey Mind

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Costanoan Room at the Student Union. Contact Justin at 677-8681.

Zen Buddhism Club

Probing our mental states. 3:30 p.m. in the Costanoan Room at the Student Union. Contact Justin 677-8681.

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.

JOB | Going beyond Internet in job search one of many tips

Continued from page 1

them," Klees said. "Be flexible. Are you willing to relocate or alter your salary expectations?"

She said students should take steps to get ahead now.

"Get skills while the economy is slow so you can use them to your advantage when it picks up," Klees said.

Another tip she gave the students is not to use Internet as their only resource to research and find the jobs they want. Eighty percent of hires are due to networking,

One suggestion she has for students with accounts on social networking Web sites, such as MySpace or Facebook, is to keep them "squeaky clean." Klees said employers today look at the Web sites and sometimes determine from photos whether to hire an individual.

Resumes and cover letters should show time and care, she

"Employers take at most seven to 10 seconds looking over a resume and cover letter," she added. "Make sure your resume stands out

CAMPUSIMAGES



Dana Bautista, a junior mathematics major, looks on as Faisal Mostamandy (left), an alumnus, and Jacer Balubal, a junior marketing major, arm wrestle during a break from their homework at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Wednesday.

YOUNG-SUNG KWON / Spartan Daily

and get it critiqued several times."

This is the first career workshop Aline Dorso, a junior marketing major, attended, and she said it helped her.

"I like the workshops because I got information on Web sites I can go to," she said. "It opened my mind about new companies that would fit my major that I never thought about before."

Kevin Silveira, a senior psychology major, said he did not think about job hunting since he's not graduating until next year, but working at the career center has changed his mind.

"I see a lot of students starting to worry," he said. "Seeing the competition that's out there

and how dedicated people are to finding a job just puts more pressure on me."

Steve Anderson, a senior aviation major, said he returned to college after losing his job at a local airline.

"I'm hoping to explore other options and try and find gainful employment again," he said. "I went to the workshop for networking and to explore other options outside of my field that would work within my major."

The last piece of advice Klees gave students was, "be confident and focused. Treat finding a job like the most important class assignment; do your homework and be prepared."

MARCH | Stopped at monument to also honor Cesar Chavez

Continued from page 1

The African-American Faculty and Staff Association, an organizer and sponsor of the event, encouraged students and other spectators to contribute posters and banners to help emphasize different issues.

Among the people assembled, a group of students from the Equality Opportunity Program were there to make a statement. With numerous banners displayed, they shared what King and his dream meant to them and what their hopes are for the future.

Some of the signs include "Take back the bridge, EOP-1969" and "Get on the bus! Rebuild the Gulf Coast and pass HR 4048: Gulf Coast Civil Works Act."

"We had a banner-making party the night before," said Diana Victa, a senior sociology major and participant in the group. "That night we came up with a collaborative of messages and one of the main messages was 'take back the bridge' and the bridge symbolized access to education and so we thought it was symbolic."

Additional signs stated messages such as "Cultural diversity" and "Justice for all."

Led by Battle, the march began at the corner of South Fourth and San Fernando

With loud speaker in hand, Battle chanted the message "We shall overcome." The crowd of participants joined in and sang

The march proceeded down Fourth Street and made its entrance to campus at the intersection of San Carlos Street.

Throughout the demonstration, various stops were made where different participants

In front of the Cesar Chavez monument, members participating with Equality Opportunity Program gave dialogue of their program in contrast to King. Several issues were vocalized about the position of program and where it stands today, and why it has been dismantled to students since 2004.

"Today was a significant day because we took awareness of the program and restoring it," said senior sociology major Christopher Temblador.

Another pause was made during the march in front of Clark Hall, where everyone connected in a circle. Other participants

spoke on ways to contribute to helping a cause while others related back to Cesar Chavez himself, how he had a struggle, hunger for education and strive for justice for all.

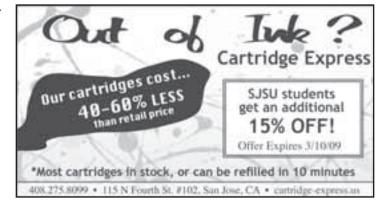
The march concluded at the King Library. Participants conversed among one another and were encouraged to get involved with other King celebrations throughout the day.

most importantly is that we ac- your persistent about."

knowledge the equality within that freedom."

Temblador said it felt great doing the march and it was a great turnout.

"Progress is never a stable habit, and this march reminds people of that," Battle said. "We have to keep reminding young people, old people that nothing is ever fixed. You can't rest on your laws that it's all over, those "Today was a very significant are things in the past so as a reday," Temblador said. "We talk sult, you keep it moving so you a lot about freedom today but don't get dull about the issue



BEACH | Team spent 64 hours during winter break training for event

Continued from page 1

experience as managers, which is one unique thing," said program director Rich Larson. "They're not just here to dish out food and serve it, they're here to manage numerous positions, they're doing inventory, signing off on time cards, ordering food, making management decisions."

Throughout the tournament, students in the skyboxes and tents worked actively next to spectators such as executives from Yahoo!, Coca-Cola, and AT&T.

"One of the coolest things is where managing tents and skyboxes with all these big corporate names, sitting on the most beautiful course," said skybox director Melissa Leong. "You get to network, you'll talk to the people your helping and they'll give you their business card."

The event team also kept their eyes open to get a glance of some of the celebrities who took part

in the tournament, such as Justin Timberlake, Carson Daly and Peyton Manning.

"I was working by where all the golfers walked in at, I was like five feet away from Huey Lewis, 20 feet away from Justin Timberlake, it was fun," said senior Ashley O'Brien.

Students were chosen to participate after completing an application, short essay and an interview. Out of over 70 competitive applications, 33 students were chosen to be a part of the team and enroll in the Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism Management 97B course for the spring semester.

Three returning students are chosen to be directors of different departments, and one student coordinator is also chosen.

Andrea Hernandez, who worked in cash concession last year, was chosen to be the team student coordinator this year. Her duties consisted of work-

ing with Larson doing adminis-

trative work to organize and pre-

pare the team prior to the event.

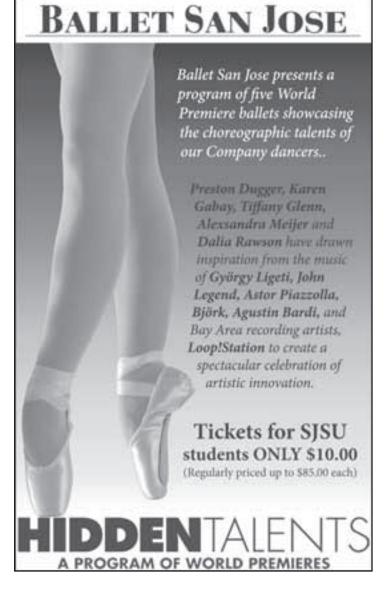
During the week, she supervised and contributed a helping hand to all of the candidates during the tournament.

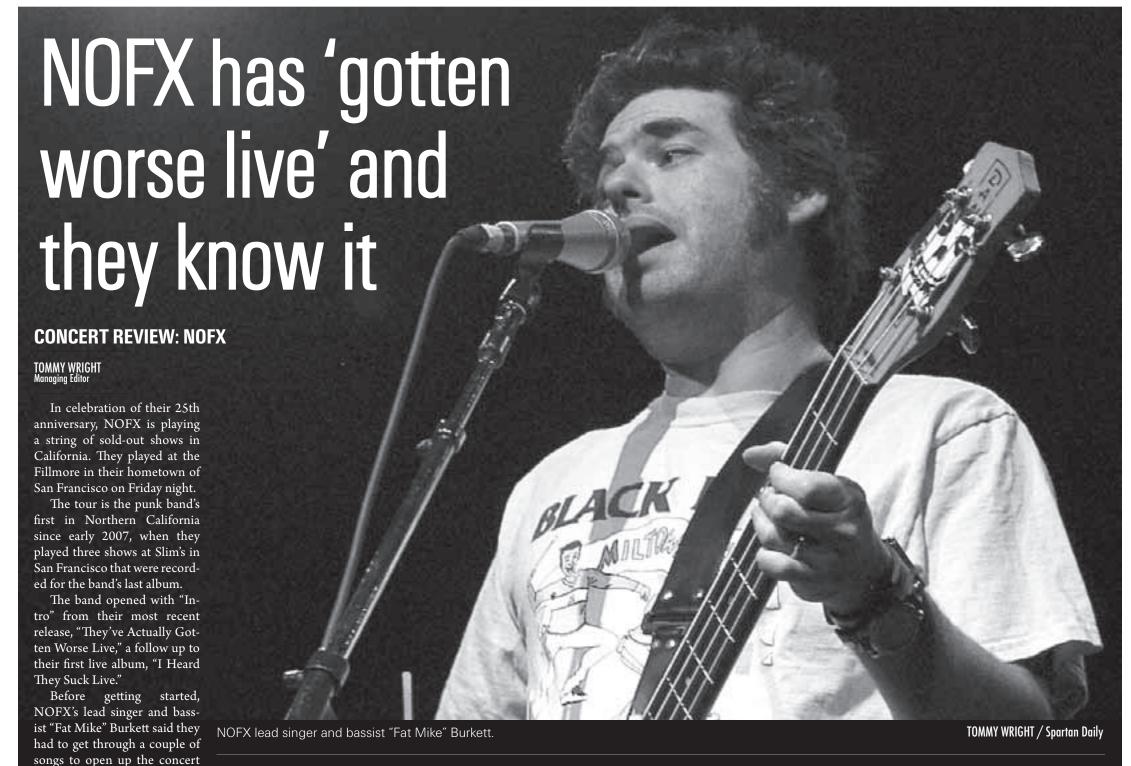
"You learn by doing," Hernandez said. "It was good to work from the bottom up. I understand what everyone is doing because I've done it so I can help them."

The team trained for about 64 hours during winter break at SJSU with representatives from Pebble Beach in preparation for the tournament. They were trained on everything from Pebble Beach history to golf

The students also contributed some of their Saturdays prior to the tournament where they went to Pebble Beach to learn their way around the courses and hospitality areas. They also took a crash course on golf cart driving.

"It's an honor to be here," said senior Shayna Berger. "I've never been so exhausted in my life, but I've never had so much fun in my life, it's a great experience to put on my resume."





The highlight of the show for me was "Drop the World," from the band's "Heavy Petting Zoo" album. Fat Mike said the song was written about two friends who died in a car accident. He said they were going to play the song to mix up the set for an audience member sing and play trumpet when who had been at the previous

the band played "My Heart shows on the tour. I could have done without "Punk in Drublic" album. He their eight songs in five minutes segment. They started doing this a few years ago and included it on their last live

album. I would have rather heard them play two regular songs instead of the eight short

The band played two new songs, one was a one-off song and the other is expected to be on their upcoming album. They have yet to release any information about the new album, but the song that is supposed to be on it is called "The Quitter."

The other new song was about the Fillmore.

"The Fillmore has been around for 30 years / The Fill-

more has curtains and chandeliers / The Fillmore has real expensive beers / But The Parkside gives us free cocaine.

"Playing on a stage that the Grateful Dead / Jammed terrible music lots of ears bled / I'm really glad that Jerry Garcia's dead / He died from mixing heroin with cocaine."

"I couldn't write lyrics for the third verse / I think it's because of some Fillmore curse / We're playing the Parkside tomorrow night / Because they give us free

The band came out for an encore and their final song was "Theme From a NOFX Album," complete with guitarist Eric Melvin playing his "beat up ac-

They finished off the night lip-syncing a song from the musical "Avenue Q," titled "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist."

The concert wasn't the best I've seen from the band, but it was better than when I saw them in Berkeley on the Rock Against Bush tour. Fat Mike injured his back prior to that show, and he performed the entire concert drugged up on painkillers while lying down on a couch.

Fat Mike seemed more sober than normal, but the band still had their fair share of mistakes. The band has two songs talking about how they only give 60 percent, so a few errors are to be expected. The show was what I expected and I enjoyed the per-

NOFX will be at the Catalyst in Santa Cruz tomorrow and will be back this summer on the Vans Warped Tour.

Delicious fusion leads to atypical happy-hour menu

DAN LU

You won't find Buffalo wings or nachos, but you will encounter a mix of Asian fusion and unique cocktails at Koji Sake Lounge. A short, brisk walk from campus leads to this unique lounge offering one of the best happy hours in the downtown area.

and after that they were going

to play some good, old songs.

each of the group's full-length

albums since lead guitarist,

trumpet player and backup vo-

calist "El Hefe" Aaron Abeyta

El Hefe had his chance to

is Yearning," off of the band's

also took over lead vocals for

the group's reggae cover of

Rancid's "Radio."

joined the band in 1991.

The set included songs from

The lounge is located at 48 S. First St. between Santa Clara and San Fernando streets. Happy hour runs Tuesday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. with cocktails and small plates at five bucks each while beer runs you three dollars.

Small appetizer plates are served on small, white china mak-

ing the colors of the food more vibrant. There are more than 10 items on the small plates menu, including vegetable tempura served with a ponzu sauce, grilled pita bread with an edamame hummus dip, garlic soy edamame and wasabi guacamole with chips. For the meat lovers, there is chicken karaage which is Japanese-style fried chicken, and beef skewers served with cucumbercarrot salad and calamari.

One of the highlights on the happy-hour menu is the pankocrusted calamari. Panko is Japanese bread crumbs, and it gives the calamari a crunchy exterior that goes well with their "dynamite dipping sauce," which is similar in taste to orange sauce at La Victoria. The sauce has a

chipotle-mayo taste with a possible hint of Sriracha sauce.

One encounter, and your taste buds will demand the dipping of edamame, vegetable tempura, chicken karaage and maybe a grilled pita bread in the sauce.

For dessert, mini cheesecakes are also on the happy-hour menu. They arrive on your table in small glasses, topped with berries and dosed with sake syrup. Their taste will remind you of a strawberry rum cake. The miniature desserts will cost you two dollars a piece.

Cocktail connoisseurs will find the drinks are labeled on the menu as "zenful." Most cocktails contain sake, a fermented Japanese alcoholic beverage. One example is their take on a

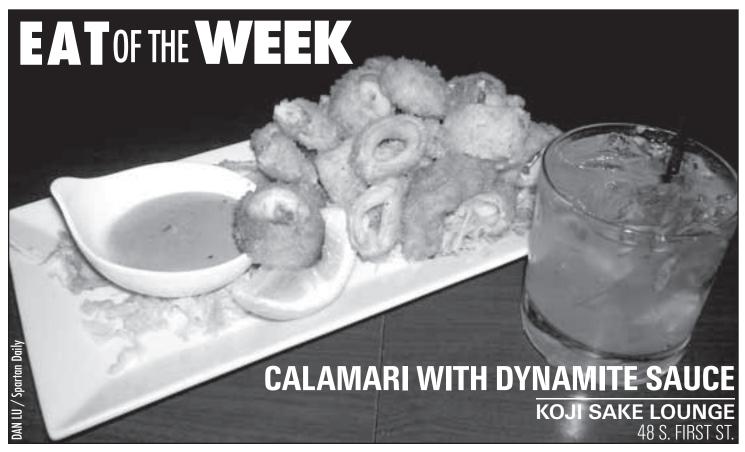
classic mojito, the "Sake-jito." It contains a mix of sake, mint, lime juice, simple syrup and is topped with soda water.

If you want to test your taste buds, on the wilder side, a "Bloody Geisha" dares happyhour patrons to try a mix of Shochu, bloody mary mix, salt, pepper, a cucumber slice and Sriracha hot sauce. A "Dragon Fire" is a twist on the "Bloody Geisha" but jalapeno-infused shochu is used instead. For a less risky choice, there is a full bar which includes bottled beer and well drinks.

The place accommodates large groups or couples with comfortable seating. Large couches or soft-cushion seats surround the ultra plush interior. Music from today's pop culture and down cepts reservations and is open tempo beats can be heard from its speakers.

On the first Friday of every month, live art shows take place from 6 to 9 p.m. in their Zen garden. Koji Sake Lounge acfrom 6 p.m. to as late as 2 a.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays. It's a short walk or a light rail stop away, so, just for the sake of it, check out Koji Sake Lounge and its happy hour.







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Bears drench Spartans with nine goals

MICHAEL LE ROY

After finishing 2-2 at the Stanford Invitational, the No. 7-ranked SJSU women's water polo team lost 9-4 to No. 6-ranked California at the Aquatic Center on Saturday.

After a scoreless first period, the Golden Bears scored two goals within two minutes of play in the second period. After the third goal was scored by the Bears, SJSU's Juliet Moss responded by scoring a goal with 34 seconds left on the clock. SJSU was down 3-1 at the end of the first half.

SJSU's Dani Curran closed the gap quickly in the third period by scoring on a penalty shot, bringing the game to 3-2. Bears' players Meghan Corso and Julie Oreglia scored two goals giving Cal a 5-2 lead.

Cal's lead did not go unanswered in the third period as SJSU's Kathryn Hannum and Adriana Vogt each scored a goal. Cal led by two going into the fourth period.

Despite a strong finish in the third period, the Spartans were shut down in the fourth period. With goals scored by Cal's Meghan Corso, Libby McLaren and Emily Csikos, the Bears won by five.

"I felt that we really didn't

shoot very well," said Spartan head coach Lou Tully.

"We had opportunities in there, with our 6-on-5, our power play, but we're just not putting the ball away, and were not shooting the ball well. That kind of got us buried a little bit and got us dug in a hole, and it was tough climbing out of that," he added.

Senior two-meter player Moss

"We played really good defense and then we kind of lost it a little bit," she said.

"We started finally putting our shots away when we started getting up," Moss added. "I think in the beginning of the game, we need to work on putting our shots in the cage, and not missing wide or over, and taking the good shot when (we) have it."

Vogt, a sophomore utility player, agreed that the team was too focused on defense.

"I think our biggest problem was that we got so concerned about defense that we kind of held back on offense," she said. "(Cal is) a counterattack team, so we had to obviously watch out for that."

With a record of 7-4, SJSU heads to Irvine next Saturday to play three games at the UC Irvine Invitational.

To prepare for the next game, Vogt said the Spartans need to



SJSU women's water polo head coach Lou Tully lectures his team after they fell behind 3-2 during the second quarter of the match against California on Saturday afternoon.

JAMES JEFFREY / Spartan Daily

work on their offense.

"I think sometimes we put it into set too fast, and we've talked

about this, because we know that Juliet (Moss) and Tanya (Torres) are such strong players, that some-

times we just focus on, 'Let's get them the ball," Vogt said. Vogt said the Spartans

should drive through more and have more patience on offense in their next game.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tomey names Malley new quarterbacks coach

STAFF REPORT

Terry Malley, the San Jose SaberCats offensive coordinator for the past nine years, was announced as a new assistant coach for the Spartans by head coach Dick Tomey on Friday.

Malley will take over the job formerly held by Marcus Arroyo, the Spartans' previous co-offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach. Arroyo left SJSU for a similar position at the University of Wyoming in December.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

With sophomore guard Adrian Oliver on the bench due to an ankle injury for the second straight game, SJSU (10-13) lost for the second time in a row, 74-66, to Idaho at Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals forced 17 turnovers and committed just nine of their own.

SOFTBALL

This past Wednesday's opening day game at UC Davis and Saturday and Sunday's Santa Clara Invitational tournament were postponed due to weather conditions. No makeup days have been announced.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Spartans (2-23) lost both

of their games this weekend at Boise State and Idaho, extending their losing streak to 10. Kelly Blair and Natalie White both scored a team-high 13 points against the Broncos at Taco Bell Arena on Friday as the Spartans fell 58-53.

On Sunday afternoon, the Spartans were outscored by 17 points in the second half and were defeated 64-41 by the Vandals at Cowan Spectrum.



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castaways
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49 Tofu base

12 To boot 13 Refinery waste

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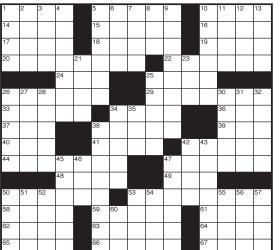
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42 Coalition 43 Devotion 45 High clouds 46 Ms. Merkel

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54 Fiesta shouts

4 Lay of the land 38 Like navel



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Wasting time with video games



JUSTIN PERRY Staff Writer

Televisions these days seem to be inevitably coupled with at least one video game system. Among my peers, the release of a new game holds precedence over other important events such as a political election.

The amount of time people spend playing video games now-adays is both mind boggling and absurd.

Several of my coworkers recently told me that they spend about four hours a day playing "Call of Duty." To put things into perspective, that is 28 hours a week, 1,456 hours a year or about 61 days a year.

I don't take issue with their "Call of Duty" tournaments, which generally involve large groups of friends getting together and having a good time. That can be a good social activity with numerous benefits.

Spending the equivalent of two months each year sitting in front of the TV, shooting virtual enemies by oneself is unforgivable.

This digital addiction is not exclusive to my age group, either.

I have one family member who spends entire weekends

playing antiquated PC role-playing games such as "Ultima V," and another who dropped out of UC Berkeley after spending two semesters in his dorm room playing video games for hours instead of attending his classes.

I cannot begin to understand why people want to relegate themselves to sitting in front of a screen while the world passes them by outside their windows.

And what do they gain from all of those hours of game play?

The next level.
A new virtual weapon.
A new cut scene.

This is not to say I am not guilty of video game addiction, I've certainly puffed and inhaled. I once let a pot of pasta boil down to mush because I forgot about it while playing "Jazz Jackrabbit 2." I saw the sunrise more than once after playing "Starcraft" all night.

In other words, nothing.

I regret every minute of it, however, and wish I had spent my time more wisely.

I gained absolutely nothing from all of those hours of game playing. And looking back, the most unproductive and generally unhappy time in my life was when I was playing video games.

Most people are quick to the defense when I criticize their video game playing.

They say "I like video games," or "They're fun, they make me happy."

That may be true, but when one looks back at his or her greatest accomplishments in life, I doubt getting the high score in "Street Fighter II" will make the list.

Video games are not necessarily bad. Playing "Rock Band" with friends or drunken "Mortal Kombat" matches can be great social activities. It all depends on how one uses games.

Spending the equivalent of two months each year sitting in front of the TV, shooting virtual enemies by oneself is unforgivable.

Eliminating them completely is not necessarily a solution, and with the millions of dollars generated every year from video game sales, they're not likely to disappear.

People need to be aware of the time they are spending with a controller in their hands.

Game play should be moderated the same way one moderates alcohol consumption so it does not become an addiction.

People need to set priorities, and playing video games should never be the highest.

It's OK if you don't make it to that next level. Your life won't be over. In fact, it will probably be much better.

Justin Perry is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Recalling the city's wasteful spending



JOHN HORNBERG Executive Editor

Mayor Chuck Reed recently told KCBS radio the city of San Jose faces a \$60 million budget deficit in the coming fiscal year. City services will be cut, and employees will more than likely be laid off.

And the recall of Councilwoman Madison Nguyen is not helping matters.

According to the mayor's statements to the radio station, the recall is expected to cost the city half a million dollars, and that's not factoring in what it would cost to run an election to fill the vacant council seat should Nguyen be recalled.

He could appoint her replacement, but has no intention of doing so, he said, more than likely because he, along with several other people with common sense, doesn't support the recall.

What makes the recall election so ridiculous is the possibility of another one to fill Nguyen's vacant seat should she be recalled. Her replacement would spend less than a year on council before having to prepare for a general election campaign.

Supporters of the recall point to a rise in crime and gang violence as a good reason for Nguyen's removal. But the comparison of Nguyen to crime rates is as ridiculous as comparing the rise in temperatures over the centuries to the decline in the number of pirates. The city's politicians have done everything in their power to



CARTY SEWILL / Spartan Daily

prevent the rise in crime with some recent success.

They also point to her work to obtain funds for renovating Municipal Stadium, the San Jose Mercury News stated, which is hardly a good reason for Nguyen's potential removal from office.

The issue of the recall boils down to Nguyen's choice to not support the naming of a stretch of Story Road "Little Saigon," an absurd reason to want someone out of office. The option of a recall should be used only when a politician is actively working against the public good.

And naming rights doesn't fall into that category.

She attempted to represent as many of her constituents as she could by suggesting names like Saigon Business District and Vietnamese Business District.

It is important to remember that not everyone endorsed the name Little Saigon, among them the San Jose Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which represents a sizeable portion of the people in Nguyen's district, too. It's a point conveniently lost on the recall supporters.

The recall attempt feels more like an act of revenge for a petty action that carries no significance to most of the city. It would have made more sense to wait until 2010 to challenge Nguyen. At least the city wouldn't be wasting any additional money, and a formal campaign could be mounted instead of a ragtag recall election that is both senseless and costly for everyone.

To force a recall election over the name of a patch of asphalt is unconscionable in these budget circumstances. It's a waste of the city's resources, which could be better used to maintain civil services and jobs.

The city council lost countless hours when it could have been working to solve the city's budget problems instead of debating the official name of a negligible section of asphalt.

But apparently, based on the upcoming recall election, we haven't spent enough time on it.

John Hornberg is the Spartan Daily executive editor.

APPEARING EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Spartan Daily online editor Jon Xavier takes a look at the Iraq War and why he thinks the United States is losing sight of it.

Visit www.theSpartanDaily.com to check it out.

Marriage means forever, not until next Tuesday



SAMANTHA RIVERA Staff Writer

I think popular culture these days has turned marriage into a joke.

I mean, what happened to "till death do us part"?

People like Britney Spears and her ex-husband Jason Alexander, who wed for only 55 hours, were quoted saying that their reason behind getting married was they wanted "to do something wild and crazy. Let's go get married for the hell of it."

Getting married seems to be a popular source of entertainment these days, with celebrities exchanging wedding vows with a new person every couple of years and a growing urge to watch so-called "reality" TV shows such as "The Bachelor," "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire" and "Average Joe."

Our society provides a gateway to failure by publicizing people like Jennifer Lopez who have been married and engaged multiple times.

It's all about personal morals and standards. Some people think marriage is a game they play to win something. Once they win or lose, they quit.

Most are taught that you are supposed to take marriage seriously, because it should only happen once. But many don't do that anymore.

involved with would fully commit to me for like I want and deserve.

I think marriage is sp and should be thought of the state of

When life gets hard, they go for the next one.

Men do this mainly because they can. Society condones it.

Whereas, a woman is just considered used, and no guy wants something someone else already had.

There are people who still take marriage seriously, but they are fading.

Maybe they weren't taught that marriage is serious and sacred, so be careful who you marry.

Some guys get married knowing they're going to let the gal go after he gets what he wants.

And society's OK with it. It justifies it by saying the girl should've known how to

keep him forever.

My parents have been married for 23 years and are still going strong. I know a lot of couples, even some of my family, who have had really messy divorces. With that said, they are not the only ones who suffer, especially if there are children involved.

I think that if you love someone, and expect to do nothing less than spend the rest of your life being with that person, then you do not have any business getting divorced.

I do understand that there are always circumstances, like one partner cheats or maybe falls out of love.

But my opinion remains that if you thought there was any chance that you might not feel the same forever, you have no business being married.

Most are taught that you are supposed to take marriage seriously, because it should only happen once. But many don't do that anymore. When life gets hard, they go for the next one.

I recently ended a fouryear relationship because I didn't think the man I was involved with would ever fully commit to me forever like I want and deserve.

I think marriage is special and should be thought of as the most rewarding accomplishment two people in love could have.

These days, people take marriage as something that can be easily reversed if it fails.

I think they shouldn't even allow people to get a divorce unless there are specific grounds, like one person turned gay or cheated.

I'm just saying personally, I will not walk down the aisle to meet a man I didn't plan to wake up next to every single day.

Samantha Rivera is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

DID YOU KNOW...

Kauai's Mount Waialeale is one of the wettest spots on earth? At 5,148 feet high, Mount Waialeale (Hawaiian for "rippling water") averages more than 460 inches of rain a year. A few miles away, the average rainfall is just 10 inches a year.

— Britannica Online Encyclopedia

PAGE 6 SPARTAN DAILY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009

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