

'Cheech' ready for playoffs P.7

Wing Jonathan Cheechoo talks about his life and time with San Jose.

Prepared, just in case P.6

UPD sets out plan to make sure a shooting like the one at Virginia Tech doesn't happen at SJSU.

Give Oakland some love P.9

Never mind the high crime, the city deserves more respect from people.

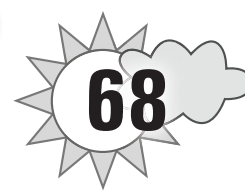
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FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
75	79	84	84

Not all tea parties ...

PROTEST

A local politician speaks to a crowd of thousands of anti-tax protesters at the Tax Day Tea Party held in the Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose on Wednesday.

STEFAN ARMIJO / Spartan Daily



... happen in Boston

Protesters gather in San Jose and across country to object to high taxes, government spending

BUDGET CUTS

Music department feels sting of cutbacks

ANDREA MUNIZ
Staff Writer

A March 6 message released by SJSU president Jon Whitmore stated that SJSU is expected to cut enrollment by more than 9 percent, from approximately 32,750 students to 29,750 students.

The cause of the impact was brought on by the California State University system fiscal crisis, according to the SJSU student information for admissions Web site.

The music department, which has 25 different instrumental positions and four voice classifications to fill, is struggling to make sure that the guidelines implemented for incoming Fall 2009 students won't set back their program.

"We're very similar to sports," said Edward Harris, director of the school of music and dance. "You need all of the positions. They've got to go out and recruit for very specific things. It's the same thing with music. We need to have an oboist, we need to have bassoonists ... so it's more complicated than other programs, in that we have certain programmatic needs

See **MUSIC**, page 2

Opponents of the Tax Day Tea Party made their presence known at the demonstration held in Plaza de Cesar Chavez on Wednesday.

THE SPARTAN DAILY.COMSports Blog:
www.spartandailysports.wordpress.comPhoto Blog:
www.spartandailyphoto.wordpress.comNews Blog:
www.spartandailynews.wordpress.com**NEWS**

Video: Have a look at the "Tax Day Tea Party" protest at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose on Wednesday.

SPORTS

Check out an audio slideshow of the San Jose Sharks preparing for their playoff series against the Anaheim Ducks.

PHOTO BLOG

See an audio slideshow by photographer Michelle Terris of SJSU lecturer Craig Lore, who is training for the Boston Marathon.

View a slideshow of the "Tax Day Tea Party" in Downtown San Jose.

NEWS BLOG

One would not expect a doughnut to be named "Brain Hemorrhage" or "Split Personality" except at a place called Psycho Donuts.

JULIANNE SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

Police in riot gear and signs with "Stop the Bailout" written in magic marker were some of the sights at yesterday's protest in Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose on Wednesday.

More than 2,000 people gathered to participate in a "Tax Day Tea Party," one of many to occur throughout the United States.

The event, which was termed as "a revolt against yesterday's tax deadline," was held at the plaza.

The protesters carried signs such as "Taxed enough already"

and "Less taxes = more freedom." They were surrounded by more than 100 people who disagreed with their message and carried other signs that read "No human is illegal" and "Respect all workers."

Exchanges between the opposing forces led to heated verbal attacks, with Tax Day protesters shouting "Go back to Mexico," "Pay your taxes" and "Build a bigger wall" at the opposing crowd.

Maria Hernandez, a senior sociology major, said some students decided to counter the protest. She said a group marched from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on campus to the park.

Hernandez said she was coun-

ter-protesting the event because the messages from the Tax Day demonstrators were hypocritical.

"These people are saying we want military, we never want the troops to come home," she said. "Yet they don't want to pay for it."

Not funding wars, she said, would reduce the federal budget deficit.

Leigh Casey, a 37-year-old mother who attended the event with her two children, said she traveled from Sacramento to San Jose to protest.

"I have a passion for what is

See **TEA PARTY**, page 3**VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS**

After two years, memory of tragedy lingers

Students and faculty mark second anniversary of Virginia Tech shootings

JESSICA AYALA
Staff Writer

Grief and memories will forever remain with us for the victims who lost their lives at Virginia Tech University and Columbine High School.

"I think these kind of things are always sad and a reminder of them brings up that sadness, regardless if you knew anybody or not," said SJSU counselor Wiggy Sivertsen.

Today is the two-year anniversary of the massacre in which 32 students and faculty members lost their lives at Virginia Tech University.

"I think it's an opportunity, on the anniversary, to reflect on what steps we can take as a society and especially in our educational system to reach out to people who have mental illness or are really in a stressful period of time and make sure that they have alternative ways to cope with the issues that they're facing," said SJSU student Heather Kilby, a senior nursing major.

Melanie Farley, a senior mar-

See **VA TECH**, page 2

A girl lays a signed hat on a stone memorial for one of the shooting victims, on the Drill Field during a visit to the Virginia Tech campus Sunday, April 22, 2007, in Blacksburg, Va.

"I think it's an opportunity, on the anniversary, ... to reach out to people who have mental illness."

HEATHER KILBY
senior nursing major

"I remember them being reluctant ... just because they were petrified by what they heard."

ARMANDO MORENO
junior marketing major

"It sounds like they could have prevented it, but they didn't, which makes it even more tragic."

JACOB ORTH
junior business administration major

SPARTA GUIDE

16 Today

Akbayan of SJSU
General meeting.
4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Almaden Room of the Student Union. Contact Justin Lacap at j_lacap@yahoo.com

Meditation Group
5 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Contact Harrison at hhaarrriissoon@gmail.com

Do You Have Free Will When It Comes to Money?

Kay Yut Chen, principle scientist at Hewlett-Packard, provides a unique opportunity to see how experimental economics can illuminate our understanding of social interaction. 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 225. Contact John Estill at John.Estill@sjsu.edu

Bible Study

"Purpose Driven Life." A2 Christian Fellowship hosts a presentation and discussion. 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room of the Student Union. Contact Justin Foon at jfoon1@yahoo.com

17 Tomorrow

Overcoming Stress
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. Contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

18 Saturday

Learn How to Make Handmade Books
Free workshop limited to 24 participants on a first-come basis. 2 to 4 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 225/229. Contact Jone Manoogian at artshowcurator100@yahoo.com

20 Monday

Don Edwards Lecture
California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi in conversation with SJSU Professor and NBC 11 Political Analyst Larry Gerston. Free. 7 p.m. in Morris Dailey Auditorium. Contact Terry Christensen at Terry.Christensen@sjsu.edu

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

Pregnancy Counseling
Pregnant? Confused? Need Support? Peer counseling is available every Monday. 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Guadalupe Room of the Student Union and 1 to 3 p.m. in Hugh Gillis Hall, Room 255. For more information, call 376-1233.

21 Tuesday

Spartan Smart Cart
Fresh fruit and veggies. 10:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Clark Hall, rain or shine. Contact Luisa Garrett at luisa@postalmodern.com

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

MUSIC

Department objects to regional restrictions on admissions

Continued from page 1

that other areas don't have."

Alex Upegui, a senior music major, said that the impact on going to make it more difficult for new music students to be admitted. He is from Cathedral City, which is near Palm Springs.

"They probably wouldn't

have looked much at me," he said. "I probably wouldn't have gotten in."

SJSU did not offer admission to any freshmen who attended a high school outside of Santa Clara County and applied after Nov. 20, according to the SJSU student information admissions Web site.

All Santa Clara County residents, including upper-division transfer students and high

school students, who applied by Nov. 30 and met California State University system eligibility requirements, will be accepted into SJSU for Fall 2009.

The top 13 percent, about 225 students, of upper-division transfer students who reside outside of Santa Clara County will be accepted based on their academic performance, according to the SJSU student information Web site.

The new emphasis on accepting mainly local students into SJSU is what Professor Gwen Mok, keyboard studies area director, said the music department is upset about.

"Out of all of my 22 students, only two of them really fit into that category," Mok said. "I realized then that it would have a catastrophic affect on my department alone."

Mok said music students come from all over the country to work with some of the faculty members in the department, and talented individuals will have to be turned away because they don't meet the guidelines for acceptance into the school.

"We only have 25 percent of our total students from Santa Clara County," she said. "I feel for San Jose State University. We have one of the strongest departments of music in all of the CSUs. It should be the pride and joy of this university and we should be allowed to flourish under different admissions policies."

SJSU President Jon Whitmore said he is aware of the problems that the music department faces with these guidelines.

"The music department needs specialist students who play the oboe or the violin, and

there aren't enough that apply from Santa Clara County to fill their needs," he said in a news conference with student media. "So we're going to have to look at that department and say, 'How has this harmed you and what can we do in the future?'"

Whitmore said that there are future plans to tailor the policy so that students from outside of Santa Clara County will be admitted into the programs, but it will take about a year to roll out.

"There was not time to do that kind of a sophisticated development of an impact plan for this fall given the short notice that we had," he said. "So that's why I think in the long run, balance will be there and everything, but for one year it's going to be a bump."

One year is all it takes to ruin the reputation of the music department, according to Harris, director of music and dance.

"I think we made our displeasure known, that we feel it takes decades to build a program, it can take one bad year to either ruin it or set it back," Harris said. "We thought this could be a ruin year for us. I don't think they understand how drastically this decision would impact our particular program."



A classroom in the Music Building, full of empty chairs and untouched keyboards on Wednesday.

STEFAN ARMIJO / Spartan Daily

Students discuss morality of death penalty at Union

JESSICA AYALA
Staff Writer

Guest speakers shared their thoughts on the justice system Wednesday night in the Student Union's Costanoan room as they waited for a telephone call from an inmate on death row.

The event, sponsored by a campaign to end the death penalty, had an audience of about 46, ranging from the young to the old.

The inmate, Kevin Cooper, was convicted in 1985 for the murders of Douglas and Peggy Ryen, their 10-year-old daughter and a young house guest in San Bernardino, Calif. He was then sentenced to the death penalty in 2004, but after his defense team found new evidence that could possibly support his claim that he was framed for the murder, the case was sent back to a federal district court.

Cooper is currently an inmate at San Quentin State Prison. During the event, he made three 15-minute calls, and had the opportunity to explain why he feels the death penalty should be banned. Cooper added that it's the people's tax money that

goes toward killing inmates.

"If you don't like these people killing other human being in your name, and you're not doing something about it, shame on you," Cooper said.

The audience was also allowed to ask Cooper questions.

One audience member asked what the public could do to help Cooper. His response was for the public to get educated on the justice system.

Pat Foley, who is an organizer for the campaign, said she has always been against the death penalty.

"We believe that there are five reasons to be against the death penalty," she said. "The death penalty is racist. It impacts the poor. There are not rich people on death row — if they tend to get convicted, they get a reversal appeal. It's a cruel and unusual punishment, and it kills the innocent."

Juanita Castillo, a senior nursing major who was part of putting the event together, said that she has been taught as part of her major that nurses are not allowed to participate in the death penalty.

"It's a controversial topic, but it's also something that our cli-

ents deal with, our friends might deal with," she said.

Jack Bryson, father of the two friends and brothers who were with Oscar Grant, the 22-year-old victim who was shot at the Oakland's Fruitvale BART station, was also a guest speaker.

Grant's incident sparked controversy last New Year's Eve after cell phone video footage was released of a BART police officer allegedly shooting him.

Bryson said that the justice system needs to be improved.

"This system has been built on lies, and lies, and lies," Bryson said.

Bryson added that although he knows there are good officers, it's hard to trust them because of some of their colleagues' actions.

David Thompson, a senior anthropology major, agreed with Bryson on how the system tends to be.

"I am certain that the system is biased a lot of the time," Thompson said.

Sevgi Erdengiz, a senior justice studies major, said that before she attended the event, she was for the death penalty, but after hearing what inmates go through, she is wavering on her stance.



Jack Bryson, father of the brothers Oscar and Jonathan Grant, who were with Oscar Grant, at the Student Union on Tuesday.

VA TECH

Anniversary of Columbine shooting also approaching

Continued from page 1

ketting major, said that it's frightening that a tragic event like this could happen at any college.

"It makes me really sad to hear and remember, because you don't want it to happen to anybody else, especially people that you know," Farley said. "I could only imagine what people that were there went through, but part of me is excited that we're remembering it so that we can all be safe later on and hopefully prepare ourselves and understand what we need to do if an occurrence like that happens."

Bryan Coggins, a junior finance major, said these tragic events have brought awareness to what could happen on campus.

"These are terrible things that happened," Coggins said. "I couldn't imagine being in class and having something like that happening."

Another shooting that had an impact on the nation was the Columbine High School shooting that left 12 students and one faculty dead by two teenage boys.

This shooting, which occurred on April 20, 1999, left the nation with fear toward their children's safety. Armando Moreno, a junior marketing major who recalled the event, said it had an impact on his parents.

"I remember them being reluctant toward going to school just because they were petrified by what they heard," Moreno said. "It's always that mentality that adheres to peoples' mind. The shock where emotions kind of succumb people to fully comprehend, but I know they were deeply, deeply devastated."

Other SJSU students, like Jacob Orth, a junior business administration major, question how a tragic event could occur when these students raised red flags.

"The guy who did it had a

lot of signs and red flags that I heard teachers and faculty kind of ignored and it sounds like they could have prevented it, but they didn't, which makes it even more tragic," Orth said.

Sivertsen said she has had numerous students tell her that they were harassed when they were younger, but parents simply told

them to walk away or ignore the comments.

"Parents need to really understand that when people say and do the kind of things that were said to them that they were very painful," said Sivertsen. "These kids didn't just all of a sudden turn all this hostility loose on the school, because it seems like a lot."

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RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

Lecturer will run in the Boston Marathon, dedicates experience to ill friend

SAMANTHA PATTERSON
Staff Writer

An SJSU lecturer is planning to run more than 50 miles in the span of a week to help out a friend.

Craig Lore, an SJSU English lecturer, will participate in the Boston Marathon on April 20, and hit the road again to run in the Big Sur International Marathon in Carmel, six days later.

Both races are dedicated to his close friend who has been diagnosed with Crohn's disease — an inflammation of the small and large intestines.

"I thought, 'What can I do for my friend,'" Lore said. "You feel so helpless when you know somebody can use your help and all you can say is 'I hope you get better.'"

This will be Lore's first time running two consecutive marathons a week apart.

"You need a lot a recovery time," Lore said. "I will have five days of rest in between, but my goal for Big Sur is not to race the race, but to enjoy the race."

Lore started running after graduate school, where he received a master's degree in English from SJSU in 2000. He said he decided to start running to get into shape. He entered a race where he met like-minded people and started running with them.

"After a while, I found out, just like a lot of people do, that running became more than just something to do to get fit," Lore said. "Suddenly, it was something I had to do. People talk about a runner's high. A lot of people never actually get that, but at one point I remember actually feeling that I needed to go for a run and thought, 'You know, I think I'm hooked on this.'"

His first race was the Hunting Hollow, a 10-kilometer race where he met the running partners whom he still runs with today.

The Hunting Hollow is a race in Gil-

roy that goes up a dirt trail 6.2 miles, turns around and comes back, he said.

"One of the people I was running with at the time, his name was Chuck," Lore said. "He was 68 years old, and was like, 'I'm going to enter this 10K. I thought if Chuck can run a 10K, then I can run a 10K. So I did.'"

A lot of the people Lore met, and runs with today, are part of a group called the South Valley Running Club. They run in Morgan Hill and Gilroy once a week, usually on Saturdays, he said.

After running with people and listening to the different races they had ran in, Lore decided to look into marathons and made the decision to give them a try.

Lore said he trains by himself three to four times a week on runs that range from three to 12 miles.

"The weekends are when I do my longer runs, and I run with people," Lore said. "But I don't think I could run with people every day. Sometimes I just want to be by myself."

The California International Marathon was Lore's first. The race starts in Folsom and runs to the State Capitol building in Sacramento. Five weeks before the race, he felt a sharp knee pain and went to a sports physician for X-rays.

"There was no damage to the knee," Lore said. "The physician said, 'What's the worst thing that can happen if you run the marathon,' and I said, 'Well, I guess I'll have to stop.' So I ran, but I decided three days before the marathon. I hadn't been running for about five weeks."

He finished the marathon.

"I did one half marathon as a training one," Lore said. "You have a training program, it's not like you decide, 'Hey, I'm going to go run a marathon,' and sign up the next day."

Lore said he has finished nine marathons. He finished with his best time of 3:31 at the San Diego Rock n' Roll Marathon in 2004, which qualified him for Boston Marathon the first time he went.

He said he does not usually run to beat a personal time.

"Sometimes it's more fun just to see what happens and to run and feel comfortable," Lore said. "But when you're training for Boston you have to qualify. In general, I have a really vague goal in mind, but mostly it is to finish."

To qualify for Boston, he explained, there is a gender and age category that has a set qualifying time. This year, he will compete in the male 55-59 age group

that has a qualifying time of 3:45.

"I benefited from advancing to another age category," Lore said. "When you're a runner, that's the only time you enjoy getting older. Every five years you get bumped up into another category, and so it's like you're competing with different people."

Lore is 56 years old and qualified for the Boston Marathon at the California International Marathon with a time of 3:44:17.

"I think it's pretty awesome," said Michelle Dictor, a freshman nursing major. "The fact that he's 56 and running two marathons, that's pretty awesome."

When asked his favorite race, Lore said nothing compares to Boston.

In the Boston Marathon, Lore said the runners left in the morning and went to a small town called Hopkinton. It's called a point-to-point race, which started from the city of Hopkinton in a straight line through many small towns in Massachusetts until the runners arrive in Downtown Boston. There was an estimate of 500,000 to 750,000 people lining the course from the beginning to the end, he said.

"People are cheering you on and they don't even know who you are," Lore said. "The coolest part, there is a women's college, called Wellesley College, about at the halfway point, and they are very famous for cheering on the runners. You can hear them screaming from about

a mile away and you go, 'Oh that's the women from Wellesley College.'"

Lore said most people don't run beyond 20 miles in training. When people get to the 20-mile point of a race, then they're in new territory, he said.

"There is more to running a marathon than just being prepared for it," Lore said. "You have to prepare, you have to get the mileage in, and your long runs in on the weekend. But at a certain point, all the physical preparation goes out the window and you just have to say, 'I'm not going to quit.'"

Lore has been collecting pledges of 10 cents a mile for both races, which are a combined distance of 52.4 miles.

Boston is a chipped time race where Lore will have an electric chip in his shoe. At the starting line there is a pad he will cross, registering that he has started the race. Every five kilometers there is a pad that will register his time at that point of the race.

"It will show up on the Web page for Boston," Lore said. "People can keep track and make sure they are getting their 10 cents worth."

After both marathons, Lore will be gearing up for a couple more races: the Hunting Hollow 10K in June and the Tahoe Rim Trail 50K in July.

"I think it's admirable," said Stephanie Chan, a senior international business major. "He is definitely setting an example for students."

Craig Lore, lecturer of English.

MICHELLE TERRIS / Spartan Daily



Marathon runner and English lecturer Craig Lore prepares for the Boston Marathon, in which he will participate on April 20. He is dedicating this race to a friend who has Crohn's disease. For every mile he runs he is asking for 10 cents.

MICHELLE TERRIS / Spartan Daily

TEA PARTY | 'I oppose taxation entirely,' protester says

Continued from page 1

happening to our country," she said. "Taxes are out of control and we got a government lying to us about they're doing."

Speakers included Melanie Morgan from radio station

KSFO 560 AM and Tim Morgan of Republican National Committee. Protesters were shouting "No more abortions" through megaphones while people carried signs such as "Stop out of control taxes" and "Hail Obama king of fools."

Eric Weber, a senior economics major at SJSU, said he was

protesting to reduce government spending and to reduce taxation.

"I oppose taxation entirely," he said. "I oppose almost anything the government does except establishing and maintaining law."

Luis Guerrero, a junior chemistry major, said he agreed with those opposing the event after walking by the protesters.

"I support (the signs) that no human being is illegal, respect all workers," he said.

Police in riot gear tried to disperse the people opposing the Tax Day protesters near the stage.

Tax protesters and their opponents clashed at the Tax Day Tea Party held in Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose on Wednesday.

STEFAN ARMIJO / Spartan Daily

The speakers stopped around 5:40 p.m. Pro-American songs such as Lee Greenwood's "I'm Proud to be an American" followed as protesters left the middle of the park to march around its perimeter.

According to the Tax Day Tea Party Web site, the rallies were a grass-roots effort organized by Smart Girl Politics, Top Conservatives on Twitter and the Don'tGo Movement.

Hank Drew contributed to this report.

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Speaker suggests people could create nations on high seas

Friedman tells students permanently living at sea a possibility

MICHAEL LE ROY
Staff Writer

Imagine being able to start your own country with land prices cheaper per square foot than homes in Sunnyvale — on the ocean. That's just what Patri Friedman, the executive director of the Seasteading Institute, said will be possible in a talk at SJSU's Engineering building on Monday.

Friedman, who is the grandson of Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, and a former engineer for Google, quit his job to pursue his goal of making it possible to live permanently on the ocean. Friedman helped create the Seasteading Institute to create a viable way to live on the ocean. Peter Thiel, the co-founder of PayPal, gave the institute \$500,000 to get started.

Christina Hoang, a sophomore accounting major, said she believed the idea is feasible, but was skeptical about living on the ocean.

"It's an interesting idea, but I am not sure if society is ready for something like that," she said.

Hoang said living on the ocean is not something in which she is interested.

"It would be weird to be just out in the open water," she said.

Friedman cited problems with the current U.S. government as reasons to start new nations on the ocean. Friedman reminded the audience that the U.S. has the highest prison population in the world, and 36 percent of the nation's gross domestic product is government spending.

Friedman asked the audience to raise their hands if they had broken a law in the past year. The crowd chuckled as almost everyone in the audience of more than 40 people raised their hands.

"To me, when you have such disconnect between what is commonly accepted and what is legal, it's bad for the moral fiber of society over time," Friedman said.

Living on the ocean would allow cities to rapidly change, Friedman said. The structures proposed by the Seasteading Institute look like a mix of a hotel and oil platform.

"What happens if we build cities so that you can detach and rearrange buildings and city blocks so that you can leave your country without leaving your house?" Friedman asked.

Friedman said conflicts can easily be solved when people, cities and nations can just move away.

"Last year when Georgia and Russia had that spat, Georgia could have been a 1,000 miles



Courtesy of Felix Ling
Patri Friedman

away from Russia in a week. That's not a made up number — that's how fast our engineers say they could move," he said.

Alexander O'Connor, a junior economics major, said the ability to move around and have the freedom of being able to go where he wants is a reason why he would consider living on the ocean.

Isak Sky, the co-treasurer of SJSU's economics club, said he discovered Friedman on the Internet and invited him to speak at SJSU.

"I basically read a lot of blogs and one of them was Patri's blog. I just saw he was doing a bunch of talks on the East Coast, so I just shot him an e-mail," he said.

The Seasteading Institute is still in the design and planning phase and Friedman said that within 50 years people will be permanently living on the ocean.

Program helps students in foster care apply for college

MERRIL GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Kanisha Green, a sophomore social work major, was in the foster care system until two years ago, when she graduated from McClymonds High School in Oakland, and came to SJSU.

"Nobody really helped me apply to colleges," Green said. "I said, 'the first college that accepts me, I'm just going to go.' I didn't research it, and I had never been to the campus. I had never been to San Jose. I thought San Jose was far."

She said she came to campus in the summer of 2007 to meet with Kahlila Liverpool, education coordinator of SJSU's Connect, Motivate, Educate, or CME, Society. She saw the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue and knew she would fit in on campus.

The society is a network-based organization on campus that helps students who are in foster care, or have recently come out of the foster care system, to succeed in college.

"We provide support for people transitioning to campus from foster care," said Connie Hernandez Robbins, director of the society.

"A lot of times in foster care, students don't always have parents going through and checking for deadlines they need to meet before getting enrolled in a campus," Robbins said. "What we do is contact youth to participate and identify what they need to do: 'Do you know about

the March 2 deadline? Do you have your application completed? Did you get your transcripts done?' All the stuff that would normally be done by family, we do," she added.

A recent report from the California State University Office of the Chancellor said there are currently 493 foster youths participating in programs at CSUs across the state. According to the report, the number of students participating in programs has more than doubled from the 2006-2007 school year.

One of the first foster youth programs in the nation was founded at Cal State Fullerton in 1998, according to the report.

The society was founded on the SJSU campus in the summer of 2005, and recruited its first students that fall. There are 45 students at SJSU who are a part of the society. The program differs from the other 11 CSU programs because it is network-based, and does not give out scholarships, Robbins said.

The society helps students try to find scholarships, obtain leadership opportunities and access funds from organizations that support foster students, but the CME society does not directly fund students. Other CSU campuses may only offer 10-15 scholarships that students must apply for, but at CME, all foster youth have equal access to the support and guidance of the program, Robbins said.

"The program seems really helpful for foster students," said Mildred Garcia, a freshman child and adolescent development

major. "I had a college counselor in high school, and my parents helped me a lot too, but I still think doing all the paperwork and getting everything figured out for college is hard. I can't imagine not having their help."

While many CSU programs and campuses have taken steps to accommodate and support foster care youth, there are still many more things that can be done, Robbins said.

Assembly Bill 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, was introduced to the state in December by Assemblyman Jim Beall and Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass. The bill would extend the support given to foster care youth until age 21, instead of the current age 18. The bill would take advantage of federal funds from the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

In a letter to Assembly member Jim Beall, D-San Jose, Robbins wrote, "continuing assistance to foster youth to age 21 supports their successful transition to adulthood and by ensuring a safe place to live, educational and employment assistance and stable young adulthood for some of our most vulnerable young people."

The society's educational goals extend beyond SJSU students. June 24-27, the society will be offering its third annual, four-day early academic planning camp for eighth and ninth graders. The goal is to prepare students for high school and give them an idea of what college life is like.

CAMPUSIMAGES



Leaves, stems and palm fronds litter the ground below as the palm trees lined along Paseo de Cesar Chavez are sawed and trimmed on Tuesday morning.

KIRSTEN AGUILAR / Spartan Daily

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MUSIC REVIEW: LEVEL 12

Local band takes it back to the glory days of the '90s

JUSTIN PERRY
Staff Writer

For a while now, I've been saying that rock music died in the '90s. Although this is clearly an exaggeration on my part, it is safe to say that the music of the '90s, to a certain degree, died with the decade.

I am a child of the 1990s. I grew up watching Nickelodeon and listening to KOMA on my cheap-o boombox, back when the sounds of Sevendust, Sprung Monkey and Placebo flowed through the airwaves. The "good old days," so to speak.

This is why I get excited and nostalgic whenever a new band that is still playing the sounds of my favorite decade comes on the scene. Bay Area metal band Level 12 is one of those bands.

Good musicians master a specific style, and at the same time add their own unique characteristics.

The members of Level 12 clearly understand the music of the '90s, but add enough of their own uniqueness to their sound to remain fresh and interesting.

Their five-song, self-titled EP, which is scheduled for release this summer, is quite impressive.

Their music brings you right back to the days when you ate raspberry Pop-Tarts and your biggest priority was keeping track of the number of eight-ball slammers you had in your collection.

The EP starts off with a heavy, dissonant track called

"Sandbox," and features the vocal talents of lead singer Freddie La Vell.

He carries you through a full range of vocal styles, from punctuated screams to smoother-sounding verses. The song even has splashes of vocal harmony.

"Level Ground," the next track on the EP, clearly pays homage to Korn, with angry rhythmic singing and high-pitched, fast-tremolo guitar sounds.

The track also features Josh Sol on percussion. A metal band with a percussionist? Yes. It's true, and syncopated sounds of bongos, congas and djembe add an earthy, organic element to the heavy guitars and screaming vocals.

"Tainted Innocence," the fourth track on the EP, starts with a goofy heavyweight boxing intro, which initially comes off as cheesy.

This track shows that the band doesn't take itself too seriously, giving the EP a lighter, less pretentious feel.

The EP offers a lot of variety and a good range of sounds, which is hard to imagine with only five songs.

They manage to move from heavy dissonant guitars and screaming vocals to lighter more lyrical tunes and back again in a short amount of time.

Although I don't think Level 12 will be the next Tool or Incubus, they are a solid metal band with a '90s sound.

I would definitely go get drunk and rock out at their next show.



Courtesy of Level 12

(Above) Level 12 during a live performance.



(Below) Group shot of Level 12. From left: Mr. Anderson, Bo, Ron, Freddie La Vell, Josh Sol, Carl van Nasty.

Belgium brings on the bold

JUSTIN PERRY
Staff Writer

If you read my last "Drink of the Week," you know I have a penchant for Belgian beer, and this next beer is no exception. Brasserie Dupont's Saison Dupont is by far one of the most stunning beers I've ever had the pleasure of drinking.

Men's Journal named Saison Dupont "The best beer in the world" in their July 2005 issue.

I haven't personally tried every beer in the world yet, so I can't completely back up their statement, but this beer certainly makes my short list.

Before I even popped the cork, I was put at ease with the cheerful emerald bottle and checkerboard label.

This beer is tricky to pour, as it has a lively head. If you're not careful, the creamy, snow-white foam can get out of control.

Saison Dupont also retains its head for a long time, so as with most beers, it is best to tilt the glass and pour slowly.

There is a great deal of flavor and aroma in the head, though.

At most of the bars I visit, bartenders seem to want to avoid this foamy mass, but with Saison, I would definitely encourage it.

The beer has a very complex and somewhat pungent aroma. The malty, earthy smell, somewhat reminiscent of wet grain, may put some people off. But don't worry, the beer certainly doesn't taste like a bale of alfalfa.

This light, blond-colored brew has a beautifully bright and snappy flavor, with dry, earthy undertones.

The beer has a subtle sweetness and hints of citrus.

Saison Dupont has a slightly bitter finish, much like a piece of freshly baked rye bread.

DRINK OF THE WEEK

SAISON DUPONT

BEVMO

JUSTIN PERRY / Spartan Daily

The warm yet refreshing taste of the beer compliments hearty foods like sausage and other grilled meats and vegetables.

The unique flavor of the yeast is very present in this beer. This gives the beer a lovely handmade aesthetic, and is a strong testament to the Hainaut region where it is brewed.

This rural, French-speaking part of Belgium is home to many grain farms, so naturally, a lot of beer has been brewed there.

Traditionally, Saison, which means "season" in French, was brewed in the many farmhouses of the region and was used to quench the thirst of the migrant farmworkers

who tilled the land and grew the grain, according to globalbeer.com.

According to the Web site of Vanberg & DeWulf, the company that imports Saison Dupont, Saison was traditionally brewed in the wintertime, bottle conditioned and served in the summer.

Brasserie Dupont is still a working farm. They produce a variety of Saison-style farmhouse ales, including Foret, the first certified organic beer in Belgium.

Saison Dupont has a 6.5 percent alcohol content, and is available in a 12.7 fluid ounce bottle at BevMo for \$4.99.

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Will SJSU go gentle into that good night?

JESSICA FROMM
Staff Writer

When shots rang out on the Virginia Tech campus two years ago today, students inside Holden Hall did what they had been trained to do. They assembled their desks and backpacks into blockades, sat in a corner of their classrooms, and waited for help.

They crouched there, locked down in an unsecured environment as the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history took place in Norris Hall, the building next door.

By the time police got to the scene, 32 people had died or had been mortally wounded, and the deranged killer had shot himself in the head.

The events at Virginia Tech University alerted school campuses and law enforcement agencies around the country to the fact that the lockdown approach to emergencies was not working.

Lock it down

Though lockdown was the traditional method taught when responding to an emergency on a school campus, it was not enough when dealing with the threat of an active shooter.

Students were acting like sitting ducks by diving under desks when they should have been defending themselves or trying to escape, said Sgt. Robert Noriega of the University Police Department.

At SJSU, the UPD has launched a free self-defense presentation to help students and faculty know how to protect themselves in the event of a violent intruder attack.

"There was one professor at Virginia Tech who actually let his students evacuate while he held the door, and almost all of his students survived," Noriega said. "The rest of the students who died were in lockdown and were against the walls."

"All the shooter had to do was come up and shoot them one by one as they were sitting there. What this (course) offers people is an alternative to just sitting there and being a target."

Combining demonstrations, video and a PowerPoint lecture, the hour-long presentation teaches people basic self-defense skills. The UPD presented this course to members of the administration last year for the first time. Faculty members and student organizations can request and schedule a presentation to be given in classes and club meetings.

"I was really impressed at the level of preparation for any potential problem on campus, and I think it's reassuring to a person if they know what the plan is in advance," said Karen Epstein, an elementary education lecturer who has the UPD's violent intruder presentation in her classes every semester. "I've learned that if there is a group of people in a classroom, everybody has something they can use for protection."

"If you send your binder sailing through the air at somebody's head, you may divert the person enough that you can escape, or a purse or another object could be used to get away."

Noriega said that the protocol of teaching lockdown in schools was developed to limit chaos. It is a way of containing people so that the police may enter and restore order, without people running around and screaming, he said.

"That pretty much became the standard for all schools," Noriega said. "That was accepted as the way of dealing with emergencies. But with active shooters, we've learned that it may not be the best way to handle it."

"Now, we have these guys who are breaking down doors and shooting people because they are not moving. It's because they aren't thinking about another way out or another way to deal with this person."

When I was in high school

Epstein said that at public schools in the San Jose area, the faculty members are directed to teach lockdown only.

"The goal is to protect the students and to create a blockade, a partition where the students are protected and the intruder cannot enter," Epstein said. "The students actually are not trained in the public schools to be aggressive toward the intruder. But in the university setting, you're dealing with adults."

"It's an important issue, but every time I go on a plane, I don't think about how I'm going to crash."

STEPHEN RANAUDO
senior aviation major

The approach is very different. The idea is, if you're faced with an intruder, to actually fight back."

Jamie Thomas, a senior art major who attended Willow Glen High School, said that lockdown was a common drill.

"We had that in high school, with all the Columbine stuff," he said. "It was very similar to an earthquake drill — except with that, people didn't have Uzis."

Duck, duck, goose

Though the police respond as quickly as possible to any violent event on campus, rarely in an intruder attack does law enforcement get to the scene in time to prevent the carnage, Noriega said.

"We can't tell you there is a cookie-cutter solution to every situation, but we give you the tools for dealing with them and more options that work in real-life situations," he said. "This gives people the tools to have an alternative to just lockdown and sitting there, because the police are not going to get there right away."

The UPD's approach to dealing with active shooters is based on a

"They look for targets who are not necessarily going to fight back, where they're superior because they are armed. That's why we want to get people these abilities, so that now, they are not the sitting ducks."

SGT. ROBERT NORIEGA
University Police Department

course for instructors offered by Response Options, a Texas-based defense strategies company.

"What're your distractions? Can you pick up that box there and throw it at the person and get out? It gives people food for thought," Noriega said. "It's hands-on. We go through all the lectures. We go through all the demonstrations, as far as the take-down procedures ... grabbing a suspect, neutralizing his or her movements, so they cannot escape or kill anymore, and hold them for the police."

Noriega said schools are target-rich environments, which makes them especially vulnerable to violent attacks.

"People are unarmed. People are younger or are people who the shooter wouldn't consider as threats," he said. "(Shooters) may not go into a gym, where people are all in good shape and are strong and fast. They may not go into a police department or army barracks, where everybody is armed."

"They look for targets who are not necessarily going to fight back, where they're superior because they are armed. That's why we want to get people these abilities, so that now, they are not the sitting ducks."

Apathetic students

Jamie Thomas said he believes that preparing students



Blacksburg police officers run from Norris Hall on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Va., AP Photo / The Roanoke Times, Matt Gentry Monday, April 16, 2007. Multiple shootings occurred at the engineering building on Monday.

to respond to an active shooter is pointless.

"I really believe that, especially after Columbine, when high schools really started doing that 'Let's start to prepare for these things, blah, blah,' it doesn't help," he said. "It's just crowd control. It just makes people feel better about themselves and try to justify and make them feel better about a

I'm sure the alarms would go off at school. I think most people would try to get away from campus. It is a problem, but I'm not thinking about."

There's no 'I' in team

Since Sept. 11, Noriega said that average citizens have been more aware and more likely to defend themselves in the event of a violent emergency, which is a good thing.

The UPD and San Jose Police Department have been working during the last year to synchronize their operations in the event of a violent intruder attack on campus.

"More than likely this is going to happen when there is only two of us on campus, and it's a busy day," he said. "The city, they're only going to have a couple hundred officers out there and they're going to be busy, too. So how do we respond to this? We need to coordinate."

"We're still working on that, but it's something we are doing into the future, to make sure we are all on the same page as far as responding to these threats."

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SHARKS

'Cheech' shines from Moose Factory down to the Tank

JESSICA AYALA
Staff Writer

Dreams can come true for a small-town hockey boy.

Jonathan Cheechoo, also known as "Cheech" among his teammates, grew up in Moose Factory, Ontario, Canada, an island near the mouth of Moose River that has a population of about 2,700.

In the winter, temperatures can range from about minus 40 to minus 10 degrees Celsius, but that did not stop Cheechoo from following his dream to play professional hockey.

Cheechoo said he began skating at the age of two and that by the age of three, he was already picking up sticks and playing the game. From an early age, he would watch hockey games every Saturday night where he developed his passion for hockey.

"Jari Kurri was probably my favorite hockey player," Cheechoo said. "He was on Wayne Gretzky's line and he ended up with over 600 points in the NHL. For me, probably growing up, that was probably my idol. Also being a native, (Ted Nolan) was a big influence on me."

Leaving home

Cheechoo's decision to further his career in hockey required him move away from Moose Factory.

"I had to leave home when I was 14 to play hockey and go to high school at the same time," Cheechoo said. "For me, it was tough when I first left because I was that young, but every year it got easier."

At age 16, he was playing in the Ontario Hockey Association with Kitchener Dutchmen, a Canadian junior hockey league team, and recorded a total of 35 points that season.

Cheechoo also learned at an early age that if he was going to pursue his dream, he had to sacrifice a few things.

"There were a lot of things my friends were doing that I probably could've got dragged into, but my parents basically explained to me if (hockey) was my goal, I had to sacrifice doing a few things with (my friends) that may hurt my chances," he said.

Cheechoo soon ended up working with private instructors to improve his skills.

"It came when I was 16, before my draft year to the NHL, one of the things the scouts had always told me was that I needed to improve my speed so that I was fast enough to compete at a higher level," he said. "So I went to a skating school, and it cost a lot of money doing that."

But because Cheechoo grew up in a community that believed in him, the community helped him raise the money he needed,



San Jose forward Jonathan Cheechoo is surrounded by the media after the Sharks' first practice of the postseason at Sharks Ice on Monday. **CHAD ZIEMENDORF / Spartan Daily**

which he said was about \$10,000 U.S. dollars.

The following year, "Cheech" made it to the Ontario Hockey League, where he played for the Belleville Bulls.

Taking it to another level

His dream of making it to the NHL would soon come true. In 1998, the San Jose Sharks signed Cheechoo, but he didn't make his debut until 2002.

"They wanted me to develop my skills a little bit more," Cheechoo said. "They knew I could score, they knew I could play good in the offensive zone. But they wanted me to work on my defensive game and they wanted me to work on my skating a little more."

When Cheechoo came to the Sharks, he said some of the players who guided him were Mike Ricci and Adam Graves.

"Adam Graves, he probably taught me the most," Cheechoo said. "He was a great guy and a great individual, as well as a good hockey player, so I definitely learned a lot from him on how to deal with things, how to handle things that came along during the season. To me, he was definitely one of the biggest influences when I got here."

"We went to Ottawa and he had, like, the whole tribe there to see him and take pictures with him. And we all looked around, and Cheechoo was sitting in a chair like Santa Claus, taking pictures."

JEREMY ROENICK

San Jose Sharks forward

An early success

Cheechoo shined since he signed with the Sharks. In the 2005-06 season, he scored 56 goals, which earned him the Maurice 'Rocket' Richard Trophy, awarded to the player in the NHL who records the most goals in a season.

San Jose Sharks center Joe Thornton said Cheechoo has own unique way of celebrating a goal.

"When he scores, he just has these great big celebrations and he gets so excited and enthusiastic," Thornton said.

But Cheechoo can also be laid back. Teammate Jeremy Roenick, who is outspoken, described Cheechoo as kind of the opposite of him.

"He's very low key, very soft spoken," Roenick said. "At times when you talk to him, you really have to listen, because he doesn't speak that loud. And his personality, I think that is why he is liked so much."

The ups and the downs

Some of Cheechoo's most memorable moments have been

winning the Ontario Hockey League title, his first game in the NHL, playing against Brett Hull, who was one of his biggest idols growing up, making it to the Western Conference Finals his second year and the realization of achieving his ultimate goal, which was to play professional hockey.

But Cheechoo has also had some challenges, just like any other professional player.

"Last couple of years, I ran into a couple of knee problems and earlier this year I had a shoulder problem, so it's something where they're pretty frustrating when they happen," Cheechoo said. "They can kind of throw you off your game a little bit, and it takes you a while to get back. But it's something that everybody goes through."

Just an average guy

During his free time, Cheechoo said he just likes to relax, play video games and watch his favorite show "Entourage," which he recently purchased on DVD.

Left wing Ryane Clowe, who also plays for the Sharks, said that he and Cheechoo are big sports fans.

"Me and him are baseball fans," Clowe said. "Cheechoo is a diehard baseball fan — loves the A's. Huge sports fan, he knows everything about everything in sports, so we chat a lot about sports."

Despite his success in hockey, Cheechoo does not forget his roots. He said he tries to go back home every August.

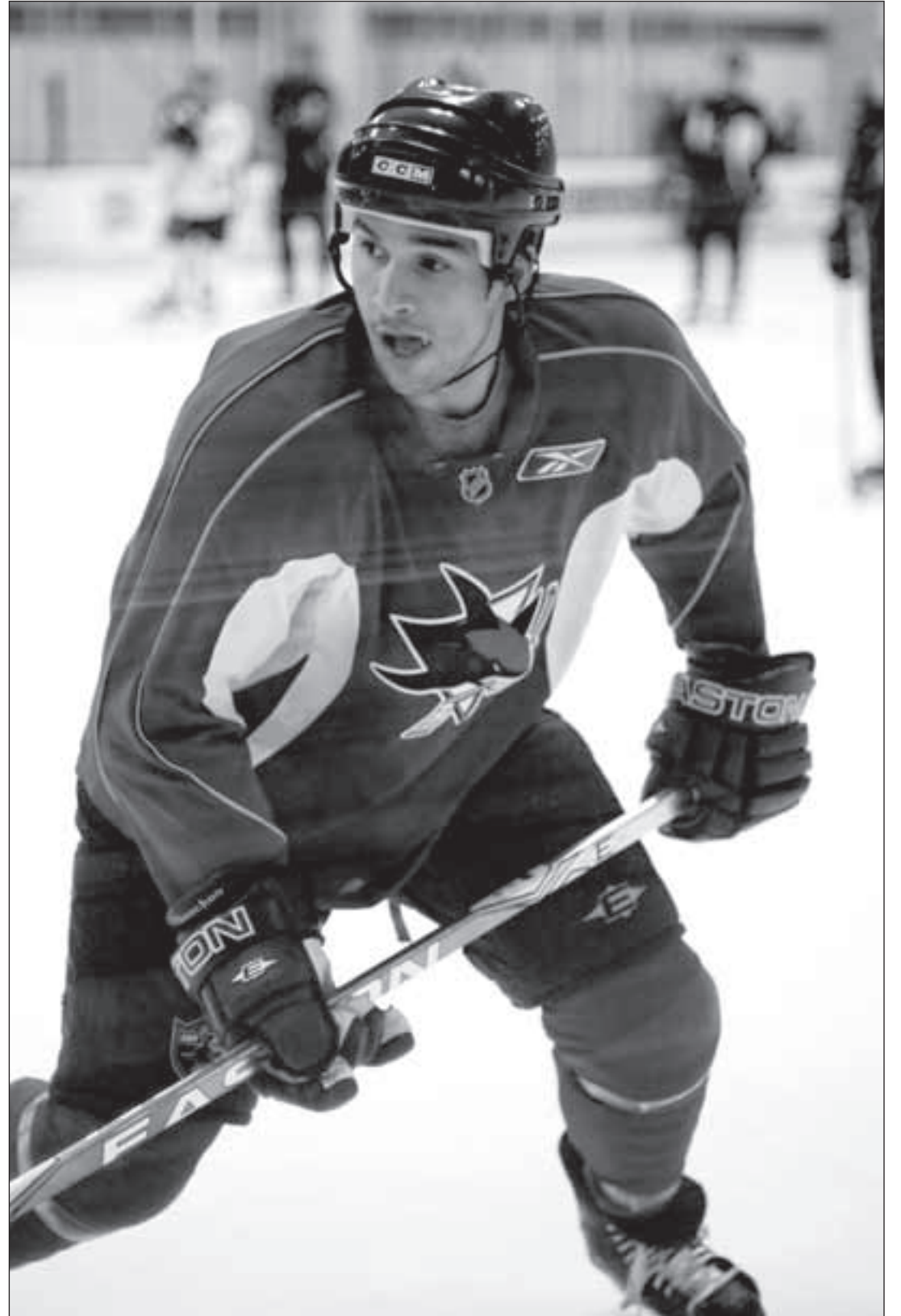
"I like to go up and see my parents," Cheechoo said. "My brother and sister still live up there, and it's nice to go see them."

In fact, he is highly admired back home.

"We went to Ottawa and he had, like, the whole tribe there to see him and take pictures with him," Roenick said. "And we all looked around, and Cheechoo was sitting in a chair like Santa Claus, taking pictures."

Today, the Stanley Cup Playoffs begin for the Sharks and Cheechoo is now just a few steps away from winning the Stanley Cup.

What was once a dream of his when he played hockey by himself, pretending to play for the Cup, is now reality.



Jonathan Cheechoo skates with his teammates on Monday at Sharks Ice in preparation for the Stanley Cup Playoffs which begin today at HP Pavilion. **CHAD ZIEMENDORF / Spartan Daily**

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The dangers of drinking and driving



HANK DREW
Staff Writer

Los Angeles Angel's pitcher Nick Adenhardt had just tossed six shutout innings.

His arm looked good and his team expected big things.

Things were looking great until Adenhardt and his friends were broadsided by a drunken driver in a minivan.

Adenhardt's status grants a public face to the 12,998 people murdered by drunken drivers in 2007, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, an organization dedicated to eradicating drunken driving.

Adenhardt's death is not more tragic because he was a promising MLB pitcher.

He was just another human being starting a new career.

The tragedy here is that despite a visual barrage of anti-drunken driving advertising, people still do it.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, someone is killed by a drunken driver every 40 minutes.

Thirty-six people are killed by drunken drivers a day, and 252 people are killed a week.

That's a lot of human beings.

So, let's say you are hanging out at The Firehouse pound-

ing back \$7 Buds and watching

the Sharks on the big screen. The game ends, your body is full of buzzed tinges. You've just got to head home.

We've all said that at one point or another.

Instead of spending a few more dollars on a cab or calling a friend to pick you up, you decide you can make the short trip home in your car.

The best possible option here is that you make it home in one piece and pass out on your comfortable bed.

The next option? You weave on the way home, cross the yellow line and cruise for a while in the wrong lane.

You clip a trash can and startle yourself back to attention. As you cross the yellow line and return to the correct lane, you see the dreaded colored lights flashing in your review mirror.

You are nabbed by the SYPD for suspicion of drinking and driving. You are now on the hook for a fine between \$390 and \$1,000.

Your driver's license gets suspended for six months, and it will not be renewed until you complete a driving under the influence program.

This is just for your first offense.

Things get worse as you continue to prove your stupidity. In these days of financial doom and gloom, the choice is clear.

You already have been drinking expensive beers. What's a few more bucks for a cab?

The guy who killed Adenhardt wasn't stopped by police.

I suspect we will eventually learn that he was hanging out at a bar after work and had a few too many.

He ran a stoplight and ended three lives. He's now facing

Adenhardt's death is not more tragic because he was a promising MLB pitcher. He was just another human being starting a new career. The tragedy here is that despite a visual barrage of anti-drunken driving advertising, people still do it.

three counts of murder.

That said, I am all for drinking. I drink. I am particularly fond of Lagavulin 16-year-old whiskey.

I just do not drink and drive. I personally could not handle the thought of killing someone because I wanted to drink.

If you drink and drive, you are a killer. Prison is your new home and you have lots of interesting new friends. I think I'd just spring for the cab.

Hank Drew is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Guns Equal Death

The Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights states, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." This basically means people can own a gun, but do we really want people to have a gun in their homes where children can easily get access to it, and possibly kill themselves, or others?

Every Friday at 10 p.m. ABC news has a program called "20/20," which talks about certain topics.

Last Friday they talked about gun control; they called it, "If I only had a gun."

They focused on young chil-

dren and teens getting killed by guns, and how it is very easy for young people to have access to a gun.

Over the past months 29,000 young children have been killed by a gun. Most of the kids were killed accidentally; young kids find their parents guns, and pull the trigger not knowing the gun was loaded. Every third house in this country has a gun ("20/20").

Mike, a young boy whose father had a gun in the house, accidentally killed his best friend while playing with his father's gun. Mike is only 14.

After the shooting in Virginia Tech, a bill was made to stop the gun show loop, were

people buy guns without getting a background check.

The legislator rejected this bill. This shows how much the government cares about our safety.

People buy guns to protect themselves, but that same gun is accidentally killing innocent people.

The only people who should be allowed to have a gun are trained officers, or trained people in the military, not ordinary civilians. I guess it is time to change the second amendment.

Sylvia Shehadeh
Business Major
San Jose, Calif.

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

In response to "Pedestrians need to learn how to share the road," which appeared in the April 15 issue of the Spartan Daily:

Your selfishness/ignorance is astonishing. You act as though the sidewalk was intentionally built for bicyclists.

Sidewalks were meant for pedestrians and the street was meant for bicyclists.

You may have biked on the sidewalk as a child and never outgrew this, but the fact is that the law states that bicyclists need to use the street.

A bicycle is under the same legal restrictions as a car. You wouldn't drive your car on the sidewalk to avoid a car accident, would you?

Your dangerous sidewalk bicycling will only injure and possibly kill a pedestrian (you have a helmet, and they do not! All it takes is a head hitting the sidewalk).

I ride my bike to school and my husband rides his bike to work and we NEVER use the sidewalk.

Downtown can be a bit rough as there aren't as many bike lanes as necessary, but that is when you are legally allowed to take the lane for yourself.

You may feel scared at first, but the fact is that you need to be an aggressive bicyclist and know your rights. Stop endangering people with your selfish riding. The fact is that cars need to share the ROAD with bikes. Pedestrians don't need to share the sidewalk with bikes.

Kareena

In response to "Land of opportunity, for English speakers only," which appeared

in the April 8 issue of the Spartan Daily:

Excuse me, but what makes you think that native-born people are required to bend over backwards to accommodate "immigrants?"

YOU are the ones who benefit from immigrating into our clean, prosperous, technologically advanced First World country.

Native-born Americans are losing our wonderful country to arrogant immigrants who think that their culture should be accommodated instead of ours.

MaryJ

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ACROSS

1. ...

DOWN

1. ...

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Spreading some local love for Oaktown



MERRIL GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Oakland has a bad reputation — a really bad reputation.

Apparently, it's so bad that in 2008, HBO wanted to make a show about pimps who live there. Producers hoped it would have the same impact as "The Sopranos," which captured the life of a mafia family. But really, pimps in Oakland? That's so cliché.

Mayor Ron Dellums publicly opposed the proposed show last December, saying it went against the vision and goals of the city.

Thank you, Mayor Dellums. Finally, after years of high crime rates and inactivity, something you've done right.

Oakland has been going through a rough few years (actually, it's more like a few decades), but the more we focus on its bad qualities and start to believe the

depictions of Oakland that we see in the media, the more we overlook the beauty of a city with a rich history and racial and cultural diversity.

Every time I tell someone I'm from Oakland, I feel like I have to defend the city I love. I get all sorts of questions as a response to where I grew up. People usually ask if I live in the ghetto. No, I don't. Then they ask if I've ever seen anyone get shot. Again, no.

I'm not trying to say that Oakland doesn't have its fair share of problems — it does — but the more we focus on the negative issues, the further away we get from being a successful multi-cultural and cohesive community.

On March 21, four Oakland police officers were murdered in an act of senseless violence. Questions arose from the shooting about gun control, the SWAT team's reaction, the parole system and the homicide rate.

What the city should have focused on was the outpouring of grief and support from the community. More than 20,000 people gathered at the Oracle Arena and the McAfee Coliseum to mourn the loss of the officers and show support for the city and police department.

Makeshift memorials started to appear at the scene of the shooting, candlelight vigils took place all over the city and flowers covered the sidewalk in front of police headquarters.

Low standardized testing scores in Oakland public schools is usually another area of concern for the city. But what should be focused on is that 63 percent of elementary schools in the Oakland Unified School District have increased their academic performance indexes, the way in which schools are rated, in 2008, according to Education Data Partnership, a Web site that tracks the performance of Cali-

formia public schools.

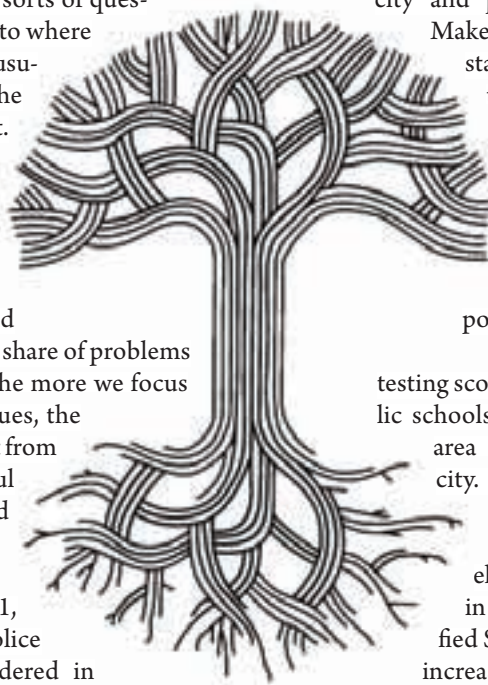
Last year, I had two friends who politely declined a dinner invitation at my house. I later found out they didn't want to drive through Oakland at night. All they know about Oakland is what they see on TV.

No one makes TV shows about the farmer's markets on weekends, the annual Art and Soul Oakland festival or the plethora of people who go to Lake Merritt to exercise and enjoy the scenery. What about Children's Fairyland, Chinatown or the Rose Garden? Do they not count for anything?

In Eleanor Roosevelt's book, "This is My Story," she wrote, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." People can say whatever they want about Oakland, and they can choose to depict it in the worst of ways, but I will always feel a special connection and sense of pride about the city, and no one can take that away from me.

Merril Guzman is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

* Image courtesy of Oaklandish, an organization dedicated to "representing the strange luster and oddball spirit that is East Bay Life."



Hemp and hump: Two ways to survive the economy



ALLIE FIGURES
Figures It Out

Tuesday was not a good day for me. I went home and turned to some of my favorite indulgences: chocolate, my couch and "Grey's Anatomy."

The same can be said about our society during the economic slump. As we moan and groan about the hard times, we try to pinch our pennies by cutting out the NBA cable package and the third Starbucks purchase of the day. But there are always some things we lean on to get by: getting lit and laid.

I read an article analyzing why the matchmaking and medicinal marijuana industries seem to be thriving despite the declining economy.

Under the Obama administration, requests for the use

of cannabis have increased by 300 percent. Obama has publicly addressed his support of controlled marijuana use for medicinal purposes, declaring it appropriate if it is the best option for pain relief. Agreed.

One reason for the spike is because marijuana is a cheap alternative. Like many of us who are trying to survive without health insurance and expensive prescriptions, going green takes on a whole new meaning. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 45 million Americans under 65 years old have no health insurance, making cannabis a feasible option.

Cannabis clinics, co-ops and dispensaries are growing in number because owners no longer fear federal rule. The Drug Enforcement Administration is now allowing states to enforce their own laws on the use of cannabis.

But all does not come up smelling like bud.

Because I associate with drug dealers, I've learned that along with the increase of cannabis comes an increase in the street value of marijuana.

Well, Snoop Dogg and Mar-

vin Gaye should have come together for an economic crisis collaboration, because along with an increase in the marijuana market, there has been a 20 to 50 percent spike in the matchmaking industry.

Well, Snoop Dogg and Marvin Gaye should have come together for an economic crisis collaboration, because along with an increase in the marijuana market, there has been a 20 to 50 percent spike in the match-making industry.

This led me to wonder about Sugardaddie.com, the Web service that posts profiles of needy women looking specifically to be matched with rich

husbands, boyfriends or casual hook-ups. Forget eHarmony.com or Match.com, any smart gold-digging woman would turn to this particular site to ease her economic woes.

Americans are aching for some more amare as much as automakers are begging for a bailout. When the going gets tough, the tough get going — under the sheets. I guess as the value of our hard-earned dollar decreases, the need for a shoulder to cry on increases.

I know I could use someone to cuddle up with at night to keep warm, because I can't afford the utilities bill — especially if the heater is running every night. Why not invest in something like a companion to get you through the tough times? Just think of your recession relationship like a space heater.

I find it a likely pairing, getting lit and laid. Both offer a release from your present, stressful situation. And make that a long-lasting release (from what I've heard), because marijuana has been known to increase duration in the sack.

It's only natural to want to

share the good times in our life with someone else, and even more natural to want someone there as support during the tough times.

There is a high price to pay for economic crisis comfort. It's nothing only a Ferrero Rocher and a season of McDreamy can solve. It's going to take the use of the mighty endorphin to distract our minds from the state of the global economy.

Chocolate is my only drug of choice that I am willing to pay for during my times of need. But paying money for a matchmaker to find you an economic crisis companion seems a little much for me. I feel the cost of companionship should be free if you do it right.

But who knows? Maybe Sugardaddie.com will help get the most bang for my buck and match me to my dream drug-dealing millionaire.

Allie Figures is a Spartan Daily arts & entertainment editor. "Figures It Out" appears every Thursday.

The lessons not learned from Virginia Tech



ANDREA FRAINIER
Guerrilla Wordfare

It's been two years since a kid who was kicked out of a poetry class stalked the halls of a Virginia university, firing a barrage of bullets that pierced the flesh of his fellow students and professors.

The massacre of Virginia Tech took the lives of 32 innocent people. Finally, the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, ended his bitter rampage by turning the gun on himself.

In the end, he killed 30 students, two professors and wounded 25 others.

When news broke of Cho's rampage, the media descended upon Blacksburg, Va., thrusting the small city of 150,000 into the national spotlight.

Images of anguished com-

munity members, sobbing as they clutched pictures of loved ones, dominated the front pages of newspapers around the world, making it impossible for the wounds of those who were affected by the tragedy to begin to heal.

The days that followed the massacre were a blur. Each of my professors trashed their pre-planned lessons, and instead, dedicated class time to talking about the tragedy and how we felt about it.

Later, information emerged that NBC received a "multimedia manifesto" from the shooter. It contained 43 photos, a 23-page written statement and 28

video clips of Cho.

"You had 100 billion chances and ways to avoid today. But you decided to spill my blood," Cho said in the video. "You forced me into a corner and gave me only one option. The decision was yours. Now you have blood on your hands that will never wash off."

Filled with rage, Cho confessed, "I didn't have to do this. I could have left, I could have fled, but no. I will no longer run. If not for me, for my children, for my brothers and sisters that you fucked. I did it for them."

The video clips were glimpses into the mind of a mass murderer.

People who knew Cho at Virginia Tech described him as a quiet individual who didn't socialize with others.

The video clips sent to NBC showed a different side of the gunman. Laced with anger and frustration, he listed the crimes his fellow students committed against him.

"You have vandalized my heart, raped my soul and torched my conscience," he said.

The days that followed the

massacre were a blur. Each of my professors trashed their pre-planned lessons, and instead, dedicated class time to talking about the tragedy and how we felt about it.

The ill-tempered demeanor of my strictest professor melted into compassion and benevolence. He told the class that we could approach him with any of our problems, because he cares.

But the compassion was short lived, and, after a week, life went back to pre-Virginia Tech with the same old routines.

The camera crews and reporters trickled out of town, allowing family and friends of the victims to grieve in peace. Professors dropped their overly-nice act and stopped trying to be friends to their students. The image of an expressionless Cho, holding a gun in each of his hands, faded from our memories.

And that's why it will happen again. It has happened again. In the U.S., there have been 12 school shootings since April 16, 2007. And it will continue to happen.

It will happen because lawmakers refuse to take action to

get guns off the streets.

It will happen because school officials don't have the tools to recognize the Chos in their classrooms, and they are unsure of how to approach those disturbed, suicidal individuals.

It will happen because children aren't taught that it's wrong to ostracize others for how they look, what they wear or how they act.

It will happen again because we live in an imperfect society that breeds anger, hate and distrust for people who are different from us.

So today, on the two-year anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy, remember what you promptly forgot 23 months ago. Life is precious, and in a blink of an eye, for no apparent reason, it can be taken away.

Andrea Frainier is the Spartan Daily opinion editor. "Guerrilla Wordfare" appears every Thursday.

COMMENTARY

Let the beards begin



MATTHEW KIMEL
Sharks Remarks

Everything starts from scratch at this point of the NHL season, or so they say.

Joe Thornton said he was going to begin fresh on Tuesday or Wednesday, even though the San Jose Sharks weren't scheduled to play their first playoff game until today.

Of course, "Big Joe" was not talking about what his teammates called the "second hockey season," but rather the infamous playoff beard.

Defenseman Dan Boyle said he's had a "playoff beard all year" because he "doesn't like to shave."

Yet, Boyle said Monday after San Jose's first postseason practice that he was probably going to clean up his face to start growing his fuzz from scratch.

"I do like that about playoffs," Boyle said, "you get to be lazy and not have to shave for a couple of months."

But with the way his team struggled as a whole over the course of the final three games of the season against the worst

the Western Conference had to offer, the question must be raised: Will the Sharks still be playing in a couple of months?

June 15 is the absolute last day the Stanley Cup Finals can end, should a best-of-seven series come down to the wire.

Will the Sharks and their beards make it to June?

They never have before.

But then again, San Jose had never won the Presidents' Trophy either. And it did exactly that this season.

That brings up another question: Does Lord Stanley's Cup know the way to San Jose?

Well, in order for it to get here, the Sharks first have to get by the Anaheim Ducks, a fellow member of the Pacific Division that the Sharks have already faced six times this season (not counting the home-and-home series that kicked off the preseason many moons ago).

So, does it matter that the Sharks won four of the six regular season contests?

"Honestly, you throw that out the window," Boyle said. "You start from scratch."

One thing that probably won't get thrown out the window, though, is the brawl that spawned at the end of the Sharks-Ducks regular season finale less than two

weeks ago, which led to 64 penalty minutes after regulation expired.

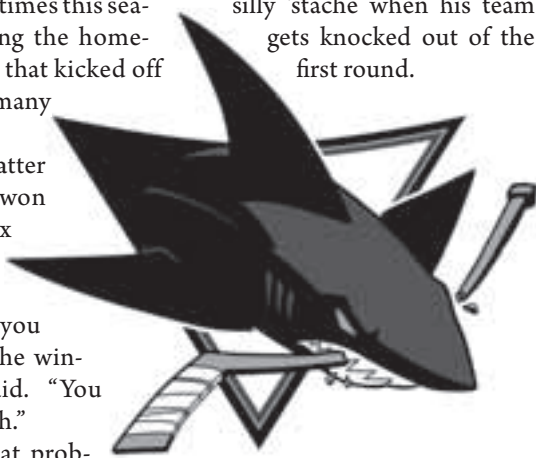
"I think when you play a team a lot, that's when things sometimes get out of hand," captain Patrick Marleau said of the tempers that flared between his Sharks and the Ducks.

And when enforcers Jody Shelley and George Parros get on the dancing floor at the same time, tempers are sure to flare, and things tend to get out of hand — but that's a whole different story.

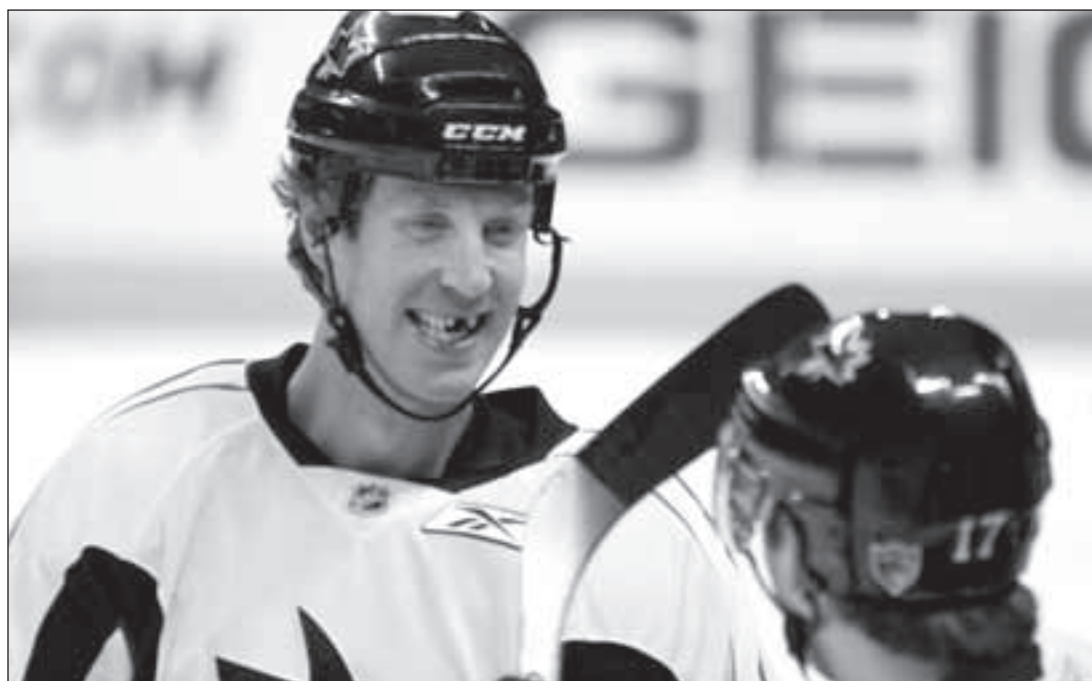
Anyway, let's get back to my original question: Will the Sharks look like unshaven cave-man in a few months?

I think so.

And let's hope that Parros decides to get rid of that silly 'stache when his team gets knocked out of the first round.

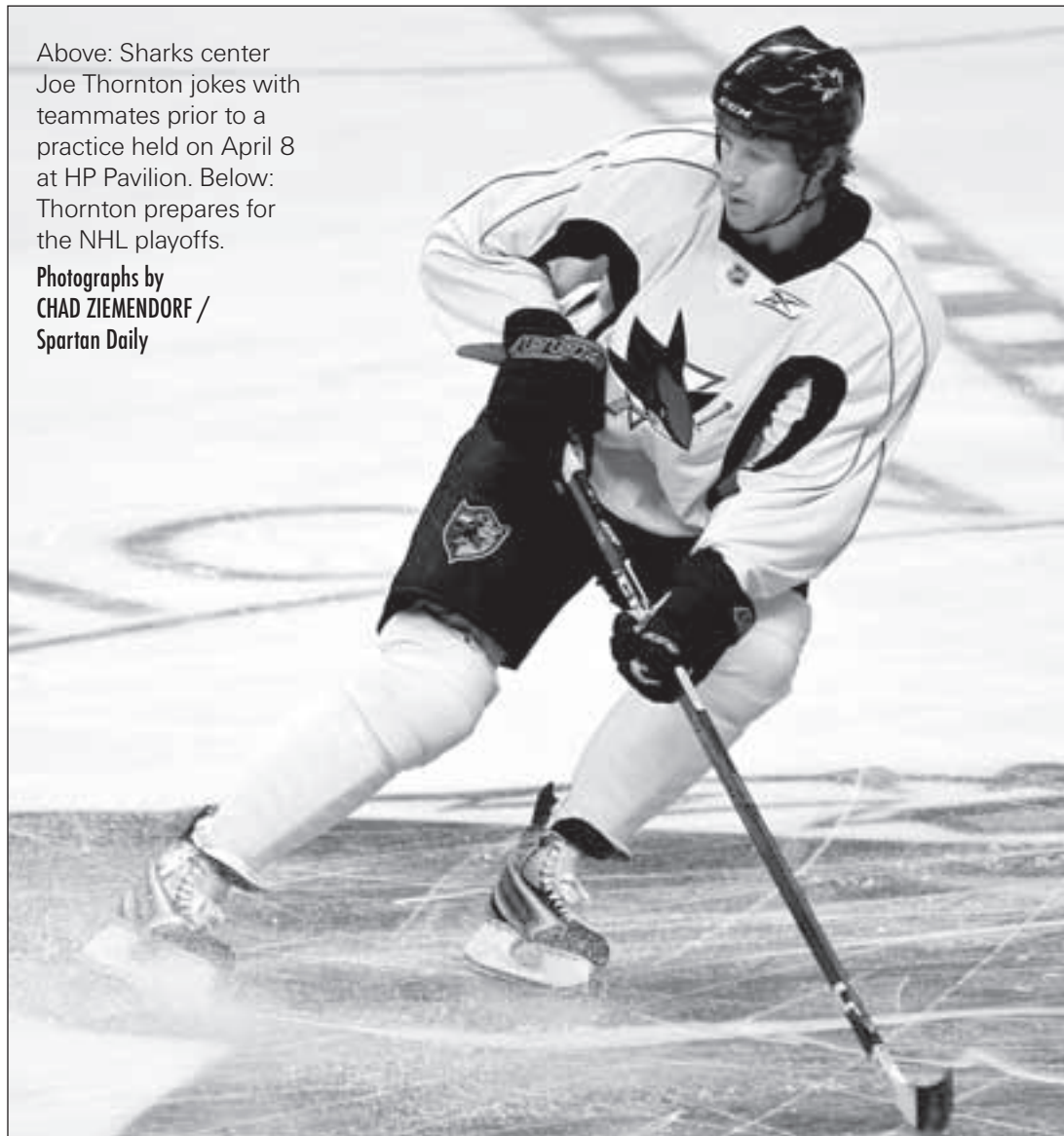


Matthew Kimel is a Spartan Daily sports editor. "Sharks Remarks" appears every other Thursday.



Above: Sharks center Joe Thornton jokes with teammates prior to a practice held on April 8 at HP Pavilion. Below: Thornton prepares for the NHL playoffs.

Photographs by CHAD ZIEMENDORF / Spartan Daily



HOCKEY PLAYOFFS

First-round NHL predictions

MATTHEW KIMEL
Sports Editor

The Stanley Cup Playoffs began Wednesday and here are my predictions for the first round, which were posted on the Spartan Daily Sports Blog prior to the first four games that were played last night. All lower-seeded teams are listed first in the matchups. With the Rangers upsetting the Capitals, 4-3, last night, my prediction of the Capitals in five is off to a bad start. Oh well.

Western Conference

DUCKS-SHARKS: While the Anaheim Ducks are currently on a hot streak, they barely made the playoffs. The San Jose Sharks, on the other hand, won the Presidents' Trophy for being the team with the best regular season record in the 2008-09 season. Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller has been impressive at times, but nothing he has faced in his career will prepare him for the pressure of the playoffs. San Jose's Evgeni Nabokov has plenty of playoff experience under his belt, and that should make all the difference in the world.

Prediction: Sharks in six.

BLUE JACKETS-RED WINGS: I'll be honest ... I'd love to see the Red Wings lose this one. But realistically, it's just not going to happen. The Columbus Blue Jackets are making their first-ever playoff appearance in their nine-year existence, and like Hiller vs. Nabokov, playoff experience is going to reign supreme. Detroit has legions of players who can run up the scoreboard and Columbus has, well, Rick Nash. That's about it. Oh, and congratulations to rookie goalie Steve Mason. The guy had a great year, but the train stops here.

Prediction: Wings in five.

BLUES-CANUCKS: The Vancouver Canucks and the St. Louis Blues met for the fourth time this season about two-and-a-half weeks ago, and the Blues walked away with a 4-2 win. The victory was one of the Blues' nine in their last 11 games (9-1-1). The Blues have the most momentum of all teams heading into the playoffs and after being eliminated from contention three years in a row, the motivation level of St. Louis to win will be high.

Prediction: Blues in seven.

FLAMES-BLACKHAWKS: Speaking about not making the playoffs for ...

years, how about the Chicago Blackhawks? The Blackhawks, despite their youthfulness, have been sharp all season, and two wins over the Red Wings to cap off their season put the icing on the cake. The Calgary Flames were leading the Northwestern Division, but then went south in the standings. I'm expecting the Flames to take another downward dip here.

Prediction: Blackhawks in six.

Eastern Conference

CANADIENS-BRUINS: The Boston Bruins vs. the Montreal Canadiens in the first round of the playoffs? Sounds familiar and bound to be a classic, right? Wrong. This year's rendition of the Canadiens were disappointing to say the least and they barely held on for the eighth playoff spot. And this year's Bruins are much, much better than the No. 8-seeded version that beat the No. 1-seeded Canadiens the last time around. While I'd love to see Boston lose too, it's not happening. Yet.

Prediction: Bruins in five.

RANGERS-CAPITALS: The New York Rangers started off the season great and looked like they were going to be even better post-Jaromir Jagr. That quickly proved to be false. The Rang-

ers, like the Canadiens, nearly failed to qualify for the Stanley Cup Playoffs. And it won't be long before Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals send them out.

Prediction: Capitals in five.

HURRICANES-DEVILS: The New Jersey Devils' season will come down to whether the Marty Brodeur who wins shows up or the one who loses makes the appearances when games matter most. And if the Carolina Hurricanes, who came out on the top half of a 2-1 decision against the Devils on March 28 during a recent nine-game win streak, have any say, the bad Marty will show up. I'm siding on the bad Marty showing up, too.

Prediction: Hurricanes in seven.

FLYERS-PENGUINS: The Pittsburgh Penguins and the Philadelphia Flyers meet in the playoffs, again. And in my opinion, the two teams are as evenly matched as ever. Don't believe me? Check the standings (99 points apiece). While it's tough to separate the two, the Penguins have Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. And the Flyers don't have two names to equalize the equation. Still, the series will go deep.

Prediction: Penguins in seven.

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headRush

april 22, 2009 @ 7 PM

morris dailey auditorium

Aliso in Workerland

Van a conocer a un perdido. He may be like someone you know and for others just a symbol. Fijense bien as he falls through the rabbit hole. Is it just a dream? Or are these pieces of reality? Through the darkness of Workerland, he finds an ancient antepasado, guided by a mysterious conejo. Pero ahorita, he's only thinking of survival.

Stand witness to the chaos of a minority "everyman," an anti-hero spilling over cultural, commercial and generational borders. Follow Aliso into Workerland as he confronts: over-consumption, co-dependency, the dehumanization of the working class and spiritual amnesia. Through high-paced musical word play, spoken-word poetry, bi-lingual code-switching and physicality to match, an often-unheard American-born mexicano voice rings out amidst the static of industry.

\$5 for students and \$10 non students
Suggested Donation

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

César Chávez Community Action Center
Building 8B Suite #105
HOURS: M-F, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
PHONE: 408.924.4144

www.as.sjsu.edu/ccac

Another program provided by Associated Students. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact Associated Students César Chávez Community Action Center at 408.924.4143 for assistance.