



SPORTS P8: Spartans bully Bulldogs



OPINION P5: Can you feel the Bern?



A&E P3: Rihanna isn't the same

2013 HATE CRIME

Roommate testifies on witness stand

By Raphael Stroud with contributions from Raechel Price
Contributing writers

Three days into trial, the details of the 2013 Campus Village Building C incident have been deconstructed and disputed by attorneys in courtroom 21 of the Old Courthouse downtown.

The incident, where black student Donald Williams Jr. was harassed by three white roommates, sparked outrage on the SJSU campus, which subsequently became the site of marches, protests, media attention and a conference held by the NAACP.

As reported by the Daily in 2013, Williams accused his roommates of barricading him in his room, writing the N-word on the common room white board, calling him “Three-Fifths” (a reference to blacks counting as only three-fifths of a whole person during slavery times) and forcing a bike lock onto his neck twice.

The main argument to determine the three boys’ fates hinges on whether or not their actions were motivated by racial bias. The defense argues that their actions were immature and insensitive, but not racist. Alternatively, the prosecution is pointing out that while the boys often fooled around with each other and friends, only the actions taken against Williams can be seen as racist.

Monday began with opening

statements by each side, and Williams took the witness stand for the first time. On Tuesday his questioning continued, with the defense being allowed the chance to examine him one after the other.

The three attorneys, Dek Ketchum, Sam Polverino and Chuck Mesirow, represent Colin Warren, Joseph Bret Bomgardner and Logan Beaschler, Williams’ three former roommates who are charged with the alleged misdemeanor hate crime. During its rally on the school campus, the NAACP had pushed for the three students to be charged with felonies. As a misdemeanor they face a year in jail or community service.

During Williams’ cross-examination, Ketchum disputed the involvement of his client, Warren. In a police statement, Williams said Warren had been standing in the doorway laughing as a bike lock was forced onto his neck, but in another statement Williams said that Warren helped. The detail was the only part of Williams’ narrative that he had difficulty explaining. Ketchum did not entirely accept his reasoning that his memory became clearer as he had more time to think about what was happening while he was being bullied.

CRIME PAGE 2 >>>

WILD PANTHER SIGHTING



Samantha Verdugo | Spartan Daily

Carolina Panthers defensive tackle, Kawann Short, signs Super Bowl 50 helmets for fans at the San Jose Marriott Tuesday evening.

Super Bowl craze captivates San Jose

By Kevin Mistry with contributions from Samantha Verdugo
Executive producer & Staff writer

From the streets to the parks, the Super Bowl 50 frenzy has taken over the entire Bay Area.

With Santa Clara playing host for Super Bowl 50, the entire Bay Area will see fans and fanatics coming in truckloads and plane loads this weekend.

San Jose has become the Carolina Panthers headquarters for the big game.

The NFL chose San Jose State University to host practice sessions for the Panthers during the week leading up to the Super Bowl. The team is currently staying at the San Jose Marriott

near the Tech Museum, a mere 10-minute walk from campus.

“It’s awesome to have something like this in the city, especially with other sports going on,” said Edgar Torres, a San Jose resident. “Like the Warriors winning and the 49ers almost making it. It’s a good experience for San Jose and brings lots of people here.”

In hindsight, this game could not come at a better time for sports fans here, in and all around the Bay Area. The Golden State Warriors are currently dominating the NBA, the San Francisco Giants have won three

of the last five World Series and the San Francisco 49ers made the NFC championship three years in a row from 2011 - 2013.

“When most people think of the Bay Area, they always think of San Francisco and leave out San Jose,” Torres said.

Since Super Bowl 50 is not centered in San Francisco, all cities in the Bay Area have gained national recognition. On Monday, all eyes of the football world were on San Jose, giving Americans the chance to see

SUPER BOWL PAGE 2 >>>



Infographic by Kevin Mistry with contributions from Rebecca Pirayou

NEW CAMPUS ON THE BLOCK

Apple sows seeds in North San Jose

By Rebecca Pirayou
Staff writer

San Jose City Council approved Apple Inc.’s expansion plan in north San Jose last week, with the promise of more jobs becoming available.

Sylvia Do, Division Manager at the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, said that Apple will be permitted to continuously develop the 86-acre campus located north of Mineta San Jose International Airport over the next 15 years.

The location at the intersection of Highway 101 and Highway 87 is expected to make the downtown commute simple, albeit inconvenient due to rush hour.

According to Do, the expansion will accommodate about 16,000 employees.

Mayor Sam Liccardo praised the project, as it will contribute to the city’s development economically.

According to Liccardo, having Apple employees working in San Jose will be beneficial towards the city’s economy, as it is one of the more well-known, successful Silicon Valley companies.

“San Jose continues to be the heart of Silicon Valley,” Liccardo said in a

APPLE PAGE 2 >>>

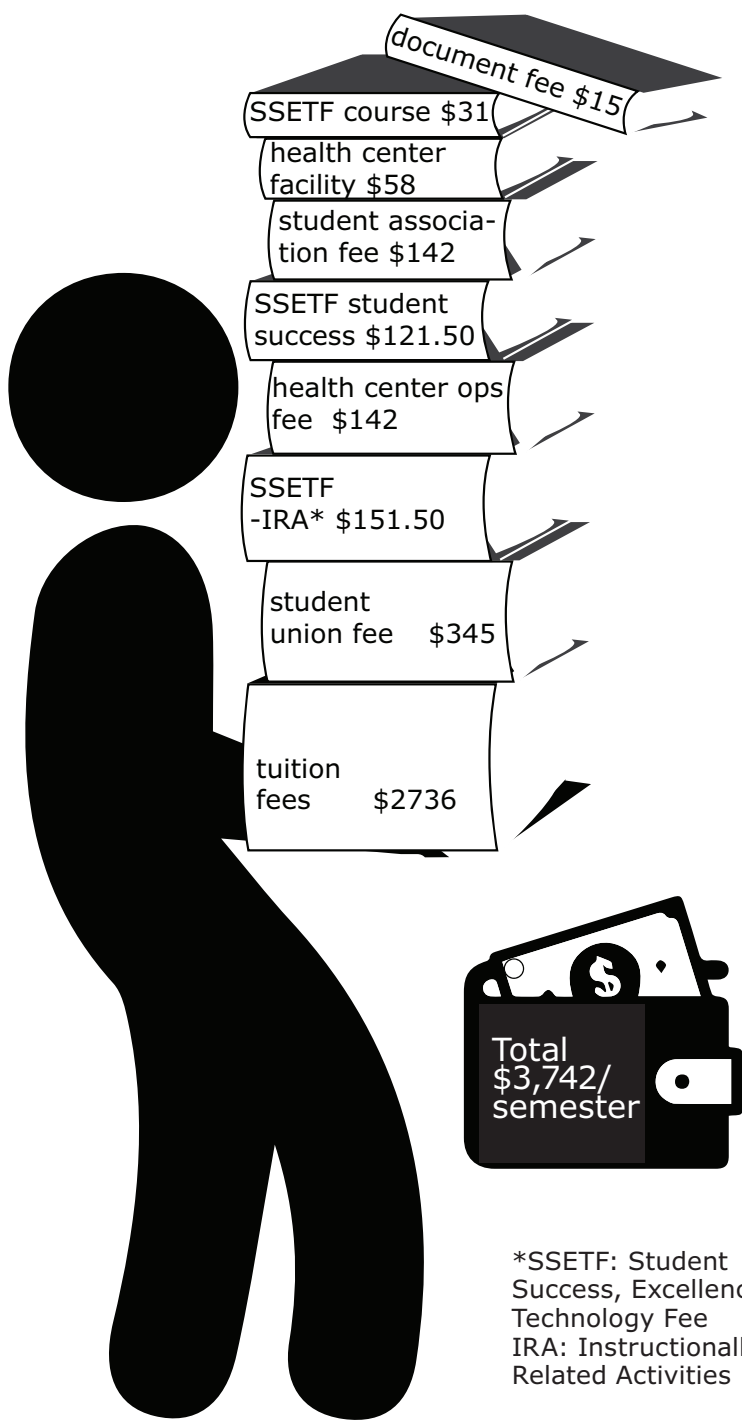
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Where Do Our Fees Go?



Infographic by **Kavin Mistry**

Information gathered by **Yousif Kassab** from SJSU Bursar's Office

CRIME >> from page 1

Ketchum also made a point of bringing up a separate \$5 million lawsuit against the university and apparently insinuated that certain details of Williams' narrative would be financially beneficial, also pointing out that the attorney representing the Williams family in the suit was also present during the criminal proceedings.

Another detail of the narrative Ketchum expanded on was the "Three-Fifths" nickname, saying it was given to Williams by an Asian-American student. Ketchum said if the nickname came from the three boys, it would be "better for the lawsuit."

However, Williams insisted that he was initially reluctant to get police involved throughout the ordeal, but that he also wanted to see his harassers held accountable for their actions.

Throughout the trial, CVC is portrayed by the defense as the site of a prank war in which Williams was targeted indiscriminately. Prosecutor Carolyn Malinsky asked about the relevance of Mesirov's focus on the antics of CVC that didn't involve Williams, to which the attorney replied, "That is the whole case."

The questioning also focused on the N-word found written on the dorm's white board, and whether or not Williams knew the boys were apparently quoting a rap lyric. The attorneys explored the "N---er versus N---a" argument, but Williams

repeatedly stated that he personally disliked the N-word and found it offensive no matter how it is spoken or written.

Williams left the stand after several hours on Tuesday and a former roommate, who didn't participate in the alleged bullying, testified on Wednesday.

The roommate said that early on the boys were all friendly with each other, and even went out to lunch. However that attitude changed as the semester went on.

The roommate was questioned on Williams' behavior during the bullying, saying that he would keep his door shut whenever Beachsler and Warren were around, but once the two were moved out, he left it open more often. The roommate, who was a witness to the first bike lock incident, revealed that he had told his mother about what was going on.

The roommate described Williams as someone who, despite the situation, never spoke of getting back at his other roommates.

However, he also said that he never heard the three explicitly say they picked on Williams because he was black, but because they thought he was "fun and easy to mess with."

Follow **Raphael** on Twitter @randomlyralph

SUPER BOWL >> from page 1

what this city has to offer.

"I'm just here for the hype," said Albert Garcia, a local high school student. "This is my first experience of meeting anyone big, especially Cam Newton. It's incredible to have this here, just in my backyard."

For fans living in the Bay Area, events like Super Bowl 50 are unique experiences for people that have never known how it feels to have everyone paying attention to their hometown.

"I came with a few friends after school," Garcia said, "and I have my binder and line paper all autographed."

With ticket prices at a level that most people cannot fathom affording, these off-the-field meetings with players are the closest they can get to the game.

"I don't have tickets," Torres said. "I'm too broke for that."

San Jose's main events for Super Bowl 50 include Super San Pedro's Square, a street event outside of the Tech Museum; both open for the public to enjoy.

San Pedro's street, alongside the market, has been paved over with AstroTurf to create a makeshift field where people can play games.

The city has painted signs on various walls throughout the city, welcoming fans of both teams to San Jose. All sports bars and restaurants have even posted Super Bowl 50 signs on their windows.

"I like all this," said Mario Bellot. "We need more of these big events in the Bay Area. It's incredible to live in the Bay right now."

Follow **Kavin** on Twitter @kavinm95

APPLE >> from page 1

statement. He also emphasized that by welcoming Apple to San Jose, the city's role in the tech industry strengthens.

Just four miles away from this eventual establishment, San Jose State University seniors are preparing for what lies ahead post-grad.

SJSU mathematics senior Elizabeth Baba said she's excited about the new campus because of the inevitable influx of opportunities.

Apple holds a lot of promise for students in the area. It isn't just the appeal of working for Apple that excites students, but the guarantee of job openings in the Silicon Valley.

From internships to entry-level positions, the competition in the Silicon Valley is stiff since competitors span across the country, with students from all different universities with different backgrounds

and experiences competing for a small amount of jobs.

"From past experience, applying for jobs can be difficult and any new jobs coming into Silicon Valley can increase my chances of getting a job," Baba said.

According to Apple's Senior Director of Real Estate and Development, Kristina Raspe, the purchase came about spontaneously. Apple has remained quiet on exactly what purpose the facility will serve.

There have been no announcements regarding Apple Inc. making any other changes with the Apple campus in Cupertino, its current headquarters.

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Festivities kick-off at Super Bowl City

By Justin Tonel
Staff writer

Thursday, February 4th

The City Stage

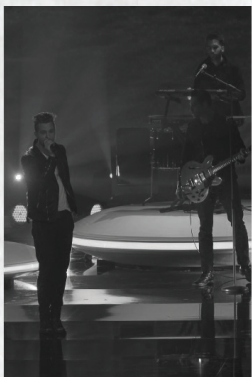
12:00pm – 1:30pm:
Los Cenzontles Juvenil
at 12:00PM
Le Vice
at 12:45PM



7:30pm:
The Band Perry

Friday, February 5th

12:00pm – 1:30pm:
Conservatory of SF
at 12:00PM
Jarrold Spector
at 12:45PM



7:30pm:
OneRepublic at 8:30PM
Macy's Fireworks Show at 10:00PM

Saturday, February 6th

12:00pm – 1:30pm:
Flavor Group's Bay Area Urban Dance All Stars at 12:00PM
AFC Team Rally (Broncos) at 12:15PM
Flavor Group's Bay Area UDAS at 12:45PM
NFC Team Rally (Panthers) at 1:00PM
12:30pm and 3:00pm:
BANDALOOP



7:00pm:
Goapele at 7:00PM
Alicia Keys at 8:15PM

Throughout the week until Feb. 7, Super Bowl City presented by Verizon and the Host Committee will offer activities to commemorate the milestone and big game.

Located at the foot of Market and Embarcadero in San Francisco and centered on Justin Herman Plaza, people can attend all events the Bay Area has to offer and watch performances at the City Stage presented by Levi's from artists Alicia Keys, OneRepublic and The Band Perry.

In the Fan Energy Zone powered by SAP and located in the center of Super Bowl City, fans can participate in interactive games where their movements are mimicked by digital avatars or show their love along the 50-foot wide by 15-foot tall Fan Wall. The Fan Wall that showcases people's participation in social media throughout the day.

At the Fan Stage, the public can engage with community partners and a chance at meeting celebrities and being a part of autograph signings and listen to different DJ's.

Super Bowl City is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and extended to 10 p.m. Friday on Feb. 6 and 7.

"I'm excited the Super Bowl is here. All the attractions they have. You can interact with passing players and take a chance at kicking the winning field goal at Moscone Center," says Genesis Espinoza, San Jose resident.

For a more hands-on experience, fans can head to the Moscone Center for the NFL experience

driven by Hyundai.

The NFL Experience allows fans to take part in drills where they can receive passes or kick a game-winning field goal.

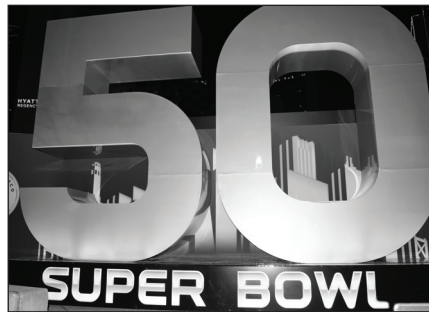
Participants can also undergo simulations of what it feels like to be along the sidelines in virtual

reality.

The Vince Lombardi Trophy and past Super Bowl rings are on display for people to take pictures as well as learn about the history of the NFL.

"It was awesome. I highly recommend going to the NFL Experience. Kids and adults of all ages were participating in it and it was like a museum/recreational area," said attendee Karl Noceda.

Tickets to the NFL Experience are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children under age 12.



Follow Justin on Twitter
@Justin_Tonel

Super Bowl City is the main event leading up to Super Bowl 50 all week in San Francisco.



Illustration and Photos by Justin Tonel

Football fans walk into the Fan Energy Zone at Super Bowl City in San Francisco.



REVIEW

Rihanna's latest platinum album fails in sales

By Yousif Kassab
Staff writer

Rihanna's new album, "ANTI," just dropped on Tidal, a music streaming service, last week and has achieved platinum status before even being released properly.

Rihanna starts off strong with her album-opener, "Consideration". It adds a patois truer to her normal-speaking voice which diligent fans may recognize from interviews and her early music.

The song is also made notable by the appearance of SZA, who pops in for a chorus or two and sings circles around Rihanna.

The most successful moments of the track are near the end when the two harmonize together.

The album has a few bright spots with "Consideration," "Love on the Brain" and "Work", but, unfortunately, they only stick out because they're among a slew of mismatched, underwhelming songs.

None of the songs have any worthwhile musical ideas aside from Rihanna's voice that might tie them together and make a coherent album.

In fact, the album sounds like she and her creative team generated every safe musical idea they could come up with in an effort to catch as many listeners as possible.

Despite my complaints with the cohesiveness of the album, the quality of her voice is amazing throughout and hasn't changed over the years.

However, if you're listening for anything other than a pretty voice and catchy tunes, you're in for a disappointment.

The songwriting completely falls flat. It's not a reference to a relationship not working out, her love of weed or some other substance she's telling you how she's best thing to ever happen to you.

While these can all be made into interesting song ideas in the right hands. This particular brand of songs have grown stale after eight albums.

Described by Rolling Stone as "banger-free,"

there are some curveballs among the filler.

If you haven't heard the catchy-as-hell song "Work" on the radio yet, get ready. I'm sure we'll all get tired of hearing the gibberish chorus soon enough as it floods airwaves thanks to boasting a Drake feature.

"Needed Me" features a cool spacey beat by DJ Mustard, in his attempt to prove that he still exists now that his heyday of same-sounding synth beats have stopped swarming the radio.

The biggest surprise on the album is "Same Ol' Mistakes". The song is a serious change of pace as far as songwriting, as it's a cover from the band Tame Impala.

The only bummer in the song is that her rendition comes just a little too close to the original, it's like the only purpose for it to be on the album is to catch the "indie" crowd familiar with the song.

However, halfway through the song, Rihanna succeeds as she busts her falsetto out for a vocal flourish. It's here that she makes the song her own.

Aside from that bright spot, the song feels lazy and is a missed opportunity.

This may not come as a surprise, but there is a gem hidden among the motley crew here. "Love on the Brain" is the most soulful song on the entire album.

The emotion is just pouring out of her strained voice on this track. The lyrics and her delivery mesh into an emotional cocktail that may surprise fans of every level of familiarity with her music.

The album is hard to pin down. It spends about 25 of its 40-minute length being various levels of entertaining.

My numerous complaints aside, as you might guess, Rihanna gets the last laugh. ET Online reports her album is still considered platinum due to a deal with Samsung, despite selling only 460 copies.

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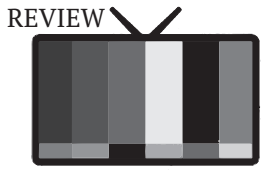


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O.J. Simpson trial relived on 'American Crime Story'

Behind the scenes with lawyers of the case

By Leticia Castro
A&E editor

The infamous O.J. Simpson car chase from 1994 was revisited last night during the premiere of "The People vs. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" on FX.

For those of you who may not know, Simpson played professional football for 11 seasons in the NFL for the Buffalo Bills (1969-1977) and San Francisco 49ers (1978-1979).

Nicknamed "Juice," Simpson shattered records in both his college and professional football career, but his most notable action came when he was acquitted of the 1994 murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Now in 2016, the chaos will be depicted through a limited 10-part miniseries on FX, Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. PST.

The series is based on the book by Jeffrey Toobin, "The Run of His Life: The People Vs. O. J. Simpson."

Toobin broke the story in *The New Yorker* in 1994. He exposed Simpson's legal team and their plan to accuse Los Angeles Police Detective Mark Fuhrman for planting evidence and "playing the race card."

The series is directed by Ryan Murphy, known for "American Horror Story" and "Scream Queens."

The show starts off at the crime scene of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend, introducing the audience to Fuhrman (Steven Pasquale). Simpson (Cuba Gooding Jr.) is notified of the death of his ex-wife Brown (Kelly Dowdle) and her friend Goldman (Jake Koepl).

Like the book, the miniseries is based on the legal side of the story. We are introduced with a behind-the-scenes look at the planning stages of the trial.

"My book and this series differ in one way," Toobin said in an interview with E! News. "I have always been very clear that I think O.J. is guilty. The series



Image courtesy of Youtube

Cuba Gooding Jr. in his role as O. J. Simpson

doesn't take an explicit position..."

Prosecutor Marcia Clark (Sarah Paulson) wants Simpson behind bars and will fight until the end to prove he is guilty. Paulson's facial expressions show heartache for the Brown family and anger towards the LAPD for not arresting Simpson with the first set of evidence.

Within the first 15 minutes, you hear the name Robert Kardashian (David Schwimmer) the father of arguably the most famous family in Calabasas, CA.

Kardashian is best known for helping Simpson as a lawyer along with Robert Shapiro (John Travolta) and Johnnie Cochran (Courtney B. Vance).

Throughout the show, Gooding Jr., showed off his amazing acting skills by throwing tantrums while still maintaining his charm.

The set is based in the 1990s and accurately represents the decade with older cars, home phones and big cell phones.

The show portrays the trial and keeps it based on the lawyers and Simpson in order to keep respect for both the Brown and Goldman families.

The last 15 minutes are filled with the most action and unbelievable moments with the breakthrough moment of the show when Simpson pulls out a gun and attempts to kill himself inside Kim Kardashian's room in front of Robert Kardashian.

As Kardashian calms Simpson down, he leaves him in the room alone.

The prosecutor finds all evidence linking Simpson as the murderer which allows them to obtain a warrant for his arrest.

The scene then changes back to Simpson, but he is gone leading us to the low-speed chase all our parents remember.

The show ends with a preview of what to expect for the rest of the series.

For those who don't know Simpson's story, this is the show to watch. It is intriguing and creates doubt about how the legal system lets celebrities get away with crimes.

This miniseries will take you on a ride with a more in-depth story filled with thrilling, intense scenes never seen before.

Rating:



5/5

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Classifieds

Sudoku Puzzle

6			1	3		5		
		1	7	5		3	2	
	5			6			8	7
	6		5	1				
		8		4		6		
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		5		7	1			3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous Solutions

2	9	3	4	6	7	5	1	8
1	6	4	3	5	8	7	2	9
8	5	7	1	2	9	3	6	4
3	7	5	9	8	1	6	4	2
6	8	9	7	4	2	1	5	3
4	1	2	6	3	5	8	9	7
7	2	6	8	1	4	9	3	5
5	3	8	2	9	6	4	7	1
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6

Feb 2nd

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Crossword Puzzle

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59							60					61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

ACROSS

- 1 Head pests
- 5 Arctic breakaway
- 9 Nodded off
- 14 "While ___ it ..."
- 15 Say with certainty
- 16 Type of gas
- 17 Lawrence, in Stockholm
- 18 Epsilon follower
- 19 Not under one's breath
- 20 L.A. 10-percenter
- 21 Things done in the gym
- 23 Black-eyed legume
- 25 Master of rhymes
- 26 Abominable
- 29 Wagner contemporary
- 33 Firewood measure
- 35 Beehive State flowers
- 37 Break bread
- 38 Atkins or Huntley
- 39 Detach
- 40 Tasting of wood, as some spirits
- 41 Address on the Web
- 42 Furrier John Jacob
- 43 End table?
- 44 Free-for-all
- 46 Earth models
- 48 Difficult
- 50 L.A. player

DOWN

- 1 Dooryard bloomer, in a poem
- 2 Insect stage
- 3 Things done in the gym
- 4 ALF and Mork, for two
- 5 Charity sale
- 6 It's almost seven, but seven's not
- 7 Living in Fla., perhaps
- 8 Get hold of
- 9 Successful trap setters
- 10 1962 Kubrick film
- 11 Black, poetically
- 12 Tub stopper
- 13 Kennedy and Danson
- 21 "Help yourself"

22 Address abbr.

- 24 Ship's destination
- 27 "Amazing, ___ it?"
- 28 Clear, as a windshield
- 30 Things done in the gym
- 31 ___ ends meet
- 32 Underworld river
- 33 Bunny tail
- 34 "No ___ traffic"
- 36 Mary or Jane
- 39 Software buyers
- 40 "This ___ on me!"
- 42 Protected, as a home
- 43 Stork's kin
- 45 Put away for a while
- 47 Decide to withdraw
- 49 Not fashionable
- 51 It's a start
- 52 Informal evenings
- 53 Bit of bickering
- 54 Capital on a fjord
- 55 Kind of attraction
- 56 Night-sky bear
- 57 Whopper creator
- 61 ___ in Idaho (elementary lesson)

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SPORTS

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NEWS
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OPINION

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Winter break is the perfect length

By Yale Wyatt
Staff writer

I had figured that my classmates were satisfied with a month-long winter break.

I was talking to my friends and I was surprised when they said they would prefer returning to classes immediately following the holidays, as opposed to our comfortable one month furlough.

Collisions bound to happen

By Jose Munguia
Staff writer

When it's early in the morning and you are walking to class, the last thing on someone's mind is a biker or skateboarder running into them, yet around the San Jose State University campus it happens more often than not.

The SJSU campus is filled with plenty of skateboarders and bicyclists riding faster than they should and in some cases riding right down the middle of the walkway making it difficult for students to maneuver around them.

As a student, I should not have to worry about getting hit and getting hurt while simply going to class.

While walking I put my phone away to pay full attention to what's ahead of me, or better yet what's coming at me.

The main walkway by the SJSU Student Union is where most of the collisions have occurred.

These collisions are due to bicyclists, skateboarders, and skaters going too fast and not being able to maneuver around walking students. Other reasons are due to students being too focused to their phones and having zero clue someone is riding past them.

"There have been close calls with bicyclists or skaters, thankfully I haven't been hit but things are getting ridiculous and something has to be done," said Matthew Watts, a junior aviation major at SJSU.

I have personally seen people crash into each other and every time the outcome is the same, both people involved argue about whose fault it was while using vulgar language.

Bruises are made and at times blood is shed from both sides, taking energy or motivation away from attending class.

Actions need to be made from the faculty of SJSU to create a safe environment for riders and walkers. The amount of riders can not be controlled, but a route can be made to keep both sides content.

An idea to help this situation can be creating lanes for riders in order to have some order when it comes to passing time in between classes.

School is back which means plenty of students looking down at their phones or printed schedule wondering where their classes are located. Students are going to be prone to getting into a collision on the way to class having their day turned upside down.

Common sense has to occur on both parties as well; bicyclists and skateboarders should be aware of their surroundings. If there is a massive amount of students

walking through a walkway, just don't skate through it. I understand if you want to skate or bike past students to reach your destination faster than walking, but that shouldn't mean cutting it close with other students.

Time management is another factor that can prevent

this, but we're college students and sometimes we aren't the best at it.

I have never had to put so much attention into simply walking to class, as I do now and will be doing this semester. Things have gotten out of hand, making the situation more of an annoyance having to deal with it every single day.

Students at SJSU have enough to worry about with classes, walking to class should never be a dangerous routine. The first thing we think about as we walk on campus should never be, "I hope I don't get hit by a bicyclist or skateboarder."

It is understandable that the SJSU community is filled with thousands of bicyclists and skaters, but if nothing can be decided due to the congested campus then ban people from riding.

Another solution could be making people ride on the outskirts of campus that would make the inside of campus a bike and skateboard free zone.

My message to bicyclists and skateboarders is to have common sense, if an area is crowded with SJSU students slow down or walk.

No one wants to be involved in a collision while sometimes dreading the walk to class.

Follow Jose on Twitter @JRMunguia92

Upon hearing this, my jaw nearly dropped. What self-respecting college student would want to return to the rigor of classes so soon? However, once they explained their argument, it started to make sense.

"My time would be better spent if school started earlier," said junior Danny Lin, a biological sciences major. "During break, I have no motivation to do really anything, like study for the GRE (graduate record examinations) or get out of bed."

"I spent the entire break on my couch," said junior Parker O'Neill.

It may just seem as if my friends are simply lazy, but they do have a point. After New Year's, SJSU students have nearly the entire month of January to do as they please. Students are given time to hang out with family, go on vacation, or do absolutely nothing.

Some students have made the argument that if we hop back into the school year and finish the semester as soon as possible, our summer break would come earlier and be substantially longer.

Another valid point is that a shorter break would alleviate the transition back into going to class, allowing students to retain their motivation and study habits. San Jose State is an outlier: other colleges in California, such as UCLA or UC Davis, have winter breaks that give students three weeks to enjoy their holidays. Afterward, they are quickly snapped back into the rigor of college life. So, why is it that SJSU

chooses to take its time?

SJSU is justified in its decision of a long winter break as it allows ample time for students to decompress and relax while still allowing students opportunities to remain active and support their education, such as take part-time jobs, attend winter session, or volunteer.

Some students work over the school year and continue to work over their break.

Some of those students rely on their jobs to pay for room and board, so a month-long break allows them to take on more shifts in order to increase their funds.

I am among these students and working at the SJSU Aquatic Center part time.

Since school is not my primary focus, I was able to take on an amount of shifts that would be impossible during the school year. When Jan. 22 came around, I had been able to increase my normal monthly paycheck by three times. This extra cash will be invaluable during the spring semester.

It is true that San Jose State's winter break can be viewed as a waste of time, but that's only if one allows it to be. The lengthy break can be seen as a well-earned intermission for students and an opportunity to devote more time to other engagements besides school.

Follow Yale on Twitter @yyaley

Bern down for what?

By Casey Geier
Staff writer

Socialism has been seen as a dirty word in terms of politics, and rightfully so after the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of Marxist Socialism.

But today, we have socialistic ideas like a minimum wage and social security that have proven to work for the betterment of everyone for decades.

Bernie Sanders has gained popularity due to his grassroots campaign movement and support for things like healthcare as a right and free college tuition. These are things the American people today want, with 72 percent of people wanting a public government health care option according to a CBS news poll.

The price to attend a university has also skyrocketed over the past ten years.

According to a survey conducted by the Huffington Post, 62 percent of today's Americans believe most people can't afford college.

However, both free tuition and public healthcare are considered by economists to be socialistic ideas. Back in 1938, when Franklin D. Roosevelt established the minimum wage at 25 cents, the American public saw it as a new socialistic idea.

In today's age, a minimum wage is so common it seems almost un-American without it.

While public healthcare and free tuition are popular, the underlying question is whether or not America has the money to make them happen. Can Bernie's socialist ideas work?

Former policy advisor on Capitol Hill Michael Linden says that Sanders plan of initiating a single paying health care system "could offer us enormous benefits," as Americans wouldn't have to pay private insurers.

However, Linden claims that taxes would have to be raised sharply to put this plan into action, but did not give a specific percentage.

Sanders has responded to the questions of payment with the proposal of a slight health care premium tax increase to employers and households that will save Americans thousands every month, as they will not need to pay deductibles.

Break your leg and needed an ambulance ride? Sanders has you covered.

Sanders is also planning on demanding payment from large corporations. Tami Luhby, writer for CNN explains that Sanders would make "corporations pay taxes on the profits earned abroad or shifted offshore."

Top U.S. firms and household names like Apple, Microsoft and GE are responsible for holding billions of dollars offshore, escaping taxes that would put that money back into our economy.

Bloomberg estimates that the top 500 U.S. firms are stashing \$2.1 trillion combined overseas.

I don't need to tell you that that's a gargantuan amount of money. Money that could be distributed to things like expanding social security and protecting pensions. Again, two ideas considered socialistic when first introduced by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

We see other first world countries like Canada and France with public health care systems much more efficient than the health care systems we have with Obamacare and Medicaid.

According to a recent poll from Forbes, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland were ranked as the three happiest countries in the world due to the strong



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Oscar winners lack racial diversity

By Daniel Reedy
Sports editor

The Academy Awards are not until the end of the month, but the release of the award nominees have movie fans buzzing all over social media.

The Academy is receiving heavy media attention scrutiny for accused snubs. This is after back to back years with very little African-American representation in the nominations.

The protesting side makes a reasonable argument: just four of the films that have been nominated for Best Picture over the last 10 years feature an African-American lead. These films were "Precious" (2009), "Django Unchained" (2012), "12 Years a Slave" (which won in 2013) and "Selma" (2014). Notice anything about those years? The earliest was 2009 -- between 2005 and 2009, not a single film with an African-American lead was nominated for Best Picture. This year, not a single nominated film meets that description. Not even the movie "Brooklyn."

Well, what about nominations for Best Director? The total of the last decade: two, "12 Years A Slave" and "Precious." To make matters worse, you have to travel all the way back to 1991 ("Boyz N The Hood") to find the last and only movie before "12 Years A Slave" and "Precious" had been nominated.

Individual actors have had slightly more success. There have been six nominations for African-American lead actors since 2005 (only Forest Whitaker in the 2006 film "The Last King of Scotland" won) with three nominations for Supporting Actor.

Nomination numbers are just as bad for African-American actresses: three lead nominations and six for Supporting Actress. The gaps between nominations are staggering. Not a single African-American actress was nominated for the Best Lead Actress from 2001-2009, 1993-2001, 1985-1993, 1974-1985, and 1954-1972.

The question remains, though. So what? Who cares? They are just movies, just entertainment. Film is a business, and history has shown that you do not need to cast minority actors in order to have a successful movie. Most do, of course, but often minorities or other specific demographics are typecast for token roles. Some examples are a grouchy old man (think "get off my lawn") or the funny black guy. Who cares as long as it sells?



The truth is that movies create an image in which people view different eras, cultures and places that they are unfamiliar with. If we consistently see certain portrayals, we unconsciously assume these portrayals as being realistic. African-Americans only see movies where people of their color are there as just comic relief or for plot advancement. Think about the most well-known movies with an African-American lead. Many of them are centered on the issues of race and color, which may bring awareness, but limiting their movies to that isn't necessarily helping the problem. For example, "Remember the Titans" and "Boyz N the Hood." It's great to show the struggle of African-Americans, but if this issue is to be helped, we need movies with minorities that have nothing to do with race. Just make the movie as though race doesn't matter, because it shouldn't.

Think about last year's nominations for Best Picture. How many of them could have had an African-American actor in place of the Caucasian lead and have the plot still flow accordingly? "American Sniper," "The Imitation Game," and "The Theory of Everything" are based on real people, but the rest of the films, including "Boyhood," "Whiplash," and 2015 Best Picture winner "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)," easily could have been cast with an African-American lead without any adaptation.

It would seem we are on the right track. It took my beloved Disney until 2009 to release a princess movie with an African-American girl. That isn't really bashing Disney, since I do not recall any other company producing a kids movie featuring a person of color. Keep in mind that although an African-American princess was long overdue, Disney has had princesses of Native American, Hawaiian, Chinese, Arabian, and various European descents. Lucasfilm, owned by Disney, is also making its own mark by casting an African-American actor in the almost solely Caucasian series, "Star Wars."

Going back to the Academy, who is to blame? The members of the Academy who are famously socially liberal but have nominated very few films with minor-

ity leads? The movie makers themselves for not casting African-Americans in important roles?

I believe it to be a little of both, but also, the fear of producers to cast a person, regardless of race, that may not produce a profit when the movie is released. Why aim for racial equality when you can just cast Tom Hanks and know that people will want to see it? While that sounds harsh, we need to remember that this is a for-profit industry.

Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs claims that diversity in the academy's roster will improve. She announced that the number of racial minorities and female members will double by 2020. That sounds a lot like affirmative action, quite a controversial subject. In short, this practice designates certain quotas to be met, and will overrule qualifications. Yes, this will make the group more diverse, but it means candidates that are of the majority group have to achieve a higher standard than candidates of minority groups.

To put that in perspective, for college admissions, underrepresented students may be able to get into the school with lower GPAs just because they are of a different ethnicity. If we intend on racial equality, we cannot hold different races to different standards. This applies to college admissions, the Academy, hiring processes, and other practices.

I believe the movie industry is improving in this regard, but I think the critics of the Academy will have to wait several more years to see the equality they desire.

Movie makers can do their part by improving their casting methods. Martin Scorsese (especially) keeps casting Leonardo DiCaprio even though he seems incapable of winning an award.

We, the public, are the customers and ultimately decide what sells and what does not. Since the average person cannot fund their own blockbuster, we will just have to wait to see racial equality in cinema.

I do believe the movie industry is improving in this regard, but I think the critics of the Academy will have to wait several more years to see the equality they desire.

This article first appeared on The Odyssey
Follow Daniel on Twitter @patrioticreedy

Thursday thoughts

SUPER BOWL 50



Thursday, February 4, 2016

College signing day Spartans improve recruiting level after bowl win

By Ryan Vermont

The San Jose State football team received 19 letters of intent on Wednesday to attend and play for the 2016 season.

The 2016 recruiting class is fairly evenly distributed in terms of players added to each side of the ball. The class features ten players who play offense, eight on defense and one kicker.

"We really cast a wide net across all positions," said head coach Ron Caragher during the signing day press conference.

In this year's recruiting cycle, Caragher and his staff made it a point to recruit the best student-athletes available while addressing the team's needs.

Caragher said that while he never promises a starting position because it's unfair to both the recruits and the returners, he didn't discount that freshman will have a chance to compete for playing time this upcoming season.

The SJSU football program looked to carry momentum of a hopeful 2015 season with a strong 2016 recruiting class.

According to scout.com, SJSU had the 75th strongest recruiting class in the country and sixth in the Mountain West Conference.

The first commit and one of the more highly regarded players of this 2016 class is Blake Walls. The five-foot-11, 215 lbs. linebacker is from Serra High School in Gardena, CA. Serra has produced a number of Spartans, including current Washington Redskins safety Duke Ihenacho and cornerback Bene Benwikere from the NFC champion Carolina Panthers.

Coach Caragher described Walls as a physical and strong linebacker who is a good open field tackler and hinted that we could see some of him on special teams and defense.

"The key ingredients to freshman playing is one opportunity as well as understanding the language, understanding the scheme, and coaches building that trust to put them in the game," Caragher said.

Another member of the 2016 class is six-foot-three, 210 lbs. quarterback Sam Allen. After a highly productive season at Victor Valley College in southern California, Allen signed a letter of intent to play for the Spartans.

Allen described his playing style as "dual threat", but said that running is the last thing he wants to do and is working on becoming a pro-style quarterback.

Allen also said other schools' coaches tried to change his position throughout his high school recruiting process.

"When I came out to southern California, the big thing for me has been working on my passing game," Allen said.


Allen said some of the main reasons he chose SJSU were because of the coaches, location and education. Allen plans on majoring in engineering.

Following a victory in the 2015 AutoNation Cure Bowl and a capable 2016 recruiting class, the SJSU football program looks forward to a strong 2016 season.

While Feb. 3 marks the end of a long and strenuous recruiting cycle, it also marks the beginning of the next round of recruiting for 2017.

Follow Ryan on Twitter @Your_Pa_Ryan

LB




BLAKE WALLS

5'11 215 lbs.

High school senior
Serra high school

Gardena, CA

QB




SAM ALLEN

6'3 210 lbs.

Junior College transfer
Victor Valley College

Victorville, CA

QB



JOSH LOVE

6'2 185 lbs.

High school senior
Long Beach Polly high school

Long Beach, CA

QB



JOSH LOVE

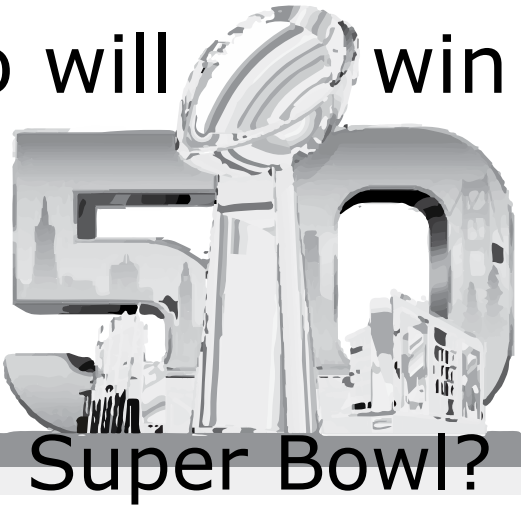
6'2 185 lbs.

High school senior
Long Beach Poly high school

Long Beach, CA

Infographics by Kevin Mistry

Who will win the



Super Bowl?

LETICIA CASTRO | A&E EDITOR



30-27



It's the year of Cam Newton. Peyton Manning is old and the Broncos will choke.

JOVANNI CAMBEROS | EXECUTIVE EDITOR



28-14

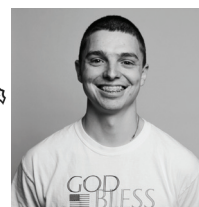


Although this might be Peyton Manning's final game, the Panthers well balanced offense and defense in addition to Cam Newtons ability to escape the pocket and create plays will prevent Peyton Manning's ride into the sunset as a champion.

DANIEL REEDY | SPORTS EDITOR



23-21

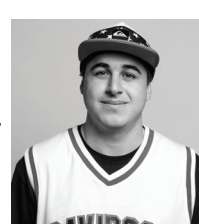


Cam Newton has an overrated supporting cast and Denver will expose Newton's inexperience. Peyton Manning will be a flashback to 1998 John Elway and will conclude his Hall-of-Fame career in victorious fashion.

DAKOTAH ZABROSKI | OPINION EDITOR



31-24



This is likely Peyton Manning's last NFL game and I suspect Manning will look like his old self one last time. Denver's defense, with pro-bowlers Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware, Chris Harris and Aqib Talib will give Cam Newton fits from the first snap.

Infographic by Kevin Mistry



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Spartans beat rival Bulldogs



Isaac Thornton drives to the hoop between two bulldog defenders in Wednesday night's home match-up.

By Tony Nunez
Staff writer

SAN JOSE -- For the first time in six tries, the San Jose State men's basketball team beat rival Fresno State, 65-53, Wednesday night in front of a raucous crowd of 2,324 at the Event Center in San Jose.

"It feels good — I'm not going to lie," said SJSU

head coach Dave Wojcik. "We're getting better and I've said this all along; it's a process, it takes time. They're starting to see that a little bit. They're growing up in front of our eyes — these young guys — and they're making plays. It's fun to watch."

Senior forward Frank

Rogers scored a game-high 17 points, freshman forward Brandon Clarke added a double-double with 14 points and a season-high 15 rebounds as the Spartans notched back-to-back conference wins for the first time since the 2012-13 season.

"It's just a great

feeling," said junior guard Isaac Thornton. "They're a great team and to get the win tonight is good for our team and our momentum."

SJSU (8-15, 3-8 in Mountain West) trailed 35-33 with 14 minutes, 16 seconds left to play before Rogers gave the Spartans a 36-35 advantage with a three-point play.

The Spartans never looked back. Thornton's and-one layup with 2:27 left on the clock was the nail in the coffin, giving SJSU a 54-48 lead and sending the pro-Spartans crowd into a frenzy.

San Jose State made its free throws down the stretch to hold off Fresno State (14-8, 5-4 in Mountain West), which was looking to match its best nine-game start in conference play since the 2004-05 season with a win.

Senior guard Cezar Guerrero led Fresno State with 12 points and junior forward Karachi Edo added 11 points.

The Bulldogs shot just 34.4 percent from the field and struggled from the free-throw line as well, finishing 8-of-18.

San Jose State was much stronger from the free-throw line, going 23-27.

Mountain West Preseason Player of the Year, Marvelle Harris, had only seven points and was 2-of-16 from the field. In the team's prior meeting, Harris dropped 32 points and led Fresno State to a 81-74 win.

"He can take over a game," Wojcik said of Harris. "We did a great job of team defense on him, but Jaycee (Hillsman) did an unbelievable job

on that kid tonight."

Cody Schwartz and Thronton had 12 points apiece and four others scored for San Jose State.

Fresno State took the initial lead on a layup from Karachi Edo but Schwartz hit a 3-pointer just 20 seconds later to give San Jose State the advantage.

Neither team could find an offensive rhythm early in the first half.

After the Spartans took a 7-4 lead on a Clarke layup, neither team hit a field goal for a little less than four minutes.

SJSU's offense was the first to wake up.

Behind three consecutive, crowd-tantalizing dunks from Clarke, the Spartans built a seven point lead at 16-9 with 7:20 left in the half.

Fresno State, however, answered with 9-2 run and seized a four-point lead with 2:09 left before the break.

But two 3-pointers during the closing 1:11 of the half gave San Jose State a 24-23 advantage heading into the locker room.

The lead swapped hands three more times before Rogers gave the Spartans the lead for good by splitting a pair from the charity stripe. It was just one of the 13 points he scored during the first 13 minutes of the second half.

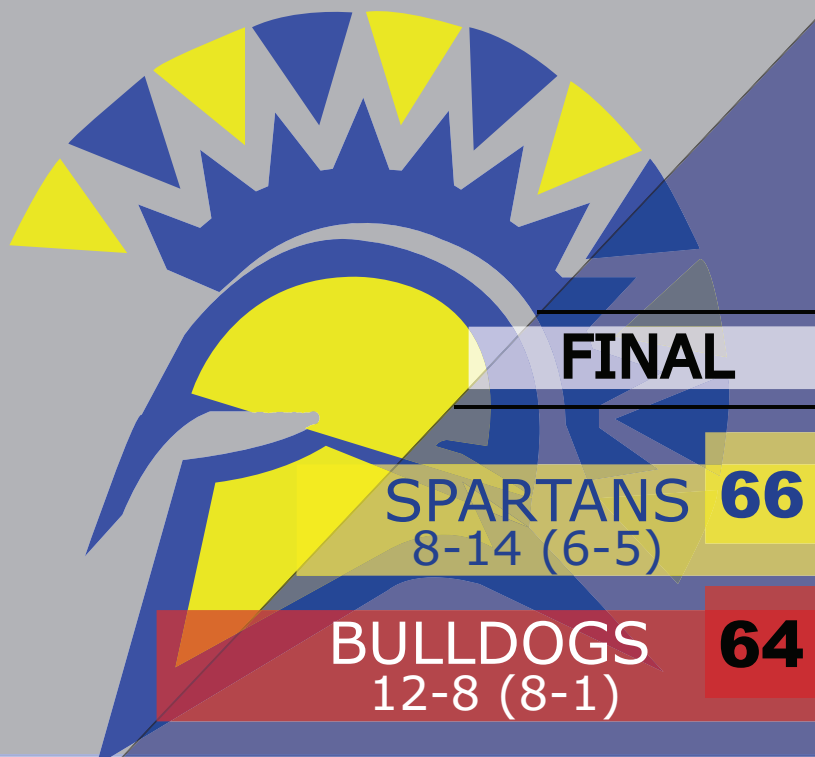
San Jose State is off until Feb. 10, when it travels to Las Vegas to take on UNLV.

Follow Tony on Twitter @Tony_nunez

Byrd leads Spartans to upset

Riana Byrd eclipsed 1,000 points, leading the Spartans to a 66-64 victory against the conference rival Fresno State Bulldogs. Her 17 points led both teams and she added two blocks and two steals along with eight rebounds. Fresno State came into the game undefeated in conference play but San Jose State dominated the fourth quarter to complete a comeback win. With the victory, the Spartans advance to above .500 in the Mountain West conference this season.

Infographic by Kavin Mistry and Daniel Reedy



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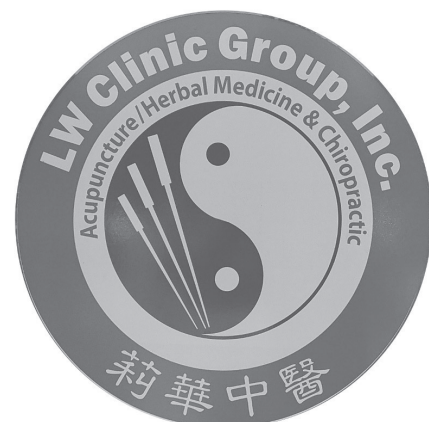
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