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THE LIFE OF A MUSIC STUDENT



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SJSU JIU-JITSU



Spartan Daily Twitter Poll Results

Is it possible for equality and chivalry to coexist in 2016?

71% Yes

29% No

49 votes - Current Results

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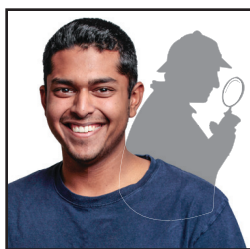
SJSU FOOTBALL

Brennan has no room for error



PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS

San Jose State University's new head coach Brent Brennan will take over the Spartans' football team after five years at Oregon State.



THE MISTRY SPOT

KAVIN MISTRY

San Jose State has found its man to take over as head coach of the Spartans. Wide receivers coach from Oregon State Brent Brennan will take over the head coaching duties and fill in the void left by the firing of Ron Caragher.

Brennan was at Oregon State since 2011 and before that was an assistant coach at San Jose State from 2005 to 2010. At SJSU, he held the positions of wide receivers coach, offensive coordinator and tight ends coach.

"We want to recruit high-character young men that are tough and love to play football and also take their academics seriously," Brennan said in a release yesterday. "We're going to help them grow from young men into men and put a product on the field that anybody who has a connection with Spartan football can be proud of."

Brennan is from the Bay Area and is a former UCLA player. He has been a well known recruiter and developer of wide receivers. He has seen and helped develop names such as Brandin Cooks from the New Orleans Saints and Markus Wheaton from the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The ties to SJSU for Brennan stretch beyond his five-year coaching stint. His father and mother both went to SJSU.

His father Steve Brennan played football here and when Brent left SJSU to Oregon State, both his parents stayed and helped out with the program.

Brent will be taking over a football program in dire need of a re-build and will have to start his recruiting process right away to get the team back on top.

"We are thrilled to have Brent back at San Jose State," said Athletic Director Gene Bleymaier in yesterday's release. "He is an exceptional football coach and one of the most respected recruiters in the country. His coaching background and ties to San Jose State make Brent a perfect fit."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS

MEET BRENT BRENNAN

43 YEARS-OLD
UCLA GRADUATE
HOMETOWN
REDWOOD CITY, CA
COACH AT SJSU FROM 2005-10
COACH AT OSU FROM 2011-16
BOWL HISTORY
2006 NEW MEXICO BOWL
2012 HAWAII BOWL
2013 ALAMO BOWL

INFOGRAPHIC BY KAVIN MISTRY

INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BENJAMIN SIEPAK | SPARTAN DAILY

Cubamex mixes two cultures

By BENJAMIN SIEPAK
STAFF WRITER

After moving to the United States from Cuba 18 years ago and working as a dental assistant, Iliana Moreno decided to trade the scrubs for an apron and open up a sandwich shop with her husband.

Iliana Moreno has integrated her Cuban heritage with her husband's Mexican heritage to open a shop offering a tasty fusion of both cultures, Cubamex.

"We always wanted to open a new business," Moreno said. "My husband has over 30 years of experience in the food industry and we got the opportunity to get money from the bank to make this possible."

Cubamex opened on Aug. 22 of this year. It is located on First Street and San Carlos in downtown. Business has been steadily increasing every month. Moreno said they are becoming a popular downtown lunch destination as

See **CUISINE** page 4

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COMMUNITY GROWTH

Staying strong at Standing Rock



JEREMY CUMMINGS

COLUMNIST

So I'm sitting here, in a tent right now. My new brother Danny, he just talked to me for a while and taught me a lot. It is cold outside but it's warm in here because we got fire.

Out earlier, I was sitting at the sacred prayer fire,

the cold wind was blowing through but the wind was making the fire stronger. I've learned a lot these past few days, about myself, about everyone around me, about the world and about God.

God is all around us, people are right about that. God is in the earth, in the fire, in the water and in the air. Everyone in this camp recognizes that and that is why everyone in this camp is fighting so hard through all of this.

Nothing can stop that because God took people. God took me from San Jose and brought me here. People from Palestine, people from all over because we all

knew it was right to be here.

Danny was talking to me earlier. He said everything we ever needed was there for us, it was in the earth, it was in those four elements.

We never needed the railroads, we never needed the internet, we never needed anything and we forgot that because people made us forget. The capitalism, the colonialism, the violence, the greed. It got in the way of what really matters for us to stay alive, for us to stay together, and that's what this fight is. It's more than just an oil pipeline.

That matters a lot and their pipeline needs to stop, but this is a fight, it's a struggle,

it's ideas. It is everyone's souls fighting against money, this imaginary wealth. This wealth, is imaginary, it's a lie and it gets between us and the real wealth is in the ground, it's in the air, it's in the water we drink.

We can't stop it, this fight that we were all brought here for. It will never stop. It can't because the love is there and the power is there. And it can only keep going. The fire is going wherever. The fire is in my heart now, it's in Danny's heart, it's in your heart. That's going to keep us warm through this cold winter.

See **NODAPL** page 2

MERCY MOBILE

People help restock stolen donations

By LUKE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

South Bay Area residents more than refurbished the Mercy Mobile's loss last Thursday after donations for homeless people were hijacked out of the recreational vehicle.

The Mercy Mobile is a deliverance ministry affiliated with the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry (CHAM) that was founded by San Jose State University alum and full-time pastor Scott Wagers.

"It's awesome," said Joe Hill, the director of Youth and Family Ministries at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. "With a problem as big as homelessness here in San Jose [it's good] to know that there really are people who are compassionate about what's going on in the streets." Hill added that his church,

which has a partnership with CHAM, has received 20 to 30 times more donations than usual since the theft occurred. These contributions consist of clothes, blankets, toiletries and food.

Wagers said he has been working with the homeless for 25 years and has been a pastor for 19 years. He was inspired and motivated to create the Mercy Mobile after the city of San Jose dismantled "The Jungle" — the city's largest homeless encampment — in 2014 and released approximately 400 homeless people.

"San Jose is a city in this country with one of the worst homeless problems," Wagers said. "I think it [The Jungle] was an embarrassment to the city and they wanted to do something about it."

According to Wagers's estimations, San Jose has about 7,000 homeless citizens with



LUKE JOHNSON | SPARTAN DAILY

Nallely Carrillo (left), Erica Tutton (middle) and Joe Hill (right) carry donations at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose.

only 2,000 of them in shelters. This is more than the San Jose's 2015 homeless census which counted 4,063 people with 69 percent unsheltered.

He invested in the 1985 RV in order to travel to thousands of homeless people recently scattered across the city. This enables him to connect with as

many people as possible because he said the homeless usually do not have enough mobility to go where they can find help.

Ten 4 to 5 square foot plastic bins filled with goods for the homeless were stolen out of the Mercy Mobile. St. Timothy's

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NODAPL

Continued from page 1

It's cold, it's night time now and it's only going to get colder. The ice is out there, the water is frozen and it's blowing in the wind. Long night of the soul, all of that love and all of that energy that has brought us together here is going to flare up stronger than any glacier, any flare on top of an oil refinery, that doesn't matter because we are here and we can't stop.

“...this is a fight, it's a struggle, it's ideas. It is everyone's souls fighting against money, this imaginary wealth.”

Nothing could've stopped me from coming here because this was the place for me to be. Something told me that and I listened to it.

This is hard, a lot of things are breaking because of the cold. The cameras, people's cars, the cold hurts, things break but one thing that does not break in the cold is this community that's grown here.

It's grown stronger together and that community is going to keep growing with the support here in the camp and with the support from all of you people outside of the camp.

Any love you send us helps, any food, any tools, firewood, that keeps this community growing. That keeps this fire burning. And that's what it's about. This fire, the earth, the wind, and the water. Water is life.

Follow Jeremy on Twitter | @jeremycummings3

ACCOLADE

Steinbeck fellowship program gives awards

By **BENJAMIN SIEPAK**
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University recipients of the Steinbeck Fellowship Program were welcomed to the “2016-2017 Steinbeck Fellows Reading” as they discussed the projects they will be working on during their year-long \$10,000 stipends.

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo and Gary Singh were this year's recipients of the program named after famous author

John Steinbeck. The fellowship was originally funded by Martha Heasley Cox and was created to help writers who have published promising work but nothing that's had extensive success.

Nick Taylor, English professor and director of the Center of Steinbeck Studies says the program brings emerging writers to campus for a year-long residency so that they can work on completing a book project.

Each year, the

program receives 100 to 200 applications a year before selecting two to four fellows. As of now, the program only offers fellowships in creative writing and Steinbeck studies.

Those who are chosen to receive the year-long fellowship are eligible to receive office space and housing assistance provided by the Center of Steinbeck Studies and the Department of English and Comparative Language. Applicants come from all ages and

backgrounds and are not required to have any connection with Steinbeck's works.

However, Bermejo has an obvious bond with Steinbeck as she is using her fellowship year to finish “Dear Lupe,” a novel about a girl who goes on to become the character known as Curley's wife in Steinbeck's “Of Mice and Men.”

As a former high school teacher, Bermejo says she taught the book for many years to her students. It upset her that Curley's wife didn't have a name and was often “slut-shamed” throughout the novel.

She wanted to know more about her and decided to take it upon herself to publish the imaginary story she had been thinking about for years.

At the Steinbeck Fellows reading Wednesday night, Bermejo recited excerpts from the novel she's been working on since the summer of 2015.

Singh, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees at SJSU in the '90s, will be spending his fellowship year

researching and writing a biography of San Jose's most well-known painter, Astley David Middleton Cooper. “It was great to be here as the recipient of the literary fellowship that is in my hometown,” Singh said. “And I get to write about something in my hometown, so that's pretty darn cool.”

He received the fellowship honor after publishing his book on the entire history of soccer in San Jose, “The San Jose Earthquakes: A Seismic Soccer Legacy.” “It took me forty years to write it because I lived the entire story from when I was a little kid all the way through the 1970's in San Jose,” Singh said.

After both recipients finished their readings, they opened up for questions before meeting with students and autographing copies of their published work.

The next Steinbeck Fellowship application deadline is Jan. 4. Writers who've begun to publish but have yet to publish a major work are invited to apply.

Follow Benjamin on Twitter | @benjaminsiepak



BENJAMIN SIEPAK | SPARTAN DAILY

The 2016-2017 Steinbeck Fellowship recipients, Gary Singh and Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo autograph their published work Wednesday night at Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

COACH

Continued from page 1

San Jose State finished this past season 4-8 (3-5) and fourth in the Mountain West Conference.

In his time at SJSU, Caragher led his team to two bowl games, one at 5-7 because of the team's GPA throughout the year.

Caragher's best season at the helm of the Spartans' was his first season in the program when the finished 6-6.

Brennan will be under tremendous pressure here to produce a winning team. Bleymaier was already under fire by fans and writers for hiring Caragher to replace one of the most successful coaches in SJSU history, Mike MacIntyre.

He will need to bring in

a fresh crop of recruits to fill the voids on offense and defense, while hiring a staff to help support his vision for the team.

Brennan's track record as a coach speaks for itself. He is able to help develop wide receivers well, something that will help freshman quarterback Josh Love, who will be looked at to take over the team next year with the departure of Kenny Potter.

He will be officially introduced as the Spartans head coach today at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union.

Follow Kavin on Twitter | @kavinm95



KAVIN MISTRY | SPARTAN DAILY

The Spartans look to turn their luck around with new head coach Brent Brennan after struggling from multiple losses this season under Ron Caragher.

LOSS

Continued from page 1

Lutheran Church held a clothing drive Wednesday in an effort to restock the lost items, but Wagers and Hill said volunteers had already provided more supplies throughout the week than what was robbed. After the event, Hill estimated that CHAM obtained double the number of items it originally had.

“At the time it was very heartbreaking hearing that what had been previously donated had been stolen,” Hill said. “To see the showing of support that's come out since then...my heart's just full.”

Wagers graduated from SJSU in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in social

work, and earned his master's degree in 1994. He became passionate about aiding the homeless during a project his senior year.

Branham High School seniors Erica Tutton and Nallely Carrillo volunteered at the drive to help collect donations.

“I think that it's really sad that someone would impose that on the homeless,” Tutton said. “People donate their stuff to give to them. I think it's nice of people to give back to what was taken.”

Wagers said mobile ministry is starting to become a trend, and expects more religious groups to use this method in the near future.

Follow Luke on Twitter | @scoop_johnson



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT WAGERS

Members of the surrounding community line up to receive meals provided by St. Timothy's Mercy Mobile at St. James Park in downtown San Jose.

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THE SPEAR
SAN JOSE STATE SPORTS MEDIA COVERAGE

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Storyline helps Final Fantasy XV clobber complications

By JASON DUNHAM
STAFF WRITER

Final Fantasy XV is a game ten years and multiple delays in the making. It overcomes its shortcomings through a strong deception of friendship and an impressive world.

Final Fantasy XV is an open-world Japanese role playing game that stars Prince Noctis, heir to the kingdom of Lucis, the kingdom which holds the last crystal in the world of Eos. The crystal grants Lucis great magical prowess and societal advancements.

By possessing the crystal, Lucis finds itself at odds with other nations who seek its power.

The empire of Niflheim specifically serves as the main antagonist, since it managed to conquer the entirety of Eos except for Lucis through great technological advancement.

Final Fantasy XV is a strange and unique game that manages to overcome a struggle between its strengths and weaknesses to ultimately be an enjoyable experience.

For most of the game's narrative Noctis is traveling across the world to gain power from the tombs of his ancestors and to meet up with his soon-to-be-bride Lunafreya.

Lunafreya is an oracle with the power to communicate with the gods; as an oracle one of her duties is to help Noctis in his transition from prince to king.

Noctis is not alone in his quest to meet his bride, three longtime friends accompany him.

Prompto is a ranged weapons specialist who provides the comic relief, Gladiolus serves as the prince's shield wielding a giant two-handed sword, and Ignis is the group's strategist, driver and chef armed with daggers.

Through the game's premise and Noctis' close relationship with his friends, the game excels and manages to feel different from other role-playing games.

During the game the player travels the land in style in Noctis's convertible, the Regalia. His trip across the world of Eos feels like a road trip with the bros



SCREEN GRAB FROM "FINAL FANTASY XV"
The game has a large variety of environments here the team, heads towards a hunting mission which challenges you to slay certain monsters.

and Final Fantasy XV embraces this feeling wholeheartedly.

Ignis and Noctis can take turns driving and the group can stay at hotels or camp in the wilderness, eat at a restaurant or simply take in the sights. Each member of the group also has a skill related to this road trip theme.

Noctis is a fisherman who catches fish in a fun mini game, Ignis is the group's cook whose meals provide buffs and Prompto is the group's photographer who takes photos you can save throughout your adventure. Gladiolus finds potions and other items while wandering the world.

Players will often find themselves taking detours with their companions to see new areas and take in sights outside of the main story. There is a lot to see and do in Eos as the world looks fantastic. From the open fields to lush forests the land of Eos is vast and varied.

The game also excels in its excellent orchestral soundtrack. Each track fits

perfectly with what is happening on screen and some of the tracks are references to other Final Fantasy games or remixes.

The combat system is somewhat restrictive but does manage to offer fun if players are willing to deal with the restrictiveness of playing efficiently.

Noctis has the ability to summon weapons at will and teleport; these elements make up the bulk of the game's combat. He can zip between enemies with teleports and land a few hits before teleporting again, which gives the game a fast paced feel.

His teleport skill can also be used defensively. Holding the dodge button makes him automatically dodge everything until he runs out of MP, a refillable resource he uses for teleporting. Certain enemy attacks also give Noctis the chance to dodge and counter the attack and deal massive damage to the enemy.

Only Noctis is controlled by the player, but he is able to call upon his allies to unleash devastating attacks that must be

charged up by doing damage in battles. Spell casting also returns but largely seems ineffective and poorly implemented.

Altogether it is hard to not get some enjoyment out of the combat once the player gets a feel for "warp-striking" and dodging. The player feels like a badass teleporting around the battlefield striking down enemies and countering their attacks.

On the other hand, some of the games odd mechanics manage to drag down the package as a whole. The game has some strange design choices, for example. Instead of leveling up after every battle the player instead banks their experience and does not level up until resting at a camp or hotel.

What makes this really odd is that staying at hotels grants an experience bonus based on how expensive they are. These are not small bonuses either, maxing out at three times the experience for the most expensive hotel. This mechanic encourages the player to stockpile their experience and not rest for as long as possible in order to get large boosts from the hotels.

Another negative is the side quests which can be extremely repetitive. Often the player will receive a new quest every time they finish one. The same person tells the player to do the same thing in a higher level location.

Final Fantasy XV is definitely not for everyone, as the game will largely only appeal to role-playing game and Final Fantasy fans willing to accept something a bit different than the past.

A game that spends as long as Final Fantasy XV did in development is not often able to come out strong. I question if this long development time is responsible for some of the game's issues.

For the first ten hours I struggled with Final Fantasy XV, but ultimately the game's tale of friendship and amazing world was able to win me over. I was glad I stuck with it in the end.

Follow Jason on Twitter
@Judgmented1

Just in Time MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



ARE YOU SKIPPING MEALS AS A RESULT OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY?

Fresh fruit, vegetables and groceries will be available:

DECEMBER 12

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

SJSU EVENT CENTER
ENTRANCE AT SAN CARLOS & 8TH STREET

To qualify for this free service you must be a current SJSU student with an annual income below \$23,540. Distribution is on a first come, first served basis.

Please bring your own bags to pick up the food.

Some food items are perishable and will need to be refrigerated shortly after pick up. Visit sjsu.edu/sjsucares for more information.

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing any other accommodations should contact Monica Martin at 408-924-2563.

SJSU



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



Winter Session 2017

Lighten
Your Spring
Course Load

Registration begins
Wednesday, October 19

sjsu.edu/winter

SJSU student Michael White takes center stage

By TAYLOR JONES
STAFF WRITER

Imagine being a senior in college with a screenplay and a production of that play under your belt. Most people at that age cannot say that they have made those kinds of accomplishments, but San Jose State hospitality senior Michael White can.

White has been in love with the arts since his days in high school.

"I first came up with an idea for a musical my senior year of high school," White said. "I ended up making it into a 15-minute musical which I then produced as a theatre class project."

White went on to go to SJSU in fall 2013 where he joined the SPOTLITE Stage Company. The student-based theatre company was a perfect outlet for students to get their creative juices flowing within the world of theatre. White recalls that at the beginning of the semester with the company, he gave them copies of his 15-minute musical. He later forgot about them and decided to move onto other things, such as school and work.

In December 2013, however, White

was given an opportunity to put his production skills to the test.

"The club board came to me and asked if I would be interested in creating my 15-minute musical into a full length musical," White said. "I accepted the challenge and was in line to start production in the Spring of 2014."

With a cast of eight and a 90-minute showtime, White produced his first play titled "Stage Kiss." He wanted the play to be both light hearted and comical, but also have a twist.

"Stage Kiss" is all about a boy who gets his first kiss through a school play. He becomes infatuated with the girl that he shares the stage kiss with, hence the title of the play. The play goes through twists and turns and ends in a way that White predicts none of the audience will expect.

White has come a long way since high school and continues to shine on his theatrical journey. Last Saturday, he held a viewing party for friends and family. The event was to showcase the finished play while having fun with loved ones.

"Michael is a very organized and driven individual," said Jennifer Tickson, a



ERIC GREIG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Hospitality senior Michael White addresses the crowd last Saturday before the showing of his production of "Stage Kiss."

fellow senior hospitality student. "He knows exactly what he wants and also knows how to get it. He is an all around great person."

For his future endeavors, White plans to create a new musical and finish a novel that he has been working on. If he can be described as anything, it would be hardworking. White holds a passion that

many other young adults his age lack.

"I told Michael to follow his dreams, always," said Jennifer Tickson, a family friend of Michael's. "He is a very compassionate and outspoken individual and I hope he never loses that."

Follow Taylor on Twitter
@tayj95_jones

CUISINE

Continued from page 1



BENJAMIN SIEPAK | SPARTAN DAILY

Iliana Moreno, co-owner of Cubamex, prepares her signature sandwich during Tuesday's lunch rush.

version of the classic Cuban sandwich. The signature sandwich, listed as the "Cubamex Sandwich" on the menu, contains four different kinds of meat, two types of cheese and Cuban herbs served on a warm 7-inch soft bread that they get from the Roma Bakery in downtown San Jose.

"You can't go wrong with the Cubamex," said frequent Cubamex customer Errick Earl. "It has so much flavor and is like no other sandwich I've had before."

The sandwich is loaded with ham, canadian bacon, salami, pulled pork, cheddar cheese and havarti cheese.

Leading up to the opening of the shop was quite the roller coaster. Moreno said it took eight months of paying rent before they could legally open because of the pending of permits and certificates.

The city health department initially denied their original plan to serve the sandwiches on panini bread and it took months before they received approval for

a finalized menu.

To this day they have not been approved to cook food at the shop. All of their meat is already cooked upon purchase, so Moreno just prepares the food with her ingredients, warms them up and the food is ready to be served.

After quitting her stable job as a dental assistant, Moreno said she and her husband were getting very nervous and worried that their attempt at fulfilling their dream was not panning out smoothly.

However, Moreno was quick to deny that giving up was ever an option.

"No, no, no. We are here and we knew we were going to continue, whatever it takes," Moreno said.

Her mind was set on opening Cubamex in San Jose as it's been her home since the day she left Cuba.

It's been nearly four months of working long hours with no employees to get their business launched, but it's been a successful four months to say the least.

"Every month sales are

increasing," Moreno said. "We are planning to open some more restaurants, full-kitchen ones."

Other than the "Cubamex Sandwich," they offer a tuna salad sandwich and a canned soda or water bottle, paired with chips and a house pico de gallo for an additional \$2.

The Morenos pride themselves in their signature spread with Cuban herbs that gives the sandwiches a distinct taste that you won't find elsewhere. They also sell Goya plantain chips — or banana chips — a popular snack in Cuba.

"I found this spot last month through Yelp and now it's my go-to lunch spot to eat between classes," said Cubamex customer and SJSU psychology senior Moshfeq Shahrani.

Cubamex offers SJSU students a free soda or water bottle with the purchase of a sandwich by presenting their Tower ID.

Follow Benjamin on Twitter
@benjamin siepak

ALBUM REVIEW

Common tries to make sense of a racially tense country

By RYAN BARNHART
STAFF WRITER

Times of political unrest can lead many musicians to use their artistic skills to their advantage — either as a way to vent their frustrations or to give their listeners hope for a brighter future.

"Black America Again," Common's 11th album in his illustrious 20-year career, finds the rapper both angry at himself and the racial tension that has been boiling over the last few years. Common uses that fire to fuel his vision of a country where all can get along together.

Common has always been his most focused lyrically when there is consistency in his production.

Ever since his first set of records in the mid-90's — when he originally went under the pseudonym Common Sense — his politically-charged music hit its hardest under the production of either one or two beat-makers; his oldest collaborator No I.D. or the late J Dilla.

wwwRight from the get-go listeners are given a sense of the tone and feel of the album with the opening track 'Joy and Peace.'

The song, which is one of many on the album to feature neo-soul crooner Bilal, is a strong opener.

With an off-kilter guitar riff, Common is able to stretch his lyrical prowess — seemingly weaving through a series of rhymes about religion and hope at a rapid-fire pace, without ever fumbling between his words.

Much of the erratic pacing of his rapping is thanks to equally hectic beats.

The drums in 'Home' pound like the heart after a long sprint. The sped-up sampling of horns elicit frenetic chaos that sticks into the listener's bones.

In between searching for peace and love from all in the world, Common adds moments of political levity with songs about love for the opposite sex.

'Love Star' sees the rapper gracefully blending the theme of religion that has been prevalent in the album, while weaving in sensual passion.

"God's most beautiful creation, let me mold you," Common said to his lover in the song. "You already in shape, that's more love to make."

It's not just all baby-making music. Common uses the track 'The Day Women Took Over' to preach of gender equality and the benefits that could become of it.

"Imagine it, a world more compassionate the balance of the feminine and masculine," Common said at the end of the song.

The track also features BJ The Chicago Kid, who repeats throughout the chorus about the positives that can come from a world where women are treated as equals to their male counterparts.

Despite the hope that Common alludes to in much of the album, it all derives from anger of unjust actions that have befallen many in the country.

In 'Black America Again,' he talks about how Trayvon Martin and many other young Black lives have been swiftly taken away in the recent years. He also compares mass incarceration to slavery.

The final song on the album, 'Letter to the Free,' is the most harrowing track on the album.

Originally written for Ava DuVernay's documentary "13th," 'Letter to the Free' dissects the racial history of the United States, ending it with a prediction of a presidency that could parallel the '80s.

"Sweet land of liberty, incarcerated country. Shot me with your ray-gun and now you want to trump me," Common said.

The events that Common lays out in "Black America Again" are undoubtedly disturbing.

Yet when he is able to voice his issues he does throughout the album, he is able to hone in on his lyricism in a way that helps him to stand out from his peers.

It's not all bad either, as Common is able to shine a light on a possible future where men and women are all seen as equal.

While there is no way of ever knowing if that future will ever come, when he is able to put out albums like this, his fans will always be

able to believe.

Follow Ryan on Twitter
@ryan_barnhart

**THE POWERFUL LINES FROM
BLACK AMERICA AGAIN**

“ Instead of educate, they'd rather convict the kids
As dirty as the water in Flint, the system is ”
-Black America Again

“ Dr. Angelou's lookin' from Heaven's window
Tellin' young girls phenomenal woman is in you ”
-The Day Women Took Over

“ No consolation prize for the dehumanized
For America to rise it's a matter of Black Lives ”
-Letter to the Free

INFOGRAPHIC BY RYAN BARNHART | SPARTAN DAILY

Racial slurs aren't learned in school



SAJA MOHAMMAD

STAFF WRITER

When you have the n-word in a book —especially a book intended for all ages, you may question whether or not to let minors read said books. However, when the writers are Mark Twain and Harper Lee, the reason behind that word being in their books becomes unquestionable.

In Virginia, a mother of a high school student in the Accomack County district was concerned about her son reading the book “To Kill a Mockingbird” because it had racial slurs in it.

The school unfortunately listened to her and removed them at her behest. What?

This piece of literature, which deals with racial discrimination and other important factors in American history, teaches young minds to not take these

terms lightly.

Marie Rothstein-Williams had even more of a problem since her son is half black and half white. She does not want any child, let alone her son, to be subject to the slurs.

“There is so [many] racial slurs in there and offensive wording that you can’t get past that, and right now we are a nation divided as it is,” Rothstein-Williams said at the high school’s board meeting.

Her main struggle with “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Huckleberry Finn” is that she thinks they will teach her child and other teenagers that using these terms is tolerable.

“We’re validating that these words are acceptable. They are not acceptable,” Rothstein-Williams said. “We will lose our children if we continue to say that this is okay, that we validate these words when we should not.”

I’m sorry, I didn’t know that big bad books that teach students about bigotry and anti-blackness were such a threat to your child.

What the hell does “lose our children” even mean? Is saying the n-word or any racial term the gateway to drug-use and terrorism? Is your son going to join a gang because of this book? Get over yourself lady.

Luckily, there are many who are

protesting this book ban both in Accomack County and on social media.

Sadye Saunders, a high school junior in the Accomack County district started a petition to get the books back, but it was confiscated by her principal.

“It also does not help them in getting to the root of racism and bigotry that we are seeing today with the Black Lives Matter movement and the Islamophobia craze that is sweeping the nation.”

“This is important, because censorship blinds us,” Sadye said to the Los Angeles Times. “These books are important, because they are not condoning this word, this racial slur ... they’re showing the ignorance of using that word and having this bigotry.”

London musician Murdock Swales saw the report of the ban in The Telegraph UK and had some choice words for Rothstein-Williams.

“Ladies and gentlemen, Marie Rothstein-Williams, possibly the most ignorant woman in Virginia,” Swales posted on Facebook. “Has a mixed race son. Assumes her son and everybody else’s children aren’t capable of comprehending the fact that the reason these books are taught in schools (aside from being incredible literature) is to point out that this is what America is.”

One can argue that sheltering these kids from these books and the history behind them hinders students more than helps them. They will grow up thinking that bigotry and racism was not a normalized habit and that White people were peachy keen with Black people as well as anyone of a different race at the time.

It also does not help them in getting to the root of racism and bigotry that we are seeing today with the Black Lives Matter movement and the Islamophobia craze that is sweeping the nation.

These books will open students’ eyes to the fact that America’s history is not all rainbows and sunshine. Racial slurs and derogatory terms used in these nationally-read books won’t teach kids to use them, but the opposite, which is to keep them from using them in the first place.

Follow Saja on Twitter | @sajamohammad17

WRITE TO US

Letters to the Editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 942-3282, emailed to spartandaily@gmail.com or written to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor at 1 Washington Square, San Jose, CA, 95192-0149. Letters must contain the author’s name, address, phone number, signature and major. Please make letters 300 words or less. Letters may be edited for spelling and clarity by Spartan Daily editors.

Highlighting your social media pics, statuses, and tweets at San Jose State University!

Thursday Thoughts

TIZ THE SZN

To be jolly! Good luck with Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-inals!

PINNED IN PRACTICE



ESTEPHANY HARO | SPARTAN DAILY

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club president Jorge Soto works an armbar on a fellow club member who struggles to recover.

Jiu-Jitsu returns to SJSU

By ESTEPHANY HARO
STAFF WRITER

A group of San Jose State University students is trying to bring Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to campus. The problem is, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu doesn't meet the requirements to be considered a club sport.

SJSU has more than 15 different club sports that compete against other schools' club teams or have their own events where they practice.

One of their requirements is to compete as a group against other school club teams or schools.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is known to be a martial arts and combat sport that teaches a smaller person how to be able to defend themselves against a larger adversary by using leverage and proper technique, according to Black Belt Magazine.

The club is fairly new to campus, as it was started just two years ago, but died off due to lack of commitment and the need of club members.

"I was part of the club when it first started like two years ago," said senior student and treasurer of the club, Johnny Hernandez-Sanchez. "It went off for like a semester and then

we didn't have enough members and it just died off and Jorge started off again."

In addition to continuing an unfinished legacy, passion for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu was the main reason Jorge Soto, sophomore student and club president, took over the club. However, the club continues to struggle to find loyal members.

"We usually get around five people for practice and in total they have 11 members," Soto said.

That is a problem for the club since busy schedules and commutes are two of the reasons people don't show up.

Club members practice on their own because they don't have a coach. Their previous coach is graduating soon and will not have time to commit to the club.

Although a coach could draw more students to join the club, its ultimate goal is to recruit members by spreading the word, being more active in its social media platforms and having shirts and sweatshirts with their club's logo.

"Earlier this year I just overheard one of the members talking about in the locker room and just went over and asked

him," said senior student and vice president Anand Zala. "I just got into it in the beginning of the year."

After the club recruits enough people, it plans to compete against other schools' club teams.

"We got an invite from University of San Francisco, they have a jiu-jitsu club and they'll have a tournament in February," Hernandez-Sanchez said. "So we might compete against them depending if we have anyone at their level to compete."

The club said students don't want to join because Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is not a national sport in the U.S. and the students expect something else when attending practice.

The same students also fear competitions will be limited as not many schools have a jiu-jitsu club on campus.

"It's a very difficult process, especially because not many know what jiu-jitsu is," Soto said. "They're expecting something else and once they get a taste of how physical it really is, it kind of intimidates them and they stop showing up."

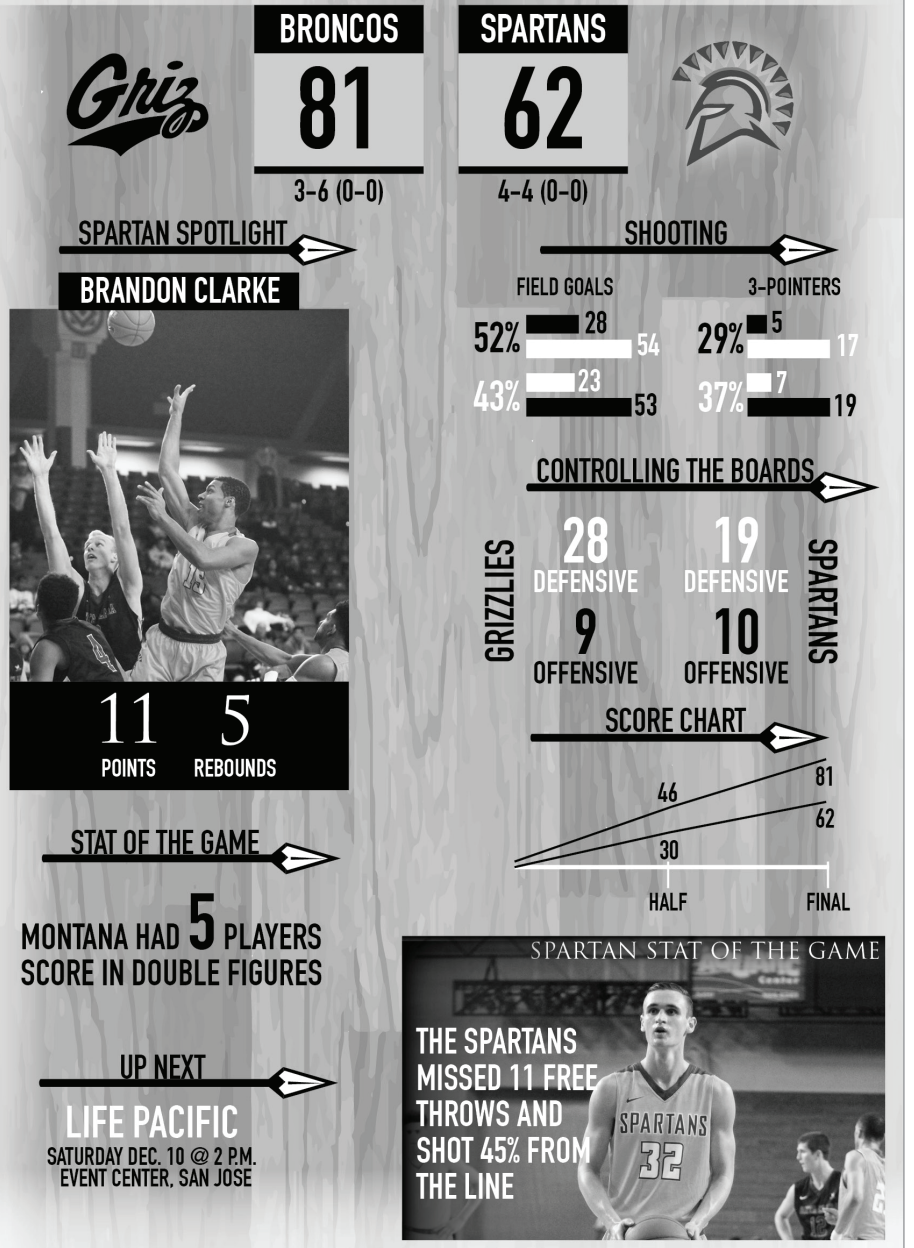
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Spartans' defense falls flat on the road in Montana

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GAME 8 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 - MONTANA



INFOGRAPHIC BY KAVIN MISTRY



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BALLIN' IS A HABIT



PHOTOS BY KAVIN MISTRY | SPARTAN DAILY

BY ESTEPHANY HARO
STAFF WRITER

Competitive, tenacious and big hearted are three ways to describe San Jose State senior point guard Dezz Ramos, according to SJSU's women's basketball head coach Jamie Craighead.

A West Valley, Utah native, Ramos transferred from Weber State to San Jose State her sophomore year and has since received multiple honors for her play on the court.

Although Ramos stands out and has a promising basketball career, she went through a lot to achieve her goals. She struggled to get to the Bay Area as she did not have the resources to have a smooth transition.

"It was hard because I had to redshirt my first year," Ramos said. "Also I had to walk on because there were no scholarships available, so it was difficult trying to balance my studies and trying to pay for my tuition and stuff like that."

Ramos's love for the game helped her overcome adversity since she was willing to do anything to be part of the program. She said one of the reasons she chose SJSU is because of its basketball program, which she believed was meant for her.

"I thought I would be a

great fit for this program and the way they play," Ramos said. "[It's] also a great location being in California and being in Silicon Valley as well."

Her teammates also think that Ramos is a great asset to the team because she pushes them and supports them. Senior forward Paris Baird sees Ramos as a role model, too.

"I definitely look up to her basketball wise," Baird said. "She's always letting me know different things I can work on. She's always the person I can come and ask for different parts of my game that I need help with."

Ramos is a family-oriented person and said her family has played a big role in her success at SJSU. She is the first of 30-plus grandchildren to attend college and will be the first to get a degree.

"My family is everything and a big reason why I do want to be successful here in college, so me playing this game is not only for me but for them too," Ramos said.

Craighead said that Ramos's family background has a lot to do with her personality and her goals.

"She comes from humble beginnings and I think that she has a great spirit," Craighead said.

However, moving away

from home has also helped Ramos see things differently. She said she has matured and grown as a person since moving to the Bay Area.

Craighead said that Ramos leads by example as she doesn't tell her teammates what to do but rather shows them.

Craighead believes Ramos' attributes will help her reach her goal of playing in the WNBA.

"She definitely has the potential to play professionally," Craighead said. "She has the talent and skill and we'll continue to work. She would probably have to prove herself overseas first, but she definitely has the ability to play professionally."

Ramos said she still needs to connect with her teammates more off the court but Baird said otherwise.

"As a person, I know she's really positive and she always has everybody's backs no matter what," Baird said. "As an athlete, she's a very hard worker. She does not only want to get everybody involved, but she has everybody's best interest on and off the court."

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DEZZ



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KAVIN MISTRY | SPARTAN DAILY

Dezz Ramos dribbles past a defender in San Jose State's Saturday night matchup against the Saint Mary's Gaels.