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SPARTAN DAILY

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NEW YORK TIMES

Journalist receives Hearst Award

By LISA PRINCIPI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

New York Times reporter David Streitfeld spoke to students about the field of journalism while receiving the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Award for Excellence in Professional Journalism in the Student Union on Monday.

Streitfeld is also a Pulitzer Prize winner and recipient of the “Best in Business” award from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. His 35 years of experience includes working for the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post.

He is best known for writing about technology and business in the Silicon Valley, his investigation of fake online reviews and examining Amazon’s employment practices.

“The most important piece I wrote in the past two or three years is the piece on Amazon,” Streitfeld said. “Occasionally in a journalist’s life you write something that really connects with people and that was clearly it. In general, I don’t write that often, but I’m lucky that a lot of the stuff gets a response.”

Streitfeld collaborated with Jodi Kantor on their article titled “Inside Amazon: Wrestling Big Ideas in a Bruising Workplace,” which received almost 6,000 comments from readers on the New York Times website.

“If it was mostly negative, the story would have been a failure,” Streitfeld said. “It was mostly positive, if not overwhelmingly positive.”

Streitfeld spent his day talking to students in SJSU’s School



LISA PRINCIPI | SPARTAN DAILY

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New York Times writer David Streitfeld speaks to students about his experiences throughout his career in the Student Union Monday evening.

DISCUSSION PANEL

Record Clearance Project explores expungement

By JALENY REYES
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University’s Record Clearance Project (RCP) held “In the Interest of Justice” Monday evening in the Student Union Theater.

The event was moderated by LaDoris Cordell, a retired judge of the Superior Court of California and former Independent Police Auditor for the city of San Jose.

A panel was held to discuss personal stories from people who have been

changed by the power of an expungement — when the legal record of an arrest or a criminal conviction is erased — as well as previous students who have helped with those changes.

“I was addicted to meth and alcohol for 17 years of my life and I ended up getting arrested and incarcerated in Elmwood,” said panelist Laura Wright. “While I was in Elmwood, the Record Clearance Project came in there and they gave me a ray of hope.”

Wright also said that after she was released from jail, she was able to get a mentor through

RCP. Eventually she was also able to enroll back into community college, where she will be graduating from this upcoming May.

According to its website, SJSU’s Record Clearance Project has been around since 2008. It engages with undergraduates in order to assist people who are eligible to clear their criminal records.

“The RCP provides reentry services by filing petitions to dismiss and helping people reduce their felonies,” said Rochelle Rotea, former RCP student and SJSU alumna. “It’s helping people clear their criminal records

so they can have jobs, have educational opportunities — it helps in so many ways. It helps rebuild families and rebuild lives.”

In addition to Wright and Rotea, Armando Aguilar and Jesse Medina were also part of the panel discussion. Aguilar is a former client of RCP and Medina is a former RCP student as well as an SJSU alum.

Before his studies at SJSU, Medina also ran into some problems with the law which led him to plead guilty to a

See **JUSTICE** page 2



MARGARET GUTIERREZ | SPARTAN DAILY

A dancer performs during the Aztec New Year celebration at Emma Prusch Park.

TRADITIONS

San Jose celebrates Aztec New Year

By ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Attendees heard the thrumming of traditional Aztec huehuetl drums and the rattle of seed leggings, known as chachayotls, through Emma Prusch Park near Story Road. The event held on Saturday and Sunday celebrated the Aztec New Year.

This two-day celebration was held on March 11 and 12 which marked the 19th anniversary of the event hosted by Calpulli Tonalehqueh.

The event showcased live entertainment in the form of

traditional Native Mexican and American dancers, food, arts and crafts that the whole family could enjoy.

“We’re celebrating the Aztec New Year,” Calpulli Tonalehqueh member Tamara Mozahuani said. “We have entered today five houses, Macuilli Calli and Cinco Casa. Just like the Chinese New Year and Vietnamese New Year we also have a traditional count in the Aztec calendar [and] Mexican calendar. So each year has its significance.”

Approximately 50 dancers from age 3 to 60 performed in the

center of the park surrounded by spectators. Before entering the space where they would dance, a fellow dancer would meet them at the entrance with a traditional bowl of burning incense known as popochcomitl.

Calpulli Tonalehqueh is a local volunteer collaborative whose name means “community of guardians who accompany the sun” in the Uto-Aztecan language of Mexico known as Nahuatl. Formed in 2004, this organization is led by elders and

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Edit-a-Thon highlights feminism and art

By DAVID TAUB
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University participated for its first time in Art+Feminism's annual Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon.

It is the fourth time the organization has helped facilitate the edit-a-thons that take place every March in connection to Women's History Month.

According to its website, Art+Feminism was started by four friends who wanted to change the way feminism and the arts were written about on Wikipedia.

Teresa Slobuski, Research Services Coordinator at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, facilitated the event.

Slobuski said that the goal of the event was to help increase the representation of female artists on Wikipedia.

"Over 90 percent of Wikipedia editors are male and perhaps relatedly that means that a lot of women are not represented on Wikipedia," Slobuski said.

Students, faculty and alumni gathered in room 219 of the King Library and went through collections to identify female artists that either don't have Wikipedia pages or have very little information posted about them in the online encyclopedia.

According to a study conducted by First Monday, an online peer-reviewed journal, 85 percent of college students use Wikipedia for research purposes.

"We are doing this event because

we think that Wikipedia is a really good resource," Slobuski said. "We all use it in our day-to-day lives so when things aren't represented in Wikipedia it basically means that people won't be able to find out about it."

According to Slobuski, the volunteers at Monday's event identified about 200 artists that aren't represented on Wikipedia right now.

The issue of women being underrepresented in media has moved from the textbook and on to the internet with the way that technology has evolved, according to Slobuski.

"Overall, in history, women are just less well documented because most of the people that were writing history at the time were mostly white men talking about other white men, so that is also represented on Wikipedia," Slobuski said.

SJSU professor James Morgan attended the event and helped edit the Wikipedia pages that the group was working on.

"For me, this is an educational experience," Morgan said. "Wikipedia is sort of the encyclopedia of the people at this point and so it needs to represent all of the people."

Slobuski explained that there are a couple of different reasons why students should care about events like Monday's.

"I think understanding how Wikipedia articles are created will be really helpful in understanding how to use it for research," Slobuski said. "I think



DAVID TAUB | SPARTAN DAILY

Teresa Slobuski, Research Services Coordinator at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library looks through a collection of female artist's work to help bolster the representation of female artists on Wikimedia.

it's also really good for just general awareness. I think a lot of us take for granted the status quo of 'well there's nothing, ok they don't exist.'"

According to Slobuski, there are plans in the works to organize more edit-a-thons surrounding a multitude of different issues but nothing has been confirmed as of now.

Edit-a-thons will be happening across the country in 42 different

locations from now until the end of the month. Details can be found on artandfeminism.org.

"We've been talking the talk about representation and this [the event] is a chance for SJSU to be part of walking the walk," Slobuski said.

Follow David on Twitter | @davidtaub3

TOWN MEETING



DIANA SAN JUAN | SPARTAN DAILY

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren addresses San Jose residents at a town hall meeting Sunday afternoon at Mount Pleasant High School.

Local Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren speaks to San Jose

By PAYJE REDMOND
STAFF WRITER

California Congresswoman of the 19th District Zoe Lofgren spoke at a town hall meeting in San Jose Sunday. The meeting took place in the Mount Pleasant High School Theater with approximately 450 people in attendance.

Lofgren has been a United States Representative since 1995. District 19 includes San Jose and parts of Santa Clara County stretching to the south toward Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Topics discussed included new immigration reform laws, school vouchers, the proposed health care plan, the environment and voting registration reform.

Lofgren admits that Obamacare is not perfect and said she'd prefer adjustments rather than complete reform.

"The proposed health care plan will defund Planned Parenthood" Lofgren said.

The audience applauded when she said that she would vote against the bill.

"Before the Affordable Care Act I used Planned Parenthood, and I am a guy" San Jose resident Christian Utzman said. "To have that go away... I will have nothing."

Audience members wrote questions on cards which were then collected

by Mount Pleasant High School volunteers. The cards were then filtered and sorted by category to be answered by Lofgren.

"I feel that interrupts the flow of dialogue between her and her constituents," said local business owner Kelly Morgen. "It also allows her staff to create a buffer."

Lofgren answered questions handed to her on index cards for about one hour. Audience members applauded and laughed with certain answers.

Before answering questions, she gave a Congress update in which she mentioned the new travel ban. The First Amendment states that you cannot establish religion as government.

"It clear from comments that what Trump was trying to do was ban Muslims from entering the United States," Lofgren said.

In response, Lofgren plans to reintroduce her previous bill originally cosponsored by 180 Democrat house members to suspend the order.

"Cutting off assistance from those fleeing from ISIS is inconsistent with our programs," Lofgren said.

She also addressed the college loan crisis in California. According to Lofgren, the federal government should not be making money off of college loans.

"I like that she is taking charge at

committee meetings to address issues that her constituents are actually pushing for," Utzman said.

Lofgren is a native to the Bay Area where she attended Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Stanford University for her Bachelor's in political science and a Juris Doctor degree at Santa Clara University.

When asked the most effective way to have your voice heard to Congress she said to make phone calls to Washington D.C. Lofgren said constant calls to Washington will keep the phones ringing until they are practically forced to make a decision. "You are the boss," Lofgren said. "You tell me what you think, and it matters to me."

Lofgren has been working for immigrant rights for multiple years. She received the gavel by then-speaker Nancy Pelosi to preside over Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in 2010.

In addition to serving as the 19th district's congresswoman, she currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

"I feel very concerned about the cohesion of this country," Lofgren said.

Follow Payje on Twitter | @Theyasked

STREITFIELD

Continued from page 1

of Journalism and Mass Communications. A crowd of about 30 professors and students gathered in a Student Union meeting room to listen to him speak before receiving his award.

Meteorology junior Danny Nguyen was among those in attendance. Although he is not a journalism major, he finds value in a journalist's work and is currently taking courses in the field.

"The reason why I wanted to get into meteorology originally was I wanted to get esoteric information, really complicated research data, and be able to make it available to the public, something easy to digest," Nguyen said. "When [journalism] came along, I'm like, that's exactly what I wanted to do, but I can do this for any subject rather than just meteorology."

After Streitfeld's talk, he transitioned into a question and answer session.

"We don't have many rules that journalists follow," Streitfeld said. "One of my rules which I've followed for many decades is I never tell people something's great if I don't actually mean it ... but they're among the best questions I've heard at any journalism event."

Daniel Ceja, a 17-year-old student from Abraham Lincoln High School in San Jose, attended the event to learn more about the journalism department at SJSU.

"I was in my journalism class writing up my story and our teacher told us about this and it just seemed really interesting," Ceja said. "I went and looked it up to go find some more information."

Streitfeld hopes students like Ceja took something away from the event.

"I wanted them to not regret having been here," Streitfeld said. "I was inspired by them, and it would be too highfalutin to say I hope they were inspired by me, but I hope I did not destroy anyone's dream of being a journalist."

Follow Lisa on Twitter | @lisaprincipi

JUSTICE

Continued from page 1

misdemeanor. Due to this, he struggled to get a job after being released from jail, but was eventually able to have his expungement petition reviewed by a judge.

Aguilar also benefited from an expungement petition and because of it his life has turned around for the better. He now provides substance abuse counseling and education to adults and adolescents at the Kaiser Permanente Chemical Dependency Recovery Program.

In addition, audience members shared their experiences with the program as mentors as well as the benefits the expungement brought to their personal lives together. "I think it was a great

program and it was nice to have people here present that the system has been affecting them," said sociology senior Lupita Alvarez. "It was just nice to see how everything came together."

The evening ended with a few words by LaDoris Cordell. She shared a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. and some advice on how to come together and find ways to fight against the legal system.

"I think what I'm definitely going to take away from it is the last words she [Cordell] said from the speech of Martin Luther King [Jr.]," Alvarez said. "The connection between people and just how everyone has to come together and stand up for what is right."

Follow Jaleny on Twitter | @jalenyreyes

Students shimmy and shake at Shamrock Showcase

By **KELLY BURNS**
STAFF WRITER

Members of San Jose State's Greek community danced the night away on Thursday as they competed in the 20th annual Shamrock Showcase hosted by Kappa Delta Sorority.

Kappa Delta's Shamrock Showcase is a lip sync and dance competition with 20 percent of the money raised in ticket sales going to Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA), Kappa Delta's national foundation, and 80 percent going to YMCA.

This year, the competition was made up of 20 teams including members from United Sorority and Fraternity Council (USFC), Panhellenic Council (PHC) and Interfraternity Council (IFC). The theme was throwback and performances had playlists dating from 2005 and earlier, sending the audience into ultimate throwback dance mode.

The showcase featured a two minute and 30 second routine from each team, an improv section and an award ceremony where it was announced that Delta Sigma Phi won the event.

Kappa Delta's Vice President of Community Service, Pauline Bassi, came into the position just one month before the showcase but still was able to



KELLY BURNS | SPARTAN DAILY

Members of SJSU's Greek community participated in the 20th annual Shamrock Showcase.

put on a successful show with the help of her sisters.

"It was pretty hectic but everyone reached out to me constantly to see what I needed help with so that was awesome," public relations senior Bassi said.

She explained that last year's showcase went over by an hour, costing the sorority a lot of money, so this year time management was important.

"I was pleasantly surprised with the amount of talent and compared

to last year I think it was a smoother show overall," marketing senior and Shamrock Showcase performer Claire Cabatu said.

Audience members were standing on their chairs dancing throughout the entire show and clapping to the beat of their favorite old songs.

"This showcase was lit and I like how they had a long intermission where everyone got to get up and dance and just get loose," kinesiology senior

Jose Reina said. "I thought all the performances were really planned out this year and I had a great time."

Shamrock is the largest philanthropy across the Greek community and performers spend weeks putting together their routines to show off their skills.

"My favorite part about performing is the audience," Cabatu said. "Everyone is there to have a good time which sets the mood for a fun night. Hearing my friends scream my name gave me the energy I needed to have fun and do my best."

Next year, Kappa Delta hopes to improve their showcase more by reaching out to the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and non-Greek organizations to participate. Since all of PHC is now limited to having their philanthropy only on three days, Bassi said she hopes to have double the events each day to help build awareness and raise more money for their philanthropies.

"I'm excited for dance to continue to be prevalent in the SJSU community," Cabatu said. "It's something that I was interested in when I come here and I'm proud to see it grow every year and be a part of it."

Follow Kelly on Twitter | @kellyburns

CULTURE

Continued from page 1

dancers who have over 18 years of Aztec dance experience.

The celebration hosted several traditional dance groups in the center of the park. During the live performances, dancers wore full native regalia with decorative tunics and ornate headdresses made of feathers from many different types of birds. Each dancer was adorned with leggings which contained seed pods that rattled to the sounds of drums and flutes during their performances.

"The noise they make are meant to go with the beating of the drum," dancer Yarezi Plata said.

Plata has been dancing traditionally since the age of four. 24 years later it is still immensely important to her.

"This is my entire life," Plata said. "It's my culture."

Among the many food and art vendors, there were also other organizations in attendance which offered information to the public on native causes and offered assistance to members of the Native American community.

One such group in attendance was the Washoe Tribe Native Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which has an office in San Jose. This organization provides temporary aid and services to members or descendants of the Washoe Tribe that are at risk of welfare dependency.

"Many of our families we find are bicultural," case assistant at Native TANF Stephanie Johnson said. "So [with] that Native American side, the dominant culture tends — out here — to be Latino. Predominantly, we see our families blended like that so we want to make sure we are out here meeting them and supporting them where they are."

Follow Elizabeth on Twitter | @elizabwithlove

Open Mic Night shows talent at SJSU

By **SELINA RAMIREZ**
STAFF WRITER

Electronic style dancing, singing, raps on social issues and comedic jabs at political leaders took center stage at the Starbucks lounge at Thursday night's Open Mic Night. The event was part of MOSAIC's WORD! Open Mic series hosted by San Jose State University's Mosaic Cross Cultural Center.

The Open Mic Night was free, open to the public and offered anyone looking to share their talent or tell a story to do so in a booing-free safe space. MOSAIC offered free food and beverages to performers and audience members.

All the performances brought a different style and tempo. They varied from poetry, dancing and stand-up comedy but music took a front row seat. Between rapping, singing, ukulele and guitar playing, the audience heard love stories, the struggles of a college student and the disapproval of political leaders.

For some performers, the open mic night was an opportunity to use their talent as a means to connect with others.

"It's a relief for me," said creative arts senior Malik Howard. "I'm a really shy person so this is my chance to connect with people."

Singing duo Abdullah Deen and Jenna Edra, also known as Jendula, began the night with a performance of "I'll cover you" from "Rent" the musical. Deen and Edra combined their first names to create their stage name and say they've been singing as a hobby for a little over a year.

Following Jendula, Malik Howard



SELINA RAMIREZ | SPARTAN DAILY

Performer serenades the audience during the Open Mic Night at the Starbucks Lounge on Thursday.

had the audience head bobbing to his raps.

"I make music that is personal to show people that side of me," Howard said. "I feel like this is the only voice I have so if I'm gonna be in front of people I wanna say something that is constructive."

The open mic night gave everyone the opportunity to share a talent they may have otherwise never shared. Jacie Foydl said she mustered up the courage to sing a song in front of an audience because of the welcoming environment and the audience's encouragement.

"I could never get myself to go to an open mic but hearing it go on while I was waiting around here and seeing how welcoming they were just kind of gave me that push," Foydl said. "This experience made me want to do more performances."

Audience members smiled and bobbed their heads during a rap performance by DKT. The rapping

duo — made up of psychology seniors Daniel Kelly and Daniel Murray — performed a rap about a college student's struggle of managing schoolwork, a job and a social life.

"I feel like there's not a lot of music out there about what it's like to be in college," Kelly said. "The struggles of housing or taking tests are something we could connect to people with."

DKT were among some of the performers that did not shy away from highlighting social issues with their performances.

"We wanna make sure that everyone is woke," Murray said. "We wanna rap about things that make everyone feel good but we also wanna make sure everyone knows that people are struggling and things aren't that good."

Follow Selina on Twitter | @selina_ramirez

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Jane Lynch receives the Maverick Spirit Award

By ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Comedic actress Jane Lynch received the Maverick Spirit Award by Cinequest on Saturday at the California Theater for her work in film and television.

With a montage of her previous works in film, Lynch graced the stage to accept the award. She later discussed her work in film and theater, her family, being a woman in comedy and her new short film, all while never losing her comedic charm.

"I didn't set out to be 'Mavericky' I just set out to do what makes me really happy," Lynch said.

Previous actors who have received the award include Jackie Chan, Rita Moreno, Rosario Dawson and Harrison Ford.

Lynch began her career in theater before she made her debut on screen. She attended Illinois State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in theater. She later went to Cornell University where she received her degree of Master in Fine Arts.

One of her first appearances on television was for "The Real Life Brady Bunch." Lynch is most known for her performance as coach Sue Sylvester on Glee. She recalled how it was working alongside Glee creator Ryan Murphy and how he assisted her in portraying her character.

She also recalled working with

Harrison Ford when they worked together in "The Fugitive." "He said close your mouth, you look stupid," she said when asked what was the best advice her gave her.

Besides being an actress, Lynch is also a comedian, singer and author. Although she usually takes comedic roles on screen, she has also taken serious roles like when she played a schizophrenic mother on the show "Criminal Minds." Lynch also wrote the play "Oh Sister, My Sister," which she also starred in.

She has won several awards for her performance on Glee including an Emmy for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series and a Golden Globe in the same category.

When the discussion about her previous work concluded, the audience was treated to a screening of her latest short film "Writer's Block." In the film, she plays a songwriter that has trouble creating music until she befriends a little bird outside her home which helps her create new melodies.

After the film, there was a panel discussion about it with screenwriter and Seinfeld writer Carol Leifer, as well as producers Ben Foster and James Costa.

Leifer discussed the importance of filmmaking and the impact women have when they venture in comedy.

"I encourage women to go into comedy writing because we really need



ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ | SPARTAN DAILY

Actress Jane Lynch sits with the moderator as she accepts the Maverick Spirit Award at the California Theater.

it," Leifer said.

Along with being an Emmy award winning actress, Lynch is also an advocate for those with down syndrome and spreads awareness about the disease. Lynch said that working with Lauren Potter, who played Becky, a cheerleader on Glee who has down syndrome, was one of the reasons why she became so outspoken.

"I just love her, and it's nice to come and be able to celebrate art and film

and of course see a celebrity," said San Jose native Mary Davis who attended the event.

Lynch has begun production for her latest television series, "Manhunt: The Unabomber," where she will portray former Attorney General Janet Reno.

"I really love my work," Lynch said. "If I could I would work everyday."

Follow Elizabeth on Twitter | @elizabethwithlove

Dragon Ball hunting drives Japanese Society bonding



KRISTIN LAM | SPARTAN DAILY

Members of the Japanese Student Society play the human knot game to bond before the scavenger hunt.

By KRISTIN LAM
COPY EDITOR

Two teams competed to complete a Dragon Ball-themed mission: find seven dragon balls from seven club officers while getting to know each other.

Unlike the Japanese media franchise, the Japanese Student Society at San Jose State University's scavenger hunt on campus Saturday didn't involve any epic battles or Super Saiyan transformations.

The members collected tiny glass marbles from club officers after they solved riddles, answered questions like what their favorite dog breed is and took pictures together.

At the end, rather than making a wish, the society shared cookies with orange frosting and tiny red stars resembling dragon balls and umaibo, a flavored puffed corn snack.

Child and adolescent development senior Kelly Kusumi said she tied in the Dragon Ball theme while planning the event because a lot of people who join the Japanese Student Society are interested in anime and manga.

"I really wanted to hone in on that aspect [anime and manga] because I know that that's really popular," Kusumi said. "Most people know what Dragon Ball is...I just think it adds another Japanese aspect to it, and that's what I really wanted to incorporate."

Since forming in 2015, Kusumi said the society offers students two sections or types of events.

One side is more social for people interested in Japanese culture, while the other is business-oriented. Its business events include company tours hosted in Japanese, but Kusumi said that being fluent is not a requirement to join.

"We want anyone," Kusumi said. "It doesn't matter if you're Japanese or not, if you speak any Japanese or anything, you can still join our club. I think it's really important that we have officers who aren't

Japanese to show them that."

Linguistics junior Gabrielle Le said that the society has become more of an "Americans interested in Japan" type of club compared to when it first started.

"It really helps people be more involved and understand different aspects of Japan," Le said. "Their holidays, food, things like that. Not just anime."

However, the society still acts as a resource for Japanese students looking for a community at SJSU as well.

"We're really good about connecting international students, like Japanese students who come here to study abroad, with companies in America," Le said. "We're a really good outlet for international students and so if they feel they need a place to feel at home, they can come to us."

Japanese international and marketing graduate student Takamitsu Baba said he joined the Japanese Student Society to make friends while he does an international gateway program.

"They're very kind, they're open minded, and welcome to Japanese and English speakers," Baba said.

While the members socialized after the event, some Japanese intermingled the conversations. Linguistics junior Philip Cabrera said taking Japanese in high school helped draw him into joining when he first heard about the society. He said he enjoys how Japanese culture connects all of the members.

The society plans to do a karaoke night as well as take a trip to San Francisco for the Cherry Blossom Festival later this semester. It will also run a beta test of a big-little program called senpai-kohai, a seniority-based mentorship relationship in Japanese culture.

Follow Kristin on Twitter | @kristinlam

MUSICAL REVIEW

'Matilda the Musical' is fun for all ages

By JENNIFER BALLARDO
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose Center for the Performing Arts brought the magic of "Matilda" alive complete with disco balls, confetti cannons, glasses that tipped over on their own and chalk that wrote on the chalkboard by itself.

"Matilda the Musical" made a stop in San Jose during its national tour, showing from March 7-12.

If you are unfamiliar with the story of "Matilda," it revolves around a young girl who loves reading. Her parents despise her. When Matilda begins attending school she meets Miss Honey, her sweet, soft-spoken teacher, and Miss Trunchbull, the heinous bully of a headmistress.

The story originates from a book of the same name written by author Roald Dahl — my favorite author growing up. He wrote the famous stories of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach."

I loved the 1996 film version starring Danny DeVito as Matilda's father, so it's safe to say I went into this with high expectations.

Since most of the plot revolves around school children, the musical features a cast made up mostly of kids. It's impressive to see young children who already have so much talent. However, some of the musical numbers featured an all-children ensemble which made it hard to understand the lyrics at times.

The main role of Matilda was played by Gabby Gutierrez, who also played Matilda in the first national tour of this show. At age 11, Gutierrez already has impressive credits on her resume such as starring on Broadway in "School of Rock."

Matilda is an easy character to fall in love with and Gutierrez did a fantastic job playing the role of this incredibly intelligent and strong-willed little girl. Whenever she was on stage, whether she was speaking or singing, it was hard to take your eyes off of her.

The evil Miss Trunchbull was played by a man, Dan Chameroy. Chameroy's Trunchbull was hilariously ludicrous yet slightly frightening with talk of the infamous "chokey." This wooden box full of nails where Miss Trunchbull locks up children as punishment was never shown in the play, which was a bit disappointing.

Matilda's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, were perfectly awful. Mrs. Wormwood, played by Darcy Stewart, kept the audience laughing with her ridiculous antics.

Miss Honey, played by Jennifer Bowles, is a character that struggles with standing up for herself. Her first solo features her talking to herself.

"Look at you hesitating, hands shaking, you should be embarrassed," Honey said.

My favorite song was the second to last, called "Revoluting Children." In this anthem the children acknowledge the things that the adults call them, like naughty and disgusting, and accept those labels.

"We are revolting children, living in revolting times, we sing revolting songs, using revolting rhymes," the children sang.

Adults will be reminded of their inner child in songs such as "When I Grow Up."

"When I grow up I will eat sweets every day on the way to work and I will go to bed late every night," the children sang.

With an overall meaningful message, this musical is one that will leave you walking away with a smile on your face and Matilda's tenacious lyrics stuck in your head.

"Just because you find that life's not fair it doesn't mean that you just have to grin and bear it," Matilda sang.



Follow Jennifer on Twitter | @jayembee1



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Nike hijab announcement destigmatizes Muslim athletes



SELINA RAMIREZ

STAFF WRITER

In a move that will help remove the stigma of hijabs and promote inclusivity, Nike announced the launch of its first ever hijab for female Muslim athletes on March 8. The Nike Pro Hijab will go on sale in spring 2018.

According to Nike's statement last Tuesday, the athletic hijab is made of lightweight and stretchy polyester fabric that has little holes to allow breathability and an elongated back that will help it stay on during high intensity workouts. The material is thin enough to give a weightless feel, but thick enough to not see through it which is important to women who wear hijabs.

Muslim professional athletes were part of the creative process of the Pro Hijab. Olympic weight lifter from the United Arab Emirates Amna Al Haddad visited Nike's sport research lab in Oregon. Later, Al Haddad tested the product with figure skater Zahra Lari and triathlete Manal Rostom, Nike+ Run Club Coach. Lari is the first figure skater from the United Arab Emirates to compete internationally.

Whether Nike made the Pro Hijab to make a political statement or to expand their market in the Middle East does not really matter. Muslim women all over the world will be able see themselves as professional athletes who will wear the Pro Hijab.

It's especially important for little girls to see women who look like them in professional athlete roles because it can inspire a mindset free of limitations.

Pop culture influences our choices and what we might perceive as acceptable or not. Hijab-wearing women in athletic wear campaigns validate the idea that athletes of all backgrounds have a place in professional sports.

I'm not saying Muslim women or women of any background ever needed the validation of a major brand to confirm their roles in the professional world, but it is a major step toward inclusivity to have a brand as big as Nike include people that are misrepresented in the media.

“Pop culture influences our choices and what we might perceive as acceptable or not.”

More importantly, the portrayal of Muslim female athletes in hijabs can help remove some of the stigma associated with wearing a hijab. It's time we begin removing the stigma associated with looking different than others and I think this is a great place to start.

In order to cultivate a culture

of acceptance and inclusivity, it's imperative to represent people from all different religions and backgrounds.


A lack of equal representation in fashion advertisements invites the idea that we should strive to be like the people we see in ads and other popular culture. This makes us question if what we look like is not good enough to be represented on television, magazines or ad campaigns.

As an athletic wear brand, Nike has the responsibility to cater to all athletes who wear their gear.

Creating a piece of athletic gear specifically catered to the needs of Muslim athletes who wear hijabs is a great way to represent a demographic that is not represented equally in the sports or fashion world.

My hope is that more brands will follow in their footsteps and include women wearing hijabs in all their campaigns.

Follow Selina on Twitter @selina_ramirez



SPARTAN DAILY

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Classifieds

Sudoku Puzzle

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

Crossword Puzzle

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Employment

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Mar 9

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FOOTBALL FUTURE

Two Spartan players set to impress NFL scouts at pro-day

By DAVID TAUB
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State will be hosting scouts from all 32 NFL teams today for its football team's pro-day.

No one from the Spartans 2016 roster was invited to Indianapolis to attend the National Football League's annual combine where the best college football players from around the country get a chance to show what they're made of.

This makes Tuesday all that more important for players like linebacker Christian Tago and wide receiver Tim Crawley who both have their sights set on playing football in the NFL.

Both players are excited for their opportunity to impress NFL scouts and hopefully begin the next chapter of their football careers.

"It's something that I've practiced for my whole career," Tago said. "To be able to showcase my talents to these NFL scouts."

Crawley and Tago have been preparing with head athletic performance coach Gary Uribe for pro-day since the beginning of January.

"They've done an amazing job with my body making sure I'm at peak where I need to be," Tago said. "I feel I'm at my peak right now."

Both Tago and Crawley talked about how one of the most important things leading up to pro-day is taking care of their bodies.

"Right now, I'm just trying to treat my body right," Crawley said. "[I'm] getting a lot of stretching in, ice baths, hot tubs — anything to get the body prepared for the day."

Something new that Crawley has been doing lately is cryotherapy, a process in which the body is treated with temperatures

as low as negative 120 degrees Fahrenheit. "I feel like it's doing wonders for me," Crawley said.

Crawley and Tago both had solid senior seasons. Tago recorded 71 tackles after missing four games and Crawley led the team in receptions (55), and receiving yards (648).

Both Spartans are positive heading into Tuesday's showcase that they will be able to impress the scouts attending the event at CEFCU stadium.

"I'm really confident [but] I'm not treating it too big, just kinda like a game," Tago said. "I'm just gonna go over there and do what God blessed me with the abilities to do."

Crawley echoed that self-assuredness. "I'm confident in what I can do," Crawley said. "If I go out there and I give it my best effort, I think I'll be satisfied in what I can show."

Crawley and Tago are two of four Spartans that have a real shot at playing at the next level according to Uribe.

Uribe said that both Crawley and Tago's football knowledge and consistent performance on pro-day will set them apart.

"He [Tago] has a really high football IQ that's number one," Uribe said. "Number two, he's intrinsically motivated he doesn't need any extrinsic motivation."

Uribe described Crawley as a gritty player and went on to sing the praises of his durability while he's been at SJSU.

"Tim is just so smart and he's a perfectionist," assistant athletic performance coach Michael Nicolini said. "So, first he's going to do it right and then he's going to do it right over and over and over again until it improves."

Both players had great careers as Spartans.



San Jose State senior linebacker Christian Tago trains in the weight room in preparation for pro-day. DAVID TAUB | SPARTAN DAILY

Tago finished as the fifth top-tackler in San Jose State history and Crawley finished his career with the fifth-most receptions in school history.

Both players said their biggest motivators outside of themselves are their families and that they are not just playing for themselves, but also for the people they love as well.

Tago has two daughters to play for, two-year-old Aaliyah and five-month-old Aaloni.

"I can't be selfish, it's not about myself anymore," Tago said. "I'm providing for them and their mother so it just gives me the extra push."

Coach Uribe is confident that Tago and

Crawley will make it into an NFL team's training camp come the summer. He invites all SJSU students to come watch their fellow Spartans take their first steps toward a future in professional football.

"We'd love and encourage anybody who wants to come out and see our guys perform," Uribe said. "Come on out and support us."

Pro-day starts at 11 a.m. inside Koret Athletic Training Center for the weight-lifting portion and will move to CEFCU stadium for the field drills.

Follow David on Twitter | @davidtaub

SAN DIEGO

San Jose State comes up even in the Aztec Invitational

By PAYJE REDMOND
STAFF WRITER

Women's water polo returned home from the Aztec Invitational with a 2-2 split in its four games played.

The team began the two-day tournament ranked No. 12 with a 7-12 record.

San Jose State won its first game against Indiana University on Saturday morning. In the last 15 seconds, senior driver Donia Momen scored the goal that gave the Spartans the 4-3 win.

Coming into the invitational, the Spartans had certain expectations of what their game with the Hoosiers would be like.

"I went in ready for a fast paced, physical game and that's what we got," said sophomore driver Sierra Painter.

Junior gatekeeper Katelynn Thompson was credited with seven saves on Saturday morning's game.

"I feel like I am moving better in the cage," Thompson said. "I'm able to center myself and take away more angles."

Thompson said that working out in the weight room has kept her reflexes strong.

Head coach Gabor Sarusi said SJSU did a good job defensively. The Hoosiers made only three goals, one of which was a penalty shot.

The win against Indiana was followed by an 8-7 loss to San Diego State later that day. "San Diego is a good team," Painter said.



San Jose State split its weekend of games at the Aztec Invitational with wins over Whittier and Indiana. KAVIN MISTRY | THE SPEAR

"They play a different style of water polo."

Painter said the team had a good experience in terms of making adjustments.

"It was a learning curve," Sarusi said.

Spartans lost their first match 5-4 on Sunday morning against Wagner College.

The win one lose one pattern continued for SJSU on Sunday. The Spartans defeated Whittier 9-7 ending the invitational.

This match saw gatekeepers Tayler Peters and Jessica Harris split time. Peter made eight saves in the first 29 minutes and Harris, who finished the game, allowed the Poets to score a final goal.

"We really bounced back from the loss this morning," Painter said.

Sarusi said the team needs to improve on making shots.

"Shooting wasn't as good as we were hoping for," Sarusi said.

Thompson said the team needs to get better at skip shots and hoop shots.

"We have to continue applying our system and playing well on both sides of the pool," Sarusi said.

The four-game split now puts the Spartans at 8-13 and counts toward their season record but not toward the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation conference standings.

The team has had a tough schedule, playing teams like UCLA, Berkeley and Stanford.

Despite not having a pool on campus, Sarusi said the team has done well adjusting.

However, Painter said that the crowds are not as big as before since the move.

Although the Spartans generally play teams from the West Coast, they will play Harvard, an East Coast team, come Friday.

"It's really exciting to see how different their style of play is," Painter said.

MPFS conference tournaments are scheduled at the end of April.

SJSU's next game is against Harvard on March 17th in Saratoga at 6 p.m.

Follow Payje on Twitter | @Theyasked

THIS DAY IN SJSU HISTORY

March 14, 1996

By SANDEEP CHANDOK
SPORTS EDITOR

This day 21 years ago marks the last time the San Jose State men's basketball played in the NCAA Tournament. It suffered a 110-72 opening-round loss to the then No. 2 team in the country, the Kentucky Wildcats.

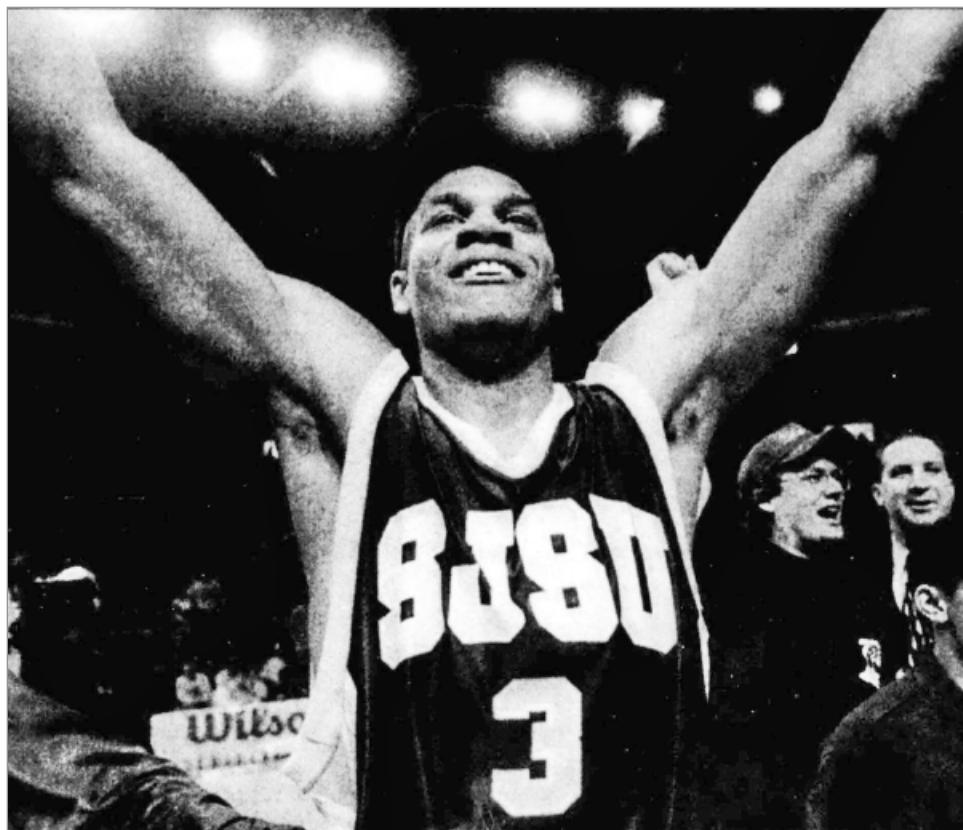
The Spartans had been sectioned in the Midwest Region which also included another Bay Area school, the Golden Bears of the University of California, Berkeley.

Olivier Saint-Jean was the high-man for the Spartans in that game as he finished 18 points, seven rebounds and two steals. Tito Addison added 16 points and three triples while Sam Allen finished with 15 points and six rebounds. For the opposing

Wildcats, Walter McCarty led the way with 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists. However, he wasn't the standout player Big Blue Nation as Antoine Walker (14 points/9 rebounds/6 assists/6 steals) would go on to be a well-known NBA player.

Despite the loss to the Wildcats, the game that put the Spartans into the Big Dance was ever so thrilling. It was in the Western Athletic Conference championship game against the Utah State Aggies that Olivier Saint-Jean splashed in a three-pointer in the final five seconds to give the Spartans a 76-75 victory. 1980 was the previous time SJSU made the tournament prior to its 1996 appearance.

Follow Sandeep on Twitter | @sandeepchandok



An ecstatic Olivier Saint-Jean celebrates upon the Spartans' 76-75 victory over Utah State at the Big West tourney. T.R. NICHOLS | SPARTAN DAILY