Star-gazing students discuss poverty and homelessness

By Elizabeth Rodriguez @elizabwithlove

Students slept out to bring awareness to the 47 million homeless in the U.S. at the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue Thursday night.

Students celebrated the 10th annual “Poverty Under the Stars” event that aimed to raise awareness regarding homelessness and poverty in Silicon Valley with creator and SJSU alum Rochelle Jackson Smarr.

The event featured guest speakers, such as sociologist professor Scott Meyers-Lipton, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and Sacred Heart Community Services director Poncho Guevara.

Guest speakers discussed troubles that plague San Jose and silicon valley with students and staff of SJSU.

“The homelessness crisis around the lack of good paying jobs—30 to 40 percent of our people—it allows some of them to eventually become homeless,” Meyers-Lipton said.

“But it’s affecting the working class, the middle class. It’s affecting the poor and it’s affecting all of us.”

Sociology junior Ryan Eckford attended to represent Fight Against Student Homelessness.

“I just thought it was a good experience to better understand the issues I want to address with the people who are involved in issues I’m interested in,” Eckford said.

The event carried out into the next morning for a community discussion at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library with social justice professor Scott Myers-Lipton, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and Sacred Heart Community Services director Poncho Guevara.

“Let’s get them to figure out what they want,” said Chinh Tran, a software engineer for GameStop. “For this specific hackathon, it’s based around problems GameStop is presenting and the student are asked to build mobile apps and web designs in response.

Over 120 aspiring engineers, computer scientists and designers gathered at San Jose State to compete in a hackathon last weekend. Hosted by SJSU, GameStop and IBM, the event tested the coding skills of students and allowed them to show off their imagination and ability to work under pressure.

“A hackathon, at its core, is basically creative problem solving,” said Jacob Tansey, a software engineer for GameStop. “For this specific hackathon, it’s based around problems GameStop is presenting and the student are asked to build mobile apps and web designs in response.

Students had access to top-notch resources with assets and data from GameStop and IBM’s Bluemix platform.

“We’re more interested in the ideas they come up with,” Tansey said. “We know they’re going to come up with some good code and solutions, but (with) 100 students working on the same thing you know they will be some good ideas.”

After groups were asked their task on Friday, students began planning their strategies. Participants had to think of something innovative and new, but at the same time easy and attractive for gamers.

“The university students are one of the core target consumers for GameStop so let’s get them to figure out what they want,” said Chinh Tran, strategic cloud adoption leader at IBM.

In an attempt to present the best product possible to the judges, students stayed overnight and worked on their apps until 4 a.m.

Students were determined to earn the grand prize, which included a gaming.

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Jordan Alexis wonders why American roles go to Brits p.4

SPECIAL
Have an ‘aha’ moment: Special issue hits stands this Thursday.
Jordan Alexis | Spartan Daily

Juniors Michael Jaradah, Alexis Cheung Ho and Sara Sepasian and senior Spencer Lehrman won first place at the two-day GameStop/IBM Hackathon event at the Spartan Complex this past weekend.

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on consoles, games and a 40” flat-screen TV.
After hours of devotion, teams were ready to present their product to judges from GameStop and IBM Information Technology Services.

Judges looked over 20 presentations in the span of 2 hours and 30 minutes before making their final decision.

The grand-prize winners were a team of three computer engineers and one computer science major.

Juniors Sara Sepasian, Michael Jaradah, Alexis Cheung Ho and senior Spencer Lehrman said they were in shock when the judges announced their team won the competition. They said they did not think their team had much of a chance at the start of the event. “Honestly, we were kind of discouraged at the beginning,” Jaradah said. “The stuff they used and we do not speak are languages we are famil- iar with for the most part.”

Cheung said the biggest struggle during the competition was coming up with a sufficiently unique concept that would appeal to people.

The winning team started later than oth- ers in the competition, taking three hours just to get an idea on paper.

“The great thing about the hackathon is that we really got to bond together,” Sepa- sian said. “Having each other as teammates made it not as stressful. We tried to make it something we can relate to personally.” Sepasian signed up for the event, but didn’t plan on attending until Jaradah and Cheung “grabbed” her to join. As part of the winning team, Sepasian said she is glad her friends talked her into it.

Lehrman said he was even happier to be part of the team and he did not know his three teammates until the competition. “I feel so lucky to be with this group,” Lehrman said. “It was so much fun.”

Tansey said the success of this first ever hackathon will hopefully bring more com- petitions to SJSU in the future.

“We are excited for the opportunity to have one next year,” Tansey said. “We would love to come back to SJSU and do another one.”

Uber drivers can now fill seats on their commutes

By Carolyn Said

Carolyn Said writes for the San Francisco Chronicle.

Uber is trying a feature that will let its drivers input their destination so they can pick up a paying passenger going their way. Riders Leilani Leha and Maya Choksi have long of- fered similar destination matching. “I know of drivers’ feedback,” said Maya Choksi, product manager for Uber’s driver app. “When they’re going somewhere, they input a destination in mind, they want to earn a fare along the way.”

The goal is for Uber drivers requesting the feature are those who live far away from where they normally drive, she said. New, drivers who live in Valley but drive to San Francisco, for instance, can try to fill an empty seat near their destination. It’s part of a bigger overhaul of the driver app designed to give drivers the informa- tion and tools they need to manage their schedules and pick where and when they want to drive, Choksi said.

Another new feature will give drivers more information on how to respond to Uber’s infamous surge pricing, when rates increase during periods of high demand.

Keith Chen, Uber’s head of economic re- search who is designing the third iteration of its surge system, said in The Chronicle last month that the app now helps drivers cal- culate whether a surge might be over by the time they drive to the area where it’s happening.

“Uber’s for shared rides, like the similar Lyft Line, already requires pas- sengers to enter destinations so they can be matched with other riders who have similar routes. As a result, Uber pas- sengers are more used to entering their destination when they request a ride, the company said. But doing so is optional for solo rides.

This month, Uber added pre-priced shared Pool rides to San Francisco from Palo Alto, Mountain View and San Jose during commute hours. At the time, it said that drivers who commuted to the city from the South Bay would be natu- ral candidates for providing those rides. Initially just available in the Bay Area, the destination feature will be introduced elsewhere in coming weeks.

Carolyn Said writes for the San Francisco Chronicle.

California’s homeless crisis is best reflect- ed in the homeless encampments known as “The Jungle” located on Storri Road.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, the Jungle was home to 200-300 people living in unsanitary conditions.

The Jungle was dismantled by city work- ers Dec. 4, 2014. The Mercury News re- ported that the cost of the clean up was be- tween $400,000-$500,000 and was shared with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Some proposed solutions are expand- ing housing subsidies, raising minimum wage and early education for children.

In order for these proposed solutions to be met, the work must begin with stu- dents and the community.

Organizations such as the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center, Fight Against Student Homelessness, Sacred Heart Community Services and Catholic Charities in the Children, youth and families division. These are some of many organizations that were in charge.

“Let’s make San Jose a first class city for all, not just for some,” Myers Lupon said.

Elizabeth Poshpazov is a contributing writer.
Where the wild things are

Humans and animals come together at the Wildlife Center

By Andrew Cypert
@audaciousgreen

People from around the Bay Area went to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley’s annual Walk On the Wild Side event Saturday to learn about local animals and what the organization does to help these animals.

The event happens every first or second Saturday of November, depending on the weather.

“We did the event a little bit different this year. So it’s the first time we’ve ever done these different tables where people from around the Bay Area went to the Wildlife Center and we provide quality care to all the patients we rescue,” WCSV Operations Coordinator Alex Clements said.

The biggest highlight for Clements is seeing how the volunteers interact with the animals.

“We intake injured and orphaned wildlife found in Santa Clara County and we provide quality care to all the patients we rescue. And our goal is to eventually release them back to their natural habitat,” said Wildlife Rehabilitation Supervisor Ashley Kinney.

There were pictures WCSV took of rehabilitated animals such as a starling and sick coyote who was fed and treated, a bobcat that had a broken leg and was given a cast on its leg, and other recovery stories. The pictures were hung around so people could see.

“We receive over five thousand animals each year. And we receive anything from small, little squirrels and songbirds all the way up to owls, coyotes, owls, and raptors like hawks and owls,” Kinney said.

Top left: Donated fur coats are used to comfort orphaned wild animals while in rehabilitation

Bottom left: Kids had multiple booths available to for learning and fun.

Top right: The wildlife center holds 5,000 animals throughout the year, based on their condition some animals need more help than others.

Bottom right: Visitors had the chance to learn about different types of animals and their anatomy.

WCSV Operations Coordinator Alex Clements.

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Will the American American please stand up?

By Jordan Rizzi
@jaa951

One of my favorite hobbies in the world is watching movies, from the black and white days of "Citizen Kane" to "The Martian" and everything in between. I don't just enjoy watching the movies at face value, but also diving into the time period in which the film was made and seeing how that shaped the story. For example, my favorite movies are the films of the late '60s and early '70s. For instance, with "Star Wars," the science fiction film was released and gave rise to the new term "Summer blockbuster" we use today. Many films get lost into its not about the visuals. It begins and ends with the words and the dialogues that you hear, capturing your imagination and bringing you into the story.

As a fan of film, I've noticed that today, especially in the last few years of the '60s and '70s in my opinion, but there is a lack of diversity in terms of talented actors and actresses in modern-day film. Actors today don't really match those of the '60s and '70s in my opinion, but there is a lack of diversity in terms of talented actors and actresses in modern-day film. Actors today don't really match those of the '60s and '70s in my opinion, but there is a lack of diversity in terms of talented actors and actresses in modern-day film.

Diversity is not a bad thing, Star Wars is an example. We cannot wait to share the trailer with you tonight," J.J. Abrams said in a panel at the San Diego Comic-Con. "I think it's not a small thing. Abrams said in a panel at the San Diego Comic-Con. "I think it's not a small thing. Abrams is the son of producer Steven Spielberg and has worked on several films, including "Mission: Impossible II." Abrams is an example of how diversity can improve a movie.

According to a study done by the Bunche Center at UCLA, 20 movies released in 2017 featured lead or co-lead actors who were black. According to a study done by the Bunche Center at UCLA, 20 movies released in 2017 featured lead or co-lead actors who were black. According to a study done by the Bunche Center at UCLA, 20 movies released in 2017 featured lead or co-lead actors who were black.

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"When you start out, you don't need to learn how to act, you just need to learn how to look," Jordan Rizzi is a Spartan Daily staff writer.
SJU Alumni inducted in city’s Hall of Fame

By Jordan Alexis
A Jovanni Arroyo-Camberos
@ jaa951

Former Spartan and San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jeff Garcia celebrated his induction into the San Jose Sports Hall of Fame last Monday with his family at the SAP Center.

During his career at SJU, Hernandez received the 1968 Hermann Trophy and was named an All-American in his final year with the Spartans.

Hernandez then played for the San Jose Earthquakes for three seasons between 1974-1976.

When I came to this city it was like a two or one horse town and to see the city grow as rapidly as my history had grown, it’s a marriage,” Carlos said. “So for me to be inducted into the city hall of fame is monumental in my household.”

The only woman to be inducted this year was Clara Aquamaids starting in 1984. She so- phisticated and co-coached to a gold in team competition with the first ever perfect score of 100 in Olympic history for any sport.

Carver has displayed complete domi- nation over synchronized swimming, earning the U.S. Olympic Committee coach of the year honor for 12 consecutive years from 1995-2006. “It’s perplexing to me to be honored by something you just plain like to do,” Carver said. “I like to do synchronized swim- ming.”

Each inductee will be recognized with their own bronze plaque permanently in- stalled on the concourse at the SAP Center in San Jose.

By Jordan Alexis
A Jovanni Arroyo-Camberos

Spartan lose 37-34 in OT to Nevada Wolfpack

Kenny Potter

Junior quarterback Kenny Potter was the biggest offensive weapon for the Spartans in their matchup against the Wolfpack, totalling 302 all-purpose yards and was the team’s leading rusher.

During his career at SJU, Hernandez re- ceived the 1968 Hermann Trophy and was named an All-American in his final year with the Spartans.

Hernandez then played for the San Jose Earthquakes for three seasons between 1974-1976.

After hanging up his cleats, Hernandez had huge success as a youth coach.

In 1992, he began a 30-year career at Pre- sentation High School in San Jose, where he led the girls’ team to 17 league champi- onships and eight section championships.

The only woman to be inducted this year was legendary synchronized swimming coach Carver.

Though Carver graduated from SJU, she has made her legend coaching the Santa Clara Aquamaidas starting in 1984. She re- lified her place in history when she be- came head coach of the U.S. national team in 1993.

In the 1996 Olympics, Carver choreo- graphed and co-coached to a gold in team competition with the first ever perfect score of 100 in Olympic history for any sport.

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Women’s soccer play-offs end in first round exit

By Rachel Price
@rac5h

The San Jose State women’s soccer team ended their season at Stanford’s Cagan Stadium on Friday night, losing 2-0 in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Friday’s game marked the Spartans’ first appearance ever in the NCAA tournament.

"This is a huge building block for us because we basically proved everybody wrong," Spartans head coach Lauren Hanson said. The Spartans were matched against the Stanford Cardinal, the first-ranked seed in its bracket section, and went undeleted in the PAC-12 conference.

"They’re a No. 1 seed for a reason," Hanson said. "They’re obviously very technical, they’re very good on the ball, they’re a very possession-oriented team.”

Stanford dominated possession in both periods, only allowing the Spartans to get down the field for three shots, two of which were on goal.

The team’s first goal was the product of an enery gap by the Spartans in the 17th minute. The second goal came from Bradford forward Avenue Collins in the 48th minute.

"Big credit to the back-line,“ Hanson said. "Zoe (Makrigiannis) was awesome." Senior goalkeeper Makrigiannis completed five saves for her team.

I was trying to do what I try to do all the time,“ Makrigiannis said. “That’s my job to save for my team, and I mean, they worked their ass off the entire game.”

The Spartan defense was effective in dis- rupting the Cardinal offense, which al- lowed the team to keep pace with Stanford for the second half.

“We work on defending time and time again, and everything we worked on came out tonight,” Hanson said. Hanson said despite the loss, this season made SJU history.

“The second I took this job, everybody said, ‘why,’ or this or that about San Jose State and all along I believed,” Hanson said.

Both Hanson and Makrigiannis raved about the team. Hanson spoke about the team’s family-like bonds.

“Ours is your great team... and obviously any time a season ends, it’s hard, and it’s heartbreaking for them,” Hanson said. For Makrigiannis, this season ended on a high note despite Friday’s loss.

“I couldn’t ask for a better group of girls and stuff,” Makrigiannis said. “All four years led up to this, and that was one heck of a season to leave on.”

Rachel Price is the Spartan Daily copy editor.

Byrd led the Spartans in scoring with 16 points, finishing 5-8 from the field and 6-10 from the free-throw line. As a team, the Spartans finished the game shooting 39 percent from the field, 29.7 percent from beyond the arc and 63 percent from the line.

By comparison, SJU was able to rally because of its three-point shooting (33- 24, 43.8 percent) and its proficiency at the line (23-30, 76.7 percent).

“We are expected to go up a lot of points. Han off to them because they didn’t go away and they kept attacking,” Harris said. “We just need to focus on our defense more.”

The tone of the players and coach after the game was one of frustration.

“This is probably just one we need to put behind us,” Harris said. “We will try to learn from it, but we don’t have time to sit and dwell on it.”

The Spartans’ next game is Nov. 22 at CS Bakersfield and the team’s next home game is Dec. 6 against the University of San Francisco.

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