About 70 students etched their names into the final construction beam of the new Interdisciplinary Science Building in black and blue Sharpies Monday morning. "This [beam] is going to be up on top of the building and, of course, it's going to be incorporated into the structure. You won't be able to see these names, but still, people feel they want to be connected to it," said College of Science Dean Michael Kaufman. "I think the fact that so many people are showing up is an indication that there is a lot of pent-up desire to have new facilities and people feel like they are part of it, which is great!"

The new building is projected to open in Spring 2022, Kaufman said. Around $120 million of the funding for the project came from California State University trustees, as well as a combination of campus reserves and money from the College of Professional and Global Education, Kaufman said. "We are on budget. We are on schedule, all is good," said Charlie Faas, vice president of Administration and Finance.

The last academic structure built on campus was about 30 years ago and like most buildings on campus, it was designed for traditional classroom experiences or office spaces, Faas said. However, the building will feature instruction and research labs on each floor, as well as dedicated collaboration spaces conjoining the two. The collaboration spaces are designed to advance SJSU’s academic excellence and teaching methods, Kaufman said.

"We have a lot of new faculty who are both committed to the research that we are going to build into this building and very interested in being in a place like this," Faas said.

"This is just the beginning. It’s been a long time since we’ve invested in academic buildings at this campus, this happens to be the first of those, but you’re going to see expansion in other areas of the university as well," Kaufman said.

Kinesiology senior Maxine Gutierrez signs her name in Sharpie on the last beam of the Interdisciplinary Science Building outside Duncan Hall Monday morning.

‘Artivists’ paint over blast walls

By Vicente Vera

Photos by Blue Nguyen

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Afghan art collective turns war-torn barriers into art installations

Barriers known as “blast walls” have been erected around the city of Kabul, Afghanistan during the past four decades of conflict, constructing a maze within the city. Built by Afghan government officials, oligarchs and foreign military as a way to protect their own homes and structures from the blasts of nearby explosions, the walls are irregularly constructed in parts of the city.

Self-proclaimed “artivist” and Kabul native, Kabir Mokamel, said he felt under siege by the walls. “They make Kabul streets really narrow and deadly for us because [officials] live behind the walls, and all the terrorism happens within those corridors,” Mokamel said.

With thousands of steel and concrete blast walls throughout the city towering up to eight meters high and no way to get rid of them, Mokamel came up with a way to make the walls disappear — painting over them.

He and his artistic partner Omair Sharifi spoke at the Student Union Theater Wednesday about how the barriers led to the creation of their art collective, ArtLords.

“If you hear about Afghanistan, you hear about drug lords, war lords, the corrupt lords, even though ‘lord’ is such a beautiful word," Sharifi said. "They thought a lord would come with a gun or an RPG. We thought we could change the whole notion of ‘lord.’"

The ArtLords said they sought to change not only the public perception of the city’s blast walls, but also that of art in Afghanistan. A country with a government that has not fully realized the merits of art.

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Michael Kaufman

College of Science Dean
Black history legacy lives on

By Diana Villar SENIOR STAFF WRITER

West African drums sounded throughout the Student Union Ballroom during the 2020 Black History Month Celebration at San Jose State University. Organizers from the MOSAC Center called for Black Student Success Center to work together to continue the momentum this year in the celebration.

"It’s important to celebrate this month because it reminds the people that our story started as well," senior Aarron Booker said. "It stands against the idea that fundamentally just African Americans face, but that everyone has been through in the past.

"Black students make up slightly more than 3% of the university population, according to the SJSU Office of Institutional Research, some say that their legacy at the university is still strong.

"I think it’s important to remember that the school at one point had a huge African American presence on the campus," applied mathematics senior Marcel Leath said. "It’s just important to kind of know, say that we’re still here, we contribute to this campus." Leath said that the African American legacy is still felt throughout the SJSU community as well as other surrounding communities.

"It’s been my home on campus for the last 21 years," they said. "It’s been my home on campus for the last 21 years." Faas said. "I just found myself still taking conversations to ask, "What do you think?" And the students will say, "I think that Black history month is a statement building for the whole Cal State University system.

Kinesiology senior Maxine Gutierrez, who plans to graduate at the end of the spring semester, was one of the many students who signed the beam.

"I think it’s important to not only dedicating one month a year to remember and celebrate minorities. "I think that Black history month is a statement building for the whole Cal State University system.

Under her name, Gutierrez signed "Spartan Quidditch" to install the building. "I’ve been home at the same time, and we’ve deeply embedded in the culture of this country has an international level!"

Follow Diana on Twitter @dianaavila284

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Follow Vicente on Twitter @VicenteSJSU

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ART

Imagine San Jose [State] being covered up by these big blast walls, it’s suffocating and it makes it look like a prison. Kabul is becoming that type of prison.

Omid Sharifi Art, Design & Media

Sharifi

Alicia said she came to the event as an extra credit opportunity, but stayed because the story caught her attention.

"I genuinely thought it was interesting, and I had some questions to ask," Alicia said. "I just found myself still taking notes and writing things about what they had to say.

"Towards the end of the roundtable discussion, the conversation circled back to the 10 years Afghanistan can really change can really change.

Follow Vicente on Twitter @VicenteSJSU

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Shruti Lakshmanan
STAFF WRITER

Ringing into 2020, one would assume that female representation would be abundant in the Oscars. But it seems that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are still stuck in the 1920s, with women director nominations being a rarity. Since the first Oscars ceremony in 1929, there have only been five female directors nominated, according to a recent United Nations Women’s Twitter post.

Among the five, only one secured a golden statue. Kathryn Bigelow snagged the best director award in 2012 for her incredible film “The Hurt Locker.” Who knew a woman could direct a movie about an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team getting infiltrated by enemies of the Iraq war, and then win an award for her depiction? This slap in the face of gender inequality was a wake-up call for those making films.

But, here’s the dilemma. A celebrity can only vote for those within the same category as them. This means that Kaling and Jones can only vote for best actor. In 2018, the governing board had finally released the membership list on their website and were proud to state that “five branches invited more women than men,” and that did not include the directors. It is evident that the gender disparity in the award ceremony is not going to disappear, they are not willing to integrate the fields on the basis of creativity.

Until the governing board can decide on the all-or-nothing approach on gender segregation, women will not have a fighting chance. Clearly, the academy’s governing body does not care enough about women to provide us with an equal playing field. Women directors lack representation.
Turnover-prone Spartans fall flat

By Briana Conte

The San Jose State women’s basketball team diked it out in a close game against the University of Nevada, Reno but ultimately fell short 40-37.

The home loss against the Wolfpack (12-12, 5-8 MWC) results in the Spartans (15-8, 9-3 MWC) losing two in a row after their six-game winning streak was snapped by the University of Wyoming last Saturday.

“We, all as a team, need to do better at protecting the ball,” sophomore guard Ayzhiana Basallo said.

In the second quarter, the Spartans had the lead and were physical all night. The Spartans had 16 turnovers throughout the night.

“I had half of the turnovers,” Basallo said.

However, Basallo put a stop to that by snapping by the University of Nevada last Saturday.

Junior guard Megan Anderson had an off night, shooting 1-5 from three-point range.

In the second quarter, three consecutive turnovers by SJSU allowed Nevada to take the lead at 74-71.

Junior forward Tyra White also missed only one shot throughout the entire game, making seven of her eight field goal attempts, but the rest of the team had a poor shooting night overall.

Junior guard Megan Anderson had an off night, shooting 1-5 from three-point range.

“I thought they played harder than we did,” head coach Jamie Craighead said. “It looked like we played very slow to me.”

The rotation of players kept the women refreshed on the court and it showed at the end of the game.

The Spartans only had three players in double figures for the night.

“We just gotta take care of the ball. We gotta go to every pass, “ junior forward Imani Lacy said.

Despite the loss against Nevada, the team has their eyes set on the next game at Fresno State University.

“We feel like we owe it to Fresno State to go and beat them on their home court and you know if our team plays well we were fully capable of doing that,” Craighead said.

The Bulldogs stole a win against the Spartans in overtime the last time they played. SJSU will look to avenge one of their few home losses on the road this Wednesday.

Follow the Spartan Daily on Twitter @SpartanDaily
Raw fish and rice is not very nice

Art is not food.

Students have some of the strangest tendencies when it comes to food.

They crave a ball-filled milk drink that tastes like creamer, stuff their stomach with a wad of plastic noodles and for some odd reason, love to eat raw fish rolled in rice.

I, on the other hand, have dodged this trap for 22 years of my life but sadly this act of evasion has come to an end.

Don't get me wrong, I do love seafood with all my crabby heart, but a fish belongs on the grill and not raw in my mouth.

Shrimp has always been the little crustacean that I can't get enough of, but it's usually been grilled to a crisp.

Walking into Ariake Sushi, I had high hopes and an empty stomach that was not sure what to expect.

Ariake Sushi sure did know how to ruin a virgin raw-fish eater, the restaurant made me feel like I was a young boy again.

In the middle of the restaurant there was a floating river with little wooden boats that ferried chef-crafted sushi for the customer's choosing.

I was a young boy again.

Crab is always fun to fear when it came to eating.

I was a virgin raw-fish eater, the little crustacean that I feel spooked than a little ball of fear when it came to eating it.

I don't think I will ever get tired of the little wooden boats that ferried the fish flapping around its gullet.

For my second venture, the Philadelphia roll was so excited to leave the place.

I felt like a pelican that just swooped down and grabbed a fish out of the Pacific Ocean and was struggling to get the damn fish down its throat while the fish flipped around its gullet.

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In the middle of the restaurant there was a floating river with little wooden boats that ferried chef-crafted sushi for the customer's choosing.

It was a magnificent sight, so naturally I sat at the river of sushi awaiting my first roll.

Never having had sushi in my life left me at a mild disadvantage when it came to ordering, nothing really looked appetizing because it looked all the same – raw and cold.

My brain remembered that quite literally every biped in the world talks about California rolls.

Thankfully so, the first plate that the little wooden boat delivered me was exactly that.

Good of classic crab, avocado and cucumber inside rice and seaweed – cool.

That was my first roll.

The Philadelphia roll had salmon, avocado and cream cheese, which is a rough start considering I absolutely can't stand cream cheese, but I thought this might change my mind.

It didn't.

The cream cheese felt warm in my mouth which is extremely uncomfortable when everything else is cold and mushy.

I never tasted a hint of salmon because all I could feel on my tongue was avocado mush and cream cheese mush – and boy, that doesn't taste good.

After two rolls, sushi is all tied up for me actually eating it and all it comes down to the final roll.

The tuna roll.

Within this roll there was what looks like tuna, and avocado.

Believe it or not, I've never had tuna before, so I wasn't really sure what I was tasting, but my taste buds wanted to live on the edge. I can honestly say that I have never put anything more chewy in my mouth in my entire life.

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Suicide Squad’ spin-off struggles as comedic relief at times. Outstanding characters, the and Renee Montoya were Black Canary although Black Canary the group came to be and origin story about how Wayne. a hero with a killer voice, and follows Harley Quinn, with McGregor. In her fight against Black members who support her. It’s possible for crazy people to fall out of love, like Joker, and now it is people to fall out of love, stuff like this. "One thing we had to really think about was if we were able to cover the cost, Wilson said. “We wanted to pay the artists performing.” The film has organized guest performances at venues such as The Brix, Cafe Stetch and Garden at the Flea. This event was the first independent showcase for the collective artfully presenting a dedicated space to visual art and sound. Given that there are not a lot of all-age inclusive music venues in downtown San Jose, Wilson said The City has a little side project to help better the local music scene. "It’s possible for crazy people to fall out of love, especially for someone like the Joker, and now it is his ex-girlfriend Harley Quinn to move on from heartbreak. In an interview of the DC Universe, “Birds of Prey” is a spin-off to the 2016 film “Suicide Squad” and follows Harley Quinn, played by Margot Robbie, and the Birds of Prey members who support her in her fight against Black Mask, played by Ewan McGregor. The film mainly focuses on Harley Quinn, with little emphasis on the actual Birds of Prey. Harley Quinn’s comrades are a group of all-female characters, including Black Canary, a formidable and strategic marksman, Rene Montoya, a Gotham City police detective out to make a name for herself, and Huntress, an international assassin. The film features a backstory similar to Bruce Wayne. “Birds of Prey” is an origin story about how the group came to be and although Black Canary and Rene Montoya were outstanding characters, the group mostly revolved around a little girl who show up to fight and serve as comedic relief at times. People want to be in a place where they can just chill and vibe,” Wilson said. From 7 p.m. to midnight, about 200 audience members gathered to the sounds within the brick walls. “I really felt at home. I really felt comfortable with the community and the vibe. It was like it was just like it connected to all of us, anything at the right time” Antonia Briones, a 28-year-old audience member and aspiring producer, said. “This is what the community needs, this is what the world needs. We need to have more artists and more people coming to stuff like this.” Corderoy and Avila and Wilson swayed with the front row audience members, content that their vision of the night was fully realized. “I just couldn’t believe it, it felt like a crazy dream,” Avila said. “Everyone was feeling it, it warmed my heart to see everyone enjoy it.” Follow Bryanna on Twitter @brybartlett

Directory of: Cathy Yan Starring: Margot Robbie, Ewan McGregor Genre: Crime/Action

“Batman v Superman” might have been brutal but “Birds of Prey” takes everything up a notch. The action sequences are filmed in wide shots, which director Cathy Yan executed with the help of John Wick” director Chad Stahelski, showcasing old-school action. If you’re a fan of the movies of the late Behind DC. Comics characters, this movie is definitely worth watching for the action and fun comic book characters, even if they aren’t characterized or developed very well.

STAFF WRITER
By Dan Nguyen

By Bryanna Bartlett

Donut Day celebrated with art and music

By Bryan Bartlett

Top members of the band William Corduroy play their groovy tunes to a lively crowd. Bottom: Various artists displayed their colorful artworks at Donut Day at the SoFA Art District, each piece showed the artist’s eccentric personality and style.

Bottom: Various artists displayed their colorful artwork at Donut Day at the SoFA Art District, each piece showed the artist’s eccentric personality and style.