Mistrial declared for hate crime charges

By Raphael Stroedl
Contributing writer

Three former SJSU students were found guilty on Monday of misdemeanor battery for bullying their black roommate in 2015. However, all three managed to avoid the hate crime conviction that the victim’s family and prosecution sought. While Joseph Bongiorno received a decisive “not guilty” verdict for his hate crime charge, the jury was “hopelessly deadlocked” in deciding Logan Beaschler and Colin Warren’s guilt.

“He is not a hate crime,” said Jeff Rosen, District Attorney of Santa Clara County. “You have to prove what was in someone’s mind when they were committing certain acts.” Rosen praised the character of the victim, Donald Williams Jr., while criticizing the defense’s argument that the bullying was nothing more than a “prank war gone wrong,” as they repeatedly insisted during trial.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Disney character developer for ‘Zootopia’ visits SJSU

Kate Guzman
Multimedia editor

Visual development artist and character designer, Nick Orsi, visited San José State University on Friday to speak to a packed classroom of eager animation students about his recent work in Disney’s upcoming movie, “Zootopia.”

“Zootopia” was a soft spoken line as he began his talk Monday evening, his nervousness vanished as obvious enjoyment moved the conversation along. He showed several clips from “Zootopia,” including one in which an energetic bunny in a rash has to deal with the slow pace of a DMV. There was a massive positive reaction to each clip as the room filled with holy laughs.

Orsi graduated from the animation department at the Academy of Art in San Francisco five years ago. His mentor at the Academy of Art had previously got an internship at Disney. He eventually ended up working at Star Wars headquarters, Lucasfilm, before once again heading back to Disney. Orsi may work for Disney now, but his inspiration stemmed from rival Warner Brothers’ “Iron Giant” and popular “Bob’s Burger” “Batman: The Animated Series.”

“I loved Iron Giant. I loved how smart and emotional it was,” Orsi said.

During his presentation, Orsi showed prints of some of his original designs of “Zootopia” characters. He started with figuring out how to put a pair of pants on an animated cow and whether or not they should keep the udders. Spoiler: they didn’t.

Orsi then worked on background characters. He showed off hand drawn illustrations of what some of the characters might look like based on personality or name.

“It was really informative and I really liked seeing all the clips and he had all these character designs that were really awesome in use,” said Olivia Asis, junior animation film major. “It was cool to see all the origins of where the movie came from.”

Orsi also said that during the creation of the characters, he had to make sure the animators would be able to animate them to move properly.

PILLS FOR DAYS

Free medicine in Downtown San Jose

By Sophie Morales & Yousif Kassab
Staff writers

The Better Health Pharmacy officially saw its grand opening in downtown San José Feb. 16. Located in the San José Medical Plaza building across from Walgreens on Santa Clara Street, the pharmacy has the distinction of offering medications and injections to patients for free.

The idea was formed by a group of students from Stanford University who wanted to reduce waste and help those who could not afford the medications.

Open four days a week, this pharmacy targets patients that are diabetic, have HIV, depression or high blood pressure. It also helps the elderly, mentally ill and residents of low income.

According to the Pharmacy’s website, no insurance is required. All you need is your ID and prescription. The services offered by the pharmacy do not include any controlled substances such as painkillers like Oxycontin, Percocet, Codeine, Vicodin, anxiety medications or stroke prevention medications like H egla.

For many, even with insurance, their copay is still...
"Change happens slowly if it's the right kind of change," Papazian said. "The kind of change we want is change that is sustainable over time, and that really brings us together and nurtures the values that we care about... social justice and student success."

As Papazian finished her speech, she opened the floor for the audience to ask questions.

"We need to talk about the questions that we have," one audience member said. "We need to talk about the values that we have." Papazian agreed, saying that the values that the university holds are important.

"We're here because we care about social justice and student success," she said. "We want to make sure that we are creating a community that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone."
In honor of Black History Month, faculty and students gathered in the Martin Luther King Jr. Library to watch a video chronicling the Tuskegee Airmen’s achievements on Feb. 18.

The African American Faculty and Staff Association (AASFA) set up the video, which is one of many events the association is hosting for Black History Month.

Dr. Oscar Battle Jr., who founded AASFA nearly 40 years ago, led the presentation.

“Black History Month is February, that’s something that I do, not just February, every day is a day I live for preventing something that I do… not just February,” said Dr. Battle.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American aviators during World War II. During this time, the military was still segregated and a wholly African-American military group was revolutionary. The group remained a shining precursor to the Civil Rights Movement.

The Tuskegee Airmen, President Harry S. Truman may not have pushed to desegregate the military after the end of World War II.

“Military life wasn’t much different from civilian life,” said Sgt. Harry Quinton, United States.

“Military life wasn’t much different from civilian life,” said Sgt. Harry Quinton, United States.

“One of the airmen noted that German prisoners of war were treated with more freedom than African-American prisoners of war were treated with segregated service.”

“There's what the underlying story is on the Tuskegee Airmen. 'That it is the triumph of good over evil,'” Bright said.

After viewing the video, attendees were given a chance to ask questions. The presentation began with a history of the Tuskegee Airmen, was a driving force behind the conversation.

“The video made it clear that the Tuskegee Airmen were considered an experiment at the time, and may not have entered combat until Eleanor Roosevelt intervened herself.”

At one point during the video, the narrator notes that the Tuskegee Airmen’s accomplishments are often missing from school texts.

“When you start talking about truth, there are a number of things that is not in someone’s [favor] to tell the truth,” Dr. Battle Jr. said. "Another truth prevents you from telling the truth all the time.”

Without the Tuskegee Airmen, President Harry S. Truman may not have pushed to desegregate the military after the end of World War II.

The Civil Rights Movement who had known of the Tuskegee Airmen, was a driving force behind the conversation.

“That's what the underlying story is on the Tuskegee Airmen. "That it is the triumph of good over evil,"” Bright said.

“It was a sad situation that they made into a better situation.”

On Feb. 23, Dr. Battle Jr. will be present at another event for Black History Month.

“T’lloway Taylor Gibbs, author of "Destiny’s Child: Memoirs of a Preacher’s Child," will lead a presentation and discussion on racial discrimination in Room 223 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Feb. 12 at 12 p.m.”

With contributions from Tyler Kittle.

Tyler Kittle / Spartan Daily

Dr. Oscar Battle Jr., founder of the African American Faculty and Staff Association (AASFA) speaks at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Feb. 18, 2016.

The video discussed the problems and struggles the Tuskegee Airmen faced because of their race. Despite valiantly serving their country, the airmen still endured racial discrimination in the United States.

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Although the crowd dwindled once the video finished, those remaining continued an impassioned conversation about the Tuskegee Airmen and other issues of progress from the era.

Craig Bright, founder of the Humane Renaissance Movement who had known of the Tuskegee Airmen, was a driving force behind the conversation.

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Dr. Oscar Battle Jr., founder of the African American Faculty and Staff Association (AASFA) speaks at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on Feb. 18, 2016.
"The Witch" is a slow burning candle with some of the most harrowing scenes of horror, but the pay off may not be enough. The Witch is set in 1630 New England. A family, fresh from England, is cast out of their settlement town due to religious practicis. They build their new home on a fould just outside of a wooded area, but unbeknownst to them the woods are home to witch. Black magic begins to plague the family as their crops die and they fail to find food. They slowly starts and turns on one another with accusations of black magic and unbelief behinds.

The sets are so authentic that it becomes a re- al period piece that adds to the mood and makes the film less frightening. In attempt to add even more realism, the dialogue is filled with old English lan- guage mannerisms like “dost thou-s” and “upon thee-s”, which are mumbled with such thick accents that it can be difficult to understand. This makes the film seem like amateur Shakespeare, and the acting plays some role in this. Harvey Scrimshaw is a young and talent- ed actor able to pull off the innocent young boy. Caleb Landry Jones is instantly annoying as his language mannerisms like “dost thou-s” and “upon thee-s” and the dialogue is filled with old English language mannerisms like “dost thou-s” and “upon thee-s”, which are mumbled with such thick accents that it can be difficult to understand. The worst of the actors were the twins on the left and right of the screen. An actor performing the scenes of horror are captivating. The tense can be felt in the sitter and heard through audible and collective gasps at each turn.

Unfortunately, each great scene is spread so far apart from one another that the tension from one scene fails to carry on to the next. As great as the horror in this film is, it may not be worth the payoff of having to sit through each of those long, drawn- out scenes of plot development through inaudible dialogue.

As a prime example of little payoff, several scenes consist of characters argu- ing over who stole a silver cup, too many scenes. There are some scenes around the end, for a half of a second, but it really was not worth sitting through those inaudible ad- ditions about a stupid silver cup. "The Witch" is the downside of slow burning colonial candle, and the payoff at the end so little that when the credits roll it feels like a tap-off. Ultimately, the scene de- picts the witchcraft and satanism in the film are not worth sitting through as the actors fans and will walk out a witch.

It could have been much worse, but it could have been a little bit better, and it would be fun to sit through each of those long, drawn- out scenes of plot development through inaudible dialogue. The scenes of horror are captivating. The tense can be felt in the sitter and heard through audible and collective gasps at each turn.

"The Vagina Monologues" lacked preparation

It’s a rule told by women, full of sexual furtiness, signifying love, loss and found along the lines she actually memorized, off the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot. Unfortunately the train wreck of delivering the lines she actually memorized, off the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot. Unfortunately the train wreck of delivering the lines she actually memorized, off the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot the heat of the performance and the midst of delivering the lines in character, she forgot.
Millennials slammed by housing crisis

By Melissa Hartman
Staff writer

The Pew Research Institute reports that, removing full-time college students completely, 26 percent of young adults aged 25 to 34 years have moved out in the past five years and 24 percent can buy a home in five years. This means that 75 percent of millennials anticipate moving out in the next five years, but only 24 percent are confident they can afford a place they will want.

While these are all good options to have in the city you live in, that doesn’t necessarily justify charging people hundreds of dollars a month to live in a cramped apartment. Why is it so expensive? California law states that land owners can’t increase rent more than 10 percent a year if they’ve not upped the rent in two years. However, because of the Costa-Hawkins Act, these caps only apply to housing built before 1979, which is a miniscule portion of housing about 15 percent according to Al Jaousa America. Some residents have just accepted the high expense of housing as a part of living here. “Everything around this area as far as housing is going to be bad, that’s just the way it is,” said Allison Adams, a freshman pre-nursing major.

To move to the city by 2035, while Granato thinks more affordable housing should be available, she said she isn’t confident that’s going to happen any time soon. The San Jose Mercury News says that almost 75 percent of Bay Area millennials anticipate moving out in the next five years, but only 24 percent are confident they can afford a place they will want.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition collected data that showed a person has to make $35 per hour to afford a two bedroom apartment in the San Jose area offered on the market. So with the odds against us, how will we manage? Kim Walesh, San Jose’s Director of Economic Development, told the Mercury News that the city’s general plan addressed the issue of housing, but is unsure of where she will look to find a home that is realistic for an entry-level salary. "It sucks because it takes extra cash. Students are usually getting the full college experience 'cause students are constantly worried about money."

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Spartans still searching for second half answers

By Kavin Mistry
Executive producer

Spartan Blue
Spartan Gold
Spartan Titanium

San Diego State who clinched a share of the conference title.

The Spartans have lost their last four games, which they either had to come back or hold a substantial lead, but found themselves flustered and desperate for points at crunch time.

“We have to do a better job of taking care of the basketball,” head coach Dave Wojcik said. “Everybody knows that guards have to take care of the basketball,” Wojcik said. “I sort of compare it to the deer in headlights, the old expression, we just froze and you couldn’t do that against a good team.”

On Sunday against San Diego State, senior forward Frank Rogers threw down an emphatic dunk with 15:33 left in the second half, but failed to keep or extend it and ultimately led to the Wolf Pack winning by six.

“We let tentative, we get back on our heels, as opposed to bring more aggressive and having more poise,” Wojcik said. “There’s still frustration over these losses, knowing they had the game in their grasp, but just could not hold on.

“We lost our energy and it kind of fell apart,” freshman forward Cody Schwartz said. “Then you saw the result of that.”

Last Wednesday against the University of Nevada, the Spartans had an 11 point lead in the second half, but failed to keep or extend it and ultimately led to the Wolf Pack winning by six.

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“Their press on us really did hurt us,” Wojcik said. “I’m not going to shy away from it.”

Beyond all the frustration is a glimpse of hope for the future of the men’s basketball team. Schwartz and fellow freshman forward Ryan Welage led all Mountain West freshmen with 49 three-point field goals this season.

The Spartans were second in the conference in assists per game (14.9) average coming into Sunday’s game with 157 total on the season.

According to the Mountain West website, the Spartans average of 14.9 assists per game is their best output in school history since the 1984-85 season (16.2).

San Jose State will look to salvage what’s left of their season in their final three games beginning Saturday at Utah State.

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Only a year removed from finishing last in the Mountain West with a dismal 8-16 record in conference play, the Spartans have found themselves right back at the bottom.

San Jose State has the worst record in the conference at 8-18 and just coming off a brutal 78-56 loss to San Diego State who clinched a share of the conference title.

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Head coach Dave Wojcik barks instructions at his team during the first half of the Spartans 78-56 loss at the Event Center on Sunday.