

A&E

SJSU artists celebrate Black History Month History

Page 3



Opinion

No other Girl Scout cookie can beat Lemon-Ups

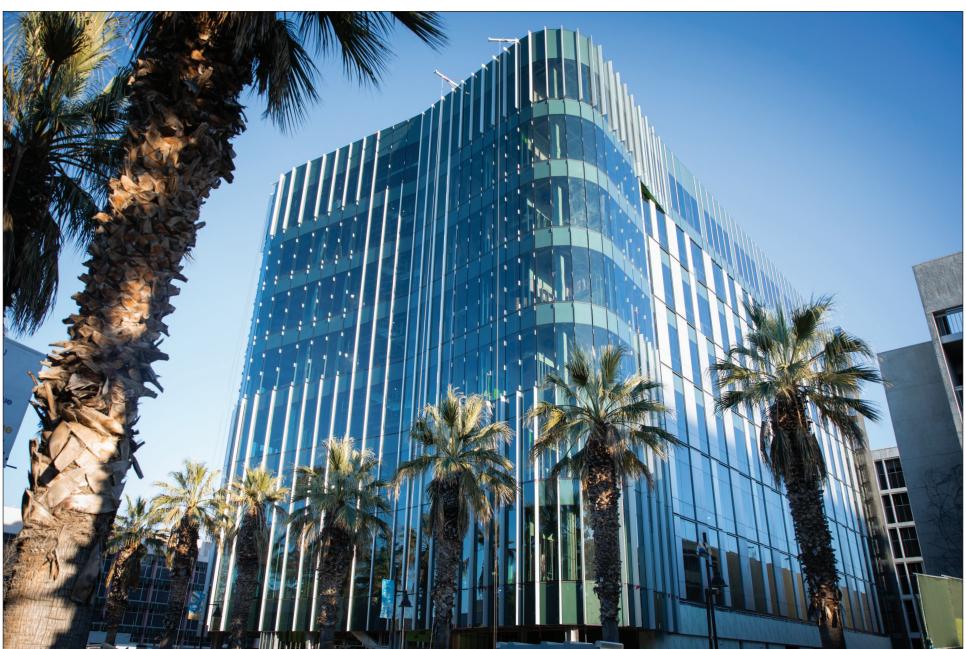
Page 5



NAMED NATIONAL FOUR-YEAR DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-21 IN THE COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION'S PINNACLE AWARDS

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EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY

Building construction continues

Pandemic delays new SJSU science completion

By D'Netrus Chevis-Rose

awaiting the opening of the Interdisciplinary Science Building, originally anticipated to open this year.

complex relations, said the building's completion was delayed to summer 2023 because of completion. Robin McElhatton, assistant director of media to summer 2023 because of complications related to the coronavirus pandemic.

> "COVID-19 issues continue to be a concern we work through every day," she said in an email. "Related

> > "U.S. diplomatic or official representation

to that is supply chain (materials and shipping) delays
The Science and Innovation that we, and most other businesses, are experiencing." Complex maintains its

McElhatton said the \$186 million Campus community members said they're Interdisciplinary Science Building will provide students with state-of-the-art labs and uniquely constructed research spaces that promote collaborative thinking.

engineering senior Chytchua Chemical Muyco said she wishes she could experience the new facilities before her graduation date, but understands the delay in construction.

PROJECT | Page 2

construction on Tuesday. The structure, expected to be

area of the campus. The university broke ground on the site on April 25, 2019. Robin McElhatton, assistant director of media relations. said the expected cost of the building is \$186 million.

completed by summer 2023,

is located in the southwest

ANALYSIS

Experts dissect Beijing Olympics boycott

By Eva Martin STAFF WRITER

Though some are critical of the diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games, San Jose State experts emphasized the importance of sports activism.

Akilah R. Carter-Francique, SJSU executive director for the Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change, said politics and sports can't be separate.

"Sport is something that has been political since its conception, particularly at Olympic Games," Carter-Francique said. "I think the very nature of the Olympics itself is a political endeavor."

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said during a Dec. 6 news conference that U.S. officials can't dismiss the political aspect of the Olympic Games.

said. "We simply can't do that." would treat these games as business as usual in the face of the PRC's [People's Republic of announced in the news conference China, against Uyghurs and other A diplomatic boycott China] egregious human a diplomatic means the offici in that region. the country don't travel to the Olympics-host country. Athletes are still allowed to compete in the games

INFOGRAPHIC BY BRYANNA BARTLETT; SOURCE: FEB. 4 NBC BAY AREA ARTICLE

rights abuses and atrocities in Xinjiang," she boycott of the Olympic Games in Beijing because of the genocide led Biden administration in Xinjiang, a northwestern region of predominantly-Muslim ethnic minorities

> Mass detention and forced sterilization of Uyghurs organized by the Chinese government were outlined in the Xinjiang papers, which were released by the New York Times on Nov. 16, 2019.

The Associated Press reported on Dec. 7 that the Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian replied to the U.S. diplomatic boycott by accusing the U.S. of politicizing sport.

"[The Boycott] seriously violates the principle of political neutrality of sports established by the

ACTIVISM | Page 2



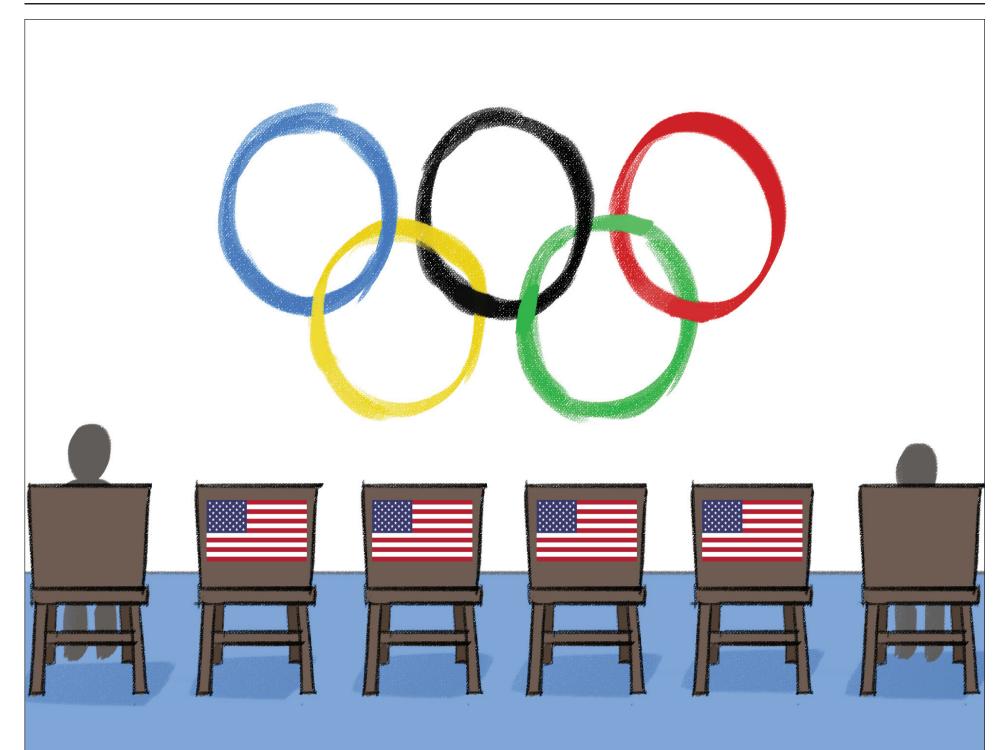


ILLUSTRATION BY BIANCA RADER

ACTIVISM

Continued from page 1

Olympic Charter and runs counter to the Olympic motto 'more united,' " Zhao said.

Boycotts of the Olympic Games have occurred several times.

According to a Feb. 6 New York Times article, the first major boycott happened during the 1976 Montreal Games.

Almost 30 countries, mostly African nations, protested against the All Blacks', the New Zealand rugby team, tour of apartheid-era South Africa and asked for New Zealand's exclusion from the Olympics.

Ryan Skinnell, SJSU associate professor of rhetoric and composition, said the U.S. tried to find balance regarding the decision to exclude athletes from the boycott.

"On the one hand, the U.S. wants to be able to say that they are taking a stand, that they're acknowledging human rights violations in China," Skinnell said. "On the other hand, they don't want the athletes to be robbed of the chance to compete, and it's a significant part of their careers."

The 2022 U.S. boycott doesn't include the athletes, unlike the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games boycott led by the Carter Administration against the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, according to a Dec. 8, 2021

Boston University article.

Skinnell said the Biden administration tried "to thread the needle" so that they can critique China's actions regarding human rights without damaging athletes'

"All the world powers, at least, and many of the other countries in the world converge together [at the Olympics]. It has always been a site of really important international



It's a sort of American exceptionalism of the U.S. engagement with international law where, you know, it matters when it's convenient for us, usually in criticizing ... our geopolitical rivals.

William Armaline

sociology and interdisciplinary social sciences associate professor, SJSU Human Rights Institute founding director

politics," Skinnell said. "If you send your top officials, then you're legitimizing the country that's holding [them]."

Skinnell focused a lot of his research on Nazi Germany and explained how they used the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games as a propaganda platform. No countries boycotted these games.

"It's very clear, with a historical view, that the Olympics in and everybody's Berlin participation in the Olympics sort of made the Nazis seem not-as-terrible as they were," Skinnell said. "[There were] a lot of American diplomats, and a lot of American high-ranking officials, who came back and said 'We didn't see anything bad, it seemed OK to us, Germany is doing a good job."

William Armaline, SJSU founding director of the human rights program and sociology and interdisciplinary social sciences associate professor, is more critical about the U.S. decision.

"It's a sort of American exceptionalism of the U.S. engagement with international law where, you know, it matters when it's convenient for us, usually in criticizing . . . our geopolitical Armaline said in rivals," a Zoom call.

U.S. athletes were warned on Jan. 18 to refrain from speaking about human rights issues while in China for their safety during a seminar hosted by Human Rights Watch, according to a Jan. 27 Human Rights Watch article.

Rule 50 of the Olympic

Charter states that "No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas."

The Olympic Charter is described on the International Olympic Committee website as "the codification of the fundamental principles of Olympism, and the rules and by-laws adopted by the International Olympic Committee."

The Charter was first published in 1908, but the edition currently enforced is the one adopted on Aug. 8, 2021.

During the opening ceremony of the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, more than 150 athletes, academics and advocates signed an open letter published on the Muhammad Ali Center website urging the International Olympic Committee to amend rule 50. Carter-Francique also the letter.

"The athletes need to have an opportunity to share [their] voice because there's been real hardships and things that are going on in their respective country," Carter-Francique said. "This is an opportunity for them to share that and spread that message on that platform, on that global stage."

SJSU alumni Tommie Smith and John Carlos protested at the Mexico City 1968 Olympic games. The Olympic Black Power statue located behind Robert D. Clark Hall immortalizes the moment

the two young men stood atop the winner's podium during the national anthem, fists raised, in a gesture in solidarity with the

Black struggle for civil rights. The two athletes and SJSU alumni drew global attention to the racism endured by Black Americans.

The International Olympic Committee President at that time ordered Smith's and Carlos's suspension from the U.S. team and the Olympic village, according to a March 30, 2021 interview with Carlos published by The Guardian.

51 years later, Smith and Carlos were inducted into the Paralympic and Olympic Hall of Fame in late 2019, according to a Sept. 23, 2019 Washington Post article.

Armaline said it's not the International Olympic Committee's role to decide what athletes can or can't say, though activism is even more powerful when it's an act of resistance.

"Often, things are more meaningful when you're doing them to break the rules," Armaline said. "That's the meaning of resistance, right? They should resist those rules, and express themselves in ways they see fit. Now, those come along with risks, as political activism always does."

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PROJECT

Continued from page 1

"In the [current] science building there's not much room in the labs and they are more outdated than I thought they'd be inside," Muyco said. "As a student you want to be exposed to new equipment so when you're in the field you know how to use them."

Jade biochemistry Nguyen, alumna and instructional support the technician science building's satellite storage, building's infrastructure

"The labs in here have been used to teach chemistry for years, so everything is quite old now," she said.

Charlie Faas, Vice President of Administration and Finance, said in a Feb. 10 email that installation of the new building's exterior curtain wall is 60% complete with interior wall framing, mechanical and electrical work. He said

plumbing is "progressing" on all floors.

Chemistry lecturer Stephanie Stepp said the new science building will also provide classrooms with fume hoods, which will keep air secluded in the hoods to prevent compounds from rising in the breathable classroom atmosphere.

Fume hoods are wall units with sliding glass in the front that allow students necessary visibility while conducting science experiments without being exposed to harmful gasses.

Stepp said she is excited to lecture in a facility with more modern equipment.

"Right now we're really limited on what we can do, since we're working on organic chemistry which involves a lot of compounds, we have to be cautious of how much ends up in the air we breathe,"

She said working in an updated research facility will allow for more in-depth experiments in the classroom.

The project, which broke ground on April 25, 2019, is part of a larger science complex which will feature a secondary collaboration building,

MacQuarrie Hall, and a renovated Duncan Hall, according to the Science and Innovation Complex website.

McElhatton said the goal of this project is to reconstruct the campus structure for the advancement of future Spartans.

66

In the [current] science building, there's not much room in the labs and they are more outdated than I thought they'd be inside. As a student, you want to be exposed to new equipment so when you're in the field you know how to use them.

> **Chytchua Muyco** chemical engineering senior

"The Science and Innovation Complex will eventually create a reimagining of Duncan Hall and other science spaces on campus," she said in an email. "These future facility enhancements are being developed now as part of the Campus Master Plan."

The complex will also create more green space on the west side of campus to promote better accessibility and an inviting setting for students, according to the SJSU Ambitious New Vision website.

McElhatton said students and faculty have the ability to share input on the infrastructure inside current campus facilities this spring to assist with the process of creating the Campus Master Plan.

"We encourage students to be active in this process of thinking of the campus 20 years from now," she said. "It's important to plan for the future needs of the SJSU community."

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Lemon-Ups spark seasonal joy



D'Netrus Chevis-Rose

It's the season for America's famous goodies, delicious Girl Scout cookies.

The annual emergence however, raises the topic of which cookie is the best of the bunch.

Lemon-Up cookies, released in 2020, are the boxes I look forward to opening every year.

Don't get me wrong – every Girl Scout cookie is tasty in its own way, with a perfect balance of sweetness, softness and outstanding aroma.

Compared to the bittersweet cookies sold in grocery stores, Girl Scout cookies have natural coconut, peanut butter and caramel flavors without being too overwhelming.

Lemon-Ups are the happiest box of the bunch because they never fail to brighten the day with encouraging and kind words engraved on every cookie.

Lemon-Ups ruminate rainbows and joy when they meet the taste buds, with a crunchy bite and tangy aftertaste.

As I reminisce on the taste of Lemon-Ups,



I'm reminded of how well they go together with a cold cup of unsweetened iced tea on a sunny spring day.

Lemon-Ups are the happiest box of the bunch because they never fail to brighten the day with encouraging and kind words engraved on every cookie.

Genevieve Lowry, a six-year member of the Girl Scouts youth organization said if she had the chance to create her own cookie, it would be colorful and have a fun flavor.

"I would make birthday cake [flavored cookies] because we don't have one of those and I think it would be good," she said in a phone interview.

Thin Mint cookies are usually her best seller, Genevieve said.

The crunchy smooth texture and fresh minty aftertaste from Thin Mints are undoubtedly scrumptious but incomparable to the sweet tang you get from Lemon-Ups.

This year, the Girl Scouts have introduced Adventurefuls to the seasonal collection, according to an Aug. 17, 2021 Associated Press article.

The new cookies boast a rich brownie fudge base with caramel-flavored creme and a hint of sea salt, according to the Girls Scouts Organization Little Brownie Bakers cookie description.

Little Brownie Bakers is a company that's been licensed to bake for the Girl Scouts for over 35 years.

While this sounds good, it still lacks the juxtaposition of sweetness and sourness that Lemon-Ups give to the tastebuds.

Genevieve said cookie sales still haven't completely recovered from the coronavirus pandemic.

She added a hefty contribution to the drop in sales is the paranoia people still have of answering their doors during COVID-19 precautions.

"I saw someone inside when I was knocking on their door and they just stood there and kept looking like 'is she gone?" Genevieve said.

Every year the proceeds

from cookie sales support educational programs, outdoor and traveling experiences and community projects annually for Girl Scout members, according to a Feb. 8 Romper article.

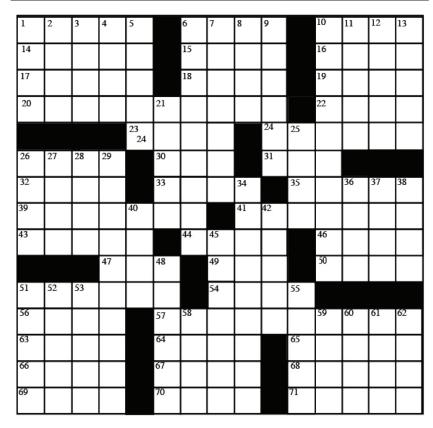
sjsunews.com/spartan_daily

"It's always for a good cause, so we could go on camping trips and learn more about nature," Genevieve said.

There is nothing better than knowing that every time I purchase a box of Lemon-Ups, my money is going so far to improve the Girl Scout experience.

Buying my favorite box of seasonal Lemon-Up cookies to support the Girl Scout organization is one of the things I most look forward to every year.

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1. Enclosed shopping centers

10. Midmonth date

14. A religion based on sorcery

15. On-line journal 16. Snack

17. Andean animal 18. ___ Kong 19. Adorable

20. Leather shorts

22. Frozen 23. Andean country

24. Commands 26. Manacle 30. Arrive (abbrev.)

31. G

32. Chocolate cookie 33. Vice President

35. Provide

39. Cheer 41. Roof beams

43. Cowbov movie 44. You (archaic)

46. Diatom 47. Flipper

50. Place

51. Deep blue 54. A set of garments

56. Midday 57. Try to prevent

63. Chinese mafia 64. Handout 65. Chimes

29. Index finger

37. Desire

45. Harassed

55. Bass horns

60. And

62. Being

58. Hawkeye State

59. A musical pause

61. Secluded valley

34. Manufacturers

36. Sandwich shop

38. Brother of Jacob

40. Trigonometry (abbrev.)

48. Gestured the affirmative

51. ___ ana 52. Hangman's knot 53. An Italian woman of

66. Feudal worker 67. Pitcher

68. Donkeys 69. Back

70. Fathers

71. Rock

DOWN 1. Gangster's gal

2. Qualified 3. Its symbol is Pb

4. Disabled 5. Not dull

6. Nasty

7. Resolution 8. Sharpen

9. Christmas drink 10. Secondary 11. Pleasant

12. Banana oil, e.g. 13. Outbuildings 21. Hurl

25. Coral barrier 26. Small salmon

27. Carbamide 28. Accomplishment Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively

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SOLUTIONS Feb.16

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in a snow storm?"

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because of the pandemic.



EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY African American studies sophomore Kiara Johnson kicks off the open mic event with a singing performance on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the Student Union Theater.

Open mic features Black experience

By Jovanna Olivares ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

The Black Leadership and Opportunity Center (BLOC) partnered with the MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center and the Student Union for the first open mic night of the spring semester on Tuesday in recognition of Black History Month.

The monthly open mic night began with a student feature artist, Kiara Johnson, an African American studies sophomore, singing the tunes of Ella Fitzgerald.

Her graceful and mesmerizing voice made it feel as if the Student Union ballroom transformed into a 1960s nightclub and she was a glamorous jazz lounge singer in the spotlight.

The hybrid event hosted YouTube and sociology senior Kenny Jackson and justice studies and African American studies senior Aurion Wiley-Green as a live audience of about 20 people enjoyed comedic, poetic and musical student performances.

"We're happy to support any sort of expressionism that talks about the authenticity of people's experiences," director Yang,

MOSAIC said after the event.

Emerald Green, director of the opportunity center, said she was happy to collaborate with the MOSAIC center for this month's open mic in an effort to highlight Black history.

"It's great for us because it means that we get to showcase Black voices [and] Black talent," Green said. "In terms of our theme, Black mental health and wellness and really [centering] that, I know that oftentimes the open mic is an outlet for our community to really explore topics, [from] Blackness to anti-Blackness, oppression and systemic change, or just what's the state of our community."

Aisha Williams, environmental studies and teaching preparation senior, said her journey as a performer began at the MOSAIC's open mic shows which led her to regularly perform at local hard [subject] to tackle. open mic shows.

Williams, a cultural programmer at MOSAIC, delivered a special birthday performance from poetry she wrote in her journal that she's been using since 2020. She said during her performance that it's an effective way of tracking and reflecting on her mental and emotional growth.

"[Live performances] allows folks space to express themselves, and I think that takes a lot of courage and vulnerability to do,"

Williams said. "In poetry words really touch I really don't know how well I did...but it was people on a different level, because it's fun." written from the heart. And then that way, social justice can be less of a mic events as an opportunity to experiment

Some students said they use the open



In poetry words really touch people on a different level, because it's written from the heart. And then that way, social justice can be less of a hard [subject] to tackle.

Aisha Williams

SJSU environmental studies and teaching preparation senior Open mic night performer

Matthew McCallaCreary, pictorial arts senior, delivered a standup performance. He said comedy and entertainment as a whole is now "more important than ever" because it's a fun way to help people forget about whatever is distressing their mind.

"I didn't have a lot of faith in myself before, but friends around me were telling me that I was funny. And so I figured I'd give it a chance," McCallaCreary said. "And actually, I kind of blacked out on stage.

with their art while drawing inspiration from other live performers.

History sophomore Archit Mahale said he was inspired by rock band The Grateful Dead and tried to perform two songs under five minutes with a mini guitar solo and a rhythm change for the first time on stage.

Mahale said that the MOSAIC community is very welcoming and nonjudgmental so it motivates performers to want to showcase their talent.

"Even if I messed up I wouldn't care, they're still gonna be supportive, and that just encourages me to play more," Mahale said in a phone interview after the event. "And like they say, 'they perform to express not impress.' So if it's all about speaking your mind, I don't see why anyone or anything should get in the way of that."

The BLOC will continue to host events and conversations including the Black Healing Space on Feb. 21 and other events that emphasize this year's theme, Black Health and Wellness.

McCallaCreary said that although he is grateful for a safe space to perform, its important to always recognize and showcase Black talent and artists, not just during Black History Month.

"I think it's important to celebrate Black history and our impact on America [but] just having one month dedicated to it and then kind of disregarding it for the rest of the year is applied," McCallaCreary said. "I think it's important to support local performers, emerging musicians so that they have an outlet and a space where they can exercise creative freedom."



@joo_zunigaa

this article.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter

EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY History sophomore Archit Mahale plays his guitar and sings during the open mic event on Tuesday in the Student Union Theater.

Amazon dungeon-crawler a fan-fave

By Gio Gaxiola STAFF WRITER

When Amazon announced in 2014 that it would start developing video games, the gaming world was puzzled and suspicious.

Can this goliath of an online retailer actually produce quality video games? "Crucible," "Nova" and "The Lord Of The Rings MMO" were some of the games Amazon was set to release.

Massive multiplayer online (MMO) games have thousands of players in the same world at the same time with whom one can chat, trade, and duel. The freedom from such large- scale multiplayer games make the games popular.

But the games were never released, marking a rocky start for Amazon.

"Lost Ark," released on Feb. 11 (or Feb.8 if you pre-ordered the game), quickly became one of the hot new games on the market and created Amazon gaming approval.

Lost Ark hit a concurrent player count of one million players, meaning that one million players are playing the game across various servers at the same time, according to SteamDB, an online tool

that monitors player count. What sets Lost Ark apart from other video games is its unique dungeoncrawler gameplay and stunning visuals.

Lost Ark allows players to control a character from a top-down, third-person view as they explore vast

open areas including caves, forests and towns known as dungeons. As you explore, hordes of enemies attack you.

Since there are thousands of players at a time on one server, it can be annoying to have other players come and steal game objectives and other opportunities in the world. When this happens, you have to wait until the objective is over or an enemy spawns again, but having other players in the world sets Lost Ark apart from other dungeon-crawlers.

From the very beginning, Lost Ark makes players believe it's an MMO with the character options the game offers. They're the usual suspects of medieval-era warfare games, including a warrior, mage, striker, gunner and assassin. Lost Ark then turns it up a notch and gives each class more advanced sub-classes.

I chose the gunner class and had three choices for an advanced class: a sharpshooter who uses bows, a deadeve who uses three different types of weapons, or an artillerist who uses heavy weapons and guns.

Deadeye was the best choice for me. What separates a deadeye from the other gunner advanced classes is the use of three weapons at once. You can switch to either dual-pistols, a shotgun or a rifle, though each weapon has its own strengths and weaknesses. This makes the gameplay feel fresh and helps lift the curse of the gameplay becoming too stale and repetitive.

The world of Lost Ark is breathtaking.

You can tell the team over at Amazon talk to the other NPC and complete the games focused on the aesthetics of the world. Each town and zone feels unique. The starting town of Prideholm feels small enough to get around fast, but it still feels like a big, proud town. Statues of the town mascot, a lion, are is expected for a new, free video game.

quest. While it is an easy tactic to make quests seem longer and to stretch out the overall story, it feels unnecessary.

Despite these flaws, the servers have been experiencing heavy traffic which

It also feels repetitive, like every other MMO created. Once again, you're the mysterious hero who has to save the world from evil.

town of Yudia, which is a desert city filled with bazaars.

There are some special areas in the game that can be used as viewpoints. Once activated, a player's camera zooms out to a good view of the landscape. It can make the cliche levels of forests

A "grind zone" is an area where you kill everything in sight for experience points and repeat the process.

But no video game is perfect and there are some cracks in "Lost Ark."

The game overuses the "G" key on the keyboard. "G" reigns supreme in the game, with every action including talking, picking up an item and using an item in the overworld being done with

Out of the 104 keys on a computer keyboard, it would have been a nice mashing the same button for hours.

The game also feels repetitive, like every other MMO created. Once again, you're the mysterious hero who has to save the world from evil.

There are some quests where you go from one NPC (Non-Playable Character,) click two times to the left,

everywhere. This separates it from the According to a Feb.14 Digital Trends article, over 1.2 million people logged in within the first day of launch. Each one of the servers is busy upon login.

> Digital Trends is a technology publisher, according "about us" webpage.

Some players reported that they and mines feel more alive and less like a had to wait hours before they could enter the game, according to an article written by VG247.

> I've personally never had this problem and have been able to play for hours.

> The development team said it will be adding more servers to help accommodate user traffic associated with the popularity of the game.

> Overall, Lost Ark has potential but flaws may ruin the popularity of the game in the future.

If you like dungeon-crawler games that can kill a few hours in your day, pick this game up. Since it's free to play, touch to have some variety rather than it never hurts to take a chance on a game for which you paid nothing.

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brought to our attention.

all significant errors that are

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such an error, please send

spartandaily@gmail.com.

Publishers:

Amazon, Smilegate

Release Date:

Feb. 11, 2022

Genre: [Multiplayer video game]



ABOUT

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game review

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SENIOR STAFF WRITERS CHRISTOPHER NGYUEN

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AMARI JOHNSON ADVERTISING ADVISER TIM HENDRICK

CHELSEY THAI

BUSINESS MANAGER

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL -

MAIN TELEPHONE: (408) 924-3821

spartandaily@gmail.com

ADVERTISING -

TELEPHONE:

408-924-3240

@gmail.com

EMAIL: spartandailyadvertising

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