



## A&E

Comedians make San Jose State community Laugh Out Loud

Page 3

## Opinion

Now it's time we accept and normalize use of cannabis-based treatment, medicines in hospitals, schools

Page 6

## Sports

Men's soccer team looks to new style to strengthen season

Page 8



# DACA kicked farther down the road

By Vicente Vera  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Federal District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Andrew S. Hanen, rejected to halt Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), according to the New York Times.

Previously, on May 1, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a joint-lawsuit with six other border states against the Trump administration.

The lawsuit challenged a prior executive order which deemed DACA unlawful, and sought to impose an "injunction prohibiting the [current] executive from issuing or renewing DACA permits."

The lawsuit named members of the president's cabinet as defendants, such as Secretary of Homeland

Security Kirstjen Nielsen and then-Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Thomas Homan.

Judge Hanen said that DACA would be found unlawful, stating the program overstepped the boundaries of the executive branch.

Despite this, he refused to issue an injunction on future and renewing applicants. This was because of the timing of the lawsuit, according to NPR.

Nevertheless, Hanen asserted that when it comes to granting a pathway to citizenship in this country, "only an act of Congress can confer these rights."

As of Sept. 4, 2017, there were 689,800 active DACA recipients in the United States, according to ICE.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

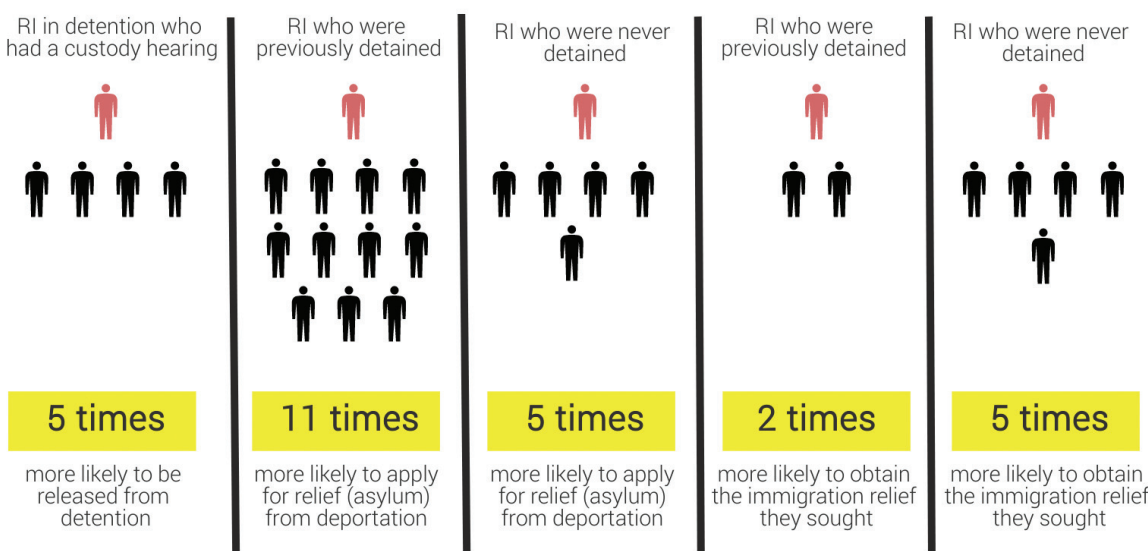
Students and community members at the 2018 May Day Rally in Roosevelt Park protest the rescinding of DACA.

DEFERRED | Page 2

# Transferred immigrants look for another way to stay

## How immigrants with an attorney fare in different stages of court

Represented Immigrants (RI) tend to do better in various stages of court than immigrants who do not have an attorney



SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL, INFOGRAPHIC BY JANA KADAH | SPARTAN DAILY

By Jana Kadah  
STAFF WRITER

The Northern California federal district court heard immigration case Neria Alvarez et al v. Sessions et al on Friday in response to the several Habeas Corpus petitions filed last week by local

immigration attorneys. A Habeas Corpus is a formally written order that requests a judge release a defendant because of unlawful grounds for their detention.

The hearing was unique, as the team of immigration lawyers were not asking for the

release of their detained clients. Rather, lawyers argued that the transfer of the detainees from Richmond to an out-of-state detention center was unlawful and therefore, should be returned back to the Bay Area.

"Immigration went into the jail in Richmond

and whisked away a huge number of immigrants that were being represented here in San Francisco, many of which were being represented by non-profits," immigration attorney Jennifer Friedman said. "We

LITIGATION | Page 2

# Artistic director of Grupo Folklórico Luna y Sol resigns



VICENTE VERA | SPARTAN DAILY

Maria Luisa Colmenarez, the new dance instructor of the beginner class, dances with her husband Rudy Garcia on Thursday.

By Vicente Vera  
STAFF WRITER

In 2003, former San Jose State University student, Itza Sanchez, co-founded the Mexican folk dance collective "Grupo Folklórico Luna y Sol," with 10 other students.

"Grupo Folklórico," which translates to "group folk dance," captures Mexican cultures embraced by the local

community through their choreography and colorful traditional dresses.

After graduating with a degree in cultural anthropology, Sanchez continued to lead a new generation of dancers to various performance opportunities in and around San Jose.

Under Sanchez's guidance, the group

DANCE | Page 2

# Exploring Russell Lee's mid-century photos of Mexican-Americans

By Paul Hang  
STAFF WRITER

Russell Lee photographed Mexican-Americans living in Texas in 1949.

Lee took photos predominantly in Spanish-speaking communities of families or people doing various activities like working,

"Photography is an art and art is subjectivity. In other words, it is based on your perception rather than judgments from other people's perspective," Attila Iuhasz, the renowned photographer wrote on his website.

The photos Lee brought to San Jose State University's art department on Tuesday

left a lot of room for interpretation.

During the viewing, attendees attempted to decipher the essence of the photographs and understand the subject's emotions.

Mexican-American professor Magdalena Barrera, who spoke at the event, explained the photos and history

behind them.

Most of the photos shown vividly, portrayed how Mexican-Americans lived at that time, as many of them struggled financially. "Twenty housing units are pooped around this



BARRERA

open port with its flushed toilets for at least for 100 people," Barrera said. "Rent for these 20 houses ranged from \$1 to \$4 weekly," she added.

Barrera praised Lee's photography skills and for allowing people to interpret his photos.

"According to one journalist, Lee's most amazing accomplishments

was his ability to repeatedly insert himself into new locales to discern the time of crisis which would confirm maximum information about that place," Barrera said.

Approximately 80 people attended the event in the Art Building.

TEXAS | Page 2

LITIGATION

Continued from page 1

decided that there was power in numbers and we wanted to bring the story of this widespread and unprecedented abuse of the right to counsel," she said.

Friedman is part of a larger group of immigration attorneys who were defending 10 clients that were transferred out-of-state.

She said many of the lawyers representing immigrants work pro-bono and are unsure if they will be able to fly multiple times to represent their clients who are now in different states.

Immigration Attorney, Francisco Ugarte, who represented the petitioner and made the oral argument

before the judge, said the transfer from California to detention centers in Colorado and Washington were breach in the client's constitutional right to counsel.

"This is such an unprecedented act that if the court doesn't intervene now, the court would deprive our clients from meaningful review of this action. So clients would not have a lawyer, would not be able to make their case, and would be ordered deported," Ugarte said. "It's doubtful that any of these cases would reach the ninth circuit. All we are asking for is the status quo to be maintained," he added.

The 'status quo' is that immigrants would stay in detention and have their immigration court hearing in San Francisco.

"It's not a lot to ask, we

are not asking the court to fundamentally change processes. In fact, we are asking the court to stabilize court proceedings," Ugarte said.

Judge Edward J. Davila presided over the case and heard oral arguments from Attorney Francisco Ugarte and Claire Cormier from the U.S attorney's office.

Cormier argued that the transfer only occurred because the Richmond County Jail ended its contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and therefore the jail could no longer be a place to hold immigrants seeking legal status.

Ugarte argued that their transfer was unlawful because it occurred during clients' court proceedings, clients' attorneys were not alerted beforehand



What ICE is doing is fundamentally looking to destabilize the court process for immigrants.

Francisco Ugarte  
U.S. attorney

and it made it difficult for attorneys to properly defend clients.

"What ICE is doing is fundamentally looking to destabilize the court process for immigrants," Ugarte said.

Judge Davila suggested lawyers could represent their clients in court via video or phone conference.

However, Ugarte pointed out that immigration cases, without lawyers physically present, have a higher chance of resulting in deportation, statistically.

He also said non-verbal communication between a client and attorney is just as important as direct communication.

If a lawyer is present only through video and phone, they cannot fully communicate with their client.

Ugarte also said during his oral argument that it would be unfair for clients to be forced to find new attorneys because it takes time for a client to establish trust with his or her attorney.

He said this is particularly difficult for clients who have been through trauma - as many of his clients have.

Cormier argued that the actions of ICE were legal and the district court did not have jurisdiction to transfer clients back.

She pointed to five previous court cases including Jennings v. Rodriguez and Medina v. DHS to support her point.

Immigration attorneys said those cases did not fully apply because those cases were in different circumstances and did not involve a transfer.

Judge Davila contended that a physical presence of an attorney is essential for a successful case.

However, the action was dismissed without prejudice on the grounds that the District Court has no jurisdiction on the matter.

Follow Jana on Twitter  
@Jana\_Kadah

DEFERRED

Continued from page 1

Associated Students President and current DACA recipient Ariadna Manzo, felt that the Hanen was sticking to his constitutional values rather than acting as a "judicial activist."

"My initial thoughts were like, 'Yay, it's a win,' but when I looked closer at the opinion he gave, I saw that he hadn't settled on DACA itself," Manzo said.

DACA was initially born out of the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act.

The act was first introduced in the Senate on Aug. 1, 2001. Though it has garnered bipartisan support from the beginning, the act has yet to reach the desk of any sitting president.

Congress' inability to pass the DREAM Act was what prompted former President Obama to announce DACA as an executive order in 2012.

Sociology senior Aja Adams said Obama's actions were necessary to protect undocumented people.

"Congress was taking way too long to pass any meaningful legislation to protect undocumented students," Adams said. "DACA was, and is still, needed."

President Trump announced



This court will not succumb to the temptation to set aside legal principles and to substitute its judgment in lieu of legislative action . . . If the nation truly wants to have a DACA program, it is up to Congress to say so."

Thomas Homan  
Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

his decision to end the Obama-era program exactly one year ago today.

He argued that DACA incentivized illegal immigration and took jobs away from documented residents.

"Before we ask what is fair to illegal immigrants, we must also ask what is fair to American families, students, taxpayers and job seekers," he said in a statement from the White House.

Hanen made it clear he believes it is not the court's place to decide on DACA, but rather Congress'.

"This court will not succumb to the temptation to set aside legal principles and to substitute its judgment in lieu of legislative action," Hanen wrote. "If the nation truly wants to have a DACA program, it is up to Congress to say so."

Counselor for the UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center, Ellen J. Lin said undocumented students who experience anxiety over the uncertainty of DACA should reach out to the center for support.

"We're here to inform students on their options, stress management and what resources are available to them," Lin said.

Manza said that while Hanen's opinion put off the fate of DACA, it is likely he will have to strike down the program if the question comes across his court again.

"This isn't a complete victory," Manzo said. "It's great for the community right now, but the judge's opinion shows that he won't support us in the long run," she added.

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TEXAS

Continued from page 1

One of the attendees asked Barrera if she planned on releasing her essay to the public. Barrera said she is hoping it'll be released this month.

"Hopefully, this essay will be done by Sept. 24," Barrera said.

Aaron Wilder, curator and intern director of the Natalie & James Thompson Art Gallery, explained how the event came together.

"This is us collaborating with another department of campus to look at intersections of research which between areas relevant to our students, our art and history as well as other areas on campus such as Chicana and Chicano studies," Wilder said.

Felix Quintana, a graduate student of photography, said he enjoyed the conference.

"Overall, I thought it was fantastic to see the way that older archives that are virtually unknown or unseen can be revisited and talked about for the benefit of the community," Quintana said.

Quintana said he enjoyed the topic despite him attending the event for an assignment.

"One of my classes, 'contemporary art and theory,' is fantastic because they have us come to these lectures and I was really interested in this topic," Quintana said.

When asked about why attendees



... Lee's most amazing accomplishment was his ability to repeatedly insert himself into new locales to discern the time of crisis which would confirm the maximum information about that place.

Magdalena Barrera  
Mexican-American professor

or students should understand Lee's photos, Wilder's response covered many different angles.

"I think students came here for a number of reasons," Wilder said. "One is looking at some of the issues and complications involved in an aspect of photographic practice, particularly documentary photography," he added.

"And then also I think it is an interest to a diversity of different groups of students from all different backgrounds looking at how subjectivity of a community is documented by whom for whom and then in what methods," Wilder said.

Follow Paul on Twitter  
@iTz\_BisyMon

DANCE

Continued from page 1

performed during halftime at a 2016 Golden State Warriors game in Oakland.

Sanchez served as the artistic director of the group for 15 years. She resigned in July.

"My work in building Grupo Folklórico Luna y Sol de SJSU, humbly from a student organization to a hybrid program is amongst my proudest accomplishments in my three decades as a folklorico dancer," her formal letter of resignation stated.

New student president of the group, Flor Sario, business administration junior, said she has the tools to continue building on her former

director's legacy.

"Our university is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), but we still don't have as much recognition by the university as we should," Sario said.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities defines HSI as a school with "undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic."

SJSU's Hispanic undergraduate population sits at 27 percent, according to CollegeData.com

Sario is the first student president of the group to not serve under Sanchez.

"It was really hard for [Sanchez] to let go of the group, but she recently got a job at eBay, so everything got really hectic for her," Sario said.

In keeping with one of

Sanchez's long-sought-after goals, Sario hopes to find the dance group their own space.

Practices this semester take place in the back gym of the Spartan Complex East for the beginner class, and in the aerobics room of the Sports Club for the intermediate class.

"I dream of our own little home with our actual logo on it so that people know right away we're there," she added. "I want to have a place that no one can take away from us, and shows that we're a part of the school."

Among the changes made in the wake of Sanchez's departure, was the creation of an official vice president position to take over student coordination duties.

Crystal Perez, a civil



It's just after 15 years of creating a pretty incredible program, I was tired of asking for permission to exist.

Itza Sanchez  
Former Artistic Director

engineering senior with a double minor in Spanish and Mexican-American studies, currently holds the position.

"I first found out about the group when they were tabling next to another club that I wanted to get into," Perez said.

Grupo Folklórico immediately caught Perez' attention. She got cold feet after the first practice she attended, as it was much more intimidating than she had expected.

"I told my parents I was thinking about not going anymore, but they were like 'it's folklorico, you have to do it' so I stuck with it and now this is my fifth year in the group," Perez said.

Perez wants to focus on enticing and incentivizing students to fully immerse themselves in the group and the behind-the-scenes work it entails.

Grupo Folklórico is a course students can register for, listed under Mexican-American studies as MAS 180, independent studies.

The course counts for one credit, but Perez would like to turn it into

three credits.

"It draws people's attention because it's a campus organization, but to be an actual class would mean the University would be giving us more recognition," Perez said.

In a statement received by the Spartan Daily, Sanchez stated the lack of recognition from the university was an issue for her.

"I love my alma mater, and will always support SJSU and her students to succeed in whatever area of influence I have," Sanchez wrote. "It's just after 15 years of creating a pretty incredible program, I was tired of asking for permission to exist."

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# Laugh out loud to start semester

By Huan Xun Chan  
STAFF WRITER

Three comedians came to San Jose State University to perform stand up comedy for the Laugh Out Loud showcase on Tuesday. About 70 students attended the show at Diaz Compean Student Union Theater.

Most of the attendees in the theater laughed out loud on average every 20 seconds to the jokes.

Grace Harriet, the interim assistant director of Student Involvement, said this was the second time the office held a comedy showcase since last spring.

Harriet said students who came to the event last time really enjoyed it.

"We thought this was a good event," Harriet said. "Getting some laughs in the beginning of school year, especially as the school is picking up, it is getting a little more stressful for students."

Photography senior Katie Walsh attended for the event last semester. "It's a lot of fun, it was worth coming back to see these people again," Walsh said.

The first comedian of the night was Curtis Cook, who visited San Jose for the first time. He got the ball rolling by interacting with the audience and getting them engaged.

"The theater was fun and the students were a blast," Cook said. "I want to bring a sense of joy to entertain people. I know you [students] are out here work-



Gina Brillon finishes a joke about her new husband and receives a loud laugh from the audience at the Laugh Out Loud showcase Tuesday. NICK ZAMORA | SPARTAN DAILY

ing, studying and on your grind on internships."

Cook started his comedy career when he was a junior in college. He loved bringing joy to people because "to see everybody in the room getting a chance to relax and laugh with each other makes a lot of fun," Cook said.

Cook gets the ideas for his material from his daily life and wanted his audience to have a good time while listening to it. The students' moods lifted after listening to

the funny stories and exaggerated performances from the comedians. They raised their hands when the speaker asked questions and cheered when they related to the comedians' stories.

Biomedical engineering freshman Harrison Hong and his girlfriend were being teased by the comedians for their 11-month relationship.

Hong said they really felt engaged because the comedians used the

stories about love, "I felt that they are really connected to the audience, especially me and my girlfriend," Hong said.

Gina Brillon, another comedian of the night who came from New York, was here for the comedy show last semester. She said her flight was delayed last time and she rushed here unprepared without her luggage. "This was definitely a better scenario because I got to the hotel, I showered, I got ready. But both were pleasant experiences,"

Brillon said.

Brillon started her life as a comedian when she was 17. "It was the day I graduated from high school, it was my first show ever at a place called Stand Up NY," she said. "I fell in love with it and never stopped."

She said being a comedian was like having an addiction to making people feel good. "There is something about relieving stress for people that I have always loved, making somebody laugh and just seeing the joy that it brings them."

Brillon said she felt amazing when she made a room of strangers laugh and felt a connection through her life stories.

She said, "The message that I always love to leave people with is that laughter brings people together. There are more things that connect us and divide us as people, and one of those connecting factors is laughter."

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**Spartan Daily**

## HBO series is twisted but binge-worthy

By Myla La Binc  
STAFF WRITER

"Sharp Objects" tells the story of Camille Preaker, a reporter, played by Amy Adams who is sent to her hometown to cover the murder of a young girl, named Ann Nash and the kidnapping of another, Natalie Keene.

Preaker is hesitant to take the assignment at first because of her rocky relationship with her mother, Adora Crellin, played by Patricia Clarkson.

However, she returns to her fictional hometown of Wind Gap, Missouri and begins her search for the truth about what happened to the girls.

The series starts off slow, introducing familiar locals Preaker has known her whole life and a few new faces.

She meets a handsome detective assigned to the murder case, Richard Willis, who she becomes close with throughout the show.

Preaker also bonds with her half-sister, Amma Crellin, who she soon discovers is not as innocent as she claims to be.

The show goes back and forth between flashbacks of Preaker's childhood and present-day.

In the first episode, viewers find out that Preaker's younger sister died when she was a child. We see how hard it was for Preaker to lose her during

<b>series review</b>
<b>"Sharp Objects"</b>
<b>Rating:</b> ★★★★★
<b>Starring:</b> Amy Adams
<b>Genre:</b> Psychological Thriller
<b>Distributed by:</b> HBO

a flashback to the funeral.

It is implied that Preaker's alcoholism and mental illness stems from this traumatic event. She also self-harms and is seen with hundreds of scars on her body throughout the series.

While the flashbacks are effective in telling Preaker's story, they can be quite confusing at times.

For example, we see Preaker in a mental hospital at one point, but we do not know when she was there.

Toward the end of the first episode, Keene's body is discovered and Preaker, along with the rest of the town, wonder if the two murders are connected.

The first few episodes are slow, and leave you wanting more. Once the show gets into gear, though, it goes somewhere completely unexpected.

It was absolute torture having to wait an

entire week for the next episode because I wanted to know what was going to happen next.

Although the show is dark and may be considered disturbing by some, the cast does a great job at making their characters believable and enjoyable.

The "MVP" of "Sharp Objects" would most definitely have to be Adams, who showcases her natural acting abilities in a moving, raw and vulnerable performance.

Preaker's imperfections are what make her unique, and Adams does not use them to make her appear pitiful. Her scars are shown literally, multiple times and nothing is off limits in terms of how far the show is willing to go.

I am almost certain Adams will win an Emmy next year for her role as Preaker.

"Sharp Objects" is the strongest series I've seen in a while and it undoubtedly deserves the title of show of the summer.

Overall, I was satisfied with the reveal of the killer in the end and appreciated that I had to wait until the show's final minutes for it.

I do have to say that if you're planning on watching the show, make sure you watch until the end credits of the last episode. You may be surprised about what you see.

Follow Myla on Twitter  
@mylalabine25

# Intense thriller brings suspense

By Myla La Bine  
STAFF WRITER

I'm a big fan of independent films and try to see them in theaters whenever I can.

Sometimes they're hit or miss; they can either be thought-provoking or incredibly boring.

I'm happy to say that "Searching" was far from the latter.

The film stars John Cho as David Kim, a single father, looking for his daughter, after she goes missing.

What makes the film unique is that it takes place entirely on a computer screen.

Everything the audience sees is either through FaceTime, social media or a website.

This concept fascinated me when I watched the trailer for the film, but I was worried it would be a distraction.

I could not have been more wrong. The use of the internet and technology elevated the film's intensity and served the story exceptionally well.

I was on the edge of my seat the entire time as I watched Kim look through his daughter, Margot's laptop and social media accounts.

The story and the way it was told felt unnervingly realistic because of its relatability.



Actor John Cho stars in the film as David Kim, a father trying to find his missing 16-year-old daughter.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

For example, I felt Kim's desperation and heartache over Margot's disappearance because the film only shows us what he sees on his laptop.

The audience does not know more than he does, which I found to be the film's strongest element.

In real life, we only find out information from interactions with others or through research.

Movies, however, do not show the perspective of one

person; they usually contain scenes without our main character where we find out something he or she doesn't know about.

"Searching" did not have any scenes of that nature, which is what made it so true to life.

My favorite detail about the film is that it takes place in San Jose.

It's rare to find a film with a Bay Area setting. When they do take place in the Bay, they're typically set in

San Francisco.

There are many "Easter eggs" that only Bay Area residents would recognize on websites Kim visits. I noticed San Jose State University's name on an ABC7 News web page, which was pretty neat.

The only issue I had with the film was a minor mistake in location.

There is a scene where a character states that CA-152 was taken by another char-

acter to get to the Santa Cruz mountains. This would not be logical if the film takes place in San Jose, as CA-17 is much closer.

Though the film is interesting because of its original idea, it would not work without Cho.

He is completely believable as a worried father and did an extraordinary job at conveying emotions with facial expressions.

The film relies on

movie review

"Searching"

Rating:  
★★★★★

Directed:  
Aneesh Chaganty

Starring:  
John Cho,  
Michelle La

Genre:  
Thriller

his face a great deal, for instance, during scenes of FaceTime and Skype calls.

I believe this film will horrify parents because of the harsh reality it presents of young adults' online personas.

Though the ending was shocking, it is unfortunately relevant to the culture of the internet today.

"Searching" certainly could have exploited the fact that its story unfolds on a computer screen.

Instead, its use of technology makes for an engrossing and vigorous ride, proving the concept was most definitely not a gimmick.

Follow Myla on Twitter  
@mylalabine25

# Troye Sivan "blooms" with new record

By Claire Hultin  
STAFF WRITER

South African pop singer Troye Sivan is breaking out in the music world with his new album, "Bloom," released on Friday with Capitol Records.

Including collaborations with pop superstar Ariana Grande, Gordi and more, Sivan has created an even bigger name for himself in the music industry.

The 10-song album is full of dance music, soft love ballads and electronic smooth beats.

The openly gay singer, sings about love and loss, relating his songs to people of every race, gender and sexual orientation.

The album begins with "Seventeen," a soft electronic beat, and a relatable story about young love.

Sivan sings, "I went out looking for love when I was seventeen / Maybe a little too young, but it was real to me / And in the heat of the night, saw things I'd never seen / Oh, seventeen."

The next song, "My My My!" was released as a single before the album came out.

The upbeat tune is dance provoking and adds a fun aspect to the album, while still maintaining the topic of young love.

The album slows down with "The Good Side,"

a calm, guitar-based song with soft vocals. The song recognizes the acceptance of a breakup with lyrics like "Sympathize, recognize / Apologize / That I got the good side / The good side of things."

In "Bloom," the electronic, fun and sweet song that the album was named after, Sivan sings about beginning a new love.

"Take a trip into my garden / I've got so much to show ya / The fountains and the waters / Are begging just to know ya."

Sivan incorporates a nature aspect to a song about love.

The next single, "Postcard," features Australian singer-songwriter Gordi.

The slow, ballad-like tune is a heartbreaking song

about loss of love.

The relatable track talks about letting go of a toxic love and makes the audience wonder who Sivan was referring to, leaving the person anonymous.

"Dance To This," the next song on the album, features popular artist, Ariana Grande, who also just came out with her new album, "Sweetener."

This single was also released prior to the album, and having

album review

"Bloom"

Rating:  
★★★★★

Artist:  
Troye Sivan

Release Date:  
Aug. 31, 2018

Genre:  
Pop

Grande featured on the album has been good exposure for Sivan's album, expanding his fan base.

The song is about escaping the hustle and bustle of the world with a love interest, and is supposedly inspired by Janet Jackson's 2004 hit "All Nite."

Sivan commented on the collaboration, telling Spotify, "I wasn't sure there were going to be any features on the album because it felt so personal. I had this one song and I thought, 'This song really needs Ariana Grande on it.'"

His collaboration with her has really boosted his career.

The album shifts to an upbeat breakup song, "Plum," and back to another soft, sweet love song with "What A Heavenly Way To Die."

The following song, "Lucky Strike," has an old school '80s sound to it, with a bumping beat and angelic echoing vocals.

The album ends with "Animal," a sultry-pop song, seeking a lover. "No angels could beckon me back / And it's hotter than hell where I'm at / I am an animal with you."

The album itself is a breakthrough for Sivan. His superb vocals and the production of the album itself will be an incredible boost for his career.

The relatable songs about love and loss will be played on Top 40 radio stations everywhere.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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@ClaireHultin

# Non-Christians celebrate holidays too



**Jana Kadah**  
STAFF WRITER

Several school districts in Santa Clara County do not give students an entire day off for their religious holiday.

Districts like the East Side Union High School District or Palo Alto Unified School District only excuse four hours per semester of absences when related to religious holi-

religious holiday/ceremony per semester, which is not the case for many religions. Muslims celebrate two holidays, Eid al-Adha—which is four days long, and Eid al-Fitr – which lasts for three days.

Growing up in the United States, I knew I could never celebrate all the days of Eid. I accepted that I

Americans look forward to every year. Families reunite and most people are relieved from work or academic responsibilities for more than one day.

Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and many others from minority religious groups share the same sentiment when it comes to their religious holidays, yet they are not always awarded the same liberties.

As a Muslim-American, I love getting a Christmas break. I understand that in a country in which 75 percent of the population identifies as Christian, according to a 2015 Gallup poll. It makes sense to make Christmas a holiday observed nationally.

On the other hand, Pew Research Center estimates Muslims only make up 1.1 percent of the American population.

I will contend that school systems should not shut down to accommodate such a small number, however those students deserve the same right to observe their holiday—absent of outside responsibilities for the day.

The U.S. claims to be a country that supports and celebrates religious freedoms, yet the ridiculous four-hour-rule in various school districts suggests otherwise.

California Legislature requires public schools to excuse absences related to religion, so long as it does not exceed four school days in a month. The specific amount of time allotted for

an excused absence is up to the discretion of the school district as long as it does not exceed the state policy.

I have tried to find a logical reason for certain school districts deciding on only excusing two-thirds of a school day, but honestly I cannot.

It seems unfair to interrupt a religious holiday that may only come once or twice a year for only two hours of instruction. If most of the day is already excused, why not excuse

the whole day. Are the two hours of instruction so crucial to the student's academic success?

I called the office of Superintendent of East Side Union School District multiple times to get the board's perspective, but never got a call back – even when I scheduled a phone call. His silence and failure to call me back spoke volumes.

Students should not have to choose between falling behind in classes

and acting in accordance with their religion. School districts should support students from different religions and work to help them adapt in the secular country our nation prides itself to be.

The four-hour-rule contradicts that notion and forces non-Christian students to adhere to a system that is seemingly built to only support Christian norms.

Follow Jana on Twitter @Jana\_Kadah

## Students should not have to choose between falling behind in classes and acting in accordance with their religion.

days, retreats or other religious reasons.

Four hours a semester means students from non-Christian religions do not even get the entire school day off as an excused absence.

The remaining two hours will not be excused if the student chooses not to show up. This means teachers are not required to assist students with the material they missed, give make up tests or accept late work.

This also assumes that people only have one re-

would only get one day of absence. However, this year, my family learned that my sister could not even skip the whole day from her high school for Eid.

This may seem minuscule to readers who have not had to encounter this problem.

However, imagine being asked to come to school for two hours on Christmas, so that you do not risk falling behind in your classes.

That notion is outrageous. Christmas is a holiday many Christians and

# Spartan Daily

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## Facebook shouldn't remove suspicious accounts



**Huan Xun Chan**  
STAFF WRITER

Facebook announced in a press release on Aug. 21 that the company had "removed multiple pages, groups and accounts," which originated in Iran and Russia, "for coordinated inauthentic behavior."

This is the second time in one month Facebook removed pages and accounts they considered disinformation.

"This kind of behavior is not allowed on Facebook because we don't want people or organizations creating networks or accounts to mislead others about who they are, or what they're doing," Facebook stated in a press release on July 31.

Though Facebook's intention is to prevent "inauthentic behavior," I do not agree that Facebook is teaching its users what is right and what is wrong.

Of course, I believe that Facebook has the right to remove any content on its platform, but should Facebook decide what message is delivered to its audience?

Jeff Lee, a San Jose software engineer at Silver Peak Systems, said, "One thing that I think Facebook shouldn't do is remove accounts based on what is listed on the IRA [Russian-based Internet Research Agency], it should be based on the content itself."

According to Politico Magazine, "more than 290,000 Facebook users followed the now-shuttered pages, which were created between March 2017 and May 2018."

Among those, the most followed pages were titled "Aztlán Warriors," "Black Elevation" and "Mindful Being."

Some topics also included the hashtag #AbolishICE, a popular political movement that fights against the separation of immigrant families along the Mexican border under the Trump administration.

We do not know what Facebook's standard for banning accounts and removing content is. More importantly, what content would be considered "coordinated inauthentic behavior?"

"As a social media company, Facebook should not be involved in so many political affairs," Lee said.

He added that companies like Google and YouTube did better jobs in handling knotty user contents.

"I think YouTube does a good job on this. If there is propaganda-related content, YouTube does not remove it right away or ban the account, it suggests similar contents but with different perspectives to the users. It allows users to

receive messages from different angles," Lee said.

Instead of accounts and contents removal, Facebook may learn from YouTube to recommend similar contents with different perspectives to users, in order to prevent the widespread of disinformation and misinformation.

Different social media companies have their own ways to fight with fake news and propaganda-related activities.

Lee said, "Google will label 'fake news' to content that it believes are not appropriate, but it wouldn't ban the account right away. For example, if CNN posted a misinformative article, they wouldn't remove all articles from CNN."

He thought that Facebook shouldn't remove accounts based on part of its content because the post might be the only post with misleading purpose. "They should treat every account equally unless the government and authority decide to ban it," Lee added.

Facebook is being too politically-correct in dealing with these issues. It is setting its political beliefs to all its platform users, telling us what is right and wrong. If this is not Facebook's original intention, the company should be more neutral and provide its users with a platform for free speech.

Follow Huan Xun on Twitter @Huanxun\_chan

## ISSS Welcomes NEW students for an Ice Cream Party!

Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
12-2pm

Smith/Carlos Lawn



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# It's the last straw on single-use straws



**Melody Del Rio**  
STAFF WRITER

Banning straws isn't the solution to solve our pollution problem, but it's a good place to start.

On July 24, San Francisco followed the lead of major cities like Berkeley, Seattle and Miami by restricting the distribution of plastic straws in restaurants.

Starbucks decided to join the ban of straws and publicly announced it would go straw-less by 2020.

California is no stranger to eco-friendly decisions.

According to the Los Angeles Times, California

by city, on whether California should ban straws.

With San Francisco and Berkeley's lead on the issue, the next question is: Will San Jose follow?

Considering California's influential impact, I believe San Jose should ban straws. If more cities in California decide to ban straws, it could potentially lead to a state decision and ultimately a national decision.

The state agency, California Coastal Commission (CCC), collected data in

Though straws only count for one part of the ocean's plastic pollution problem, I believe banning straws is the first step in the right direction.

Some people may wonder why banning plastic straws is so important.

This is because straws harm marine life, especially turtles through the use of polypropylene. This is a resin in plastic used to make straws.

According to the website Earth 911, "Polypropylene itself is a highly recyclable plastic resin... But recyclers are usually cautious about the types of polypropylene they accept, and straws will rarely be accepted with other forms of polypropylene."

Straws, along with microbeads and plastic bags, are just the start of opening the conversation to a more eco-friendly state.

"We could try to come to a decision on what to do but we're only hacking at a branch," environmental studies professor, Bruce



ILLUSTRATION BY MELODY DEL RIO | SPARTAN DAILY

**By calling attention to the issue, more conversations will happen. Those conversations eventually turn into solutions.**

was the first state to ban single-use plastic bags in 2014.

A year later, California banned the sale of microbeads – later adopted at the national level on Dec. 28, 2015.

Now, the state is slowly making the decision, city

2017 after a coastal clean-up for beaches. 20,155 straws were collected, according to CCC data.

After scrolling through my Twitter feed, I can't help but look at that number and imagine the video of a straw being picked out of a turtle's nose.

Olszewski said. "If you've ever pulled a weed, you'd know if you didn't get the root, it's coming right back," he added.

Our state needs to consider looking into more eco-friendly decisions, especially when it has an impact on our oceans.

By calling attention to the issue, more conversations will happen.

Those conversa-

tions eventually turn into solutions.

"We could do more with teaching people not to litter," Olszewski said. "Straws are just one part of a bigger problem, that being litter."

The change of eliminating single-use plastics may take time but it's simple and effective considering today's technology.

According to Nation-

al Geographic, single-use items make "more than 40 percent of plastic waste, and each year about 8.8 million tons of plastic trash flows into the ocean."

What someone could do to reduce waste is use reusable straws and bottles and learn how to correctly separate waste.

Follow Melody on Twitter | @spartanmelody

# More schools should allow medical marijuana



**Hugo Vera**  
STAFF WRITER

This fall, thousands of children across the country have already had their first day of school.

It's a day met with both excitement and anxiety, with the latter especially applicable to children who require that on-campus.

Last month, 5-year-old Brooke Adams made history when she became the first kindergartner allowed to have her medicinal marijuana oil administered to her on campus.

Adams suffers from a rare form of epilepsy known as Dravet Syndrome.

She was given a medical marijuana card at the age of three and can now access her cannabis oil at school based on judge rulings in Adams' hometown, Santa Rosa.

Although recreational and medical marijuana were legalized in California in January, the state law is adamant about its possession being illegal on school campuses.

The breakthrough with Adams is a victory for the chronically-ill but also a victory toward removing the criminal stigma associated with marijuana.

While people's stances on marijuana fluctuate,

it's crucial to remember that people with illnesses should have the right to put any type of medication in their body that they see fit.

Federal and state law ultimately shouldn't be used to deny the ill any medication they need to live.

We learned this lesson as a nation in 1992 when AIDS victim Ron Woodroof started the "Dallas Buyers Club" to allow AIDS patients to purchase experimental medication that was otherwise denied to them by their health insurers.

This notion was also evident in 2014 when

of a debilitating illness forced to take her fight to use medical marijuana to court.

In Illinois, 12-year-old Ashley Surin and

and seizures as a result of her treatment.

She uses cannabis-laced patches that aren't concentrated enough to get her high but allow her to perform regular daily functions.

The Surins ultimately won their lawsuit and introduced a pro-medical marijuana in public schools bill known as "Ashley's Law" which was passed and signed into effect by Gov. Bruce Rauner on Aug. 1.

Cancer survivors such as Surin make up the 305 Illinoisans under the age of 18 benefiting from the long-term legalization of marijuana.

Despite these victories in the protection of civil liberties, the stigma against marijuana use for any and all purposes is still apparent in more

conservative states.

Too often, courts look at marijuana as a menace to society, like heroin or cocaine. In actuality, marijuana can be similar to adderall or vicodin.

The normalization of marijuana goes beyond helping sick school children feel better.

Normalizing all forms of cannabis combats a century worth of wrongful and unjust convictions regarding nonviolent users and dealers.

It's time to dissociate marijuana – be it recreational or medicinal from the taboo image it's been linked to by the media, popular culture and far-right politicians such as Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

In January, Sessions rescinded a directive

made by former President Obama that instructed federal prosecutors not to prioritize cases involving marijuana dispensaries.

All sick children should have the option to attend school pain-free so long as they are administered legitimate medication prescribed by a doctor and approved by the FDA. It's a right.

As with any right, it should be guaranteed in the constitution instead of being constantly disputed in various state courts.

Every child has the right to attend school free of pain and if the answer to said dilemma is marijuana then so be it.

Follow Hugo on Twitter | @HugoV\_II



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO VERA | SPARTAN DAILY

**Every child has the right to attend school free of pain and if the answer to said dilemma is marijuana then so be it.**

Brittany Maynard opted to end her own life peacefully with lethal medication after a year-long battle with terminal brain cancer.

While Adams is not terminally ill herself, she's not the only victim

her parents sued their local school district after the district had initially denied Surin the use of her cannabis-based painkiller patches.

Surin, who is now in remission from leukemia, still endures chronic pain

# Conserving our wildlife is a must



**Winona Rajamohan**  
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Three hundred olive ridley sea turtles were found entangled in 'ghost nets' off the coast of Mexico on Aug. 28.

The power of social media should be used to draw attention to wrongdoings that fall off the radar of authorities' knowledge.

In 2015, a Snapchat image of a woman sitting on a turtle went viral on Facebook and Twitter, resulting in her arrest.

The suspect was recognized by Florida police and faced up to five years in jail. She was also fined more than \$8,000 for harming an endangered animal.

A similar video of a man sitting on a turtle circulated on Twitter in August, sparking an uproar of comments.

It called attention to a still-visible lack of education on how people treat and value wildlife.

The video shows him making galloping motions as he sits on the turtle before picking the turtle up and dropping it repeatedly.

It was a painful sight. It was a clear depiction of man using his ability to mistreat gentle creatures that have no capabilities to defend themselves in such a situation.

In both cases, I saw a lack of understanding these individuals have toward the severity of their actions.

Their lack of remorse worried me the most. They showed zero concern toward their actions, viewing

the turtles as nothing more than toys.

The video made its way across the internet only days before more than 300 olive ridley sea turtles were found dead off the Mexican coast.

They were captured in illegal fishing nets. The announcement of the gruesome discovery was made by Mexico's federal agency for environmental protection on Aug. 29.

The announcement reported the turtles were dead for eight days and were found with their shells cracked from dying under the sun.

Though the olive ridley turtles are the most abundant species of all sea turtles, they are vulnerable because they nest in few places, according to The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Interruptions to these limited nesting areas could result in big consequences to the entire population.

"These turtles died by accident, as a result of inadequate fishing regulations," environmental studies professor Rachel O'Malley said. "This kind of drift net, or a ghost net, is used to inexpensively sweep up all creatures that cross its path," she added.

Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been left or

**It's time to look at wildlife conservation as an active effort to show living creatures the love they deserve.**

lost in the ocean.

They often become nearly invisible in dim light and undetectable for creatures in the ocean.

The nets restrict movements of animals caught in it which causes starvation or suffocation for species that need to return to the ocean surface to breathe.

"The good news is that Mexican regulations are protecting the ridley turtles, so this trag-

ic event did not destroy their population," O'Malley said. "The bad news is that this net could have been lost in international waters, which still have inadequate regulation."

Despite the presence of strictly implemented regulations, violations against the rights of animals are still an evident reality.

These incidents reflect a mindset that many in-

dividuals have towards wildlife – a mindset that views animals as secondary inhabitants of a planet in which humans call the shots.

Growing up in a society that often normalizes zoos and aquariums, it's hard to truly realize how much they are being mistreated.

Wildlife conservation is infused in education syllabuses all across the world from fairly young ages.

We learn what it means when a species is endangered. We are taught what human actions exploit wildlife and how unnatural changes in animal populations affect the ecological balance of Earth.

"Academic institutions have a great responsibility and opportunity to expose people to the natural world but all of us can get outside and learn about

the birds and plants all around us by just watching and listening," O'Malley said. "When we pay close attention, we learn to value other creatures."

However, simply knowing about conservation efforts does not necessarily result in genuine concern for wildlife stemming from the heart.

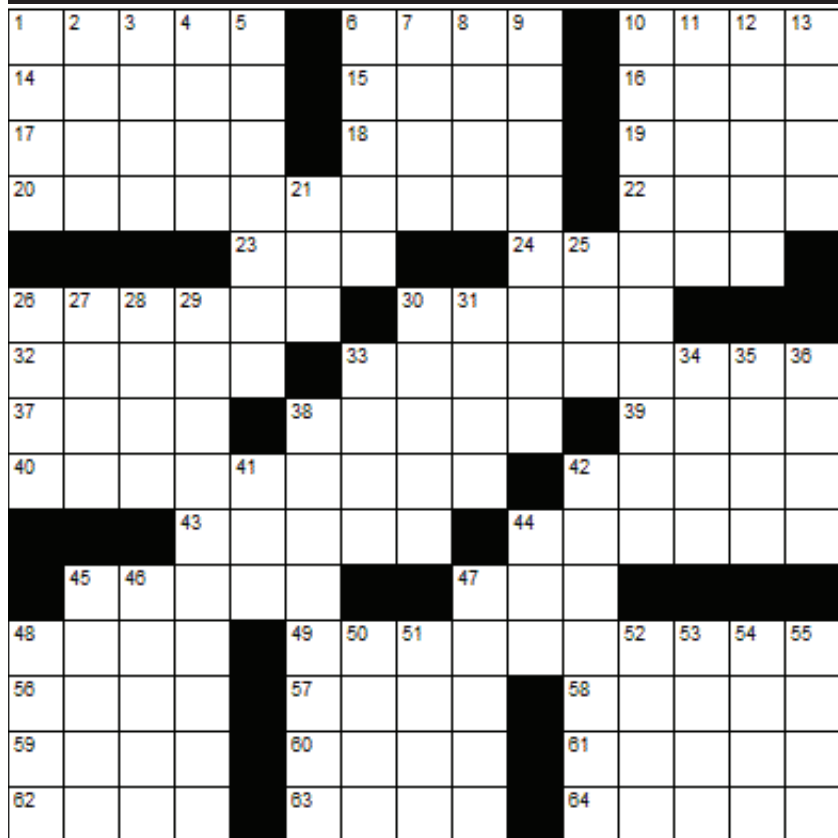
Our modern society tends to allow policies and formal education determine our moral compasses, ultimately causing us to fail in taking effort to understand other areas beyond our own.

Perhaps it's time to look at wildlife conservation as an active effort to show living creatures the love they deserve.

Follow Winona on Twitter | @winonaarjmh

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**ACROSS**

- 1. Introductory
- 6. Gangster's gal
- 10. Fourth sign of the zodiac
- 14. Surpass
- 15. Hodgepodge
- 16. Sharpen
- 17. Drive
- 18. Vice President
- 19. Ends a prayer
- 20. Large and roomy
- 22. Cleave
- 23. Alkaline liquid
- 24. Dimwit
- 26. A minor parish official (British)
- 30. A financial examination
- 32. Courtyards
- 33. Rebels
- 37. Cashews and almonds
- 38. Inflexible
- 39. Chime
- 40. Impugn
- 42. San Antonio fort
- 43. Fertile areas
- 44. Reluctant
- 45. Stringed instrument
- 47. Female sheep

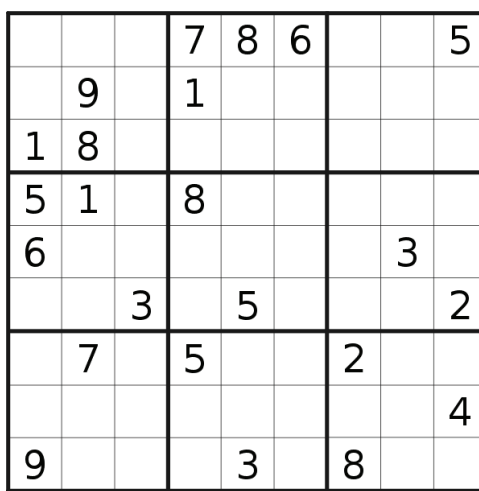
**DOWN**

- 1. Pear variety
- 2. Car
- 3. Flower stalk
- 4. As just mentioned
- 5. Whorl of petals
- 6. Film
- 7. Margarine
- 8. Place
- 9. Askew
- 10. Benevolent
- 11. Juliet's love
- 12. Regarding
- 13. Curve
- 21. Coloring agent
- 25. Excavate

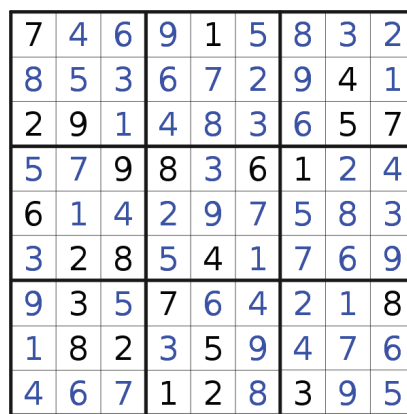
- 26. Musical group
- 27. Decorative case
- 28. The products of human creativity
- 29. Unplug
- 30. Armor
- 31. Module
- 33. Go on horseback
- 34. Sweetheart
- 35. Shade trees
- 36. Blackthorn
- 38. Reverberates
- 41. British rule in India
- 42. Retailer
- 44. Barley bristle
- 45. Cacophony
- 46. Eagle's nest
- 47. Alleviated
- 48. Food
- 50. Ark builder
- 51. Stubborn beast
- 52. Sea eagle
- 53. Break in friendly relations
- 54. Arab chieftain
- 55. Declare untrue

### SUDOKU PUZZLE

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



### SOLUTIONS 9/04/2018



### JOKIN' AROUND

What do you call somebody with no body and no nose?

SMOUK  
Nobody knows

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# Spartans ready to turn season around

By Nora Ramirez  
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University men's soccer team finished the 2017 regular season fourth in the Western Athletic Conference standings before making it all the way to the conference tournament championship.

Despite playing a close game, the Spartans lost that match to Seattle University 2-1 and finished second place at the tournament.

SJSU finished last season with an overall record of 9-11-1 and a conference record of 5-4-1.

The team kicked off their 2018 regular season with a rocky start.

The Spartans started their 2018 season tying 0-0 with the nation's No. 1 ranked team, Stanford University, at Cagan Stadium.

“

We haven't gotten the results that we wished for, but the team is working hard and our main goal is to win the championship.

Willy Miranda  
midfielder

On Aug. 26, the Spartans lost at home against CSU Northridge 1-0 in a very controversial game.

"It was a pretty feisty game, Northridge has a very big physical team, where we are quite a small team so I think our boys got binged on a few times," head coach Simon Tobin said.



Spartans senior forward Zach Penner dribbles through the Matadors' defense in SJSU's 2-1 loss against Cal State Northridge on Aug. 26.

NORA RAMIREZ | SPARTAN DAILY

However, compared to other teams in the WAC, SJSU currently stands at 11th place in the conference.

Tobin didn't hide his excitement and pride for his boys while mentioning how he expects his players to grow together as a team.

"This is the best team I've had since I have been here. I'm happy with our team, they'll be a very, very good team by conference, but I would like to pick out some win sprees in the conference as well," Tobin said.

The Spartans eagerly hope to win the WAC this season and are working to win the

NCAA Tournament.

"We haven't gotten the results that we wished for, but the team is working hard and our main goal is to win the championship," midfielder Willy Miranda said. "We're working for that."

Miranda said he's OK with the results from the past games because the team has played according to the coach's instructions.

"We played our style, our assignment and how the coach wanted us to play. We didn't get the result that we wanted but were working on that," Miranda said.

The Spartans had been

working on finding their style of playing and said that they have finally found what they are looking for this season.

Now, whether they win or lose, the team will be satisfied because they know they'll play to their style.

Defender Andrew Mendoza said this season has been going really well thanks to the chemistry the team has.

"We've been trying to find our identity and we pretty much found it with where we have to keep the ball on the ground, we like to disperse out of the back," Mendoza said. "We don't like playing long ball, we don't find that a

part of our identity."

Team practices have allowed the players to create a brotherhood which has helped with the communication among themselves and the coach as well.

"It's a great environment. It's a great way to make life-long friends, everybody in the team really loves each other and you could see it throughout," Mendoza said.

Center forward Isaiah De Dios said everyone on the team looks up to their coach and has a great relationship with him.

"Sam [Simon Tobin] is a great guy. I really like the fact

that he's really straight forward, everybody has respect toward him because he demands that we play well so we try to give that to him," De Dios said.

The team's great work and dedication was shown on the field Sunday when the Spartans won 2-1 against Sacramento State for their first win of the season.

The Spartans prepare to play their next game on Thursday at St. Mary's College. The game is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

Follow Nora on Twitter  
@noraramirez27

# Blue wins annual volleyball exhibition

By Paul Hang  
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University women's volleyball team played a split-scrimmage on Saturday. The team played against each other in three games. Two of the three games were won by the Blue team 25-21, but Gold eventually won the final game 25-16.

Fans cheered and watched the team play all three games. Once the three games were done, they congratulated each other.

Junior Ryann Thomison thought the first two matches were an indicator of their skill level and performance as an overall team.

"It just shows that we have a lot of talent on both sides. We can do the same thing on each side," Thomison said.

Sophomore Thaliana Grajeda agreed with Thomison's sentiment and commented about the competitiveness in the first two matches.

"Both sides put a lot of pressure on the other side in tough situations," Grajeda said.

Grajeda also believes there were more to it than the two matches ending with the same results. "I think it came down to unforced errors," Grajeda said. "Blue made less unforced errors."

Thomison commented on how the scrimmages usually finish. She stated if there are



SJSU's women's volleyball team played its annual Blue/Gold exhibition game in the Spartan Gym on Saturday.

PAUL HANG | SPARTAN DAILY

bonus points for scoring, the score would have a gap. For straight set games, it's a different story.

"If it's straight sets, then it's pretty neck and neck," Thomison said.

Thomison is focused on putting more balls away to improve herself as a player. Grajeda wants to focus on being up towards the net in transition more consistently

for her goal to improve.

"I would be like looking to focus on putting more balls away," Thomison said.

"Mine is probably being up in transition every time and just dock my center constantly," Grajeda said.

Head coach Jolene Shepardson wants to see the team get more consistent for future matches. Shepardson commented that some of

the mistakes needed to be improved but she was proud with the serving pressure against the team itself.

"We also got to stop our opponent's serving runs when they go two or three points or more," Shepardson said. She added that it's possible for the players to do so because some of them are big hitters.

She also thought the gold

team started slow during the first two matches, but can compete against blue team with the right momentum.

"I think the gold side started off a little bit slow and they decided to fight back, so just bring in that energy all the time consistently and you saw the pressure that the gold side put on the blue side," Shepardson said.

“

I want to thank all the fans that came out because it was great energy and we appreciate that.

Jolene Shepardson  
head coach

Despite how competitive the matches were in the three games, Shepardson found the scrimmage to be enjoyable.

"It was a lot of fun" Shepardson said. "I want to thank all the fans that came out because it was great energy and we appreciate that. We'll need that for our future home matches."

Shepardson said the team's training process ranged from teaching new players to understanding their defense system and connecting with their setters and offense's system.

This season so far, they have played three games and won a game and lost the other two.

The next game will be on Friday against Northern Colorado, the teams first opponent at the Northern Colorado Tournament.

Follow Paul on Twitter  
@iTz\_BisyMon