

MONDAY OCTOBER
06 2008

STUDENT CULTURE PAGE 5



Metallica successfully resurrects itself with 'Death Magnetic'

OPINION PAGE 7



It's only a problem if you lose

SPORTS PAGE 4



SJSU volleyball dominates La. Tech

Getting down in Japantown

Theater, dance and martial arts showcase 'Spirit of Japantown'

RIE NAKANISHI
 Staff Writer

San Jose's Japantown came alive on Saturday as community members got together for the second Spirit of Japantown festival, centered at North Fifth and Jackson streets, in preservation of the city's Japantown and the history of Japanese-Americans.

In spite of its 118-year history, the recognition of Japantown is still not what the community expects, said Kathy Sakamoto, executive director of the Japantown Business Association and the organizer of the festival.

"The idea was to get people to know that there was Japantown (in San Jose). It's been here for 118 years," Sakamoto said. "We want this to last another 118 years."

The event was hosted by the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, a nonprofit organization working with the city of San Jose on a capital improvement project of Japantown.

Despite on-and-off rain throughout the day, the festival featured various performances relating to Japanese culture, such as Kendo, Aikido and Ikebana demonstrations, Japanese animation theater and multi-ethnic cultures such as Hawaiian dance and Filipino folk dance.

Junior animation majors Kendra

▶▶ **JAPANTOWN**page2



WILLIAM COOLEY / Spartan Daily
 Top: Members of San Jose Taiko perform at the Spirit of Japantown Festival on Saturday.

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily
 Above left: Members of the San Francisco Japanese Sword Society give a Kenjutsu demonstration. Above right: Guinness World Record holder Michael Pearce, 17, juggles at the Kids Zone Stage.



Campus watches vice presidential debate

JOEY AKELEY and ALLIE FIGURES
 Staff Writers

Students gathered on campus Thursday night to watch the first and only vice presidential debate between Sen. Joe Biden and Gov. Sarah Palin.

In Dwight Bentel Hall, students watched the live debate on CNN and participated in an open forum discussion. Many students were in media majors, while others came out of their own interest.

Meanwhile, in Campus Village

Building B, a crowd of more than 50 students watched the debate on MSN-BC. Democratic supporters filled the room, and the Democratic Caucus of SJSU ran the event.

Before the debate began, students openly discussed their low expectations for Palin.

"Being governor is a good stepping stone, but she is not yet ready for something like this," said Dillon Sappingfield, a freshman advertising major. "She might get overwhelmed."

Two students who declined to mention their names said they wanted to see Palin cry. Expectations were higher for Biden among the crowds of students.

"I feel like Biden had the upper hand going into the debate because of his experience in the Senate," said Joshua Cobbley, a senior broadcast journalism major.

Jasmine Price, a senior sociology major, said she felt Palin's presence would always outshine the other candidates.

"I think she has the upper hand be-

cause of her race and gender. No matter what, she will always win over Obama — first because she is white, second because she is a woman," she said.

Price said she wondered if Palin's flirty demeanor would be received well by the audience and especially by supporters of Hillary Clinton.

Soon after the debate began, many students in Dwight Bentel Hall reacted negatively to a wink Palin gave to the

▶▶ **DEBATE**page2

With the help of some well-known performers, 8th annual talent show sells out for first time

MARCOS BLANCO
 Staff Writer

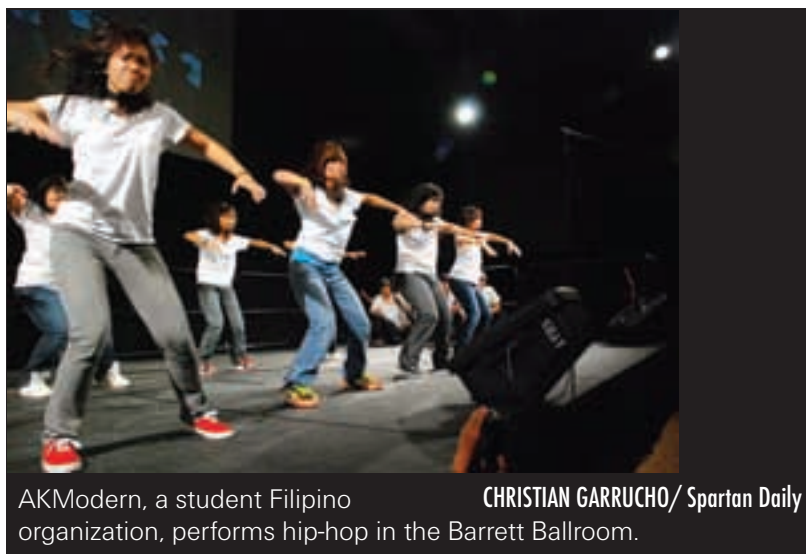
It was a packed house Thursday night at the Barrett Ballroom inside the Student Union as Akbayan, a Filipino-American student organization at SJSU, hosted its eighth annual Maboohay Talent Showcase in celebration of Filipino Heritage Month.

Adrienne Dizon, Akbayan's cultural chair, said the club sold more than 600 tickets and estimated that the event raised more than \$5,000.

"It was the first sold-out show we've ever had," said John Limpin, one of the coordinators of the event along with Dizon.

Limpin said more than \$1,000 in proceeds will go toward Bantay Bata 163, a child welfare program of the ABS CBN Foundation that helps impoverished children by providing shelter, therapy and quality home care, according to the event flier.

Thronges of people lined up and anxiously waited outside the doors of the ballroom to watch and listen to the latest Filipino-American tal-



AKModern, a student Filipino organization, performs hip-hop in the Barrett Ballroom. CHRISTIAN GARRUCHO / Spartan Daily

ent popping up in the Bay Area. The headliners for the event were the musical trio of Gabe Bondoc, Lee Jay and Jeremy "Passion" Manongdo who called themselves "GLP."

"I'm looking forward to a great show with Gabe and Passion," said John Aganon, a sophomore personal training major. "Gabe plays good guitar."

SJSU students weren't the only

ones attending the Maboohay event.

Carlo Francisco, a freshman veterinarian technology major at Western Career College, said he heard about the event through friends and was also looking forward to seeing Bondoc and Manongdo perform.

"I've always liked their music," he

▶▶ **MABOOHAY**page3

Speaker spreads different views on Great Pyramid

SELMA SKOKIC
 Staff Writer

For decades, Hollywood has educated societies that slaves were responsible for building the magnificent pyramids of Egypt.

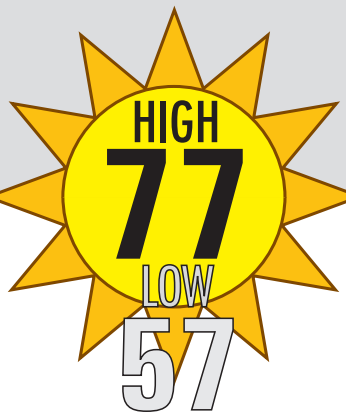
The auditorium in the Engineering Building was filled on Thursday as Dr. Craig Smith explained that the slaves did not built the great pyramids but rather that it was a core group of workers who were paid in beer and bread.

Smith, the author of "How the Great Pyramid Was Built" and chairman emeritus of Daniel, Mann, Johnson, Mendenhall, Holmes and Narver, a global engineering, architecture and construction firm, spoke to students as a part of the Silicon Valley Leadership Symposium.

He spoke about his book, "Building the Great Pyramid at Giza: A Case Study of Program Management in 2550 B.C."

Belle Wei, dean of the College of

▶▶ **SMITH**page2



T	W	TH	F
☀	☀	☀	☀
79	80	79	81
57	55	53	56

JAPANTOWN Mayor Reed: 'Spirit of Japantown is a celebration of the history of Japantown and great businesses'

Thoms and Kris Wineman, who were attending the festival, said they were excited to see the martial arts performances and visit the booths.

"It's fun. Too bad it rained," Thoms said. "Food is exciting, and that's what I want."

There were also about 130 booths, selling food, arts and crafts on the street.

"This Spirit of Japantown is a celebration of the history of Japantown and great businesses," said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. "This is a very historic community with the tremendous contribution to our city over a long period of time. It is one of the few remaining Japantowns in the entire country, so we are very proud of that and we continue to build it."

According to the Japanese Museum of San Jose Web site, Issei — Japanese first-generation

immigrants — came to Santa Clara Valley in 1890 where an agricultural industry was prosperous at the time.

Soon afterwards, Japantown was established when the valley's Japanese population came together and started farming in the area. Japantown was "a comfortable place for the Issei to gather together to survive in a society hostile to their presence," where they could also have access to Japanese foods and products as well as boarding houses, employment agencies and social gatherings, according to the Web site.

Kika Shibata, Ikebana shihan — Japanese for flower arrangement instructor — and one of the event participants, recalled that the only Japanese culture Americans encountered was eating sushi and raw fish when she first came to America 40 years ago.

"It came a really long way," Shibata said of the Japanese culture, especially of the Japanese arts such as Ikebana and Bonsai.

People's reaction to Ikebana at that time was, "Ikebana? What is that? Few flowers in the container?" Shibata said.

However, Americans today are more interested in and aware of Ikebana, Shibata said.

"(It) seems like they know more than some Japanese people. This is a good opportunity to be a part of this special event. It's a spirit of Ikebana, a spirit of Japanese culture," she said.

Kylie Morioka, a sophomore international business major, said it was her second time visiting the festival, and she brought two friends who had never experienced Japanese culture and food.

"I like it," she said. "I came to see San Jose Taiko."

One of the main performances of the festival was San Jose Taiko — an ensemble of Japanese drumming — which attracted a lot of festival visitors. The team played a total of five pieces, including traditional Japanese Taiko tunes and a fusion of Japanese and Cuban tunes.

"Being part of the San Jose community is very important to San Jose Taiko as well as going out on the road to show Taiko to the rest of the country," said Gary Sakaki Wong, a graduate student of SJSU and one of the performers of San Jose Taiko.

"It's just a fun event to feel part of the Japantown community and also the San Jose community as well," he added.



SPARTAGUIDE

EVENTS CALENDAR

06 TODAY

Counseling Services' Juggling Roles: School, Job, Family, Friends Workshop

Learn ways to balance and enjoy all the multi-tasks students have going on in their lives. 12:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, room 118. Contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu.

Punt, Pass and Kick Contest Sign-ups

Students who want to participate in Campus Recreation's Punt, Pass and Kick Contest need to sign up online at as.sjsu.edu/ascr by 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 9. Men's and women's leagues will be available. The competition will take place during flag football games Oct. 6 to Oct. 10. 2 to 5 p.m. at the South Campus football fields. Contact Robert Patchett of Campus Recreation at 924-6218 or rpatchett@as.sjsu.edu.

07 TUESDAY

Student Showcase Hour

Chamber music with vocal and instrumental music majors. 12 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall. Contact Professor Joan Stubbe at 924-4649.

Free Lunch Every Tuesday for San Jose Students

The San Jose Institute of Religion sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites students to lunch every Tuesday. 12 p.m. at 66 S. 7th Street, adjacent to SJSU. Contact Brother Bohn at sanJose@ldsces.org, 286-3313 or www.ldsces.org/sanjose.

International Youth Fellowship

General meeting and Bible study. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Ohlone Room. Contact Ricardo Godinez at 509-9549.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

DEBATE Student opinions, polls lean toward Biden

camera, as she talked about Sen. John McCain's plans for health care reform and an end to corruption on Wall Street.

Biden counter-argued Palin's proposed plan by calling it the "ultimate bridge to nowhere."

"He was really reserved and constrained," Sappingfield said, "maybe because he was debating a woman."

Palin surprised students with her aggressive approach.

"She was like a sweet teddy bear," said Juan Luna, a senior advertising major, "with a machine gun."

Students in both locations laughed when the debate moderator, Gwen Ifill, lightly rebuked both Biden and Palin for not giving a straight answer to the question of their goals as vice president.

"I was disappointed when they both didn't answer the question because the country is looking forward to hearing what they had to say," Sappingfield said.

Palin and Biden found common ground on issues concerning the investment in clean energy, the lack of support for gay marriage and support for the troops.

Both candidates have sons involved in the war overseas.

Palin's closing speech impressed Roman Garza, a freshman meteorology major.

"I thought her end speech about her being in a diverse family and how she is proud to be an American was a very good closing argument," Garza said. "She said she was one of us and I really feel that."

Once during the debate, it was Biden who became emotional over the death of his wife and daughter.

"I thought it was very interesting when Joe Biden felt emotional about losing his daughter who died in a car crash in 1972. It was interesting for a big, strong man to open up," Garza said.

But Sappingfield, across campus in Dwight Bentel Hall, said he wondered if Biden's moment was sincere or just strategy.

Matthew Mendez, a senior political science major, said he thought that each candidate achieved their goal of supporting their candidate.

"I think they did what they were supposed to do. I think they represented their nominee; they

respected their nominees well and kept the focus off themselves," Mendez said. "They did the best they could, and I don't think this debate is really about who won. It was more about showing their support to their nominees."

Online polls from CNN/Opinion Research Corp. projected Biden as the winner of the debate but said Palin's performance exceeded expectations. Fifty-four percent of those polled said Biden did better while 36 percent sided with Palin.

"I think Joe Biden won primarily because there were points in time in the arguments when I feel Palin was not honest and avoided questions, whereas Biden stuck to the answers, was very informative and proved that he is good for knowledge of politics in the United States," said Zachary Pallin, a senior political science major. "I think he proved his dedication to the country."

Price said the overall debate was effective for undecided voters.

"I think this debate was more directed to the knee-jerk reactors and less for those more knowledgeable," she said.

The debate drew a lot attention from SJSU students.

"We decided to do this because there was a demand from students to watch the event as a group and then be able to talk about it," said Bob Rucker, a professor of broadcast journalism who helped organize the gathering in Dwight Bentel Hall.

At the end of the event, Rucker commended students on their participation.

"I am impressed. Never have I seen a class so attentive to politics," he said.

SMITH Speaker says core workforce of 5,000 built Great Pyramid in 11 years

Engineering, said Smith tried to explain the reverse construction of the pyramids in Egypt, so people can have a deeper understanding of them.

Smith said the pyramids evolved as burial sites, where they initially started out as a "mastaba," a flat-roofed building with sloped sides, then evolved into a "stepped pyramid" and finally came to be a "true pyramid."

He said it took a core workforce of about 5,000, supplemented by 20,000 to 30,000 laborers, 11 years to build the Great Pyramid.

"The construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza was a complex

public works project of staggering dimension," Smith said.

He added that the construction demanded great engineering, construction skills and program construction skills.

He said that as he was getting ready to film a documentary for National Geographic in 2006, he was asked to find out how much it would cost to build one of the great pyramids in 2006.

He discovered that if pre-cast concrete was used, it would cost \$1 billion. If limestone was used, however, it would cost \$4 billion.

"The topic is tremendously important today," said Alexander Murmann, a computer science

graduate student. "As a graduate student, what you want to do later is know how to manage a program. The Great Pyramid is a great example of project management."

Ana Drucker, whose boyfriend is an SJSU student, said she decided to attend the conference just to learn about the pyramids.

"I have been to Egypt and seen the pyramids, so I know what a phenomenal task it must have been. There is so much mystique and mystery around it," Drucker said.

She added that she wanted to hear it from an engineering point of view and see how it all was planned out.

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Program pushes yoga, meditation to inspire nonviolent attitudes

KAJAL MORAR
Staff Writer

On Oct. 2, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library hosted SJSU Students Tread in Unity for a Difference program "iLead2008: Be the Change" campaign, which is affiliated with the Art of Living Foundation. The campaign, which began on July 26, hopes to instill nonviolent attitudes in students by hosting Youth Empowerment Seminar Plus (YES+) programs every semester.

According to the Art of Living Web site, this semester's YES+ program will be held on Oct. 9 and will finish on Oct. 14. It is open to anyone 18 and older.

The YES+ program is based on yoga, meditation and breathing practices, according to the Web site, and will help students get rid of stress and learn leadership, time management and conflict resolution skills.

Debanti Sengupta, a teacher of the program in the Bay Area, said she loved the program.

"I used to be one of those people who would bounce off the walls with stress every time there was an exam," Sengupta said. "After I took the program, the results were immediate. I could feel how much calmer immediately I felt after I took the course."

Muktak Maheshwari, vice president of the S.T.U.D.s program and an engineering major, said he also benefited from the course. He said he would get easily depressed, but after taking the course he was able to find solutions to his homework. His friends also noticed the changes he made because of the program.

"My friends have seen that change in me, so some of them got inspired and they wanted to take the course," Maheshwari said.

An introductory video at the event showed jail inmates practicing yoga, breathing exercises and meditation. One inmate was shown saying he benefited from

practicing the techniques he was taught. It also showed military forces in Iraq practicing yoga and meditation.

"There are teachers around the U.S. and around the world who travel and teach the programs," Sengupta said. "For instance, there were traveling teachers who went to Iraq when the conflict there started and stayed on there. There are teachers who travel to South America and teach the programs there."

The Art of Living Foundation awarded three people at the event with a Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Award for Uplifting Human Values, named after the founder of the organization.

These awards are given to people who have made a difference in their community and to encourage others to do the same, according to the Art of Living Web site.

Omar Torres received the Commitment to Community award. Torres worked to improve the Washington community in Downtown San Jose.

"I just saw that my neighborhood was infested with gangs and drugs and prostitution and it was not a safe community," Torres said. "I saw that our neighborhood needed a lot of help."

After years of work in the Guadalupe/Washington Neighborhood Association and the Washington United Youth Center, Torres had successfully made changes in his neighborhood.

"I saw our neighborhood actually improving," he said. "When I celebrate awards, it's not me celebrating — it's the community, because we're doing something right."

"Everyone is looking for something in their life," Sengupta said. "Whatever it is in this workshop, for me, has really helped me streamline my vision and really understand. It has given me a greater sense of purpose beyond just my own life."

Orchestra opens season with 'Oktoberfest'

HEATHER NACHT
Staff Writer

SJSU's Symphony Orchestra started off the year with an Oktoberfest concert on Friday.

A crowd of about 515 people filled the Concert Hall in the Music Building Friday night, according to Emily Lane, a graduate student in teaching.

There were many students in the crowd as well as many locals, some of whom brought their families, all of whom came to enjoy the music.

The program opened with Felix Mendelssohn's "Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream" and closed with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade." Graduate student Evamarie Barlaan was featured as a violin soloist for "Scheherazade."

Dr. Janet Averett, a clarinetist as well as the founder the South Bay Clarinet Society, conducted the performance. In between the two composers' works, Averett thanked the audience for attending and explained to the crowd that the program was to celebrate important anniversaries of both Mendelssohn and Rimsky-Korsakov.

Christine Swenson, a freshman mathematics major, was impressed with the performance of the symphony orchestra.

"It was amazing, so soothing," said Swenson, who used to play viola and was inspired to play again. "The ending got to me; it was really beautiful."

She said she was in awe of the emotion the orchestra was able to convey and found the event to be relaxing.

Swenson said she has attended other events on campus, such as football games and plays, but that this was her favorite event so far. She looks forward to attending many more performances in the future.

Some students attended simply for the pleasure of the music, while others attended in support of friends.

"I came because my friend played the cello tonight," said Natalie Csider, a junior nursing major.

Although she originally attended for her friend, Csider said she enjoyed the concert and plans to attend more performances later in the semester.



Carole Bellinger-Kawahara and Karen Thielen STEFAN ARMIJO /Contributing Photographer play harp with the SJSU Symphony Orchestra during the Oktoberfest Concert.

Some students took notes on the programs throughout the performance while others sat back and enjoyed the live music.

Julia Cavagnaro, who is one of the French horn players in the orchestra, was proud of the performance.

"It was our first (performance) of the year," said Cavagnaro, a senior music major.

"I think it went really well. We have all been practicing for a while."

Cavagnaro said the symphony orchestra had been practicing for this performance since the beginning of the semester and thought everyone did beautifully. She is excited to perform more during the semester.

MABOOHAY ▶ Turnout improves upon 'half-full' crowds of last two years

said. "It's great to see Filipino representation from the Bay Area."

The doors opened at 6:30 p.m. with DJ Dose spinning a mix of old-school and new school hip-hop songs, giving the event a nightclub-like atmosphere with loud thumping bass reverberating throughout the ballroom until it officially started at 7 p.m.

People in attendance mingled, danced, joked and took pictures to pass the time until the hosts and artists of the show came on stage.

Besides "GLP," other Filipino-American musical artists performing included popular YouTube singer April aka "Misscarolinexoxo" and her cousin Lex on guitar, San Francisco hip-hop group "Infinity Funk Project," singer Ann Lorraine Reginio, soul, jazz and funk group "Philtered Soul" and singer Rodel Sajor.

Other Maboohay highlights included a poem reading by Dominican University of California student Adrienne Formentos and a dance number by "Tracklist."

William Escobar, a "Tracklist" member and a mechanical engineering graduate, said he was surprised by the big crowd turnout at the event.

"The last two years, it was only half-full," he said. "Gabe, Lee Jay and Passion are probably one of the main reasons we sold out."

One of the directors of "Tracklist," Alan Manosca, said he felt the Filipino-American culture is not exposed and not really well-known.

"The reason why we're doing this is to expose our culture and talent," Manosca said.

"It's not important just for Filipinos, but for everyone."

Limpin, a senior radio, television, film and theatre major, said the main significance of the event was to show off the presence of the Filipino-American community in the Bay Area.

"We try to get exposure for the community and charities and to get other people more involved with their own community and culture on campus," he said.

Dizon, a senior nursing major, said she hoped the audience at last Thursday's event enjoyed all the performers and that the exposure is getting out there.

"I'm glad people are starting to notice that our culture is rich and that we can sing, dance, write and do anything else we can set our mind to," she said.

"Even if you're not Filipino, you're still welcome in the community. You can celebrate it with us," Dizon said.

"It's like one big party. It's for fun," Manosca said.

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MOVIE REVIEW: 'IRAN: HOT TEA, COOL CONVERSATION'

Director Brenden Hamilton paints a different picture of Iran

RYAN BUCHAN
Staff Writer

The movie "Iran: Hot Tea, Cool Conversation," is a documentary focused on seeing Iran through an alternative view that the American media do not display.

The movie had only one showing in a theater, which was at Camera 3.

After the showing, Brenden Hamilton, director, narrator and editor of the movie, said he was tired of seeing the view that American media painted of Iran and wanted to see for himself what it was like and bring that experience back home.

The movie is far different from more common, popular documentaries such as those of Michael Moore.

This movie does not seem to force a view down your throat the entire time, but instead gives you a feeling that you are getting a genuine view that is not distorted to fulfill a personal agenda.

This film is more similar to the fake documentary "Borat," although it is not trying to point

out the differences in culture for laughs. Instead this film focuses on the similarities.

Hamilton starts the movie by taking viewers to his hometown of San Francisco and interviewing the locals on their views of the foreign society he will travel to, similar to "Borat."

The movie follows the "Borat" trend, and focuses on Hamilton's experiences as a foreigner, exploring Iran in a search to show Americans what the Iranian people and culture are like.

It is not until the end that Hamilton reveals his message or even shows how things in the movie relate to each other.

For much of the film, it seems like a home video of his vacation. The film shows shots of different tourist spots at an amateur level. The camera is often shaky, especially during interviews, causing the audience to feel dizzy.

There are many scenes of cars driving, but in no way do they relate to the movie.

Hamilton would talk to someone and next thing you know, you see cars driving

down the street in the middle of the conversation.

These shots seem like an attempt to fill space and make the movie longer.

When the movie gets on track, it does demonstrate that the people of Iran are friendly to Hamilton and just want peace.

"I never had a negative interaction," Hamilton said.

He expanded by saying that everyone wanted friendship, and even police were kind to him.

He was warned, however, to avoid filming the police and military before he arrived to avoid any negative altercations.

Hamilton visited Tehran (Iran's largest city), Hafez tomb, Persian rug shops, Persepolis (an ancient Persian city) and Behesht Zahra cemetery (where many of the casualties of the Iran-Iraq war were buried), but not until the end of the movie does it make sense of how anything relates.

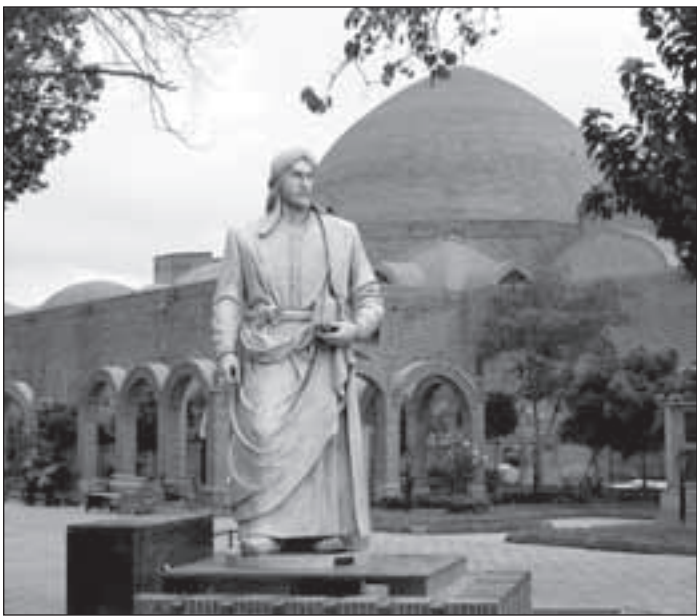
At each spot, Hamilton talks to a few natives and he tries to show how everyone is kind.

He finally brings everything together at the end by pointing out that all the people he talked to were nice.

The very end of the movie goes into Michael Moore mode because Hamilton pushes his view that citizens of hostile governments don't hate America and it is the government that causes the problems.

Movie viewers cheered at Hamilton's conclusion, proving that he successfully pushed his agenda.

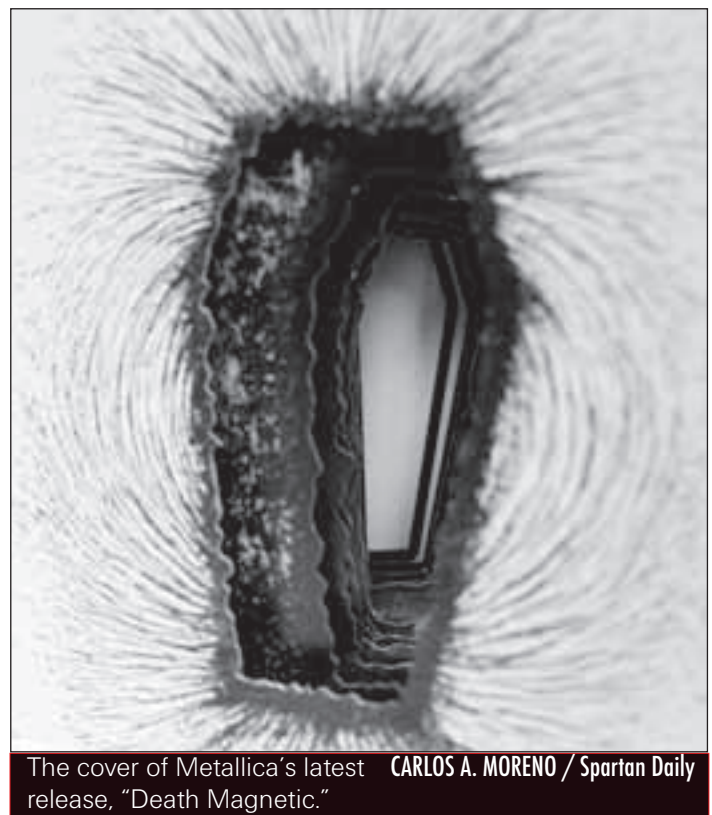
Hamilton suggested that civilians of all countries should work together outside of their governments to achieve world peace.



Courtesy of Golden Gate Cinema

One of the spots director Brenden Hamilton visited in Iran.

**This movie is expected to go straight to DVD.*



The cover of Metallica's latest release, "Death Magnetic." CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily

CD REVIEW: METALLICA'S 'DEATH MAGNETIC'

Metallica's latest, 'Death Magnetic,' clears bar set so low on 'St. Anger'

JASON LE MIERE
Staff Writer

While not exactly heralding a return to their glory years, "Death Magnetic" sees Metallica back on the right track after the huge disappointment of "St. Anger."

The album is a welcome relief after a tumultuous past decade for the Bay Area band. First there was the lawsuit against Napster, followed by the departure of long-term bassist Jason Newsted and then lead singer James Hetfield underwent treatment for alcoholism.

In the midst of all that was the filming of the documentary, "Some Kind of Monster," which portrayed the band as rife with internal tensions. The documentary, followed by the release of "St. Anger," led to many loyal fans becoming disillusioned with the band they once worshipped.

Despite the hiring of new bassist Robert Trujillo, it appeared as if the best thing for Metallica to do was to put their instrument store, rather than damage their reputation further. In "Death Magnetic," the band has returned with an album that at least restores faith in the foursome.

"That Was Just Your Life" opens up the album in rip-roaring fashion, with the band coming together to deliver a rapid-paced assault on the senses that very much echoes 1986's classic, "Battery." The lyrics of the opening track, and indeed the album as a whole, suggest that little seems to have changed inside the mind of lyricist James Hetfield.

On this album, as with "St. Anger," he delves into his inner demons and delivers them with venom. Hetfield cries during the opening track, "Like a raging river drowning when / I only need a drink / Like a poison / That I swallow / But I want the world to die."

Another of the record's high points is "All Nightmare Long," a track that features many of the great elements of Metallica. There are crunching riffs, a heavy, harmonious chorus and, whisper it quietly, more than one guitar solo.

While the solos of Kirk Hammett helped Metallica define their sound during their peak in the 1980s, "St. Anger" was notable for its almost total lack of them. Their return here helps give the album's 10 tracks a more cohesive and expressive arrangement.

In spite of this, the songs still have a far more linear, confined structure to them than Metallica classics such as "One" or even "Master of Puppets." The guitar solos are still not frequent enough and all too often Hammett's excellent solos and riffs are overshadowed by the inescapable sound of Lars Ulrich hammering away on the drums.

This was a huge problem on "St. Anger," and it has only gotten marginally better here. The over-the-top drum sound adds to the sense that for too much of the album, Metallica is forcibly trying to sound as heavy as possible.

Another problem with "Death Magnetic" is the vocals of Hetfield, which in large part lack range and depth and after a while begin to sound monotonous. One notable exception to this is on "The Unforgiven III," in which Hetfield displays his capacity to deliver both growling and melodious vocals.

"The Unforgiven III" is the latest installment in Metallica's own "Unforgiven" series, which began on 1991's self-titled album, known as the "Black Album." To many hardcore fans of the

band, that album marked the end of Metallica's golden age.

The record was seen as marking the band's decline into music produced for the masses, rather than for the true fans. It is unlikely that "Death Magnetic" will do anything to sway those particular fans, but taken on its own merit, the album is a solid effort from start to finish, punctuated by a couple of memorable excerpts.

It is a record that will be enjoyed by the more casual Metallica fan and generic rock fan alike, but does little to restore Metallica in their role of pioneers in both the metal and rock genres.

Spartan Daily editorial staff's favorite Metallica tunes

Colleen Watson:

"Don't Tread on Me." It always puts a smile on my face.

David Zugnoni:

"To Live is to Die" and "Dyers Eve." This 15-minute pair of songs goes on a wild journey that set Metallica apart from the other long-haired thrashers of the time.

John Hornberg:

"Master of Puppets," "S & M" version. A different and refreshing take on a song that had been beaten into the ground.

Mark Powell:

"Sad But True." I love it for its unique drum beat and unpredictable pacing. And it's a reflection of my life.

Angelo Lanham:

"The Call of Ktulu" because it's a prime example of a good seven-minute guitar masturbation.

CAMPUS IMAGES



DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

The "Men's Fan Dancers" practice their steps outside of Dwight Bentel Hall for the Soka Gakkai International festival at the Morris Dailey Auditorium on Sunday. The SGI is a Buddhist association with 12 million members in 192 countries worldwide.

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The bird is the word



I may make it look easy, but believe it or not, coming up with an idea for a column that runs every seven days can be quite the undertaking.

Unfortunately, I came down with a bad case of writer's block before writing this column. A topic evaded me, no matter how much time I spent staring at the wall and drinking coffee.

So I decided to leave a giant white space under my byline in lieu of my usual 900 words.

This was the solution I was set on as I went to bed Friday night. Blank space. Artistic, like the cover of the White Album.

Unfortunately for art, though, I ended up having a dream as I drifted off to the soft, static buzz of my AM tube radio that predates not only myself, but also many buildings in the San Jose area.

But I'm not here to tell you about how I didn't write a column. I'm here to tell you about my crazy dream.

You see, on said radio, a couple of drones were going on about what if McCain died in office and Palin took over, or if Biden took over if the same happened to Obama, and I thought, as I floated off to dreamland, "My word, I have never heard so much in an election year about how a president might die."

And all of a sudden, I wasn't in my bed. I was in an audience, holding hands with a giant fish that was play-

ing "The Sweater Song" on a ukulele. Onstage was Sarah Palin, wearing a wedge of cheese for a hat and also a giant foam finger with the word "God" on it.

She spoke: "Well gosh darn it, if it's not just the greatest honor to talk to you here today, as your new president. I was just as happy as a clam that us mavericks managed to make it to the White House in the first place, but I'm just sad as all gosh about the death of John McCain.

My word, I have never heard so much in an election year about how a president might die.

"I guess the American public finally realized that Obama and Biden, God bless 'em, were just waving a big, old, gee golly white flag of surrender.

"How was I supposed to know that when I snuck up on Johnny in the Oval Office, wearing a Barack Obama Halloween mask and shouting 'Boo, I'm terrorist Obama Bin Laden, don't cha know?' that he'd go into cardiac arrest and fall over, just 10 days after going into office?"

"I sure do feel bad, and I'll miss my fellow maverick. But, I'm the president now, and gee golly, I'm not going to blink. Because you can't blink. You just can't, darn it.

"I'm excited with my new role as commander in chief, and I just can't wait to lead the Holy War, just as soon as you-know-who says it's hunky dory to start.

"We're just gonna have so much fun, America. Gosh, I haven't felt this excited since I shot my first moose."

I jolted awake. Holy mittens, what would the U.S. be under Palin? Think about that for a second. Hockey would become the new national sport, shot-guns would be sold in the impulse-buy aisle of supermarkets alongside "Archie Digest" and we'd have a nice crusade on our hands.

But I don't want to think about that dream, and I'm not really here to talk to you about that anyway. I'm here to talk about drinking birds.

Because they are a massive distraction, and you are going to need a means of escape.

From what, you ask? Why, the news, of course. The stupid bobbing of a red, little friend with a top hat and his unquenchable thirst for the infinite contents of a small glass of water are just the ticket.

If you keep reading about how bad Wall Street is and how some moron might run the world, you're going to go mad, and if you don't read about it, you'll just be an idiot.

So let the bird be the idiot for you. When you get the urge to jump to your death from some high object, just glance at the hypnotic rhythms of the drinking bird, which by the way is illegal in the U.S. and can only be found on the foreign black market (eBay), and let your cares ease away with sweet distraction.

"Yes, I Have a Point" appears every Monday. Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

The following comments are in reference to the article "Program fights for survival" by Kaajal Morar, which ran on Sept. 16.

I'm one of the students that fly in regularly to attend the class, and it will be a great tragedy to me if the program goes away. I'm about halfway through the program, and at great expense, I travel to San Jose to get the training that this program offers — training that I can't get anywhere else.

Graduates of this program are highly respected by members of the fencing community as being excellent teachers, scholars and fencers.

-David Borland

I agree with previous commenters that the Fencing Masters Program brings nothing but prestige to SJSU (as well as additional income). Not only is it unique in the country, but graduates of the program have taken the pedagogy they learned in the certificate program and applied it to outside areas, teaching various types of classes and subjects in California and beyond.

The program maintains a cultural heritage with deep and wide roots and branches.

I too am a student who started the program and am now, apparently, unable to finish. Due to a job, I had to move out of state and I was hoping to fly back for classes and possibly complete a certification in the future. Such an endeavor, as others have mentioned, is not cheap, and yet I gladly pay all tuition and floor fees for this excellent program.

Now, this long-standing program is in jeopardy.

We are professionals, academics, students, taxpayers and fencers of all sorts who give up our Saturdays for this unparalleled opportunity to learn from the best.

I hope we can get an explanation at the very least.

-M. Rose Barlow

This is a tragedy for the United States fencing community. This is the only place in the country you can get your classical master at arms certificate through an accredited university. Most clubs are stuck with coaches certified by the USFA (United States Fencing Association), a title that doesn't hold a candle to a fencing master's degree.

I inquired of the university about this program years ago, and no one in the administration offices or anyone who answered the phone seemed to know it even existed on campus. Yet, today I have many friends who go out of their way at great expense to travel across the country regularly to train at this program.

The university apparently spends no administration time on it. ... They didn't know it was even there for the most part. And it costs them nothing but a room for them to use. And it gets the university international fame.

What are they thinking?

Maybe someone can get the University of Oregon to take over the program! Then I can go train there.

-Jeff Richardson

The following comment is in reference to the article "Engineering project is cool as ice" by Adam Murphy, which ran on Sept. 11.

I am very proud of the four engineering students who decided to create such innovation. This can be used in Third World countries that do not have electricity and need food or medicine, which require refrigeration.

-Judy Vallejo

Classifieds

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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SUDOKU

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Pant
5 Calcutta nannies
10 Bireme's propellers
14 Finished
15 Piece of turf
16 Energize
17 Machete cousin
18 Tea-party crasher
19 Senora from Bonn
20 Told
22 Secondhand
24 Complain
25 Budget item
26 More intimate
29 Lightness
33 Bleacher shout
34 Sour pickles
36 Limber
37 Bryce Canyon locale
39 Plays the drum
41 Nights, in classifieds
42 Fine violin
44 Cash, for instance
46 Sooner than anon
47 Most minuscule
49 Armor defects
51 Coarse sand
52 A Baldwin
53 Frozen dessert
56 Get-togethers
60 Length x width
61 Perceived
63 Gator kin
64 "Moneytalks" group
65 A Muppet
66 Dr. Zhivago's love
67 Enjoy the sun
68 Loan figures
69 Vitality

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED
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4 Checks for typos
5 Hepburn/Tracy movie (2 wds.)
6 Odometer units (2 wds.)
7 Like some fans
8 Ad — committee
9 Hi-fi
10 Behind the scenes
11 Mystique
12 Not phony
13 Pivot
21 Felt sorry about
23 "Watermark" chanteuse
25 Oxidizes, as iron
26 Pie part
27 Starbucks order
28 Chicago airport
29 Play loudly
30 He played
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32 Oui and si
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38 Hesitate (2 wds.)
40 Isolates
43 Very serious
45 After that
48 Whichever
50 Winter sight
52 Hawk's lair
53 Foreign car
54 Willy or Shamu
55 Tulip colors
56 Carry on
57 Thermometer type
58 Ephron of "You've Got Mail"
59 Read hastily
62 Memorable time

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Classifieds**

Why does Merriam-Webster hella hate?



CHRIS CURRY

In the past decade, the Merriam-Webster dictionary has added hella words that originated right here in the Bay Area. Spyware, dot-commer and megapixel are all Northern California creations. Yet the one native word that you hear all the time is being shunned: hella.

I say just add it to the dictionary. Make it official. Spread it around.

Let's break this down. What are some of the necessary criteria to make this word dictionary-worthy?

Is the word just a flash in the pan as they say? Well, I moved to the Bay Area in 1988, and I remember thinking how stupid it sounded. Now I think it

sounds "hella stupid," but it's still here. It has been around at least 20 years — it's not going anywhere.

Has it fully pervaded society? Is it used everywhere? No doubt. I challenge anyone to spend a day among the Bay Area public and not hear this word. On second thought, I challenge anyone to spend 15 minutes in the

I think it sounds "hella stupid," but it's still here. It has been around at least 20 years — it's not going anywhere.

Student Union and not hear it. On third thought, I challenge anyone to spend five minutes at the mall and not hear it. It's there, I promise you.

Is it understood? When you use it,

do people look at you funny? Oh, you don't use it? You don't know what it means? Right.

Granted, it is not nationwide, but that hasn't stopped our Northern California words before. I must admit, if you landed in Des Moines, Iowa, and told them, "It was a hella long flight," they're likely to wonder where your chopper is. But if just a couple years ago you told those same people your laptop had spyware, they would probably be expecting it to turn into a jetpack or shoot lasers.

I propose a little change that may make this word a little more palatable. In essence, hella is a contraction of "hell of a." For example: "It's a hella steep hill," really means "It's a hell of a steep hill," or "It's a very steep hill." Could hell'a with an apostrophe be the change it needs to get in?

Like any other word, if you don't like it, you don't have to use it. There are plenty of words that I hate and

don't use. A lot of these have actually been added to the dictionary in recent years. "Woot" was the word of the year in 2007. Let's see, "phat" and "def" are both in. I never use any of those, but they're all in Merriam-Webster. Even "crunk" is in there for god's sake.

Hella is like that old cat that hangs out in your backyard. It's been around forever. You're not sure where it came from, but you still feed it and it's not leaving. Give it a name already. Make it official.

I'm not arguing that hella should be used more. I don't think it needs a publicity campaign. I don't think it needs to be turned into a hip-hop anthem. I just think that in comparison with some of the other ridiculous words in there, it's due.

Chris Curry is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

2 to 1 odds says I'm not going to quit



MATTHEW KIMEL

Some people say it's a horrible addiction-like disorder with numerous negative personal, family and social consequences.

There is a good probability it can be diagnosed and treated.

Can you guess what it is?

I'd bet the odds are you can't.

These are claims by the American Psychiatric Association on pathological gambling.

Maybe I've just had good luck with the roll of the dice, but my life experiences don't quite fit with the association's descriptions of this "horrible addiction."

I can recall the first time I ever won a bet — I was 7 years old.

My father, his friends and I were watching Super Bowl XXV and we had played a Super Bowl box bet. I was a big Buffalo Bills fan at the time and was hoping Scott Norwood would make his last second field goal to defeat the New York Giants.

Norwood, of course, missed the field goal.

I was disappointed — that is — until my father told me I won \$90 dollars in our box pool. The next day we went to Toys "R" Us and I bought myself a Gameboy.

Nowadays, my friends and I like to bet on anything and everything. Our wagers range from John Madden football video games with favorites and underdogs to how many burgers or burritos I can consume in one sitting, which I never lose due to my gluttonous eating abilities.

The experts at the APA say it's wrong to gamble with increasingly larger sums of money to get desired results of excitement, but I disagree ... because other experts always tell me, the less you bet, the more you lose when you win.

Never have I experienced this so-called "restlessness of irritability" that is supposed to occur when I try to quit gambling, but, then again, I don't think I have ever tried to stop because I rarely lose anything significant that alters my life.

Speaking of resting less, several of my friends don't even bother sleeping at night anymore because it's lost time they could be playing poker online.

Did I mention these friends don't even have jobs?

They support themselves with their winnings.

Apparently it's a problem to try to win back your money after losing, but to me that just sounds like human nature. If you lose something, naturally you're going to want to try get it back in your possession.

Never once have I ever lied to conceal my gambling activities — I always make it publicly known when I win.

I also have never had to borrow money from anyone to bail me out on a bet when I've been in financial trouble — my friends accept IOU's.

The APA asserts pathological gamblers may jeopardize educational opportunities for gambling — I choose to go to graduate school because of my interest in horse racing and a desire to become a reporter for the sport (it will help give me an insider's edge).

To my knowledge, my family has never experienced any negative consequences from gambling either.

I can recall numerous trips to Las Vegas when my family has congregated around the Wheel of Fortune slot machines, a family favorite pastime. We have made memories that will last a lifetime and fortunes that lasted several hours.

So, as you can see, there are many positive personal, family and social pay-offs to pathological gambling.

I would predict you wouldn't stop, cut back or control your gambling habits if you had my luck and never lost anything that's too valuable. I'll even give you 2 to 1 odds on the proposition.

Matthew Kimel is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

So long WaMu; I hope other banks will learn from your many mistakes



JOHN HORNBERG

INSERT WITTY STATEMENT HERE

Putting money in a bank these days isn't supposed to be a glorified game of Russian roulette. The bank I choose to hold onto my pocket change should still be there when I go to sleep and be there when I wake up.

But that changed about a week ago. I was greeted one Friday morning with the news that my bank, Washington Mutual, no longer existed. It was seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and sold immediately to JPMorgan Chase & Co. for about \$2 billion.

Within the span of a few hours, my money changed hands from one bank to another.

Instantly, there were questions. Was I supposed to run to the nearest branch, withdraw all of my money and squirrel it away under the mattress?

No. It would be better not to react to this like one would have in 1929. The government insures my savings, so even if my bank doesn't exist, someone will replace the pocket change I kept in it. No need to get off the couch, I guess.

Then there were questions of whether or not I should move my money to another bank, since mine technically didn't exist any more.

The new owners, JPMorgan Chase & Co., told customers not to worry. The most stable bank in the world now backed Washington Mutual's deposits and accounts. They told me everyone's accounts would be fine, and to continue banking like usual.

But the situation is anything but usual. The bank that I trusted to care for my money had ceased to exist, and it was difficult for anyone to muster either outrage or panic.

I was as blindsided by the bank's seizure as its leaders. According to the New York Times, the bank's new CEO, Allan Fishman, was on a flight between New York and Seattle when the deal was

brokered, and the FDIC kept the members of the board for the bank in the dark.

While it isn't the first bank to collapse in this latest round of financial panic, and it certainly will not be the last, Washington Mutual was the first tangible casualty of the banking crisis. Its branches are everywhere in this area, and a lot of people kept money with them. It was the nation's largest savings and loan operation, according to the New York Times.

No one seemed surprised that Washington Mutual met its demise. It had recently fired its CEO, Kerry Killinger, and started hunting for someone that would buy the business.

Its banking practices were spotty at best. An example would be the bank's efforts to recruit me for a home loan. Monthly for several years, I received requests for home loans, which included low interest rates for the first few years. Often, they came in the mail at the same time as my overdraft notifications.

Perhaps it was the bank's efforts to make nice with one of its friends — after all, I gave them enough money in overdraft and low savings account balance fees to support a small bank.

But the reality was still startling. Washington Mutual was offering a 19-year-old community college student with a job that paid in pocket change and bits of thread a home loan. It was easily an attempt by the bank to set me up for failure; I was certainly not fit for a home loan, which meant many others receiving offers were not qualified either.

It should be a lesson to the rest of the banking world to be more responsible. While I was a loyal customer, I am not dismayed by the bank's demise. While I lost nothing financially, perhaps Washington Mutual should have spent less time trying to get me to take a home loan and more time trying securing its future.

"Insert Witty Statement Here" appears every other Monday. John Hornberg is the Spartan Daily managing editor.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is not a man who sees America as you see it and how I see America. We see America as the greatest force for good in this world. If we can be that beacon of light and hope for others who seek freedom and democracy and can live in a country that would allow intolerance in the equal rights that again our military men and women fight for and die for for all of us. Our opponent though, is someone who sees America, it seems, as being so imperfect that he's palling around with terrorists who would target their own country?"

GOV. SARAH PALIN

Republican vice presidential candidate said in a Colorado airport hangar on Sunday, regarding Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

theSpartanDaily.com POLL

Who do you think won the vice presidential debate?

Gov. Sarah Palin
or
Sen. Joe Biden

Spartan Daily

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