Housing staff struggle with engagement

By Melissa Maria Martinez

Only two student residents of San Jose State dorms attended a community forum to voice concerns about utilities in disregard and maintenance complaints with campus housing staff.

"I want to hear what is happening," Interim Executive Director of University Housing Services Eric Rollerson said. "This forum was an opportunity for students to do so."

Industrial technology junior George McIntyre raised concerns about laundry services. McIntyre said the washers and dryers in some residential hall buildings are not functioning properly.

"That's why it's free," Rollerson said. "We are in the process of changing vendors, which is why, right now you don't have to worry about paying for it."

Director of Residential Life Kevin Kinney said that if machines are not working, to let someone know.

Campus Village rules require student residents to check in guests they bring who do not live in the dorms.

The California State University resident housing policies allow University Housing to implement additional restrictions during certain times of the year if heightened security is necessary to protect the housing facilities and its residents.

Some students have complained that they can no longer walk through Joe West to reach the Dining Commons.

"We're not restricting anyone from walking in and out of the building," Kinney said. "We prefer that people go through the entrance by Washburn Hall to reduce threat to our security protocols."

In 2018, the CSU Office of the Chancellor completed a Housing and Residential Services Audit. The purpose of the audit was to "ascertain the effectiveness of the operational and financial control for housing and residential services and to ensure compliance with relevant governmental regulations, policies, directives, and campus procedures.

The audit's report concluded the SJSU campus' administration had the appropriate framework provided by University Housing Services and Operations.
The San Jose State University student newspaper, The Spartan Daily, published a news article about the September 11 attacks and their impact on student veterans. The article highlights the experiences of Colby Campa, who joined the U.S. Navy after the attacks. Campa, along with other veterans, shares how the attacks impacted their lives and the military's actions in response. The article also discusses the student veterans' perspective on the ongoing nature of the war on terror and the need for awareness and education about these events. The Spartan Daily is written by student editors and published every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.
Minimum wage is far from perfect, but raising it would solve more problems than implementing a living wage system would. The idea of a living wage is the amount of pay that an individual must earn to support their family as a sole provider working full-time, as defined by MIT professor Amy Glasmeier. Unfortunately, a living wage is a sound theory but falls flat when attempting to apply it to the average person. Glasmeier is the creator of the Living Wage Calculator, a tool that determines the cost of living and breaks it down by county or other large metropolitan areas. The Living Wage Calculator lumps San Jose, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara together as a single region. Its calculations are based on people living a robotic lifestyle that features no extraneous costs or variance. It takes into account typical expenses such as food and housing and average salaries of various occupations such as administrative or sales-related work.

Even the average cost of food according to the calculator isn’t based on realism. While these statistics and figures are all useful for determining averages, what a person earns at their job should not solely be based on a calculated average. For example, a four-person family featuring one working adult and two children has a living hourly wage of $36.21 according to the calculator in the aforementioned areas. That person’s required annual income before taxes, factoring in expenses, totals to $75,308. Comparing that number to the average annual salary of $36,920.57141 based on occupation, that individual could only be employed in one of seven different fields in order to make enough money to support a family. Some employment fields with a greater annual salary than the calculated living wage include healthcare practitioners, legal workers and engineers. There is no room in the averages for any sort of excess cost, such as entertainment or vacations. If that family of four wanted to take a trip to Hawaii, they would have to do so in their imaginations.

Those excess costs may not technically be necessary, but there isn’t a human being on Earth that doesn’t mentally benefit from some kind of entertainment, so it should be factored into a living wage. The food costs are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s low-cost meal plan, which attempts to calculate a nutritious diet for as little financial burden as possible.

Both the calculator and the official USDA food costs state that families of four will spend just over $10,000 on their meals for the year. While these statistics and figures are all useful for determining averages, what a person earns at their job should not solely be based on a calculated average. For example, a four-person family featuring one working adult and two children has a living hourly wage of $36.21 according to the calculator in the aforementioned areas. That person’s required annual income before taxes, factoring in expenses, totals to $75,308. Comparing that number to the average annual salary of $36,920.57141 based on occupation, that individual could only be employed in one of seven different fields in order to make enough money to support a family. Some employment fields with a greater annual salary than the calculated living wage include healthcare practitioners, legal workers and engineers. There is no room in the averages for any sort of excess cost, such as entertainment or vacations. If that family of four wanted to take a trip to Hawaii, they would have to do so in their imaginations.

Those excess costs may not technically be necessary, but there isn’t a human being on Earth that doesn’t mentally benefit from some kind of entertainment, so it should be factored into a living wage. The food costs are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s low-cost meal plan, which attempts to calculate a nutritious diet for as little financial burden as possible.

Both the calculator and the official USDA food costs state that families of four will spend just over $10,000 on their meals for the year. While these statistics and figures are all useful for determining averages, what a person earns at their job should not solely be based on a calculated average. For example, a four-person family featuring one working adult and two children has a living hourly wage of $36.21 according to the calculator in the aforementioned areas. That person’s required annual income before taxes, factoring in expenses, totals to $75,308. Comparing that number to the average annual salary of $36,920.57141 based on occupation, that individual could only be employed in one of seven different fields in order to make enough money to support a family. Some employment fields with a greater annual salary than the calculated living wage include healthcare practitioners, legal workers and engineers. There is no room in the averages for any sort of excess cost, such as entertainment or vacations. If that family of four wanted to take a trip to Hawaii, they would have to do so in their imaginations.

Those excess costs may not technically be necessary, but there isn’t a human being on Earth that doesn’t mentally benefit from some kind of entertainment, so it should be factored into a living wage. The food costs are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s low-cost meal plan, which attempts to calculate a nutritious diet for as little financial burden as possible.

Both the calculator and the official USDA food costs state that families of four will spend just over $10,000 on their meals for the year. While these statistics and figures are all useful for determining averages, what a person earns at their job should not solely be based on a calculated average. For example, a four-person family featuring one working adult and two children has a living hourly wage of $36.21 according to the calculator in the aforementioned areas. That person’s required annual income before taxes, factoring in expenses, totals to $75,308. Comparing that number to the average annual salary of $36,920.57141 based on occupation, that individual could only be employed in one of seven different fields in order to make enough money to support a family. Some employment fields with a greater annual salary than the calculated living wage include healthcare practitioners, legal workers and engineers. There is no room in the averages for any sort of excess cost, such as entertainment or vacations. If that family of four wanted to take a trip to Hawaii, they would have to do so in their imaginations.

Those excess costs may not technically be necessary, but there isn’t a human being on Earth that doesn’t mentally benefit from some kind of entertainment, so it should be factored into a living wage. The food costs are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s low-cost meal plan, which attempts to calculate a nutritious diet for as little financial burden as possible.
By Diana Avila

STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State men’s water polo team is ready to make an even bigger splash this season with a new home pool and an overall more experienced team. Water polo will now practice in the newly built Spartan Recreation and Aquatic Center that opened earlier this year.

“I’m looking forward to playing back in our home pool,” 2-meter senior Finn Pardon said. “For like the last couple of years we have been playing at West Valley, so it’s going to be really great to be back here.”

The Spartans take pride being nationally ranked at No. 18, despite being a fairly young team last season.

Head coach Bruce Watson feels excited that the team has some senior leadership this season.

“We were very young. We started four freshmen and two sophomores and that’s very young for a college Division I team,” Watson said. “They were very young last year but they’ve grown tremendously and improved a lot and they’ll continue to improve this season.”

In 2018, junior driver Justin Pickering led the team to the top 15 in the nation. Now that number has grown up to seven players.

“As a team I feel like we collaborate together and we feel like family,” sophomore goalkeeper Yahav Fire said. “We are always there to support each other.”

Some of the older players are excited to make a comeback to the pool after a season of being redshirted for a year.

“They are a great group of guys. We were pretty competitive last year and I think this year we’re even better,” Pardon said. “I’m just really excited to be back and to be a part of it.”

Pardon did spend time with his teammates during his off season and expressed how difficult it was for him not to be part of any games.

“If we can do that this year, it will be amazing,” Watson discussed some of the obstacles that the team may encounter this year.

“Our biggest challenge is we play Division I and we play against the top teams in the country,” Watson said. “So the challenge will be to grow and to be able to handle the adversity of playing top 10 teams consistently.”

As the team prepares themselves to have another successful season, they also take pride in their academics.

According to SJSU Athletics, at the end of their 2018 fall season, men’s water polo had the No. 14 best team grade-point average nationally among the 49 schools sponsoring NCAA men’s water polo with a 3.21.

“The guys in the water are great students and they work hard, and we believe that the fact that we can do that and be top-20 in the nation is amazing.”

Watson would like for his team to take all the opportunities that are available for his team. He has made one of his goals as a coach to make sure that his team continues to balance academics and water polo.

“Continued success in the classroom is really important and these guys have one of the highest GPAs of a men’s teams,” Watson said.

Balancing academics and water polo is a goal for the team and so far it has started its season off strong.

“We’re all competitive, we all want to win and we’re all hungry,” Pardon said. “We’re back on campus and we want to do well.”

The Spartans opened the season at the Pacific Invitational Sept. 7 with an 11-10 loss against University of the Pacific and last year’s national champions, Santa Clara University.

---

To Be Honest

Discover mental health resources, utilize tools to cope with symptoms, build resilience and meet local youth who are sharing their mental health journeys.

Your mental health is NOT a burden.

Reach Out. Do not be afraid to talk about your feelings. You gotta say something or no one will really know.

- Barab

Visit tobehonest.today

Questions? Call 408-924-9972 Email mystudentsbsu@jsu.edu

---

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11, 2019
It’s unnecessary to fight over a rip-off meal when other fast restaurants have rip-offs of each other.

By Brendan Cross

The act of adding a chicken sandwich to the menu at Popeyes spurred a Twitter war that had people flocking to the chain restaurants nationwide. Popeyes released the new sandwich Aug. 12, with a very similar look to Chick-fil-A’s chicken sandwich, mostly because of the inclusion of pickles and similar breading.

The main difference in the sandwiches is that the Popeyes version comes with either a chipotle sauce or mayonnaise while the Chick-fil-A sandwich comes bare. On its release day, Twitter reacted to the Popeyes tweet with a chains had on Twitter but it sparked a veiled criticism toward the original. "It seemed to be [heart emoji] for the tweeted, "Bun + Chicken = the ring."

Before Chick-fil-A entered the field, it was not specifically directed at them. Just 15 minutes later, Popeyes responded to the Chick-fil-A tweet with "...y'all good?"

This was the direct interaction the two chains had on Twitter but it sparked a debate that had people trying both versions to settle on which one is better. Design studios senior Kevin Phung tried both sandwiches and went with the supposed original. "The Chick-fil-A sandwich is better because that is their motif," Phung said. "Popeyes just started, it's good but it's not the best."

According to business and restaurant studies senior Alex Loi said that the Twitter war was a media frenzy it created may have won Popeyes the war. "It’s pretty silly and it’s too over-hyped for just a chicken sandwich," Phung said.

Popeyes may have lost the battle when it announced it had sold out of sandwiches but the media frenzy it created may have won Popeyes the war.

Follow Brendan on Twitter @BrendanCross93

Phung shared a similar sentiment about the Twitter spat between the two brands. "It's pretty silly and it's too over-hyped for just a chicken sandwich," Phung said.

Popeyes may have lost the battle when it announced it had sold out of sandwiches but the media frenzy it created may have won Popeys the war.
He doesn’t even know how to play the ukulele, yet mechanical engineering sophomore Robert Garza bought one on the SAMMY app because he said it was such a steal.

The SAMMY app was developed by San Jose State in the summer of 2017 as a campus-wide engagement tool for students, Sonja Daniels, the associate vice president for campus life, said.

“It is a place to connect, campus resources, support student organizations, a calendar for events to promote campus life, and a way to assess our campus and department events,” Daniels said.

Garza used the engagement tool to explore new hobbies.

“I’ve never seen a ukulele on there,” Garza said. “I was looking for one for about two weeks, I saw [someone] posted it and got really excited so I just hit her up with my best offer and then we made the deal.

The $50 in his pocket wasn’t enough to buy a decent replacement for his broken guitar. Garza would be lucky to find any busted body with strings at that price, let alone a ukulele, he said.

Good brands were off limits, until he saw a posting on the SAMMY app for the coveted Kala ukulele.

He made the seller an offer she could not refuse, fifty bucks.

“It goes for like 90 or 80,” Garza said. “She was trying to get rid of it and so I just hit her up, and I said I was interested.”

Grazing over the strings with the tips of his fingers, he plucked at them one at a time when he put the body of the ukulele to his ear. “It’s not in tune,” he said about four times.

But Garza was still practicing. He said it was his best come-up on the SAMMY app for sure. Coming at a close second and third was the couch he bought and the four roommates he found on the app.

“Her asking prices may or may not be a little closer to the original price than some people might be interested in,” Jiang said regarding her roommates books.

“I mean I’ve sold two of my own textbooks so far, so I have hopes [for her].

Back in the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Garza said learning how to master the ukulele will help him pass the time while he saves up for a new guitar.

“It will take him about a week to learn how to play one of his favorite songs, “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz.

“I have some down time in-between classes and then I didn’t want to be just watching YouTube,” Garza said. “I do study but sometimes I just want to do something besides studying, just like a ukulele, you know?”

Follow Vicente on Twitter @VicenteSJSU