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THE WIRE

LOCAL

Schwarzenegger warns of layoffs if furloughs fail

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ramped up his rhetoric to state employees Wednesday, warning them he would start issuing layoff notices if a court doesn't let him force workers to take two unpaid days off a month. State employee unions have sued Schwarzenegger over the furlough plan he estimates will save the state \$1.4 billion this fiscal year, arguing he cannot unilaterally impose the furloughs.

NATIONAL

Time running out for corrupt Illinois Governor

CHICAGO — With Gov. Rod Blagojevich entering what could be his final hours in office, some politicians are watching closely to see whether he attempts some last-minute mischief and strikes back at his enemies by spending state money, issuing executive orders or granting pardons. He unwrapped one surprise Wednesday, asking to make a closing statement Thursday at his state Senate trial.

House passes new president's stimulus bill

WASHINGTON — In a swift victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved a historically huge \$819 billion stimulus bill, filled with new spending and tax cuts at the core of the young administration's revival plan for the desperately ailing economy.

Obama proposes more money for bank bailout

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is developing proposals to help rescue the banking system that could cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars beyond the \$700 billion bailout Congress already has approved.

Super Bowl city feeling effects economic downturn

TAMPA, Fla. — Nearly 100 million will tune in when the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Arizona Cardinals this weekend. But in these tough economic times, it's easy to see that the Super Bowl is taking a hit, too. A stroll around Tampa reveals empty tables at restaurants, vacant hotel rooms and falling prices for scalper tickets.

Articles from the Associated Press

PROTEST AT CLARK HALL

Debate heats up between students over recent Israeli-Palestinian conflict



A pro-Palestinian student and a pro-Israeli student debate during a student-organized 'die-in' near Clark Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

Both sides call for truth from each other in conflict over Gaza strip

HANK DREW
Staff Writer

After an alarm rang from a bullhorn, simulating air-raid sirens, the students fell to the ground and assumed a corpse-like pose, symbolic of those who died in Gaza in the current

conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli students verbally clashed during a student-organized "die-in" Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon in front of Clark Hall.

The pro-Palestinian group, whose members said they are not affiliated with any campus group, displayed signs with pictures depicting the destruction of the current conflict in Gaza. The pictures showed, in graphic detail, the bloodied bodies of

Palestinian civilians.

Karimah al-Helew, a junior social work major, said the "die-in" was intended to raise awareness of the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"I feel like our campus is very unaware of the situation that is happening in the Middle East," said al-Helew, the organizer of the event. "I wanted to bring out the humanitarian aspect because you can hear about political talk all day long."

"What people do not see

is the actual destruction that's happening in Gaza," she said.

Al-Helew said the images have provoked strong responses from students passing by the protest.

"You get both sides of it," she said. "You get people who are totally offended by it. I have been cussed out. Then you have people who are like, 'Right on.'"

This message was met with strong resistance from students

See **PROTEST**, page 3

ECONOMY

Area rent prices drop in last few months

San Jose prices among lowest in county

HOLLY SZKOROPAD
Staff Writer

San Jose rent rates fell 2 percent in the last three months, according to a recent report by RealFacts Inc., a research organization and database publisher specializing in the housing market.

San Jose's average rent of \$1,587 is the eighth lowest rent rate in the Santa Clara County, followed by Campbell and Gilroy with average rates of \$1,487 and \$1,377. Three months ago, the average rent rate in San Jose was

\$1,618, according to the report.

Regardless of the decrease, the new rent average still keeps San Jose as the fourth most expensive place to live in the U.S., according to the RealFacts Inc. Web site.

This rent decrease was the third largest in the country, following the 2.4 percent decline in Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Riverside-San Bernardino, according to the report.

The drop, which started in September and continues, left many housing units bargaining for renters with lower-than-usual prices. Rates are being cut to fill the growing occupancies, which

See **RENT**, page 2



Photo Illustration by CARLOS A. MORENO

ADMINISTRATION



Dr. Carmen Sigler

After two decades, Provost Sigler will retire

JULIANNE SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

Dr. Carmen Sigler, who spent more than two decades at SJSU and most recently served as provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced her retirement Wednesday afternoon in an open statement to the faculty and staff.

In her statement, Sigler said she will retire this summer.

She said she wants to spend more time with her family and explore other activities in the area.

"I look forward to spending more time with Rob, my husband of 42 years," she said. "I'll be doing some scholarly research and perhaps teaching, as well as continuing my community work."

Monica Garcia, the confidential administrative support for the office of the provost, said she was sad to hear about Sigler's retiring.

"She cares not only about the work that people do, but about them as people. Even if you're having a bad day, she still genuinely cares and is appreciative of everything that people do and their efforts," she said.

Gina Marin, the administrative analyst for the office, complimented Sigler's abilities as a manager.

"It's hard to find someone that's a great leader, has great management skills and still has that personal touch, which is what she has," Marin said.

Pat Lopes Harris, the SJSU media relations director, said she hopes the university has a new provost in place by the time Sigler retires.

Sigler joined the SJSU faculty in 1987. She served as the teacher education coordinator for the department of foreign languages, associate chair for curriculum and department chair from 1992 to 1998.

During Fall 1998, she became the acting dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts, which

See **SIGLER**, page 2

THE SPARTAN DAILY.COM

Podcast: Listen to yesterday's protest from pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli students in front of Clark Hall.

Preview: The Spartan Daily will stream the news conference with SJSU President Jon Whitmore online on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Video: The Spartan Daily predicts who will win the Super Bowl between the Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

PHOTO BLOG

Narrative Series Part II: Listen to the stories behind our photographers' favorite photos from last semester.





The murals on the Cesar Chavez Monument were removed during winter break for additional lighting to be installed.

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

Murals removed to allow installation of lights, more art

RICHARD STERN
Staff Writer

Students returning from winter break who have walked down Paseo de Cesar Chavez may have noticed that some of the artwork is missing from the Cesar E. Chavez Monument.

The project, which began with a symbolic groundbreaking in May 2005 and took more than three years to build before the dedication ceremony on Sept. 4, 2008, is not being removed. It is being finished.

"At the end of last semester, we took down many of the murals to complete work on the monument," said John Skyberg, the director of facilities maintenance and construction services. "A date was set for the dedication, and with Mayor Reed, President Whitmore and other dignitaries already invited, we couldn't push the event back in order to finish the work so we went ahead with the ceremony. The plan all along was to finish the remaining work at a later date."

The removal of the murals did not go unnoticed.

"Over winter break I noticed

that the murals were not up anymore," said Ezequiel Deniz, a senior Spanish and liberal studies major. "At first I thought someone had tagged them, but I haven't had a chance to ask anybody what exactly was going on."

Skyberg said the murals were removed so an electrical contractor could finish the original scope of work, which included rope lighting that will be installed around the murals. The murals will then be covered with Lexan plastic for protection.

Lexan, according to the Polymer Plastics Corporation Web site, has a "unique combination of high-impact strength, flame retardancy and thermo formability which makes it ideally suited for security applications."

Several lights have been installed to illuminate the monument in addition to lights that specifically highlight the eagle, which is located on the top of the monument.

"I was taking a winter course and noticed they were taking it down," said Bertha Sanchez, a senior marketing major. "I didn't know what was going on and seeing it come down made me a little scared. Some time went by and I

really didn't see any work being done."

"Then they started to do some things inside it," she added. "I thought they were putting some lights in it, so I started asking people what was going on and was told they were upgrading it and making it better."

There are two more spotlights to install, and Skyberg said he anticipated that all the murals will be reinstalled by next Friday. Once the murals have been replaced, the monument will receive a final coat of white Venetian plaster and one last mural planned to go above the Cesar Chavez mural.

"Several artisans in Mexico are still working on the final mural," Skyberg said. "When it arrives and is installed, the monument will be complete."

Sanchez and Deniz said they are happy the monument is not being removed.

"I'm glad we have it," Sanchez said. "It is a great way to honor Cesar Chavez and all the things he did for us."

"I'm very proud of the monument," Deniz said. "What and who it symbolizes is really important."

RENT | Falling prices could help students more easily afford apartments near campus

Continued from page 1

fell 1.4 percent in Santa Clara County last year, according to the report.

Maria Marin, the assistant apartment manager of the Waterford Place apartments, said that although this time of the year is usually the slow season for renters, the occupancy rates are lower than normal.

Marin said her complex on First Street uses market surveys to adjust rent rates at a competitive local level.

"We have seen rents drop quite a bit," Marin said.

Although the decrease is technically a casualty of the recession, plummeting rent rates may mean that students can now rent affordably.

Thomas Peters, a junior music major who currently lives in Campus Village, said he plans

to move off campus next year to save money.

"It's getting so tough to find a decent paying job that you really have to make sure that your money goes as far as it can," he said.

For Joy Santos, a sophomore business management major, the rates have not dropped low enough. She said she would rather stay at her parents' home in San Jose while waiting for rents to fall further.

"Looking how mortgage rates are dropping as well, I probably wouldn't be surprised if we haven't seen the rate drop too far," Santos said. "But it may influence a lot of people to maybe move closer."

Santos said that if rates continue to drop, students would have more money to pay for other necessities such as textbooks.

She said she thinks prices will be more attractive to students living on campus.

"The dorms here, as far as I remember from orientation a while back, weren't too great. So I think even the fact that there are lower rent rates, they would probably move out of just the area itself," she said.

Jesse Abriam, a sophomore justice studies major, said student renters might not take the chance to rent when the economy is so unpredictable and when finances are tight for so many.

"I think it's kind of hard to afford things," Abriam said. "A lot of my friends have been losing their jobs, so I think it's going to be kind of hard to predict."

Regardless of falling rent rates, San Jose construction companies are taking a meager approach to adding new rental units to the market. According to the report, no units were built last quarter and 163 were added to the number of unoccupied units.

SIGLER | Also served as vice president for university advancement in 2002 and 2003

Continued from page 1

is the largest college in the university.

In March 2000, she was appointed dean following a national search. In addition to being a dean, she served as interim vice president for university advancement during the academic year of 2002 to 2003.

President Jon Whitmore thanked Sigler for many years of service to the school.

"I am grateful that when she and I first began discussing her retirement, she agreed to stay on until the end of summer 2009 to help me get to know campus and provide us with enough time to conduct a national search for her replacement, though in my estimation, she can never be replaced," Whitmore said.

Sigler served as provost and chief academic officer at the division of academic affairs, which includes the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, the

College of Business, the Connie L. Lurie College of Education, the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering, the College of Humanities and the Arts and the College of Social Sciences.

She also managed the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and administrative offices such as undergraduate studies, graduate studies and research, international and extended studies, institutional research, faculty affairs, academic technology and the SJSU Research Foundation.

SPARTAGUIDE

29 Thursday

Moral Knowledge

Professors Robert Audi and David Gallo discuss "Moral Knowledge: Realism, Pluralism and Reasons for action." Part of the Philosophy Series and Center for Comparative Philosophy lecture series. 4 p.m. in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, room 229. Contact Bo Mou at 924-4513.

30 Tomorrow

Stand-Up at San Jose

Featuring Brad Williams, Bret Ernst, Sammy Obeid and Jim Panetta. 8 p.m. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium. Tickets are \$15-\$20.

02 Saturday

Akbayan of SJSU

Information night. 4:30 p.m. in the South Pacifica Room. Contact JP Limpin at (415) 823-9912.

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8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the aerobics room of the Event Center. For more information, contact Kristen Tom at ppi_sjsu@yahoo.com

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PROTEST | Pro-Israeli student group joins debate, sets up table near demonstration

Continued from page 1

who support Israel. Michelle Salinsky, a junior political science major, said she was worried some students might be unduly influenced by the harsh images of the conflict.

"I find it unfair that they cannot show both sides of the conflict," said Salinsky, president of Spartans for Israel. "People who do not understand what is going on can only see one side instead of both."

Spartans for Israel is a student-run organization that seeks to build alliances within the SJSU community and educate students about Israel.

Billal Asghar, a senior global studies and health science major, said the group created these visuals with the intent of provoking thought and urging students to research the issue.

"Sometimes visual images are the best things," he said. "Even if people do not agree, they look at them. They provoke thoughts."

"I think what this campus and the United States in general represents is a small minority that believe in this cause and a small minority that are for Israel," he said. "Then you have the vast majority who are in between and do not know anything about this issue."

Diana Nguyen, a junior criminal justice studies major, said that Spartans for Israel moved their table next to the pro-Palestinian protest to provide insight to people who might fall on either side of the issue.

"We are hoping people who see those pictures will come up to us so they can hear both sides of the story," she said.

Nguyen, a Spartans for Israel

vice president, said the people have been mostly nice, but they have had a few negative responses too.

"We have had some anti-Semitic comments," she said. "We had this lady come up to us and talk to us about how we should put up a table Spartans for Peace instead of Spartans for Israel, as if Israel was not interested in peace."

Nguyen said Israel's current problems are with Palestine's leadership and not with the Palestinian civilians.

Kobi Laredo, a senior management information systems major and also vice president of Spartans for Israel, said he feared the pro-Palestinian displays would create more hatred towards Israel.

"We offer more than just pictures," he added. "We offer facts."

"As a former Israeli soldier," he said, "I can vouch for the fact that Israel trains its soldiers to save civilian lives at all costs."

Ayub Kadkly, a sophomore microbiology major, said the issue is not as simple as both sides think.

"What few people understand or know is that 40 percent of Israel is Muslim," Kadkly said.

"What is happening with the Gaza issue is not a clash between human beings or cultures," he said. "It's a clash between two governments that do not agree with each other."

Kadkly said he witnessed the aggression between the students and he feels that this aggression comes at a cost.

"I prefer to keep things on an intellectual level," he said. "Considering we are all in a university now, we should be capable of critical thought, so I get a little annoyed when I see people fight."



Ziad al-Helew, a senior political science major, rallies in support of Palestine in front of Clark Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

SANDRA SANTOS / Spartan Daily

Perilous state budget situation could cause cutbacks, lower enrollment throughout system

ELIZABETH KANG
Staff Writer

According to a recent California State University report, unless the governor and state legislature take immediate actions, California will face a budget shortfall of \$42 billion.

President Jon Whitmore sent an e-mail to students and staff on Jan. 13, responding to the CSU report about budget cuts.

"I believe that with our good planning and careful management of resources, we will weather this storm," Whitmore wrote in the e-mail.

He was responding to a memo sent by CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed on Jan. 9 that described specific actions the CSU has implemented to reduce expenditures and avoid budget shortfall.

Whitmore said the university's administration has decided to save money by limiting the number of students to be admitted next fall. He wrote in the e-mail, "This was not a decision made easily, but we believe it would be irresponsible, given the state's budget shortfalls, to admit more students than we can appropriately educate."

Pat Lopes Harris, the SJSU director of media relations, said

students should not worry about their enrollment status next fall. While the university may seek to reduce the number of students by 3,000, she said first priority is given to students who are already enrolled at SJSU.

Second priority, she said, is given to community college transfer students, and third is given to local students who can't afford to leave the area.

Lopes Harris said the university is making a "concentrated effort to move kids through their major" by offering the classes they need to graduate on time. She also said students should expect their fees to go up by another 10 percent next fall.

Andrew Le, a junior animation and illustration major, said he doesn't have a problem with an enrollment cap as long as he has priority.

"Being halfway through (college) and getting the shaft would not be good," he said.

Luke Appleton, a senior microbiology major, agreed.

"If you have to choose between admitting new students or keeping the old, of course you keep the old," he said.

The University is responding to the CSU cost saving guidelines by "giving careful scrutiny to trav-

el expenses, non-critical equipment purchases and the hiring of new personnel."

Whitmore said a salary freeze will be implemented for vice presidents and him.

Lydia Ortega, the department chair of economics, said she has already felt the sting of the cutbacks.

"The most significant impact for the department and the quality of education is the cut in travel expenses," she said. "Faculty research and development hinge significantly on presenting research for feedback and meeting colleagues for collaboration. Hence cutting back on travel expenses undermines faculty development which in turn impacts students."

In his e-mail, Whitmore wrote that he will work to avoid layoffs for employees and faculty.

"I want to assure you that despite budget uncertainties, we are committed to doing all we can to avoid layoffs at San Jose State," he wrote. "You, our faculty and staff, are our most important asset and the heart of our enterprise."

Whitmore will hold an open forum on the budget next Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the University Theatre.

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MOVIE REVIEW: THE UNINVITED

Audiences are cordially 'Uninvited' for a thrill

HOLLY SZKOROPAD
Staff Writer

Are you avoiding homework and looking for something to pass the time? Make a trip to your closest theater for "The Uninvited."

The PG-13 horror flick, opening tomorrow, follows two sisters trying to avenge their suspected evil soon-to-be stepmother.

Complete with everyone's favorite ghostly special effects, the film's cinematography echoes those of many of the other Asian horror film remakes released in the past few years.

Think of those black-and-white ghosts with hair hanging in their eyes and disturbingly limber ghosts that walk funny.

The film's creepiness is from the fail-proof formula of producers Walter F. Parkes and Laurie MacDonald, who are responsible for a slew of successful movies, including the American remake of "The Ring" in 2002.

Among other box office successes produced by the duo are "Gladiator" and "Catch Me If

You Can," according to the movies' Web sites.

According to Web site SciFi Japan, "The Uninvited" is a remake of the 2003 film, "Janghwa, Hongryeon," the highest grossing Korean horror film.

The film was remade not only for the scare factor, but also for the psychological suspense and moral undertones remembered in such classics as "The Omen."

According to a DreamWorks Pictures news release, the plot was kept simple, in hopes that the audience will relate to the film emotionally.

Anna, played by Emily Browning, suffers a mental breakdown after the suspicious death of her mother. She spends 10 months at a mental institution, and returns home to reconnect with her older sister, Alex, played by Arielle Kebbel.

Then Anna meets her father's new fiancée, Rachel, played by Elizabeth Banks, the suspicious former nurse of their mother.

"Anna suddenly feels lost," Emily Browning said in the news release, describing her character.

"Ever since her father fell in love

with Rachel, she doesn't know where she fits in with her family."

The new relationship drives a rift in the closeness the daughters once shared with their father, Steven, played by David Strathairn.

Steven sees no problem with the upcoming nuptials and remains a distant character in the film. Tension runs high in the household, as the new family tries to mend bonds and regain solidity.

After returning home, the ghost of Anna's mother begins to haunt her, and reveals that Rachel might be a danger to the family.

Anna realizes that something needs to be done to stop Rachel from destroying the people she loves. The two sisters conspire to expose the dirty truth about Rachel in order to end the engagement.

"The bond between Anna and me is so strong that it's heartbreaking," Kebbel said in the release. "When you see all the compassion, love and trust they share, you begin to fully understand the scope of tragedy

that has befallen this family."

Rachel has plans of her own. She is a master manipulator who is determined to deter any newfound damaging information from ruining her chances of marriage.

Eventually, more dirt on Rachel is unearthed, but it becomes apparent that she is not willing to leave without a fight.

Rachel's shadowed past comes to light. She denies none of it, but warns the girls that they are in over their heads.

The clash takes a terrifying turn as the sisters dig up more from the past and fight to uncover Rachel for who she really is.



Anna (right), played by Emily Browning, in a scene with Elizabeth Banks (left), who plays Rachel, the ruthless and seductive woman who is engaged to Anna's father. Courtesy of Dreamworks Pictures

Early morning sweet and heat

DRINK OF THE WEEK



SAMANTHA PATTERSON
Staff Writer

Coming back from winter break, it's a little tough to get accustomed to rolling out of bed before 10 a.m. It's a struggle to leave a warm bed and walk through chilly air to a 9 a.m. class.

I've found a drink that will motivate you to start your day and help you avoid being late for class.

You can find it in Downtown San Jose at a wel-

coming Italian café, Caffe Trieste. It is located at 315 S. First St., on the corner of San Carlos, next to Original Joe's.

A friendly barista by the name of John happily came up with the drink when I asked for something tasty to help get my day started. He named the warm beverage "candy" and it tastes just like its name.

This scrumptious drink is a mixture of caramel, vanilla, hazelnut and mocha mixed together and topped with a foam heart. It's caffeinated, yummy, warm and is something I recommend to every student who is trying to survive the first weeks of school.

The rich, delicate aroma draws you into its smooth, satisfying flavor. As you sip through its slender layer of foam, you reach the lush combination of ingredients that produces this rewarding drink.

This drink is pleasing in the morning, and is also great for after a date or a late night study session.

Candy, at \$3.75, comes cheaper than most specialty drinks at your local Starbucks.

Caffe Trieste offers other drinks, such as espresso, mochas, and Americanos. As a traditional Italian bar, it also carries an assortment of European beer such as Peroni, Spaten, Newcastle and a selection of wine.

You can also grab a bite to eat while sipping on the candy beverage by choosing from a variety of panini, sandwiches, quiches, chocolate éclairs and croissants.

Caffe Trieste is named after the city and port of Trieste in northeastern Italy. It was opened by its owner, Giovanni Giotta, who hoped to bring the charm he found in the Italian bars in Trieste to the South Bay, according to the business's Web site.

A PEEK AT THE WEEK

29 Today Jimmy Dewrance Blues Band JJ's Blues 9:00 p.m. 21 and over Free	29 Today Buxomblonde Alternative/Indie/pop punk Iguana's 10:00 p.m. All ages Free	29 Today A Picasso San Jose Rep 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. All ages Call for ticket prices Showing until Feb. 4
30 Friday Ramblerz Reggae/alternative/country First Street Billiards 10:30 p.m. 21 and over Free	30 Friday Smucker's Stars on Ice "On the Edge" HP Pavilion 7:30 p.m. All ages \$25 - \$120	31 Saturday Spring Festival Silicon Valley Chinese performing artists San Jose Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 p.m. All ages \$9 - \$38
31 Saturday Tin Cat Acoustic/indie/pop Caffe Trieste 8:00 p.m. Free 21 and over	31 Saturday The Spit Muffins Pop punk/rock/indie The Blank Club 8:00 p.m. 21 and over \$5	01 Sunday Ashamed, Vie Victus, Grain, The Huxtables Rock/indie/punk Johnny V's 8:00 p.m. 21 and over



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 *THE WRESTLER (R)- 1:30pm, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10 • Fr-Sun at 11:05am
 *REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)- 1:20pm, 4:05, 9:20 • Fr-Sun at 10:50am
 *GRAN TORINO (R)- 1:50pm, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50 • Fr-Sun at 11:15am
 *DOUNT (PG-13)- 6
 *CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG-13)- 9:25, 9:25 • Fr-Sun at 11:15am
 *HUNK HEART (PG)- 11:50am, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45 • Fr-Sun at 10:45am
 *SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)- 1:40pm, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40 • Fr-Sun at 11am

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LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13)- (2:20pm), 4:40, 7 • Fr-Sat at 9:20
 *DEFIANCE (R)- (1:10pm), 4, 6:50 • Fr-Sat 9:25

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*TAKEN (PG-13)- (12:40pm, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40 • Fr-Sat at 11:40pm
 *THE UNINVITED (PG-13)- (12:25pm, 3:05, 6:20, 7:20, 9:55 • Fr-Sat at 12 midnight
 *TOWL AND THE SPARROW (PG)- (12:05pm, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25
 *UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)- (12:30pm, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10 • Fr-Sat 12 mid
 *FROSTENBERG (R)- (12:50pm, 3:40, 6:20, 9
 *HOTEL FOR SINS (PG)- (1:55pm), 4:10
 *PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)- (12:15pm, 2:20, 5, 7:35, 9:50
 *GRAN TORINO (R)- (1:45pm), 4:20, 6:55, 9:35
 *LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (R)- (9:10 • Fr-Sat 11:40pm
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CAMPUSIMAGES



Cristela Pulido, a junior music education major, plays the flute while waiting for a sorority rush event to begin near Dwight Bentel Hall on Tuesday evening.

SANDRA SANTOS / Spartan Daily

Peanut plant where bacteria outbreak began had sanitation problems

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The salmonella outbreak spawned one of the largest ever product recalls Wednesday by a Georgia peanut plant where federal inspectors reported finding roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitary problems.

Managers at the Blakely, Ga. plant owned by Peanut Corp. of America continued shipping peanut products even after they were found to contain salmonella.

Peanut Corp. expanded its recall Wednesday to all peanut products produced at the plant since Jan. 1, 2007. The company is relatively small, but its peanut paste is an ingredient in hundreds of other food products, from ice cream, to Asian-style sauces, to dog biscuits. Major national brands of peanut butter are not affected.

A senior lawmaker in Congress and Georgia's agriculture commissioner called for a criminal investigation of the company, but the Food and Drug Administration said such a step is premature while its own food safety investigation continues.

More than 500 people have gotten sick in the outbreak and at least eight may have died as a result of salmonella infection.

More than 400 products have already been recalled. The plant has stopped all production.

"We feel very confident that it's one of the largest recalls we've had," said Stephen Sundlof, head of the FDA's food safety center. "We're still in the process of identifying products, but it certainly is among the largest."

Most of the older products recalled Wednesday probably have been eaten already. Officials said they were seeing no signs of any earlier outbreaks that might be linked to the plant.

The latest recall covers peanut butter, peanut paste, peanut meal and granulated products, as well as all peanuts — dry and oil roasted — shipped from the factory.

Stewart Parnell, president of Peanut Corp. of America, said in a statement late Wednesday that the recall was expanded out of an abundance of caution.

"We have been devastated by this, and we have been working around the clock with the FDA to ensure any potentially unsafe products are removed from the market immediately," Parnell said, adding that officials at the Lynchburg, Va.-based company were cooperating with state and federal inquiries.

FDA inspectors reported that salmonella had been found previ-

ously at least 12 times in products made at the plant, but production lines were never cleaned up after internal tests indicated contamination. Products that initially tested positive were retested. When the company got a negative reading, it shipped the products out.

That happened as recently as September. A month later, health officials started picking up signals of the salmonella outbreak.

PCA on Wednesday said it "categorically denies any allegations that the company sought favorable results from any lab in order to ship its products."

Michael Rogers, a senior FDA investigator, said it's possible for salmonella to hide in small pockets of a large batch of peanut butter. That means the same batch can yield both positive and negative results, he said. The products should have been discarded after they first tested positive.

A leading food safety expert agreed.

"Here's a company that knew it had salmonella in a product and still released it," said Michael Doyle, head of the food safety center at the University of Georgia. "What they tried to do is get around it by having it tested elsewhere. But that doesn't count. The first time counts. They were selling adulterated products."

Separately, senior congressional and state officials on Wednesday called for a federal probe of possible criminal violations at the plant.

The company's actions "can only be described as reprehensible and criminal," said Rep. Rosa

DeLauro, D-Conn., who oversees FDA funding. "This behavior represents the worst of our current food safety regulatory system."

In Georgia, the state's top agriculture official joined DeLauro in asking the Justice Department to determine whether the case war-

rants criminal prosecution.

"They tried to hide it so they could sell it," Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin said. "Now they've caused a mammoth problem that could destroy their company — and it could destroy the peanut industry."



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In the case of an ex



Allie Figures
FIGURES IT OUT

"It's better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all," Alfred Lord Tennyson said. But for those of us who have dealt with the awkward situation of an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend, we could kindly disagree.

I am not intending to exactly follow suit to Carrie's relationship woes in "Sex and the City," but an examination on how to deal with past relationships is quite necessary in order to move on to the next successful one.

My ex and I officially broke up over a year ago, and yet still I am not so much over it.

"Why?" you ask. After a five-year relationship with this certain someone, I found it difficult to just nix him from my life. We began as friends. There is no reason why he shouldn't remain my best friend.

But this leaves us in an awkward Dawson/Joey situation. The kind where our friendship and past relationship get in the way of attempts at any other type of relationship, leaving us both lonely and further leaning on each other for support.

Yes, I love still having him in my life as a friend. I need him

in my life as a friend. But now I need something more than friends.

Plus, it doesn't sound so good explaining who your best friend is to your next interest. No matter how much you assure that the relationship is over, their existence in your life is still threat enough.

Besides the ever-present ex situation, there is always "the one that got away." They are the standard to which everyone does not measure. They are the recipients of drunken phone calls or text messages to profess undying love. We say we are over them, but just can't seem to get back on that horse.

And remember you have the same right to be happy as they do. Dwelling on the past does nothing for your future.

In this case, one person is always aching for the other, miserable without them and no longer enjoying the taste of food or the beauty of nature.

Their void in our lives grows bigger and bigger, spilling onto everything else we try to do to move on.

But it always seems the other person is doing fine without us. Around them, the sun is always shining and birds are always chirping.

Then there is the "guilt-trip

ex." They just do not seem to grasp what's done is done. Guilt and denial is their trick to prevent you from moving on to bigger and better things. They take every opportunity to get back into your life.

"Hey, my parents were asking about you."

"Hey, I still have some of your things at my place."

"Hey, can I have you back? I've changed."

If you have successfully moved on, I suggest not letting this ex back in your life. They have the potential to damage your next relationship by making you feel like crap for finally being happy.

All of you guilt-trip exes out there, I think you should take note and change your tune. If you really do love or respect your lost loves, don't hold them back from their lives.

And remember you have the same right to be happy as they do. Dwelling on the past does nothing for your future. Drop the worn picture of your lost love and make some new memories.

And as for Tennyson, maybe he was right. It can be better to have loved and lost because it can help us achieve an even greater love the next time around.

"Figures it Out" appears every Thursday. Allie Figures is a Spartan Daily arts & entertainment editor.



Cartoon by KRISTI RIGGS

Letters to the Editor

This letter is in response to the current state of Israel:

The past eight years in Israel can be described as a reflection of the continuous struggle both parties (Israelis and Palestinians) are experiencing, each with their own goals.

Let us take the 1947 U.N. resolution 181 and its result, the 1948 war, a war that was initiated by the Palestinian gangs (Hamulot) and their self-centered, unrealistic leaders, as the beginning of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Let us now move 50 years forward from the first attempt to create peace (1949) between the new Israeli state and the Palestinian representatives to the year 2000, where the second Camp David Peace Ac-

ords, initiated by President Clinton, took place.

The goal of the accords was to bring peace to the region and to create a Palestinian state.

The rejection of the plan created a new reality in the Middle East that sparked the second Intifada. As a result, many lives were lost on both sides. Though there have been disagreements and occasional fighting between the Israelis and Palestinians, the Arab-Is- raelis, many of whom are Pal- estinian refugees from previ- ous wars, enjoy equal rights as any other Israeli citizen.

In the past eight years, Israel has developed itself and has been a pioneer in the fields of medicine, agriculture, humani- tarian organizations, technol- ogy and much more.

At the end of December 2008, with the temporary cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas, the Palestin- ian ruling body for the Gaza Strip expired, though Hamas continually broke the agree- ment while it was in place and Israel was once again confront- ed with hostility. This situation left Israel with no choice but to take action in order to defend its citizens.

In taking action, Israel has made every effort to avoid ci- vilian casualties in the fighting zones of the Gaza Strip.

It is only clear that Israel has been struggling to defend itself since its independence.

Michelle Salinsky and Omri Brinner
San Jose, Calif.

This letter is in response to the media coverage of Presi- dent Obama:

In the 25 years or so I have been following politics, I have never seen media coverage of an individual (Obama) that borders on promoting a "cult of personality."

It never fails to amaze me how foolishly we elect the leader of this country. We end up electing someone with vir- tually no experience in gov- ernment to lead us out of the worst financial disaster in our country's history.

Keep in mind that this di-

saster has not yet run its full course.

In addition to the media's cultic adulation of President Obama is this preoccupation with the election of the first black American president. President Obama is not an Af- rican-American any more than I'm a Polish-American or Irish- American (nee Moran).

He is a black American who happens to have African heri- tage as I am a white American who happens to have Polish and Irish heritage.

As for the election, Don- ald Duck could have beaten the Republican nominee so to

suggest that America has made a cultural shift towards better race relations by electing the first black American president is making an error in logic referred to as a faulty cause.

If the economy was strong and foreign policy was not such a mess, would the election have turned out differently? We will never know.

The only thing certain now is that President Obama is "on-the-clock" and time waits for no one.

Joe Bialek
Cleveland, Ohio

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— David Koller, Stanford researcher

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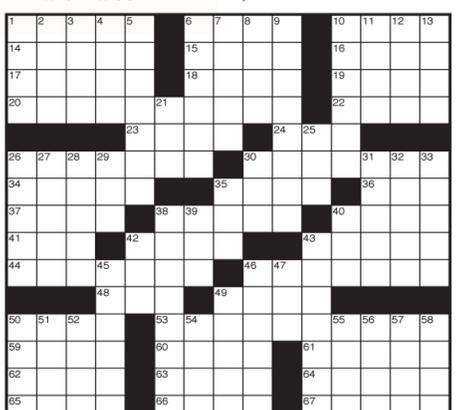
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED LOCHS OBOES USE UHHUH PEARL TIN IMAGE REFRACTED SSN LEAF PEEVE NOTCH CAPERED STEREO URGES ILLER PROUD SICY LIES BRAKE SLOE ODD CAULK DELLA JOINS BREEDS ALDENTE BRING GAOLS GARB AHA EXPLORERS BALEE NEE RADIIT LULLS TRY TESTS EGYPT

1-14-09 © 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 5 Laid upstream 35 Cold and windy 6 Investments 38 Exhausts (2 wds.) 7 Laughs heartily 39 Lawyer's thing 8 Off in the distance 40 Gloomy 9 Nonsense syllables, maybe (2 wds.) 42 Distress 27 LaBelle or LuPone 43 Plant with tendrils 45 Absorb (2 wds.) 46 Timberland 10 Parsley units 47 Entice 11 Large carnivore 48 Exhausts 49 Eggs purchase 50 Commotion (hyph.) 51 "Bonanza" brother 52 World's longest river 54 Jot down 55 Entice 56 Shah's kingdom 21 Sticker 25 Ginger — 26 Eddy 27 LaBelle or LuPone 28 Estuary 29 Md. neighbor 30 NFC grider 31 All kidding — 32 Whiz 33 Nobody's fool



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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The man behind the tilted beret



ANDREA FRAINIER
Guerrilla Wordfare

Taco Bell dressed a Chihuahua in his likeness.

Rage Against the Machine used his image for the cover of their debut single.

Mike Tyson has his picture tattooed to his ribs.

Gisele Bündchen wore a bikini adorned with his portrait.

There's even a brand of cigarettes that prints his face on every stick.

His bearded face, tilted beret and wavy hair has been painted, silk-screened, sculpted and reproduced worldwide.

I'm talking about Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary who has cemented his place in pop culture, one T-shirt at a time.

Lately, Guevara has been given the Hollywood treatment.

With the release of the two-part biopic, "Che," that won Benicio Del Toro top honors at the Cannes Film Festival, there is no doubt of his far-reaching rock star status.

Even Del Toro couldn't resist commenting on all those Che T-shirts.

"I think anyone who buys a T-shirt of Che has got to be cool," the actor said. "If I see someone with a Che T-shirt, I think, 'He's got good taste.'"

But how many of those Che-wearing, Starbucks-sipping, Wal-Mart shopping people know the history behind the beret?

Most people are aware of the Cliff Notes version of Guevara's life: He was born in Argentina. He began a career as a doctor. He abandoned said career to ignite a revolution in Cuba with Fidel Castro. He left Cuba to spread the revolution to other Latin American countries, but he was murdered in Bolivia before he could reproduce Cuba's revolutionary success across the Americas.

What some people may not know about the romanticized leader is that under his pursuit of a successful revolution, thousands of people were executed and millions fled Cuba in exile.

Armando Valladares, a Cuban dissident imprisoned by the revolutionary regime in 1960, said Guevara was "a man full of hatred."

Despite Guevara's darker side, the 1960 portrait of him snapped by Alberto Korda, titled "Guerrillero Heroico," lives on infinitely, on clothing, flasks, buttons, flags, belt buckles, stickers, posters, key chains, Zippo lighters, watches and clocks.

There are Web sites dedicated to exclusively selling Che merchandise.

Despite the fact that all those overpriced shirts, jackets and hoodies that depict Che Guevara were probably made in an Indonesian sweatshop (something I doubt Guevara would have approved), young hipsters continue to keep the Che merchandise industry alive simply because they think it's cool, or because they feel like they are sticking it to the man.

It's like that bridge question your mother always asked.

Would you proudly display Dick Cheney wielding a shotgun on your chest if everyone else did?

Would you shave your head because Britney Spears did?

Would you tattoo David Letterman on your thigh because Kat Von D did?

Would you jump off a bridge if Paris Hilton did?

It's like teenagers who shop at Hot Topic and suddenly become punk rock, even though they were singing along to the Jonas Brothers the year before.

Or people against animal cruelty who don't hesitate before diving into their veal dinner.

It doesn't make sense.

All I ask is the next time you throw on your Che T-shirt, take a moment to think. Because if you're trying to make some sort of social commentary, it's lost on me.

"Guerrilla Wordfare" appears every Thursday. Andrea Frainier is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.

Play it safe: Look both ways



DAN LU
Staff Writer

Walking around town and crossing streets is something people do every day, but pedestrian safety has been an ongoing issue in just about every community.

According to a recent San Jose Mercury News article, four San Jose pedestrians have been hit and seriously injured or killed in the past month by vehicles. But it was not always the pedestrian who was at fault.

The latest pedestrian incident occurred at the intersection of Story Road and Adrian Way this Monday.

Nine-year-old Alex Casillas remains in a coma after he was struck by a driver as he walked to school with his dad. The driver was speeding and ran a red light, witnesses said.

Educating people about the safety of crosswalks and the dangerous risk of jaywalking is important, something that people need to be informed about.

Jaywalking was the issue in another pedestrian incident involving 80-year-old Quy Tran of San Jose who was a victim of a hit and run earlier this month. A Mercury News article stated she had crossed mid-street toward a church on Senter Road at Independence Drive when she was struck. According to the article, her family gave her repeated warnings not to jaywalk.

This was the third fatality on that street in the past two years. Pedestrian safety is definitely a concern because I live two blocks away from Senter Road, and young children are always walking in my neighborhood.

Three of the four incidents occurred on busy roads that included Story Road, Senter Road and El Camino Real in Santa Clara.

As my footsteps go across campus, I feel comfortable because of the lack of roads and vehicles that go through it. However, walking around downtown and dodging buses, light rail trains, bicyclists and other vehicles can be tricky at times.

Posters at several intersections throughout downtown promote "Walk Smart, Don't Cross Mid-Block."

Getstreetsmarts.org, the Web site started by San Jose's Department of Transporta-

tion, states, "Street Smarts addresses traffic problems at the source: In the minds of drivers, pedestrians and cyclists."

I worry about the safety of pedestrians all the time when I see speeding cars and anyone who jaywalks. The safety of pedestrians has made headlines lately with some recent traffic-related accidents, injuries and deaths.

Over on San Salvador Street, at the shuttle stop for the Park and Ride lot, I observed SJSU students darting across the bustling street, committing risky feats. Not looking both ways, chatting on cell phones along with jaywalking spells trouble.

The use of crosswalks and crossing when safe are just two things that could help prevent pedestrians from getting into tricky situations.

Walking around downtown and dodging buses, light rail trains, bicyclists and other vehicles can be tricky at times.

If people drive the posted speed limit and use caution when pedestrians are around, neighborhood streets will be safer for everyone.

There are many other solutions, such as installing more street lights, adding crosswalks and extended crossing times at stoplights. However, the main way to keep pedestrians safe is to educate everyone, both pedestrians and drivers.

Some suggestions include, when walking in the dark, wear bright or reflective clothing that can increase the chances of a driver seeing you. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and continue to look in all directions for other oncoming traffic. Check for turning vehicles before stepping off the curb.

Tips like these and more can be found on Getstreetsmarts.org. A big part of being safe is being vigilant when you are out walking about.

If we all walked with caution, obeyed signs and drivers slowed down, pedestrians and drivers would coexist in a much safer environment.

Dan Lu is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



CARTY SEWILL / Spartan Daily

Taking the time to listen to the world around us



STEPHANIE VALLEJO
Staff Writer

"Spartan-ish."

That's a word I heard someone say today that I would have never have heard if the battery on my MP3 player hadn't died.

My definition for "spartan-ish" is the feeling of being more in tune with the Spartan community.

Hundreds of students pass me by every day at school and I never receive a smile or a friendly nod.

On rare occasion, I get an "Oh, excuse me" when we accidentally walk into each other.

It must be because they are too preoccupied by their music blasting away during the few minutes of reality before they stumble into their classrooms.

I must admit that I am guilty of the earphone-wearing syndrome that haunts our fair campus.

For two years, I avoided almost all contact with my peers in hopes that the lyrics and melodies of my favorite bands would sooth away my stresses.

It turns out all I had to do was unplug my ears and listen to the people around me.

One day I turned off my MP3 player and tried to catch snippets of the conversations of people around me.

For two years, I avoided almost all contact with my peers in hopes that the lyrics and melodies of my favorite bands would sooth away my stresses.

What I discovered was a new way to use my sense of hearing, possibly making new friends along the way.

It sounds like eavesdropping, but I didn't go out of my way to

listen to other people's conversations. All I did was walk around campus like I normally do, except this time without earphones glued to my ears.

The following is a compilation of the conversations I encountered during a 10-minute walk between classes. It includes diverse pieces of dialogues students around me said. Every individual sentence is from a different student:

"My teacher is a true G."
"Who knows what he thinks?"

"Even though it's the beginning of the semester, I feel like I already know him."

"Oh, excuse me I wasn't paying attention."

"No problem, it's Wednesday. Shit happens on Wednesdays."

"What happened?"

"I lost my purse."

"You could find it right here."

"That is the weirdest thing I've ever seen."

"Stop looking at her, she can see you looking."

"Just keep on walking."

"Hello, buddy boy, long time no see."

"I heard you broke a bone in your nose."

"I guess I don't really need that."

"Dude, you are a savage."
"I'm late for class, but I'll text you later."

After putting everyone's separate conversations together, I was amazed at how much of the world I was missing when I'm plugged into my music.

Each voice I heard was from a person talking with a friend.

I didn't see earphones, just happy, smiling faces.

I don't think that listening to music between classes is a bad thing, it just makes the opportunity to meet new people less of a possibility.

After doing this, I've made a few friends by just randomly starting conversations. It was a good experience that made me more aware of the student life on campus.

Now that I'm not using the music as a crutch, and I feel a lot more Spartan-ish.

Stephanie Vallejo is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Spartan Daily

Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209
One Washington Square
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SUPER BOWL XLIII PREDICTIONS

Taking a side

Pittsburgh Steelers
Vs.
Arizona Cardinals
Sunday, Feb. 1
3 p.m. NBC

Willing outsider will win it all



Jessica Ayala
Staff Writer

The Arizona Cardinals, who are predicted by oddsmakers to lose this Sunday in Super Bowl XLIII by seven points, might just prove the gambling public wrong.

So go ahead and place your bet on the Pittsburgh Steelers, but be ready to take a loss.

History has proven that underdogs win Super Bowls.

Last year, the New York Giants went into the Super Bowl as underdogs by 12 points against the New England Patriots, who had a perfect 18-0 record going into the game.

But the Giants came out on top with a score of 17-14.

In 2002, the Patriots, who were up against the St. Louis Rams, were the underdogs by 14 points, but the Patriots won the game 20-17, giving them their first championship.

Don't be too quick to judge the Cardinals based on their season record, which stood at 9-7.

When the Cardinals faced the Atlanta Falcons in the wild-card game of the playoffs, they were expected to lose. However, they won by a final score of 30-24.

The Carolina Panthers, who had a much better regular season record of 12-4, were also defeated by the Cardinals the very next week by a humiliating score of 33-13.

And just when we thought the Cardinals were going to lose to the Philadelphia Eagles, they won the NFC title.

Another point to keep in mind on why the Cardinals will win this Sunday: the coaches.

Ken Whisenhunt, the head coach for the Cardinals, was the offensive coordinator for the Steelers for three seasons and helped them win the 2006 Super Bowl against the Seattle Seahawks.

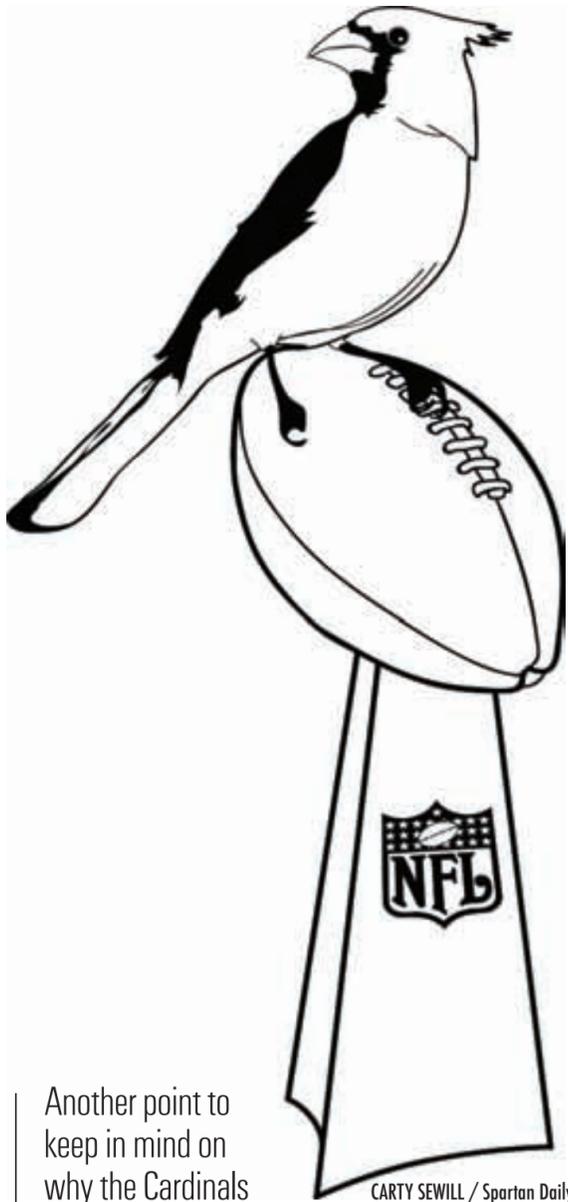
Russ Grim, assistant head coach and line coach for the Cardinals, was with the Steelers from 2001 to 2006 and was responsible for creating some of their plays with Whisenhunt.

This gives Grim and Whisenhunt an advantage because they know how quarterback Ben Roethlisberger performs under pressure, and they have insight on the Steelers' offense and defense.

In the past, coaching swaps have had an effect on Super Bowl outcomes.

For instance, in 2003, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Oakland Raiders after head coach Jon Gruden left the Raiders in the offseason and took over the Buccaneers.

Another thing to look out for is Cardinals' defense.



CARTY SEWILL / Spartan Daily

Another point to keep in mind on why the Cardinals will win this Sunday: the coaches.

Yes, their defense lacked during the regular season, but it broke through in the postseason, which helped them get to where they are today.

And let's not forget to mention receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who currently holds an NFL-record 419 receiving yards in one postseason, with one game still left to go.

The Cardinals other threat, Anquan Boldin, has made a strong comeback after a Sept. 28 collision that knocked him out for a few games.

The Cardinals quarterback, Kurt Warner, also has an advantage on Roethlisberger. Sure, Ben is younger than Warner, but Warner has six more years of experience in the NFL than Roethlisberger.

Warner also has won two Most Valuable Player awards in his career. Roethlisberger has none.

Go ahead, place your bet on the Steelers, but I'm predicting the final score will be 24-20 in the Cardinals favor.

Jessica Ayala is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Terrible Towels conquer Tampa



Stephanie Vallejo
Staff Writer

There is only one team name the crowd in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium will chant Sunday night: The Steelers.

That's right, Pittsburgh will win its sixth Super Bowl title against the Arizona Cardinals, and take away the top spot from the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys, each of whom have five rings.

I'm no psychic, but there are plenty of reasons why I'm sure Pittsburgh will go home with the Lombardi Trophy.

The reason they are the favorite to win makes a lot of sense — the Steelers have had the best defense in the NFL throughout the 2008 season, and history shows that the best defense wins the game. For example, the Baltimore Ravens beat the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXXV with their impressive defense tactics.

Take a look at their track record: The team already has five Super Bowl wins under its belt, four of them won during the 1970s. The last one was only three years ago and with the same starting quarterback — Ben Roethlisberger.

"Big Ben," as he is popularly called, led the team to a 12-4 re-

cord that season. He has been with the team for five seasons and has made the playoffs three times.

But, like I said before, their defensive play is the key to this winning equation.

The Steelers are No. 1 in rushing and scoring defense. They have given up only 44 yards rushing per game during the playoffs, and this weekend will be no different.

Let's compare this to the Arizona Cardinals, who have a history of being a losing team (and have no Super Bowl titles).

The Cardinals' quarterback, Kurt Warner, won the Super Bowl in 2000 with the St. Louis Rams, but that was eons ago. At 37, Warner could be getting tired this late in the season and may not have as much stamina as his more energetic adversary, Big Ben.

After all, age and experience make a big difference when it comes to playing the game, and so does the coach of a team.

The Steelers' head coach, Mike Tomlin, and Cardinals' head coach, Ken Whisenhunt, both fought for a job at Pittsburgh. Before former Steelers head coach Bill Cowher resigned in 2007, Whisenhunt was an assistant to Cowher's staff for six seasons. But Tomlin got the job. So there may be animosity still lingering. Each of them has something to prove to the other.

Another reason the Steelers will win is because they have the advantage of an extra bye week. The Cardinals had played 13 straight games since their last week off, prior to receiving a bye to prepare for Sunday's showdown.

More time to rest means more time for the Steelers to re-focus, re-energize and prep for the big day.

It must have been a stressful season for the Cardinals after a mediocre 9-7 record in the regular season. That was the second worst record of all teams that made the playoffs. The San Diego Chargers 8-8 season beat them in that category.

Six of Arizona's wins came against easy opponents from the NFC West. So if you don't count those, the Cardinals were a pathetic 3-7 in non-division games.

Plus, some of their games had questionable losses that ended with huge margins. For example, their 56-35 loss to the New York Jets at the beginning of the regular season was embarrassing. Not to mention their 28-point loss against the Philadelphia Eagles, and, finally, the mind-blowing 47-7 loss to the New England Patriots in week 16. Who says they won't make the same mistakes again?

Their NFC title run was pure luck, and they are just happy to be going to the Super Bowl for the first time.

For the Steelers, it's business as usual.

My prediction is that the Steelers will win 28-17, and there will be an uproar of Terrible Towel sales by the end of the night.

Stephanie Vallejo is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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