

Women's basketball drops its 12th straight conference game.

The Oakland Raiders and San Francisco 49ers both have old stadiums, but is sharing a new one viable?

Elderly on the roadways causing problems, and solutions for it.

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Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

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Volume 132, Issue 17



WED	THU	FRI	SAT
63	60	62	63

THE WIRE

BAY AREA

Spansion cuts 3,000 employees, 35 pct of workforce

SUNNYVALE — Troubled flash memory maker Spansion Inc. said late Monday it will slash its global work force by 35 percent, affecting about 3,000 employees, mostly at manufacturing sites. The move comes as Sunnyvale-based Spansion, one of the world's largest makers of flash memory chips used in digital cameras and other gadgets, is cutting costs amid a company-wide restructuring effort and exploring a possible sale.

NATIONAL

Dow drops to 12-year low

NEW YORK — Wall Street has turned the clock back to 1997. Investors unable to extinguish their worries about a recession that has no end in sight dump stocks again. The Dow Jones industrial average tumbles 251 points to its lowest close since Oct. 28, 1997, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index logs its lowest finish since April 11, 1997.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea says it is preparing satellite launch

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday it is in full-fledged preparations to shoot a satellite into orbit, its clearest reference yet to an impending launch, which neighbors and the U.S. believe will be an illicit test of a long-range missile. The statement from the North's space technology agency came amid international concern that the communist nation is gearing up to fire its most advanced Taepodong-2 missile, which would violate a U.N. Security Council resolution.

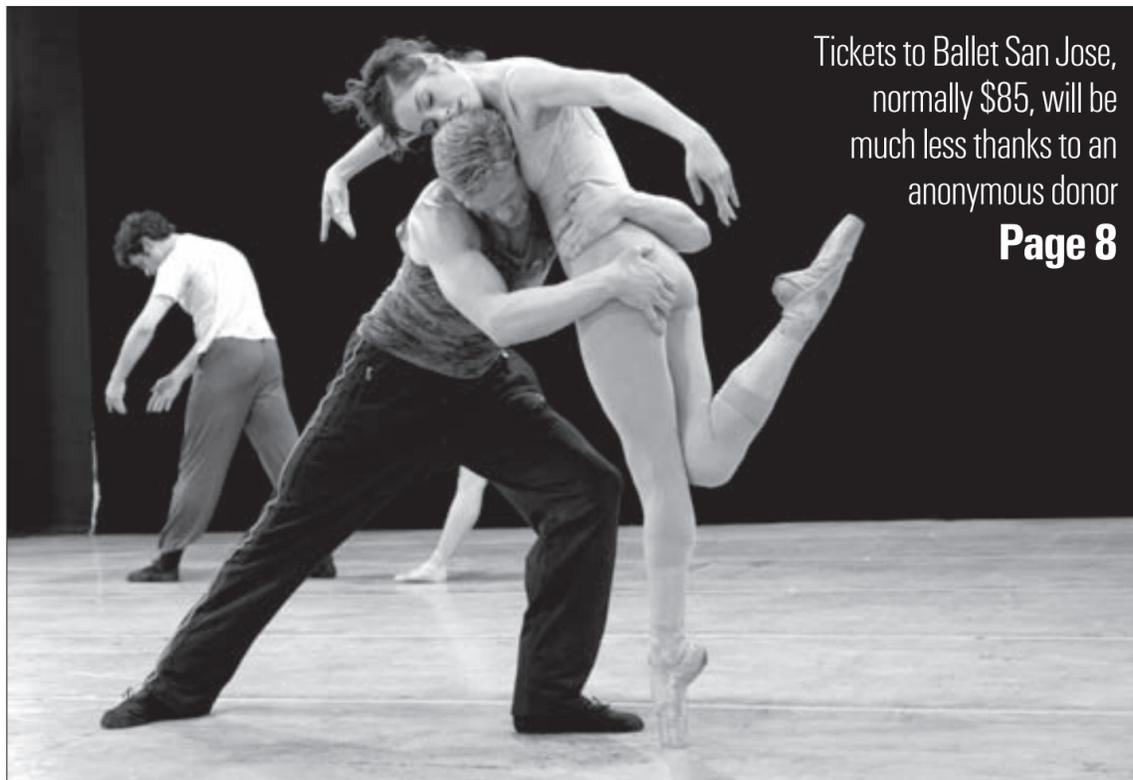
Official: US aid to Gaza to top \$900 million

JERUSALEM — The United States is preparing to donate more than \$900 million for the reconstruction of Gaza, a U.S. official said Monday, as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton prepared to attend a donors conference for the war-ravaged territory next week. Israeli and Palestinian officials said earlier Monday that Clinton will visit Israel and the West Bank during the first week of March for her first trip to the region as America's top diplomat.

— Associated Press

ENTERTAINMENT

Sharing ballet with students



Two dancers performing "The Way We Fall" at The San Jose Center for Performing Arts.

Tickets to Ballet San Jose, normally \$85, will be much less thanks to an anonymous donor
Page 8

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

LITERATURE

Author, lecturer tells story of dorm life

MICHAEL LE ROY
Staff Writer

The English and comparative literature department hosted a book reading and reception for SJSU lecturer Kate Evans' book, "For the May Queen" on Feb. 18 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

With more than 40 people at the reading, the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies was filled with alumni, students and SJSU faculty.

Kate Evans received a master

in fine arts from SJSU, and has previously written a collection of poems called "Like All We Love" and "Negotiating the Self," a book about gay and lesbian teachers.

"For the May Queen" is a novel about Norma Rogers' first year of dorm life. Set in 1981, the book explores "how to live life amidst everything that entails crazy dorm life," Evans said. Norma has the full college experience that includes partying and drug use.

"I have a daughter who went to UC Santa Cruz in the 1980s and it definitely sparked my interest.

What impressed me more was the quality of the writing," said Tim Peck, an SJSU alumnus.

The book is set in Sacramento, but a few chapters are set in the Bay Area. "There is a line I found was hilarious, 'Oh I didn't want to go to San Jose State, because a whole bunch of people go there and they are usually skanky,'" said Daisy Luu, an SJSU alumna.

Evans read a chapter from the book that described what

See **EVANS**, page 3



Courtesy of Kate Evans Official Website
SJSU lecturer Kate Evans

HISTORY

Remembering the Holocaust through comics

Group discusses work and social commentary of Art Spiegelman

JESSICA AYALA
Staff Writer

History and Holocaust memories were shared Sunday afternoon at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library after discussing "Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History" by Art Spiegelman.

The discussion about the reading was led by Victoria Har-

ison, a Jewish studies lecturer at SJSU who, like Spiegelman, is a second generation Holocaust survivor.

An audience of 30 people, who ranged in age from 20 to 70 years old, shared opinions on the graphic novel and personal experiences during the Holocaust.

Sara Abraham, an audience member, said Spiegelman used great techniques to captivate the reader.

"He did it in a way that you can open up to it," she said. "If you were to read a regular Holocaust book, it's so difficult that you close yourself. You kind of

don't feel, but he kind of grabs you into it."

Spiegelman, who migrated with his parents from Europe in 1951, began cartooning at an early age. At 16, he started to draw professionally, which led him to become part of the underground comix movement in 1968. "Comix" was also spelled differently as a way to differentiate themselves from the usual comic books.

The comix era was a movement where cartoonists geared away from the superhero image and became more focused on political and social issues such

as drugs, sex, music and war. Comix also had the liberty of controlling their own writing, whereas comics had several restrictions.

From 1980 to 1989, Spiegelman worked on "Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History" which was shortly followed by "Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began." In 1992, Spiegelman's work was recognized when he won a Pulitzer Prize for Maus.

See **MAUS**, page 3

BOB CARLSON

Alumnus, a Porsche aficionado, dies at 60

SAMANTHA RIVERA
Staff Writer

Bob Carlson loved rock 'n' roll and '80s music. He also loved people, Porsche and sports. On Fridays, he was known to wear bright and colorful, unique shirts and jackets.

"I always looked forward to seeing what Bob would wear each Friday," said Gary Fong, a product communications manager for Porsche and close friend of Bob Carlson.

An SJSU alumnus, former San Jose Mercury News motor sports writer and later a publicist for Porsche North America, Bob Carlson achieved a lot in his 60 years.

Bob Carlson died on Dec. 18, 2008, after losing his battle to gall bladder cancer. He is survived by his wife, Debbie Carlson and his mother, Frances Carlson.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Campbell, Carlson remained in the Bay Area for the early portion of his career before relocating to Georgia to work for Porsche for the remainder of his life.

Carlson remained loyal to San Jose, SJSU and the San Jose Sharks until the end, said Matthew Nauman, a former auto editor for the Mercury News who worked with Carlson while he was the publicist for Porsche.

He was even buried in a San Jose Sharks jersey as part of his burial outfit, Debbie Carlson posted on the Web site www.caringbridge.com.

Debbie documented Bob's journey with cancer on the Web site, where many share their personal experiences with cancer.

She used the site to keep family and friends updated on his condition and continues to post even after his passing.

"He was a consummate professional, someone who knew and loved cars, but who could talk about a wide variety of subjects — all with his usual mix of intelligence and dry wit," Nauman said.

Debbie Carlson said she credits her advertising degree and his business degree from SJSU as a twist of fate for their meeting in 1979, while they both worked at the Peninsula Times Tribune, formerly the Palo Alto Times.

Debbie said he was a person of many interests, loved by many, who found him fun to be around.

"Lots of vacations, plenty of

See **CARLSON**, page 2



Sports Blog:
www.spartandailysports.wordpress.com
Photo Blog:
www.spartandailyphoto.wordpress.com
News Blog:
www.spartandailynews.wordpress.com

SPORTS BLOG

'Sharks Remarks': The San Jose Sharks shined against the Dallas Stars Monday night and will head north to Detroit for a key matchup Wednesday night.

NEWS BLOG

Bay Area carpoolers could be paying tolls when crossing bridges in the near future.

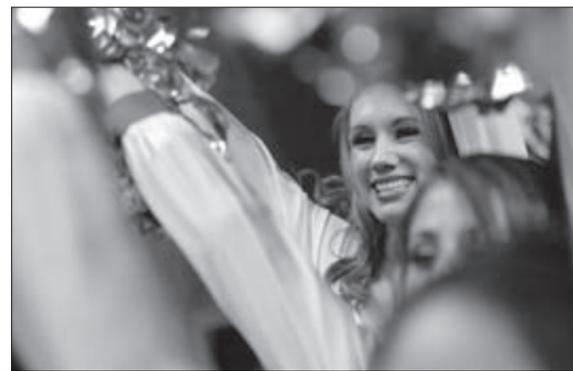
What is the true purpose of Mardi Gras?

This year's Academy Awards achieved inspiration for a downdraft America.

PHOTO BLOG

Check out an audio slideshow of the San Jose Stealth by photographer Joe Proudman.

See a new photo from 'Around Downtown.'



JOE PROUDMAN / Spartan Daily

SPARTA GUIDE

24 Today

Book Discussion

"Water for Elephants."
Noon to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 100. Contact Annette Nellen at anellen@sjsu.edu

Buddhism Studies

A discussion about "Karma and the Principle of Causality."
4:30 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Contact Albert Wang at xifualbert@yahoo.com

Embracing Real Beauty

Stacy Nadeau leads a workshop providing students with a fresh perspective on body image and developing media literacy skills.
6 to 7 p.m. in the Student Union at the Barrett Ballroom. Contact Jennifer Waldrop at jwaldrop@email.sjsu.edu.

EXPO '09 Job Fair

3 to 5 p.m. in the Event Center.

Laughter Yoga Workshop

A yoga class that promotes good health, reduces stress and creates more fun on campus. No experience necessary. Noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union in the Pacifica Room. Call Arya Pathria at 926-3307 or e-mail at laughaway@yahoo.com

Spartan Smart Cart

Fresh fruit and veggies.
10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Clark Hall, rain or shine. Contact Luisa Garrett at luisa@postmodern.com

Tuesday Night Lecture Series

A discussion titled "Roman de Salvo: Circulation and Participation."
5 p.m. in the Art Building, Room 133. Contact Ace Antazo at SJSU_Galleries@yahoo.com.

25 Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for individual blessings, liturgy at 5 p.m. in the Spartan Memorial Chapel. Contact Chaplain Roger at chaplain@sjspirit.org

Global Studies Club

Weekly meeting. 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union at the Pacheco Room. Contact Ryan Wu at gsc.sjsu@gmail.com

The F Word

A discussion about "How the language of fat influences body image." Part of Respect Your Body Week. Noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union at the Pacifica Room. Contact Jennifer Waldrop at jwaldrop@email.sjsu.edu

26 Thursday

Bible Study

Acts 2 Christian Fellowship hosts a weekly study. 7 p.m. in the Pacifica Room at the Student Union. Contact Justin Foon at jfoon1@yahoo.com

Diversity Dialogues

A discussion titled "Civil Rights and the Next Generation."
1:30 to 3 p.m. at City Council Chambers. Contact Kelly Spivey at sanjoseca.gov

Meditation Group

Preparing the best time and place for meditation. 5 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Contact Harrison at hhaarrriissoon@gmail.com

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.

Prof's book points to need for changes to military program

Professor raises questions to usefulness, cost for human terrain program

STEPHANIE VALLEJO
Staff Writer

A new book by an SJSU associate professor talks about new war tactics that cost millions of taxpayers' dollars and use social scientists to potentially kill people.

Roberto Gonzalez, an associate professor of human anthropology, wrote the book, "American Counterinsurgency: Human Science and the Human Terrain," about a new approach to fighting the war in Iraq.

Kan Hong Lin, an applied anthropology graduate student, is reading the book.

"We were very concerned about the situation," he said. "The whole issue on human terrain is troubling."

Alison Perez, a junior cultural anthropology major, said she has read some of the book.

"We've seen that in the past with the use of anthropologists during World War II and even during the 1960s," she said. "There have been incidents where anthropologists have given information that harmed people based on how that information was used by the military and the government."

Gonzalez described his book as "a history of the connections of social science and the military, with a special focus on the human terrain system program."

It also includes his criticisms on foreign policy.

The human terrain system program was designed by the Pentagon in 2006 to get anthropologists and social scientists integrated into military units, he said. He said their job will be to help generals learn about local cultures so the military can get a better sense of who the insurgents are, he added.

David Price, a professor of anthropology at St. Martin's University in Olympia, Wash., said he has read the book and agrees with Gonzalez about ethical issues.

"If you're doing research with people who are relying on you for food and water, it makes it very difficult to negotiate voluntary informed consent," he said. "Human Terrain doesn't have policies explaining how they try and do this."

Gonzalez defined counterinsurgency as counterterrorism warfare, which means going after individuals engaged in a war, who often times may be disguised in the local population.

The problem with the system, Gonzalez said, is that the information the social scientists are providing can potentially be used against the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Since he said he knows the history of anthropology, he noticed this as a conflict of interest when he first heard about the program in 2006.

"They provide info to the brigade commanders so they can go about fighting the war," Gonzalez said. "On the surface it might sound like a good thing to have these people who know about the culture, but there are a lot of problems."

"It's a bigger topic," Lin said. "What is the role of American power in the world? Should we use force or diplomacy? Should we respect the wishes of other people or should we simply invade their government if we don't like what they're doing?"

Another problem with this program, Gonzalez said, involves the anthropologist code of ethics.

According to the American Anthropological Association Web site, anthropologists have ethical obligations that "avoid harm or wrong (and) understanding that the development of knowledge can lead to change which may be positive or negative for the people or animals worked with or studied."

"The people being studied need the ability to agree not to participate without any negative consequences," Price said. "Human terrain doesn't try to deal with this issue, they just ignore it."

As a graduate student, Gonzalez did research in Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years to learn about their farming and culture. He lived with a family of seven.

Based on his theory, he said it would be like giving the information he gathered to the government in order for them to kill people in Oaxaca.

"It's very possible that the info that these teams are collecting are being turned over to the commanders to kill people that are suspected terrorists," Gonzalez said. "While that might be fine for a soldier to do that, it's not OK for an anthropologist to do that."

"It puts anthropologists in settings that blur the line between education and war," Price said.

The salary for a nine-month job as a counterinsurgent is \$110,000, Gonzalez said.

"To young people, it looks like a good program because it's fast money," he said. "But you can't be an anthropologist and be a war fighter or a human terrain soldier all at the same time."

He said the program has put the social scientists' lives at risk.

"Most understand the risk when they sign up, but they may not be aware of how their information is being used," he said. "There have been three deaths of social scientists so far."

According to the U.S. military's Web site about the program, "Local people who choose to talk to human terrain team members (or to the US military more generally) have decided to engage because they believe there will be some beneficial outcome that can potentially improve their way of life."

In one instance, an Afghan man allegedly doused anthropologist Paula Loyd with flammable liquid when she was interviewing him, according to their Web site. He pretended to be friendly during the 15-minute interview, but was able to attack when her armed guard became distracted. After weeks in the hospital in critical condition, Loyd died.

Another issue explained in the book, Gonzalez said, is that the program costs American taxpayers \$2 million a year.

The former employees who have contacted him have told him that the program wastes a lot of money and is being mismanaged, he said.

"They claim that they are saving lives, but there's no proof that this program is working," Gonzalez said. "The media isn't asking tough questions about the human terrain program; they don't question the Pentagon even though there's no evidence."

"I think it's really important that people are just aware so we don't find ourselves in the same kind of ethical quandaries as before," Perez said. "He's drawing awareness to a subject that can have serious implications for the field of anthropology as a whole."

Gonzalez said he hopes that this book will "get us thinking about peace, rather than war."

CARLSON | Love of racing drove success with Porsche, friend says

Continued from page 1

evenings spent playing board games with friends, or just sitting together watching our favorite movies or TV shows," she said.

"He was well read and retained all that information, so when a subject came up, he usually knew a lot about it and could relate interesting facts," Debbie Carlson added. "That's one reason he made so many friends from varied fields. He had a knack for asking somebody a question or two and then they would find a common ground and spend the next hour or so playing what I liked to call 'Wanna know what I know?' together."

Carlson's love of racing drove his success at Porsche North America in Atlanta.

"Bob was the face of Porsche in the United States for decades, and it's very likely he will always be remembered for his great efforts for Porsche," Fong said.

Carlson would coordinate programs to showcase Porsche cars and their history to the media, Fong said.

Fong said one special program taking place in 2000 involved Carlson allowing journalists to drive the 2001 911 Turbo as fast as they wanted, with the



Bob Carlson

Courtesy of Autoweek

aid of a professional driver in the passenger seat, on a closed-course straightaway at the Black Rock Desert, a dry lake bed and surrounding basin in Nevada.

Timing equipment was set up so that each journalist could set a personal best speed record, Fong said.

"The cars performed fantastically and each member of the media came away with a great story," said Debbie Carlson, who attended the program with her husband.

Debbie Carlson remembered another event held in White Horse, Yukon, Canada, when Porsche launched one of its Cayenne SUV models. Carlson had set up off-road snow courses and snow-covered ovals

to show the media how well the Porsches handled.

"Bob's media tours became legendary, because he thought outside the box and totally believed in the Porsche product," she said.

A memorial for Carlson will be held on Wednesday at Philips Arena in Downtown Atlanta, Debbie Carlson wrote in a post on her Caring Bridge Web site.

"I think his legacy goes deeper than his Porsche work," Fong said. "He demonstrated a very high level of honesty and integrity every day, and in today's world with financial and ethical improprieties so frequently in the news that it's almost commonplace and accepted, this was, to me, special."

CAMPUS IMAGES



Brad Jackson, department chair for mathematics, Richard Pfeifer, systems analyst and Eric Matthews, programmer, juggle nine juggling clubs. DAN LU / Spartan Daily

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CAMPUS VOICES: The Student Union fees will be going up \$30 every semester after this one. If you didn't have to pay that \$30 to SJSU, what would you do with it?

Feature and photos by MERRIL GUZMAN
Staff Writer

SHIRLEY MEDINA

senior, health science



"Something more useful: rent, my electric bill, Comcast."

RACHEL TSE

junior, graphic design



"I would probably use it for more art supplies."

DANIEL RUELAS

junior, business management



I would save my \$30 to either pay for books, or maybe other expenses.

JESSICA SILVA

freshman, undeclared



"I'm in a sorority, so we obviously have dues, and every little \$10 matters, so that \$30 would go to my sorority."

KIFEL YOHANNES

freshman, aerospace engineering



"Probably gas, books, supplies, rent — the list goes on and on."

PAUL TRAN

junior, graphic design



"I'd spend it on books on Amazon."

EVANS | Next book will be set in San Jose and releases this summer, author says

Continued from page 1

happened to Norma after she took a "mystery pill" at a party that made her body completely numb. Under the effects of the pill, Norma ran into walls laughing at the fact she could not feel a thing. The next day Norma was sore and covered with bruises.

Vincent Woodruff, a senior English literature major, said he enjoyed the reading despite not having a chance to read the book.

"Coming here I didn't know

what to expect," he said.

"As she was reading, I could tell the characters were very well developed," Woodruff said.

After the reading, students, faculty and alumni were treated to a champagne reception to celebrate the book and get a chance to have their books signed by Evans.

"I am honored," Evans said about the reception. "I can't believe everything my department did for me for this."

The English and comparative literature department hosts events like the book reading to "build a connection with people that came through our depart-

ment," said Assistant Professor Cathleen Miller. The event's goal was to get alumni of the English department to come back and visit the campus, Miller said.

Evans said she wanted the book to be a fun retro ride and be serious at the same time. The book can be funny at times, but Evans said, "These young people are in danger very often."

The next book Evans is writing is going to be set in San Jose. The book is about a straight woman who meets and falls in love with a lesbian, Evans said. The book, "Complementary Colors," will be out this summer.

MAUS | 'The pages are loaded with meanings that go beyond the words'

Continued from page 1

"The pages are loaded with meanings that go beyond the words," Harrison said. "So you can get a whole story of life in this time that is partly about the words and partly it's not."

In the first volume of Maus, Harrison said that Spiegelman grows as an individual retelling the experience his father and mother endured as concentration camp survivors. She also added that Spiegelman describes his relationship with his father in Maus.

Harrison also said that Spiegelman took a different approach when retelling his novel by drawing characters that don't look like humans. He instead used

animal figures. For instance, the Jews are portrayed as mice, the Germans are cats and the Poles are pigs.

An audience member added that Spiegelman is able to show what actually happened in the concentration camps without having the reader overwhelmed by emotions, since the characters aren't human.

Mara Beckerman, a member of the audience, said that because Spiegelman approaches actual events that aren't unbearable to read, she might have her 14-year-old daughter who is enrolled in a Hebrew class read the book as a way to learn about the Holocaust.

Beckerman also added that when she read this novel, it educated her.

"When I first read it 15-20 years ago, it was a huge education

for me," she said. "I heard about the Holocaust my whole life, but I didn't really get or understand it fully and so this was a real eye opener for me."

More sensitive to some readers was the swastika symbol that is on the cover of the book.

One audience member said that because Spiegelman is Jewish, it doesn't bother him. But other audience members said they would be wary of carrying a book with a swastika symbol on it in fear of what others might think.

For anyone interested in learning or discussing about true events in history, the next reading discussion will be held March 22 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, where "Julius Knipf, Real Estate Photographer: Stories" by Ben Katchor will be discussed.

GUSS
University Scholar Series
hosted by Provost Carmen Sigler
presents

Dr. Elena Klaw



Mentoring and
Making It
in Academe

A Guide for Newcomers to the Ivory Tower

ELENA KLAW

Dr. Elena Klaw is the Director of the San José State University Center for Community Learning & Leadership, and an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Clinical Division. Dr. Klaw received her Ph.D. in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1998. After receiving her Ph.D., she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Health Care Evaluation, Veterans Affairs Palo Alto and served as an Affiliate Scholar at Stanford University's Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Dr. Klaw has published in the areas of mutual-help, mentoring, and peer education and speaks widely about issues related to gender equity, and the prevention of intimate violence. Her first book, entitled *Mentoring and Making it in Academe: A Guide for Newcomers to the Ivory Tower* (2008), was written for all students to provide a rich and detailed overview of the steps involved in "becoming a PhD".

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BASKETBALL

Aggies cultivate conference win over struggling Spartans

'It's embarrassing' to lose, says guard after SJSU women fall to New Mexico State

MERRIL GUZMAN
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's basketball team lost its 12th straight game on Sunday night, 64-50, to the seventh-ranked team in the Western Athletic Conference, the New Mexico State Aggies.

"We didn't come out with any effort," said head coach Pam DeCosta. "I think they outworked us for the better part of three quarters of the game."

The Aggies led the entire game except for a 2-2 tie in the first minute. The Spartans were never able to recover.

SJSU had a rough game, but shot 36 percent from behind the 3-point line, while New Mexico State shot 10 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Senior guard Natalie White had two 3-pointers, and sophomore guard Christina Calcagno and junior forward Shaunna Ridge added one a piece.

White scored a game-high 14 points, while junior guard Ashley Brown had 11 and sophomore guard Sayja Sumler had 10.

"I don't like getting beat," Sumler said. "It's embarrassing. It's hard, but I just try to stop my player."

SJSU went into halftime down 35-22.

"It's just that injuries are killing us," DeCosta said. "Like I said last game, we've got everybody in a boot with stress fractures and then we had another kid who was out today — Kelly Blair — so we're limited."

Both teams had foul trouble, with nine a piece in each half. In the first half, New Mexico State was able to capitalize, going 81 percent from the free-throw line,

Team	1st	2nd	Total
Aggies	35	29	64
Spartans	22	28	50

Name	Pts	FG%	Reb	Ast
SJSU	50	38.3	30	11
N. White	14	33.3	5	0
A. Brown	11	35.7	5	5
S. Sumler	10	44.4	4	5
S. Ridge	5	66.7	1	1

while the Spartans shot only 44 percent from the line.

Ridge got into foul trouble in the second half, picking up her fourth foul in the opening minute.

"We've been on Shaunna pretty much all year," DeCosta said. "She can't get in foul trouble and when she gets in foul trouble it hurts us a lot, because she's one of our stronger post players."

"She's got to be smart and know that if you've got three fouls, you can't pick up that fourth one. You have to let them score instead of trying to block their shot."

The Spartans were held scoreless from the third to the eighth minute of the second half until a 3-pointer by White stopped a 10-point run by the Aggies.

"The hardest thing was just finding energy," Sumler said. "We came out flat and we were flat until four minutes left in the game and it was (59-50). Basically, we have to come out with energy and focus."

Freshman forward Tabytha Wampler led New Mexico State with 13 points and sophomore guard Madison Spence added 12 points and five rebounds.

Sunday night's victory improved the Aggies to 5-8 in con-

"We didn't come out with any effort. I think they outworked us for the better part of three quarters of the game."

PAM DeCOSTA
Spartan head basketball coach

ference play.

"You know we've been struggling," New Mexico State assistant coach Joel Washington said. "We haven't had a road win, so this is a very important game for us, especially coming off a game where we were at Hawaii and we felt like we kind of covered away from the pressure. San Jose State plays a hell of a lot better at home than they do on the road and we expected a tough battle tonight."

The loss leaves the Spartans in last place in the WAC, with only two games left in conference play.

"Obviously we want to win, but we just want to play well," said DeCosta. "Play well for 40 minutes, put two good halves together — that's all we want."



Spartan head coach Pam DeCosta (center) hangs her head as the Spartans lose to New Mexico State 64-50 at the Event Center on Sunday. **ANDREW VILLA / Spartan Daily**

WEIGHT TRAINING

More than 80 attend Russian kettlebell training session held at SJSU

Three day certification 'extremely demanding,' 25 percent usually fail

MICHAEL LE ROY
Staff Writer

Strength and conditioning coach Chris Holder and Dragon Door Publications hosted the Russian Kettlebell Challenge workshop at Koret Athletic Training Center over the weekend.

The challenge is a three-day weight training certification program, taught by Pavel Tsatsouline and a team of instructors.

Tsatsouline is a former Soviet Special Forces instructor and the author of several fitness books, such as "From Russia with Tough Love" and "Enter the Kettlebell!" and is the only person who offers a kettlebell training certification program in the United States.

Holder, who completed the course in 2003 and is a certified Russian Kettlebell instructor, was also there to teach the students.

A kettlebell, also known as a girya in Russian, is a cast iron

weight that is shaped like a cannonball with a handle attached to it.

Men and women of varying fitness levels attended the workshop.

Holder explained to the class of more than 80 people what he thought of weight machines.

"They suck," he said.

The combined effort of students swinging kettlebells created a gust of wind that could be felt across the training center.

The challenge is not just a lecture. Students are expected to perfect their kettlebell lifts and form over the three days.

"The weekend is extremely demanding," Holder said.

Just attending the workshop does not entitle certification. A failure rate of 25 percent is typical, according to the Dragon Door Publications Web site.

SJSU athletes also incorporate kettlebells into their workout programs.

"Ever since I arrived in February 2006, I brought the kettlebells with me," Holder said.

The kettlebell complements traditional free-weight training. Holder said SJSU is one of the few colleges that utilize kettlebells in their sports training.

"It revolutionized the way

we train (our athletes), he said. It really has changed how we approach our training."

Matthew Cook, a yoga instructor, said he took up kettlebell training to help with his yoga.

"I found kettlebell training and it has been the best thing that's ever happen to my yoga practice," he said.

Seth Burford, a former football player at Cal Poly and the NFL, also attended the workshop. Burford said he wished he knew about kettlebells when he was playing football.

"I had shoulder problems my senior year of college," he said. "I had shoulder surgery, actually, during the season. This is something I wish I had the knowledge of at that time. Chris Holder was one of the guys that helped me rehab."

Other sports are also implementing kettlebell training.

"(In) most of your fighting clubs kettlebells are probably there," Holder said.

This is the second year SJSU has hosted the event. Before the workshop came to San Jose, people had to go to Minneapolis or Europe to attend the workshop. The price to get certified is \$2,695, according to Dragon Door Publications.

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SHARKS

At 43, Claude doesn't feel 'like crap'

Hockey veteran Lemieux returns after almost six years to play for SJ

HANK DREW
Staff Writer

"Sometimes it feels good to get hit. You wake up a bit."

Claude Lemieux, 43 years old, slowly unwinds the tape from his fingers as he sits in front of his locker, revealing his red fingers. A couple of his fingers are bloodied.

"When I flipped on top of him before the fight, I fell down and bruised two fingers," he said. "It was a one-sided fight. I didn't get to throw any punches."

Lemieux experienced his first NHL fight after almost six years away from the league last Tuesday night against Edmonton forward Theo Peckham, as he continues his comeback from retirement.

He said people expect a person to follow a certain path in life.

"The mold is that you go to school, by age 25 you should be done with your education," he said. "You should get a job. You should get married and have kids. By the time you are 40 you should start feeling like crap. You should not be active anymore. You should not go back to school. You should start feeling older. By the time you are 50, you start having grand kids."

"Ninety-nine-point-nine-nine percent of everyone are fol-

lowers and they do not want to break the mold," Lemieux added. "I'm not one of those guys."

San Jose Sharks defenseman Douglas Murray said Lemieux is a "specimen" and has a strong work ethic.

"I don't think I've seen a 40-year-old that shredded before," he said. "He's ripped."

Murray said Lemieux also delivers leadership that only experience can bring.

"He's not only been in the league for a long time," he said. "He's also won (the Stanley Cup) several times."

Jamie Baker, Sharks Radio Network analyst, said he thinks Lemieux gave the best idea of what he brings to the Sharks in a quote after last Tuesday's game.

"There wasn't much emotion in our game at all and we needed something going," Baker recalled Lemieux saying in a post-game interview. "You got the group motivated to be a little more physical and that's what we needed. It is not about fighting. It's about being physical and being intense. And it has to start somewhere. Things you learn over time — being a veteran player, you learn when you need a little injection of emotion in the game. And tonight was good."

Baker said this is exactly what Lemieux brings to the Sharks' locker room.

"There's no high peaks and low valleys," he said. "It is not like he was on one team that was a dynasty. It was Montreal, New Jersey and Colorado. Three different dynamics, three dif-



Claude Lemieux plays in his first game as a San Jose Shark on Jan. 20 at HP Pavilion against the Vancouver Canucks.

Courtesy of the San Jose Sharks

ferent types of personalities in the room, yet they found a way to win."

Baker said there is one common denominator amongst these teams.

"It is making everyone else better," he said.

"(Lemieux) wants to play physical and get that emotion when it is missing in a game,"

Baker added. "You can't always rely on Joe (Thornton), Patty (Patrick Marleau), Clowey (Ryane Clowe), Nabby (Evgeni Nabokov) or (Dan) Boyle. That is what the third and fourth line guys have to do. And that is what he did last night. He kind of got everyone going. Gets the crowd going, gets the energy, then everybody feeds off of it."

Baker said the third and fourth lines, which Lemieux plays on, will be vital to the Sharks success in the postseason.

"He'll be an agitator," he said. "My belief is that if you are a third or fourth liner, you want the other team talking about you before games or in between periods. If they are talking about you, they are not talking about the

top two lines. I think that is what he brings."

Lemieux said people talk about agitators because there are very few players who have agitating abilities.

"There are a lot of guys who move the puck well," Lemieux said. "But, how many guys have played the way I did? Not as many."

COMMENTARY

Raiders, 49ers should learn to share, use the same playground



JOEY AKELEY
Beyond the Game

Everybody knows the San Francisco 49ers' and the Oakland Raiders' problems are numerous. Each franchise has struggled on the field recently, and neither team has had a winning season since 2003.

One problem that must be solved quickly is the condition of each team's old and outdated stadiums.

San Francisco's Candlestick Park opened for business in 1960. Aside from its need of a fancy JumboTron and more comfortable seating, it's just freaking cold, because of its location

right off the bay.

The worst part of all is the traffic congestion after the game. Driving more than two miles away from the stadium after a game can take up to an hour.

The San Francisco Giants, who played at the 'Stick from 1960 to 1999, alertly moved to a beautiful new park several miles north, known now as AT&T Park.

The Giants have had much better attendance ever since. Although the 49ers aren't struggling in game attendance, you can be sure that a new stadium will attract even more fans to games.

Meanwhile, the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum across the bay is a dump. It was built in the late 1960s and it has no amenities to it at all.

The halls of the Coliseum offer no room for anyone to walk, even when the stadium has less than 10,000 people. When it actually fills to its capacity of 63,026, your chances of navi-

gating to the nearest bathroom in fewer than 10 minutes before you pee your pants are low.

"The Black Hole," where Raider fans dress up like heavy-metal rock stars, remains intact, but the rest of the stadium often is not full, and a new stadium could help bring more people out to the game.

So, each team's stadium is old and crappy, the teams' fan bases are losing interest and the cities where the teams play are close in proximity.

Here comes a genius idea that the NFL suggested weeks ago: Why not share a new stadium located in the South Bay?

There must be a reason this wasn't done years ago. It makes sense for each side.

The financial reason to share a new stadium outweighs any personal preference of 49ers' 27-year-old president Jed York and Raiders' 79-year-old owner Al Davis.

With both teams in need of a new stadium, the two teams

should work together to make one new stadium. Obviously, building one stadium will be a lot cheaper for each franchise than building two separate stadiums.

Every time I talk about this plan, Raider and 49er fans align and say they would never share a stadium with their rival fans from across the Bay.

What these fans fail to realize is they would never have to "share" the stadium. The Raiders and 49ers would each play their eight home games on different dates.

The New York Giants and Jets, who currently share a stadium, have agreed to share a new stadium at a cost of \$1.6 billion. I guarantee that their fans do not like each other very much — yet they have survived well together. According to the San Jose Mercury News, new video technology will broadcast the team's colors and logos throughout the game, creating a home atmosphere for whichever team is playing.

Funding a stadium during

America's current economic downturn will be difficult, and maybe right now would be the wrong time to build one.

But, with Davis holding the lease for the Coliseum through 2010, the clock is ticking to get something done. With no future stadium plans in place for the Raiders and the 49ers, we could lose one of the Bay Area's teams.

The bottom line is, there are plenty of cities that wish they

had an NFL franchise, and the best way to ensure that the Raiders and 49ers will be around for the next few decades is that they work together toward making one modern stadium.

Joey Akeley is a Spartan Daily multimedia editor. "Beyond the Game" appears every other Tuesday.

Today's baseball game postponed



The SJSU baseball team was scheduled to play at St. Mary's today but the game has been postponed. Weather permitting, the next Spartan baseball game will be played on Friday at Municipal Stadium against the Santa Clara Broncos. The first pitch is set to be thrown at 6 p.m.

DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

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The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet? It is the strongest muscle out of the 650 muscles in the human body.

— Anne Dunev, Nutritionist

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

These comments are in regard to "Cover-up alleged in student's death" which appeared in the Feb. 19 issue of the Spartan Daily.

Sionah:
Justice needs to be served. The "facts" in this case seem to change every day. All my family wants is the truth about what happened to my brother that day.

If this is a cut and dry suicide case, as the authorities say, why are the Sigma Chi brothers refusing to comment on my brother's death?

Who is this so-called girlfriend that my family never knew about?

This incident should be investigated to the fullest.

c.c.:
It is not unusual for the brothers of Sigma Chi to have "no comment." Any members of such a national organization are directed not to comment on events like this by their nationals.

It makes sense, and it certainly doesn't mean they are hiding anything.

Marissa:
I can't believe the cover up in this story. I truly believe there is some shady back end stuff going on here.

Maybe negative publicity is the reason? The school doesn't want negativity brought to the school, and that living on campus and being in a fraternity is unsafe.

Lux Sit:
The brothers of Sigma Chi have been seriously effected by this tragedy. To suggest that there was any foul play on their end is absolutely unbelievable.

I understand that everyone grieves in their own way, but all evidence done by trained professionals shows that these allegations are in no way possible.

These comments are in response to the article "After disruptions end event two weeks ago, no uproar at discussion" which appeared in the Feb. 23 issue of the Spartan Daily.

Concerned:
Perhaps if the organizers really want pro-Israel or neutral students to show up they shouldn't

start with such antagonizing titles as "The U.S.-Backed Israeli War on Gaza: The real aims behind the media lies."

I would also like the organizers to tell us how they would like Israel to respond to years of rocket attacks into their civilian populations and to a bordering government whose charter calls for the death of Jews and Israelis.

Rajni:
Generally, we don't put up with hate speech or racism.

Why is it then, when it comes to Palestinians and their issues, we seem incapable of calling their racism and hate speech what it really is?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter is in response to Thursday's article, "Cover-up alleged in student's death":

There can be no life experience more painful than the loss of a child, except for the loss of a child by suicide. I truly have a deep sympathy for Mrs. Johnson as she struggles to deal with her son's suicide last November. I also know that trying to find malevolent actions that resulted in Junior's death will only prolong her agony.

I, along with several others, spent many hours with the men of Sigma Chi and their friends last November

and December. In that time, it became clear that Junior was a special person to many of his Sigma Chi brothers and that his suicide had a profound effect on them, with all the questions that surface in these situations.

"Why didn't he tell us he was so unhappy? Why didn't we know? How could we have stopped him?" And then there are all the recriminations. "I should have called him. I should have checked in. If I had only been a better friend."

These are only a few of the questions and comments people ask themselves when someone they know and

care about takes his own life. There was a house full of young men who went through a litany of these statements in trying to understand why one of their brothers would choose to end his life.

Like most suicides, these questions will rumble around the corridors of these men's brains for years, perhaps fading with time, but sadly never resulting in answers that will heal their wounded hearts.

It would have been so easy to shut themselves in and close others out, but these guys from Sigma Chi showed many of us the special quali-

ties of the brotherhood of a fraternity and allowed us to come together as a campus community to participate in the journey of healing.

Junior may have belonged to the men of Sigma Chi, but he also belonged to San Jose State, and his death brought sorrow to the campus community as well.

I have been at San Jose State for a long time, and every time one of our students dies by his or her own hands, I am reminded of the profound pain that results from his or her death. And I understand the desire to strike out in anger, hoping this will bring healing.

The young men of Sigma Chi openly shared their grief with us and allowed the campus to take this sad journey with them. I was privileged to be allowed to be a part of this journey.

I only wish the Johnsons could take a turn in the road and see how much Junior's brothers in Sigma Chi cared for their son.

The young men of Sigma Chi are some of the many stars that make San Jose State a special place.

Wiggys Sivertsen
Faculty Counselor
Counseling Services

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The dangers of older drivers behind the wheel



JESSICA AYALA
Staff Writer

Old people shouldn't be driving.

My apologies to the elderly, but in the last two weeks, I've been driving with a nonfunctional radio killing my desire to speed from point A to point B. Instead, I observe the dangers that exist on road — such as old people driving.

Nobody at the age of 80 should leave their home and drive to the supermarket at the risk of killing almost half the city on the way there.

For those of us who have driven behind the elderly, the

feeling of caution is all too familiar.

True, the brakes on a car can save lives and the flashing red lights that accompany them emphasize caution. For a little old lady who can barely see above the steering wheel stretching for the brake pedal, though, caution could become just as arbitrary as anything else the manufacturer equipped the vehicle with in the name of safety.

For example, the blinker. Not the left one and not the right one, but how about both?

Once those frail little hands catch a grip of the steering wheel, it's as if letting go to hit the blinker will stunt her concentration. Come on, where exactly is her focus when all of the sudden she decides it's a good idea to get in a moving vehicle and operate it herself?

Just the other day, I was driving up El Camino Real toward Millbrae, enjoying the serenity in my car while observing the

road, when fate decided I should take a quick look at my life.

A driver thought he would pull onto the road out of a parallel-parked position without considering using a blinker to give oncoming traffic a clue as to what he was doing. I suddenly heard a noise, almost like an angry duck, when I realized the car pulling into traffic almost destroyed my car and the driver next to me.

Let's take some responsibility and guide the older generation by attaching shock sensors to their key rings.

That angry duck was an angry driver holding down the horn for a good minute to make

the non-blinker-using, pull-in-to-traffic-without-a-care-in-the-world driver completely aware that his motor skills weren't quite functioning the way they should.

Oh, I think I should mention that the oblivious driver had to have been in his late seventies. The frosty white hair line blew his cover almost immediately.

I've come up with some solutions to end this nonsense.

Let's take some responsibility and guide the older generation by attaching shock sensors to their key rings. "What's that, grandma? You're going to the store? Don't forget your car keys."

And, bam! Fifty volts straight to her finger tips. Maybe that'll clear up her arthritis.

Or, for those stubborn ones who insist on taking the wheel, let's fashion a vehicle much like a driving instructor, with all the comforts and control of a driver seat, but in the passenger posi-

tion. Luxuries such as a steering wheel, brake and gas pedal will be in the hands of someone more cognizant and coherent than grams, sitting in the driving position.

The AARP shouldn't be encouraging the current generation of elderly drivers by offering them discounts for car insurance of all things.

I'm not here to cause problems for old people. The truth is I have grandparents, too. But let's do what we can to keep them active in safer activities and steer them away from driving.

It's a dangerous world out there, and I'd like to drive somewhere without the worry of having my car totaled by old people driving to the supermarket, oblivious to everything around them.

Jessica Ayala is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Society solicited athletes to use steroids



HANK DREW
Staff Writer

Chicks dig the long ball. In 1994, Major League Baseball nearly folded due to a strike.

The World Series was canceled for the first time since 1904.

Fans were fed up with the greed of the players and owners over huge contracts and the imbalance of wealth between teams.

There were rumblings of fan strikes during the next season. The national pastime

seemed to be past its time.

A few years later, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa ascended like a couple of hyper-muscled gods to heal baseball and to usher in the golden age of the long ball.

McGwire and Sosa were everywhere that season. Most famously, McGwire was featured in a Nike ad alongside two of the greatest pitchers of the '90s — Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux.

I think it is uniquely American to choose a larger paycheck at the cost of shrinking testicles and man boobs.

In it, Glavine and Maddux expressed dismay that beautiful young ladies were ignoring

them for McGwire at batting practice, and that as a result they hit the weight room, purchased McGwire-branded shoes, and hit each other in the stomach with baseball bats in attempt to hit the long ball.

Is anyone really surprised that Alex Rodriguez would take performance-enhancing drugs?

The culture of baseball called for it.

We called for it. Above all, Americans love big things.

So, lets stop being so judgmental. These guys are going for the big payday and putting their bodies on the line for it.

I think it is uniquely American to choose a larger paycheck at the cost of shrinking testicles and man boobs.

I wouldn't do it — well, I could live with man boobs for the bank account of A-Rod.

The solution here is to give up the idea that sports figures

are any different than you or me.

The days of sports figures being national heroes are over, if they ever really existed. Children no longer play sports for love of the game.

They play video games for the love of the game. Sports are a means to an end — a way to cash in big.

If the original inspiration for sports was to display a culture's superior warrior strength, let's legalize performance-enhancing drugs.

Let's field teams of big, muscular beings — fearsome creatures that will cause the world to bow to our chemical prowess.

One need only look at the San Francisco Giants. The Giants were a team so ordinary they were termed "gamers" by Giants' marketing.

"Gamers" were scrappy no-name players who put their body on the line and moved base run-

ners with hit-and-run plays.

According to an article by David Gassko of the *Hardball Times*, each home run brings an extra 2,000 fans to the stadium.

"Although Ryan Howard and Todd Helton are roughly equally valuable players, Howard is probably worth an extra 60,000 fans a season in terms of attendance," Gassko states in the article.

One can see why Bug Selig sat on the steroid issue for so long. More home runs equal more money.

A-Rod, you have my respect. You did what was best for the league and what was best for your wallet.

Chicks dig the long ball.

Hank Drew is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Highlighting homelessness in Silicon Valley



ANGELO LANHAM
Yes, I Have a Point

One time, in high school, after performing some volunteer work that was supposed to make us marketable to colleges, but nevertheless amounted to little more than jamming unknown objects into boxes, a quartet of us adolescents found ourselves walking around after dark on the streets, headed for someone's car.

A homeless woman, sitting against a building, asked us for spare change.

Homelessness was common enough, but for the most part, we didn't see much of it.

All of us dug in our pockets, found whatever laughable quantity of change a high school student might carry and handed it to her. She thanked us, and we walked on silently.

I looked at my fellow silent and wet-behind-the-ears classmates and knew that they were sizing up what they had just done against what their parents had told them.

Their parents, like my parents, had said not to talk to — or even make eye contact with —

the homeless, but just to keep walking.

Confronted with an actual homeless person, though, none were able, in good conscience, to turn her down.

"She wasn't bad," rationalized one little moppet, "like she lost her job and was down on her luck. Not like those other homeless people."

He may as well have finished his sentence with "that mommy told me to stay away from."

The fact that the rationalization seemed necessary is telling. I suspect that a few of these classmates have transformed into thicker-skinned, "no-change policy" types.

According to a Dec. 2008 article in the *San Jose Mercury News*, 55 homeless people died in 2008 in Santa Clara County, many due to the difficulties of weathering the cold season without a home.

It's pretty hard to maintain the position that these people are lazy and skating through life when it's below 50 degrees and you see them huddled against buildings, snuggled under blankets and newspapers.

"Here where there's so much wealth, we have people dying on the street," Chuck Reed was quoted as saying in the article.

"We need to rededicate ourselves to ending homelessness."

While giving to a good cause is a worthy substitute, what's not is skipping out on a chance to help one of your fellow hu-

mans on the grounds that you gave your \$20 to the church or, worse, that, "He'll just use it on alcohol."

The oft-repeated goal of "ending homelessness" is a good idea, albeit impossible. Were the end of homelessness feasible, it might have happened sometime between now and when the first apes stood upright and poked a monolith.

Reed's point about wealth is interesting — where someone has, someone else has not. There are only so many resources to go around, and the more beans you sit on, the fewer I get.

If 55 people died of homelessness in 2008, imagine how much worse it's going to get now that the economic shit has hit the proverbial fan.

Me, I'm a sucker. I always release a spot of change. My philosophy is that while I may be quite broke, I'm not the one living in a box with a funny sign and a scruffy beard.

Furthermore, my quarter will get a homeless person closer to a Whopper Jr., and I could certainly do without that extra game of Ms. Pac-Man.

Hell, I'm balanced pretty precariously myself. I'm trying to balance the money pit called college with a job that pays laughable quantities of peanuts. If the bottom falls out of any of the cornerstones of my so-called stability, you might see me sitting on a corner with a Styro-foam cup.

The "just get a job" mentality irks me. "How hard is it to get a job at McDonald's?" ask advocates of this philosophy.

In my late teens, I'll have you know that all my McDonald's (not to mention Burger King) applications were turned down, and I wasn't even wearing my entire wardrobe with a tendency to talk to myself (yet).

If 55 people died of homelessness in 2008, imagine how much worse it's going to get now that the economic shit has hit the proverbial fan.

A good number of my Christian friends belong to the "no change" school of thought, which flies in the face of any number of points the late, great J.C. brought up.

To be like Jesus, you'd give your last penny to someone in need. You'd also tend to turn the other cheek and wouldn't be above hanging out with prostitutes.

How strange that Jesus' ideals have transformed over the centuries — have suddenly become pro-war and all that stuff about giving until it hurts and loving thy neighbor, and judg-

ing and all that, wasn't so important after all.

It just goes to show how well capitalism and Christianity work together.

There are several arguments designed to deal with the guilt people feel for living in a society that allows this to happen.

Over 10 years ago, I read a letter to the editor from a driver who had pulled off a freeway exit and handed some change to a homeless guy waiting at the light.

The driver said that she watched the person cross the street, enter his car, and count his money.

The driver finally found the validation she needed to never again let change and pocket lint flow to the needy, but her logic erred when she failed to realize that the guy probably lived in the damn car.

The point here is, the next time someone asks you if you can spare a dollar, think about what you're going to do with it if you keep it, and ponder what your reaction would be if you were to find this same person dead on the street a week after you refused to help.

Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor. "Yes, I Have a Point" appears every Tuesday.

Anonymous benefactor pays for 'Hidden Talents'



Dancers during a performance called "Fem" (above). Two dancers in a performance called "The Way We Fall" (below).

Photos by MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

ELIZABETH KANG
Staff Writer

Reminiscent of Miss Havisham in Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations," an anonymous donor is providing SJSU students an opportunity to behold a classic live art form for a deeply discounted price.

Thanks to the program's benefactor, who said she wishes to remain anonymous, students can purchase premium seats at the San Jose Ballet for only \$10.

The tickets are regularly valued at up to \$85, but the \$10 special rate applies exclusively to SJSU undergraduates.

"They just started the program this year," said Renae Klein, the college liaison for the program.

"They wanted to offer it to SJSU students to see if they are interested. (SJSU) is right down the street, a short walk to the theater," she added. "Depending on how well sales go, it might branch out to other colleges, like Santa Clara."

"I thought it would be a good idea to offer it to college kids because they have a car, and can get there," the program's benefactor said in a phone interview.

Some dance students have heard about the program, but haven't taken advantage of it yet.

"Our teacher told us about it in class," said Amanda Lacro, a freshman dance major.

She said she is planning to attend a ballet at the discounted rate.

"I think it's a good opportunity," said Danielle Martinez, a sophomore dance major. "There are posters about it along the wall, but I haven't gone yet."

She said she started the program after she attended a performance of Swan Lake at Ballet San Jose last season.

"At the end I was in tears,"

the benefactor said. "I looked around and about one third of the seats were empty. So many people are missing this experience."

She said she noticed no young faces in the audience and assumed the shortage was due to financial restrictions. The benefactor set up the program so students can afford to discover the art that she so loves.

"I studied ballet, jazz, and tap for 14 years, since I was four," she said. "If my legs and feet hadn't gone south, I was going to go professional."

"The ballet is a nonprofit organization, and filling more seats gives the ballet more revenue to continue producing its repertoire," said Chris Pope, the spokesman for the program, in a news release. "Ballet is a timeless art form that will be endangered if upcoming generations do not appreciate and attend ballet performances."

Dance professor Gary Masters said all live art, including ballet, is endangered.

"It's appalling," he said. "It's abominable what we give to the arts as a state. Per capita, we give less to the arts than any other country in the world."

Masters says the program is a no-brainer.

"Ten dollars for the ballet? It's great," he said.

The benefactor said she started the program with high hopes that younger generations will appreciate the ballet once they are exposed to it.

The program allows students to purchase a guest ticket at the same discounted rate.

"We offer all the seats in the house for students," she said. "Any SJSU student can invite a friend and attend one performance per ballet (for the discounted price.) They just need to show proof that they are a student."

SJSU students can scan and upload a picture of their Tower card at the Ballet San Jose Web site to purchase discounted tickets.

The next ballet is called "Hidden Talents" and showcases five choreographers who work under Dennis Nahat, Ballet San Jose's artistic director.

The choreographers each created their original dance pieces, chose their own dancers and music and trained for weeks.

"Legends," by choreographer Tiffany Glenn, features the music of R&B singer/songwriter John Legend.

"It doesn't really have a story," Glenn said about her contemporary ballet. Glenn said Legend's music inspired her contemporary ballet.

Karen Gabay choreographed the ballet "2-2 Tango," which includes traditional tango moves performed by male and female dancers.

"I wanted to show a machismo side to ballet," she said.

"The Way We Fall," choreographed by Alexandra Meijer, is accompanied by the Bay Area group "Loop!Station."

Vocalists Robin Coomer and cellist Sam Bass make up the live duo, who play classical and new age music while dancers perform.

Dalia Rawson choreographed "Fem," an abstract contemporary ballet set to live music, provided by pianist Michael McGraw.

Preston Dugger said he chose the music of Björk to help convey meaning in his love story, "Languishing for love."

He said his ballet is based on a previous relationship and he chose the music after seeing the movie, "Dancer in the Dark," in which Björk stars.

"Hidden Talents" is running Feb 26 through March 1 at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts.



Mark Doty with Paul Lisicky

Tuesday–Wednesday, February 24 & 25, 2009

Center for Literary Arts
2008-2009 Major Authors series

Tuesday 2/24, 3:00 pm
Mt. Pleasant High School

7:00 pm - Reading and Book Signing
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
2nd floor, rooms 225-229

Wednesday 2/25, 1:30 pm
Conversation with author and partner Paul Lisicky
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
2nd floor, rooms 225-229

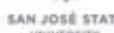
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National Book Award-winning author, memoirist and poet whose works include *Dog Years*, *Theories and Apparitions*, *Firebird: A Memoir*, in conversation with Paul Lisicky

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Ballet dancers spin on stage for "Hidden Talents."

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily