

## Versatile Spartan P.5

Shaffer covers all the bases for the Spartans baseball team.

## African-American frats P.4

Fraternities offer members a opportunity to give something back to the community.

## Spring fever blues P.7

Spring weather causes sluggish reactions toward finals and research papers.

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# Spartan Daily

Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

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WED	THU	FRI	SAT
74	75	76	74

## THE WIRE

### STATE

#### Authorities still looking for kidnapped child

SAN BERNARDINO – Investigators searched for 3-year-old boy kidnapped by two gunmen who broke into his family's home, tied up his mother and four siblings, and stole property, authorities said. The California Highway Patrol issued an Amber Alert late Sunday for 3-year-old Briant Rodriguez.

– Associated Press

### NATIONAL

#### Wells Fargo unlikely to survive deeper recession

WASHINGTON – Regulators have told Wells Fargo & Co. it may need to shore up its finances after government "stress tests" showed the bank would have trouble surviving a deeper recession. San Francisco-based Wells Fargo is one of several banks that regulators said would need larger buffers to protect them against possible future losses.

– Associated Press

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Iraq insists on US leaving cities by June 30

BAGHDAD – Iraq's government Monday ruled out allowing U.S. combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal.

Asking U.S. forces to stay in the cities would be embarrassing for Iraq's prime minister, who has staked his political future on claims that the country has turned the corner in the war against Sunni and Shiite extremists.

– Associated Press

#### 45 killed in engagement party attack in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey – Masked assailants with grenades and automatic weapons attacked an engagement ceremony in southeast Turkey on Monday, killing 45 people. Two girls survived after the bodies of slain friends fell on top of them during the onslaught. The nighttime attack occurred in Bilge village near the city of Mardin. Some media outlets reported that a "blood feud" among families had led to the killings.

– Associated Press

### COMMUNITY

# Global center announced at symposium

## Center to study effects of immigration

MINH PHAM  
Staff Writer

Students interested in immigration and global research topics will now have a center dedicated to these efforts, with the opening of the Silicon Valley Center for Global Innovation and Immigration.

At the opening was announced in an immigration symposium, the center's first official act, Thursday, April 30. The symposium was hosted by the College of Social Sciences and international and extended studies.

"As a research student, I'm excited about the services they'll be providing," said Paul Enos, a junior sociology major. "Immigration has been such a controversial subject and it's about time we do more research for it."

Plans for the center have been in development for about five years and with its themes of immigration and global studies, the center hopes to gain wider financial support, said Mark Novak, dean of International and Extended Studies.

The center is located off campus at 210 N. Fourth St.

"There are a lot of opportunities here for students," Novak



Henry Chavez, a senior justice studies major, presents several questions to a respondent panel consisting of SJSU, Evergreen Valley College and UC Davis professors and faculty members at Thursday's 2009 Immigration Symposium, titled "Opening the Floodgates." The symposium was hosted by the SJSU College of Social Sciences. **KIRSTEN AGUILAR / Spartan Daily**

said. "Students can gain educational benefits that will develop their resumes."

The center will provide research opportunities on global issues, such as immigration and its impact on the Bay Area's economy and social welfare for both students and faculty, said Novak, adding that because the center is new, the center's day-to-day activities have not yet been determined.

Some plans for the center include hosting future events

See **CENTER**, page 2

## Panelists discuss immigration policy

RALPH WARNER  
Staff Writer

The College of Social Sciences hosted the 2009 Immigration Symposium, which featured Kevin Johnson, dean of UC Davis School of Law, to discuss his views on flaws in current U.S. immigration laws and future reforms.

About 80 members of the SJSU community met at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on

Sunday afternoon to listen to Johnson and four other panelists explain concepts from his new book, "Opening the Floodgates: Why America Needs to Rethink Its Borders and Immigration Laws."

According to an SJSU news release, the symposium was the first event sponsored by the recent addition of the Silicon Valley Center for Global Innovation and Immigration.

The center will address various international issues, including global warming, ways

to attain citizenship and the financial and social effects of immigration.

Johnson, the keynote speaker of the event, said current immigration policy flaws include the promotion of human trafficking, discrimination based on race and economic status, labor exploitation and deaths on the Mexico-United States border because of border enforcement laws.

See **POLICY**, page 2

### HEALTH

# Former substance abusers address addiction



Students at the "True Life: I Have an Addiction" event in the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center on Wednesday.

MICHELLE GACHET / Spartan Daily

MICHAEL LE ROY  
Staff Writer

Three former substance abusers talked about their problems with drug addiction and alcoholism to an audience of more than 20 students at the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center on Wednesday.

The presentation was lead by Cecille Almeda, a senior hospitality management major. Almeda also invited the panel of three former substance abusers to help answer questions about drug addiction.

The discussion panel consisted of Matt Gonzales, Rodrigo Ubillus and Robert Grodt, who told students about their addiction and their path to sobriety.

Students were given the opportunity to ask the panel ques-

tions about their individual addictions.

Camille Vargas, a sophomore piano performance major, said she definitely thinks addiction is a problem in the U. S.

"I know a lot of people who are alcoholics, and it's just not something I like to see among my family and my friends, it's kind of taking over," she said.

Almeda said 51 percent of the substance abusers are between age of 15 and 21. SJSU students who violated the Campus Village rules regarding alcohol were required to come to the presentation to learn about addiction.

Gonzales said he first realized he had a problem with alcohol was when his girlfriend ended a six-year relationship with him.

See **DRUGS**, page 2

# THE SPARTAN DAILY.COM

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www.spartandailynews.wordpress.com

### NEWS

Participants speak out about the farmer's market at San Jose City Hall

### SPORTS BLOG

The Derby is over, but the fever continues

NBA playoff predictions – round 2

### PHOTO BLOG

See a slideshow on the "I have an addiction" panel, by photographer Michelle Gachet

See a new 'Around Downtown' photo



MICHELLE GACHET / Spartan Daily

# SPARTA GUIDE

## 05 Today

**Paul Blart: Mall Cop**  
Moonlight Movie Night  
8:30 p.m. at the Campus Village Courtyard. Free admission.

**Spartan Smart Cart**  
Fresh fruit and veggies.  
10:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Clark Hall, rain or shine. Contact Luisa Garrett at luisa@postalmodern.com

## 06 Tomorrow

**Weekly Discussion**  
Hangout with globally-minded people, discuss international issues and find out internship opportunities.  
6:15 p.m. in the Pacheco Room of the Student Union. Contact Ryan Wu at GSC.SJSU@gmail.com

## 07 Thursday

**Overcoming Stress**  
Discover some helpful coping techniques and find a little bit of peace.  
3 to 4 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

### Third Annual Art Auction

Be the highest bidder at this art auction.  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at A.S. Child Development Center.  
For more information, contact Fran Roth at 924-6988 or froth@as.sjsu.edu

### Songs of Robert Schumann

Vocal Recital  
12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall. Free admission. Refreshments provided.  
For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4673 or jstubble@email.sjsu.edu

### Valerie Frankel Book Reading

Come enjoy an SJSU professor speaking about her book, "Henry Potty and the Deathly Paper Shortage: An Unauthorized Harry Potter Parody."  
Noon to 1:30 p.m. at King Library 2nd Floor, Room 225  
Contact Toby Matoush at 408-808-2096 or tmatoush@sjsu.edu

### Akbayan of SJSU

General meeting.  
4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Almaden Room of the Student Union.  
Contact Justin Lacap at j\_lacap@yahoo.com

## 11 Monday

### Pregnancy Counseling

Pregnant? Confused? Need Support? Peer counseling is available every Monday. 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Guadalupe Room of the Student Union and 1 to 3 p.m. in Hugh Gillis Hall, Room 255.  
For more information, call 376-1233.

## 12 Tuesday

### Small Jazz Band

For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4673 or jstubble@email.sjsu.edu

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](http://thespartandaily.com) or in writing at DBH 209.

# POLICY | Understanding of immigration broadened, student says

Continued from page 1

"When it comes to immigration law, you could do all kinds of things that you would not be able to under constitutional law," Johnson said. "You can keep people out of the United States, discriminate based on race, so ordinary constitutional law does not apply to immigration law under the current system."

Throughout his speech, Johnson listed numerous flaws he saw in the U.S. immigration policy, which included a lack of available visas, keeping poor immigrants out of the U.S. and the low-wage exploitation of undocumented immigrants by big corporations.

Drew Nickolson, a senior sociology major, said he would have liked Johnson to delve deeper into these immigration law issues and explain enforcement under the current U.S. policy.

"I thought they would talk a lot more about specific ideas and immigration issues," he said. "It was kind of like, 'We have this problem, but to learn more your should read the book.'"

Johnson discussed the changes he would make to the current immigration policy, such as deregulating the Mexico-United States border by excluding only those who are seen as a threat to the safety of U.S. citizens.

Johnson said the government and many citizens need to stop being afraid of immigrants coming to "take over" the country, because the vast majority of them come here to work and contribute to U.S. society rather than live off public benefits such as welfare.

"We would tend to let people in as opposed to keeping people out," Johnson said. "We know that enforcement hasn't worked and we need to think of what we can do to have an immigration

system that is enforceable and respected, unlike the current one we have."

Sammy Hernandez, a junior history major, said the discussion broadened his understanding of the effects of immigration and reinforced his ideas of rethinking the Mexico-United States border.

"He explained that (Mexicans) are not coming here because they want to — it's because they need it. They aren't getting paid enough over there, so they have to come over here, and they're going through harsh times (in Mexico)," he said. "Many big companies in the United States want them for their cheap labor."

Victor Garza Jr., an SJSU alumnus, said the government should focus on providing equal opportunities for higher education for everyone to satisfy the economic demands of the world's economy.

"I work with undocumented students that have been accepted to your schools such as UCLA, a lot of the UCs and other universities," said Garza, who works for the Enlace Program at Evergreen Valley College. "But they cannot afford tuition because they cannot receive proper financial assistance. They want to contribute to society. They want to be part of this society and contribute. However, they're not given those opportunities."

Shira Kohn, a junior sociology major, said she thought giving everyone the same access to higher education as citizens could be beneficial for society as a whole because as a result, more people could become bigger contributors to the country.

"The most interesting part for me was when one professor said, 'It would be nicer to see more people here go to good universities rather than working at McDonald's and retail stores,'" she said.



KEVIN JOHNSON  
Dean of UC Davis School of Law



GLEN GENZEL  
Specialist in California history



GIL VILLAGRÁN  
Lecturer in SJSU's school of social work

"When it comes to immigration law, you could do all kinds of things that you would not be able to under constitutional law. You can keep people out of the United States, discriminate based on race, so ordinary constitutional law does not apply to immigration law under the current system." -Kevin Johnson

Photos by KIRSTEN AGUILAR / Spartan Daily

# CENTER | Jobs for students not certain

Continued from page 1

similar to the immigration symposium so students can participate in discussions and be introduced to new books, lectures and scholars, he said.

"If the center can provide an opportunity for a job in doing research, that would be great," said Melissa Le, a senior communications major.

"Usually, programs like this provide stipends for students to do research."

Although jobs for students are not certain, there will be research competitions every spring for students, said Tim

Hegstrom, dean of the College of Social Sciences.

"We will be making proposals that will ask for seed money for extra grants so that bigger projects can be funded," he said.

"Student employment opportunities will largely depend on the projects," Hegstrom said. "We have topics such as tourism and AIDS in India. This will require traveling and if we can get the funding, the opportunities for students are great."

Other benefits of the center will be the development of curriculum, such as the recent addition of a mental health in immigration psychology course, Hegstrom said.

Associate sociology Professor

Carlos Garcia said he hopes the research will be relevant to the student body and make its way to class instruction.

"It's about letting students know there is an available resource to learn more," Garcia said.

Communication studies Assistant Professor Matthew Spangler shared similar sentiments for the center.

"Given our student body, with many as immigrants and our surrounding population of immigrants, this center is very important," he said. "The center will provide the research which becomes a site for conversation and discussion."

# DRUGS | Panelist stresses the dangers of prescription drugs



Guest speaker Robert Grodt (left) MICHELLE GACHET / Spartan Daily and Nick Matthiesen, a freshman music major.

Continued from page 1

"She left me because I drank too much," he said. "When you realize that you are hurting somebody that loves you, it becomes a serious issue. That's when truly realized I needed to change."

Grodt wanted to stress the danger of prescription drugs.

"Pills down in SoCal have claimed five of my friends in the past two years," he said.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 4.7 million Americans used prescription drugs for nonmedical reason for the first time in 2002, and the abuse of oxycodone, a powerful opioid, is up 450 percent since 1994.

"These drugs are everywhere, I'll guarantee that one of the drugs that killed my friends, are in my girlfriend's medicine cabinet," Grodt said. "It's a normal thing — you get them when you get your wisdom teeth pulled." Ubillus agreed.

"Pills are one of the worst, worst things that people can take nowadays," he said. "It's one of the most addictive things."

Luis Guevara, a senior justice studies major, said there may not be a cure for drug addiction.

"You can never make it go away completely, so the best thing you can do is make it manageable," he said.

Almeda said she was inspired to talk to students about drug addiction because of the impact it can have on the student community.

"I think addiction, especially on a college campus, is something that affects everyone within the community," she said. "It does not just affect the people going through addiction, but those are around them. I just thought it would be something great to bring to campus, so students know that there are people going through the same thing."

The group discussion ended with Almeda telling students they can get help on campus by utilizing SJSU's counseling services.

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SPARTAN BOOKSTORE

# Tuesday farmers market promotes sustainability

An inexpensive way to reach an audience

HANK DREW  
Staff Writer

In the shadow of the San Jose City Hall dome, a blues singer's red jacket sparkles in the sunlight as he belts out a tune. People carrying bags of carrots and strawberries toss change into a container as they walk past the band.

Tuesday Market at City Hall, which runs weekly from 3 to 7 p.m. from April 21 to Sept. 1, provides denizens of San Jose's downtown area with a place to purchase organic produce and to learn about sustainable lifestyles.

Fil Maresca, manager of the event, said the Tuesday Market was created in response to demands from the San Pedro Square market patrons for an afternoon farmers market.

"We were getting a lot of feedback from people at the other market that said, 'Geez, I wish it went longer. I wish it was later,'" he said.

Maresca said he hopes the event's close proximity to SJSU will attract students and faculty. One such student is trying his hand at hosting a booth.

David Anderson, a fine arts graduate student, said the market is an inexpensive way to reach an audience, running \$30 and \$37.50 for a resale license.

"Basically, I'm doing a contemporary craft experiment," he said. "Where I am taking paintings and recycling — this is all wood found throughout San Jose at construction sites and even our own woodshop at school.

"I am taking appropriate images — post pop cultural icons plus my own paintings — and morphing them into decorative art for your home office or hotel."

One vendor, Laurie McCahon, owner of McCahon Floral, said the afternoon farmers markets tend to draw a different type of crowd.

"You get more business people here," she said.

McCahon said her company sells potted plants that could be grown in most office environ-

ments and this market gives her a unique form of market research.

"It is a great exposure for us as a flower nursery," McCahon said. "We sell to supermarkets, so we get more hands-on ideas of what the public is buying."

The market also hosted individuals with some interesting pets.

Lee Lowrie and his wife Leah are urban beekeepers and said they use the market to educate shoppers about beekeeping and to liquidate excess honey. The couple displayed an inactive beehive and pulled out the different sections to the delight of the crowd.

"It's kind of a hobby we got into," he said. "You actually allowed, as house pets, you can have two hives in your backyard."

Lowrie said he and his wife only keep one hive that produces eight to 10 gallons of honey a year.

One of the main themes for this market is sustainability.

Maresca said he plans to be very picky when choosing the merchants for the Tuesday Market.



Ernesto Lizaola and Megan Young examine an inactive beehive at the Tuesday Market at City Hall last week. Leah Lowrie, who keeps bees in her backyard, provided the beehive and sells excess honey. **HANK DREW / Spartan Daily**

"The farmers are always going to be here," he said. "These people here are all green business of one kind or another. The idea is to promote a new sustainable lifestyle.

"Green businesses get to try it

for one week for free."

Some City Hall workers see the Tuesday Market as a treat.

City employee Margret Mullen said this was her second chance to browse the market. She purchased crepes and olives

last week and hopes to make this a weekly tradition.

"I am back this week looking for more," Mullen said. "Three o'clock is kind of like break time. It is nice to come out and get some sunshine."

## CAMPUSIMAGES



Senior radio, television and film majors Jonathan White (front) and Zack Sutherland work on a short film for their "Advanced Acting and Directing for Camera" class at Hugh Gillis Hall. Friday, Sutherland's character jumps from the roof because a bagel shop won't make peanut butter and jelly bagels. During filming, university police responded to a call and made Sutherland get off the roof. **MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily**

## AS 55 winners go the extra mile for community

JUSTIN PERRY  
Staff Writer

"It's easy to feel like no one sees what you do," said Sarah Sterling, a senior hospital-ity management major. "So, it's great when you're recognized and it makes you want to keep doing the things that you do."

Sterling was one of the students honored for going the extra mile on campus at the 18th annual A.S. 55 Awards Banquet, hosted by Associated Students Thursday evening in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

"A.S. 55 is really about honoring up to 55 students annually for their unselfish time, energy and dedication," said A. S. Vice President Albert Hsieh.

Rodney Myatt, an SJSU biological sciences professor, and 40 students each won an A.S. 55 award.

The event also recognized 40 other students who received an S.T. S. Saffold Scholarship for demonstrating "leadership and involvement in campus and community life." Scholarship recipients were also required to complete 15 semester units and

earn a minimum GPA of 2.5.

"I was really excited for them to ask me to come to the ceremony," said Heather Bennett, a junior sociology major and scholarship recipient.

The ceremony featured opening speeches by members of A.S. and Jennifer Whitmore, wife of SJSU President Jon Whitmore, and a keynote address by San Jose City Councilman Sam Liccardo.

Guests were also entertained with dance performances by SJSU Pride of the Pacific Islands club.

## Origins of granite explained

MICHAEL LE ROY  
Staff Writer

More than 80 science students presented their research to students and faculty at the fifth annual College of Science Student Research Day outside Duncan Hall on Friday.

Fifty-eight posters filled with graphs and research data presented the findings of original research conducted by SJSU undergraduate and graduate science students with the help of the College of Science faculty.

Evonne Kluska, a senior molecular biology major, said he was impressed.

"The research is pretty advanced and they are really knowledgeable about explaining it to me," she said.

With more than four weeks of research that included a trip to Yosemite National Park, Brendon Johnson, a geology graduate student, explained the origin of the granite deposits at the park.

Johnson said he tried to discover the size of the pulses of magma that deposited the granite at Yosemite.

"We know there is lots of granite (in Yosemite), but we are not sure if the pulses of magma are big or small," he said.

Johnson said he was impressed by the number of students who asked questions about his research.

"When I visited my old school most people didn't really care," he said. "I am impressed about the students asking me questions, even if it's for extra credit."

Josh Young, a senior chemistry major, said he enjoyed seeing other students come out to see his work.

"I think it's a good opportunity for all of us to show other students what we are doing and the results of our research," he said.

Ted Cipresso, a computer science graduate student, presented information about software reverse engineering to students.

Software reverse engineering is the process of disassembling a computer program to figure out how it works, he said.

Cipresso also said software reverse engineering will help protect the global economy by maintaining critical systems and neutralizing harmful software such as computer viruses and worms.

"The reason I got interested in software reverse engineering is because it is something that is not normally taught, at least not in any standard way," he said.

Cipresso said implementing software reverse engineering into the curriculum for computer science students will enhance their ability to understand core concepts.

Roy Okuda, a chemistry professor, said the posters are a typical way scientists present their work to their peers at science conferences.

"Many of these posters have been, or will surely be used, at a scientific conference," he said.

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VISA MASTERCARD

JESSICA AYALA  
Staff Writer

Four African-American fraternities and one African-American sorority on campus, which are part of The National Pan-Hellenic Council, define what they're all about, clear some misconceptions and break down the meaning of brotherhood and sisterhood.

**Alpha Phi Alpha**

Alpha Phi Alpha, one of the first Greek-letter fraternities for African-Americans, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., according to the organization's Web site.

DeMarcus Hewitt, a senior business management major and president of the SJSU chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, said he joined the fraternity as a way to give back to SJSU and the community.

"I've never been in the situation where I could mentor people or where I could make a difference in people lives," Hewitt said, "or at least present people with the opportunity to learn new things. This fraternity has opened me up to a lot of different things."

Hewitt said the fraternity has contributed to SJSU by hosting on-campus sexual awareness, economic development and professional networking programs. Outside SJSU, Hewitt said Alpha Phi Alpha makes a difference by helping children become successful.

"We help out with a classroom full of students — predominantly African-Americans, but minorities, definitely — and we just go there, whether it's just tutoring or just mentoring," he said.

African-American fraternities and sororities might be known for their step dancing, a dance that has African roots and is a tradition, according to article "The Evolution of Black History Dance," from Associated Content, but Hewitt said that their fraternity is about making a difference in the community.

"We hold more social events than we do fun events," he said. "While we try to intertwine the two, we feel that we get more out of the learning events and the educational events."

Hewitt said people who have misconceptions about African-American fraternities should look more into the educational and informative aspects they offer.

"Just like any other organization on campus, we're about making a difference, and we're about helping and reaching out to people, as opposed to just having fun and entertaining people," he said.

Hewitt, who has been a fraternity member for about three years, said when it comes to brotherhood, it's a bond that can't be broken.

"I can genuinely say that they're my friends," Hewitt said. "People who I can trust and people who I could confide in when I get in situations I feel that I can't always overcome, or look for them for advice, or look for them for assistance in anything I need."

**Kappa Alpha Psi**

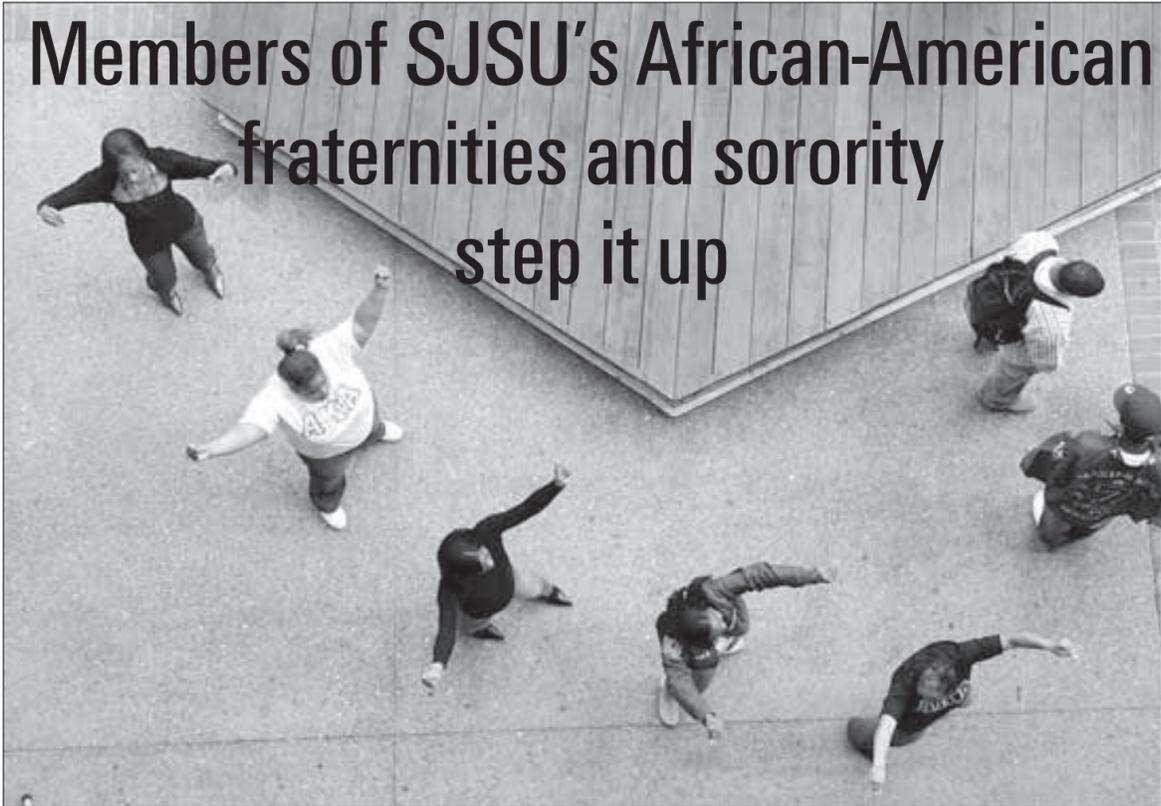
Kappa Alpha Psi, one of the first African-American fraternities at SJSU, was founded in 1911 at Indiana University, according to the organization's Web site.

Chidi Ohaeri, a senior psychology major and a Kappa Alpha Psi member, said that after seeing his older brother and cousin become part of the fraternity, he continued the legacy by becoming a member.

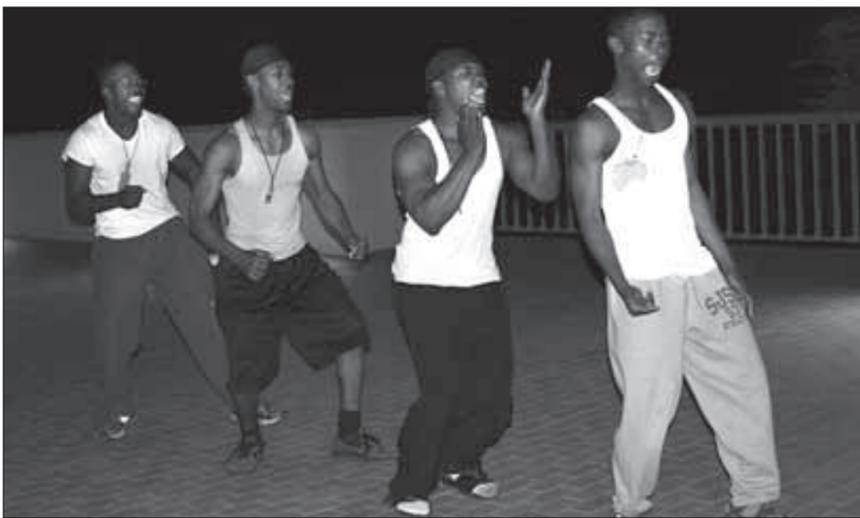
"Seeing it as an adolescent child, it was always in my mind that Kappa Alpha Psi was always for me," he said. "No other organization could fulfill the same void that I had for being apart from brotherhood outside of my family."

Through political, social, cultural and mainly academic programs, Kappa Alpha Psi hopes to make a difference in people's lives, according to its Web site.

"The 'Guide Right' program is initially a program that helps at-risk youth — keep them on the right track, to educate them



SJSU students celebrate Black Thursday at the Student Union Amphitheater on Feb. 16, 2006. The event was held to give students the chance to get to know the university's black fraternities and sororities. Spartan Daily Archives



Iota Phi Theta brothers practice a step dance on the Event Center rooftop for the San Jose Step Show. YOUNG-SUNG KWON / Spartan Daily

about society and the good and bad about what you do in school, and the alternative if school is not your thing," Ohaeri said.

Ohaeri said the fraternity, known for their step dancing, also trains members to become leaders.

As far as becoming a member, Ohaeri said students should do their research on the organization.

"You're going to be asked a series of questions of what makes our fraternity elite, what makes you want to become one of us," Ohaeri said. "And that is just a general process of us weaving out those who are just trying to do it for the glitz and glamour."

When defining brotherhood, Ohaeri said they're brothers who share the same goals and once these goals have been attained, they recognize where they came from and who helped them achieve their goals.

**Phi Beta Sigma**

Another African-American fraternity founded shortly after Kappa Alpha Psi was Phi Beta Sigma. It was founded in 1914 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., according to the organization's Web site.

The fraternity is dedicated to being a role model for young males who grow up without an influential male figure. The organization's Web site states that by reaching out to young males, they will have the opportunity to grow and become future leaders.

Justus Abbulimen, a senior mechanical engineering major and president of the SJSU chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, said that he has reached out to children of all ages and emphasized the importance of education.

Abbulimen said that because children enjoy watching their step shows, they can be used as one way they to teach children the importance of going to college. But Abbulimen makes it clear that his fraternity is not just about step dancing and partying.

He said one of the main problems is that people sometimes have an impression that fraternities

are about partying because they have seen one fraternity party.

"You basically have to go that extra mile to change someone's mind," he said.

Abbulimen said the fraternity stresses looking and acting professional at all times. In addition, becoming a member is different than other fraternities, Abbulimen said.

"We go through a process, which is learning," he said. "Proving to the existing members that you are able to take what you have learned and incorporate that to your everyday life."

When it comes to brotherhood, Abbulimen said that it's more than just a friendship.

"(A brother) is the one you could always look to," he said. "No matter whether it's financial, someone to make you stay focused. It's someone that's always there to uplift you, never to bring you down."

**Iota Phi Theta**

Iota Phi Theta is another fraternity on campus that was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University, according to the organization's Web site.

The members of this fraternity contribute to the community by impacting the lives of children who live in inner cities and low-income cities, said Rahim Mohamed, a senior psychology major and vice president of Iota Phi Theta.

"I know it helped me feel like I could actually go to college because of this fraternity," he said. "When I joined it, they actually helped me get focused and I learned a lot, financially."

This fraternity also assists with the "Making Waves" education program where students from fifth grade up to college receive tutoring, teaching and other services, such as standardized test preparation, financial aid, tuition assistance, college housing assistance and health care assistance.

The fraternity recently gave back to children in San Jose by partnering with the Salvation Army and handing out backpacks that included school supplies.

"We do a lot of community service in trying to help people and assist them with a better education," Mohamed said.

He said the fraternity is currently working on a new after-school program for children in the San Jose area.

other no matter what, through thick and thin."

**Delta Sigma Theta**

Delta Sigma Theta is an African-American sorority that was founded in 1913 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., according to the organization's Web site. Delta Sigma Theta focuses on the community through programs in effort to promote education and help people in need, according to the Web site.

Anastasia Locklin, a senior sociology and African-American studies major and president of Delta Sigma Theta, said she was inspired to become part of the sorority because of how involved it is in the community.

Delta Sigma Theta recently reached out to SJSU through the "Walk for Water" campaign, where students learned about the water crisis in Africa and how it affects the population. Locklin said her sorority is a business, not a social organization.

"Our sorority was founded on the base of dissociating the social side of sorority life," she said.

When it comes to step dancing, Locklin said it's just something they do for fun.

"I feel that it may have gotten mainstream with African-American fraternities and sororities, but that's not our mission or objective while being an organization," she said.

To become a member, girls have to demonstrate that they can contribute to the organization, Locklin said.

"All of us are graduating soon and leaving, so we want to be able to say the girls we chose to be part of our sorority are going to carry our legacy," she said.

Locklin defined sisterhood as having each other's best interest at heart.

"I don't think we've ever been mad at each other for more than an hour, because there is really no point," Locklin said.

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**Sports in Brief**

**FOOTBALL**

**New hall of fame class has SJSU ties**

Ken Margerum, SJSU wide receivers coach, was announced on Thursday in New York as one of 16 players to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Margerum was a receiver for Stanford from 1977-80 and finished his collegiate career as the school's all-time leading receiver in catches, yards and touchdowns. Margerum began his Spartan coaching career in 2005 as an offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach and is the third hall of fame inductee to have SJSU ties. He also played for the Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears in 1985.

— Staff Report

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

**JC star signs intent to play at SJSU**

Coach George Nessman announced Thursday that a National Letter-of-Intent was signed by Moses Omolade, a 6-foot-8, 200-pound forward, to play basketball for SJSU. An honorable mention all-state basketball player at Southwestern, Omolade was one of 11 California junior college players to average a double-double in the 2008 season.

— Staff Report

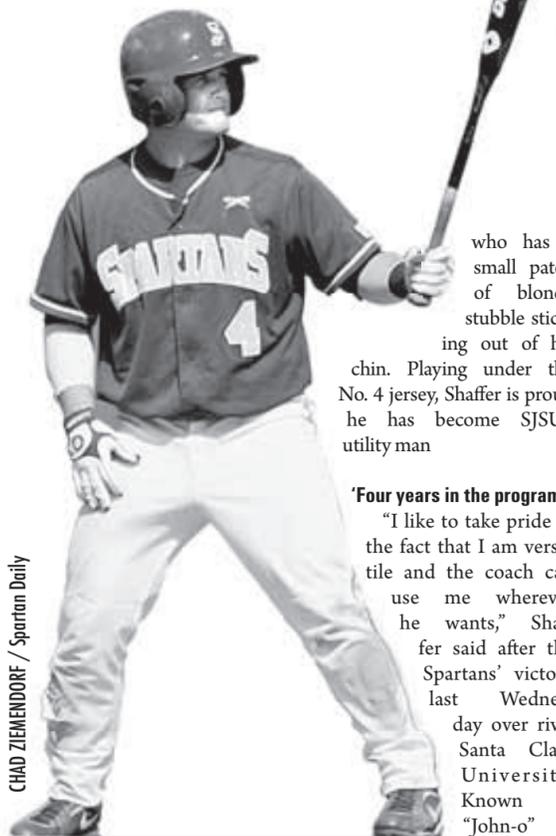
**MEN'S GOLF**

**Spartans receive conference awards**

Following the Western Athletic Conference tournament, two SJSU golfers were named to all-conference teams. Sophomore Mark Hubbard was selected as one of five players to the first all-WAC team roster, and freshman Jay Myers was selected to the all-conference second team. Hubbard also was invited to the NCAA Men's Golf Regional Championships in San Francisco which begins May 14 and concludes on May 16.

— Staff Report

CHAD ZIEMENDORF / Spartan Daily



# Spartans' senior Shaffer tested as a utility man

who has a small patch of blonde stubble sticking out of his chin. Playing under the No. 4 jersey, Shaffer is proud he has become SJSU's utility man

**'Four years in the program'**

"I like to take pride in the fact that I am versatile and the coach can use me wherever he wants," Shaffer said after the Spartans' victory last Wednesday over rival Santa Clara University. Known as "John-o" to his fellow players and

friends, the 21-year-old Shaffer has grown a lot since he started playing for the Spartans way back in 2006.

JESSICA FROMM  
Staff Writer

John Shaffer is one of those unique baseball players who feels comfortable anywhere on the field. The senior communications major has gained a reputation as one of the SJSU baseball team's most versatile players, having played left field, center field, right field, second base, third base and shortstop, all in his four-year career at SJSU.

"He's played every position for us except first base, pitcher and catcher," said Sam Piraro, SJSU baseball head coach. "And the thing is, he could catch if we needed him to, so he really could play every position. So to say he is versatile, that is an understatement. He's a real asset for us."

Shaffer entered this season as the Spartans' career leader in games played (143) and games started (128). Currently stationed in the outfield, he is one of two fourth-year seniors on the 2009 Spartans' roster.

Standing 5-foot-9-inches tall with a sturdy 180-pound frame, Shaffer is a decisive speaker

who has a small patch of blonde stubble sticking out of his chin. Playing under the No. 4 jersey, Shaffer is proud he has become SJSU's utility man

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**'A real overachiever'**

One challenge Shaffer faced when he entered the program as a freshman out of Archbishop Mitty High School was learning to control his emotions in the heat of the game.

"He was a real overachiever," Bill Hutton, Shaffer's baseball coach at Archbishop Mitty High School, wrote in an e-mail. "John-o was one of our best players on a nationally-ranked team in 2005. We finished

28-5 and were CCS (Central Coast Section playoff) champions. He was our shortstop and

Spartans.

"I hope I set a pretty good example for them, and maybe

"He's a senior, he's a leader on this team. And a lot of the younger guys, especially me, we look up to him for leadership and guidance. He just shows us the way because he's been here for four years."

KYLE BELLOWES  
Spartan shortstop

was a 'baseball rat.' That is a phrase for the rare kid that just loves the game so much that it consumes his life. He only made two errors his entire senior year at shortstop. He was our emotional leader, sensitive to criticism."

**'Hard on himself'**

Piraro said he agrees Shaffer had to work on not taking the game home with him when he first started playing for the Spartans.

"From a maturity standpoint, obviously, freshman year — it was tough," Piraro said. "John is very hard on himself. Sometimes, he would get discouraged, frustrated. So that was an ongoing thing with him. But I thought he had a breakthrough his junior year. He stabilized himself, and this year has been his year."

**'A leader'**

Shaffer's teammates now see him as a leader and an accomplished ball player who tries to pass on the lessons he's learned to less experienced

give them a couple of tips here and there about how to deal with something if it comes up," Shaffer said. "I just hope I'm setting a good example for them, and not teaching them any bad habits."

SJSU shortstop Kyle Bellows said Shaffer is one of the hardest working players on the team.

"He's a senior, he's a leader on this team," Bellows said. "And a lot of the younger guys, especially me, we look up to him for leadership and guidance. He just shows us the way, because he's been here for four years."

"When things are going bad, you know he's been there before. So he calms us down, and lets us do what we need to do. But at the same time, he keeps us on our toes, so we can perform well."

When they aren't on the diamond, Shaffer and Bellows have been known to hit the golf course to blow off steam.

"He's never beat me, though," Bellows bragged. "I'm way better than him, but he likes to break his clubs a lot, so it's alright."

**'A great human being'**

Similar to his teammates, Shaffer's coaches also respect him.

"John is a great human being," Piraro said. "Off the field, he'd give you the shirt off his back. John is well liked and well respected."

Less than a month away from graduation, Shaffer said he will look back on his baseball career at SJSU with fond memories.

"It's being part of a team, you know," Shaffer said. "You have 35 guys. Every day something new comes up. These guys are going to be my best friends for the rest of my life. I've met so many people over the last four years who I'm going to keep contact with. You have a lot of people around who you can always talk to."

**'It goes by really fast'**

After he graduates, Shaffer plans on going into his father's real estate business, and "coming to watch San Jose (State University) baseball a lot," he said.

Shaffer said that if he could pass on any advice to his younger teammates, it would be not to take their time playing baseball with the Spartans for granted.

"It goes by really fast," he said. "You blink, and all a sudden you're a sophomore. You blink again, and you're a junior. Then you blink again and you're in your last season, and you're a month away (from graduating). You have to take every day for what it is, and you just have to basically enjoy every game."

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COMMENTARY

# LeBron will be the greatest baller of all time



JOEY AKELEY  
Beyond the Game

He is "the Chosen One." He is "the King." We are all witnesses.

On Monday, LeBron James was awarded his first NBA MVP, receiving 109 of 121 first-place votes. He was clearly the most dominant player this season while leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to an NBA-best 66 wins, averaging 28.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 7.2 assists per game.

The argument could be made that LeBron is already one of the best to ever play the game, considering how successful he has been playing with a below-average supporting cast. Michael Jordan had Scottie Pippen, Magic Johnson had Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Russell had Bob Cousy, and LeBron has ... Mo Williams?

Despite the lack of stardom

around him, LeBron carried the Cavs to an Eastern Conference championship two years ago, to a near upset in Game 7 against the champion Boston Celtics last year and to the No. 1 seed in this year's playoffs.

LeBron entered the league at 18 years old out of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and earned the Rookie of the Year Award. Now 24, LeBron is already a seasoned veteran with an MVP Award, and he should be named to his first All-Defensive First Team in the upcoming weeks.

Hissix-foot-eight, 250-pound frame makes him larger than many NFL linebackers. His ability to finish drives, even as he gets knocked to the ground, is reminiscent of a running back fighting for the goal line while being hit from all sides.

With his excellent court vision, size and strength, he can play any position — from point guard to center. His athleticism is simply unmatched.

Looking just at statistics, "King James" is on pace to break all sorts of records.

Six years into his career, LeBron has scored 12,993 points. If he plays the next 15 years averaging about 2,000 points a season, he will record more

than 40,000 points, shattering Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record 38,387 points.

But what everybody wants to see is LeBron win championships. So far, "the Chosen One" has made it to the NBA Finals only once, and that year the Cavs were swept by the Spurs.

But before you anoint LeBron as a playoff joker, keep in mind Jordan won his first NBA championship in his seventh season at 28 years old. Once Jordan broke through, he became unstoppable, winning six Larry O'Brien trophies in eight years.

Everything is in place for LeBron to start a Jordan-esque run. Just as Jordan took advantage of Magic Johnson's and Larry Bird's careers slowing down, LeBron has the luxury of entering his prime as Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and Tim Duncan end their hall-of-fame careers.

Even if the Lakers win the title this year, there is no reason for LeBron to stress. While Kobe's greatness will only last a few more years, LeBron is only getting better. His jump shot improved vastly this season, and if his shot can be as effective as Kobe's or Jordan's, he will be the most unstoppa-

ble force in NBA history.

It is inevitable that LeBron will win an NBA title within the next few years, and once he starts, no one will stop him.

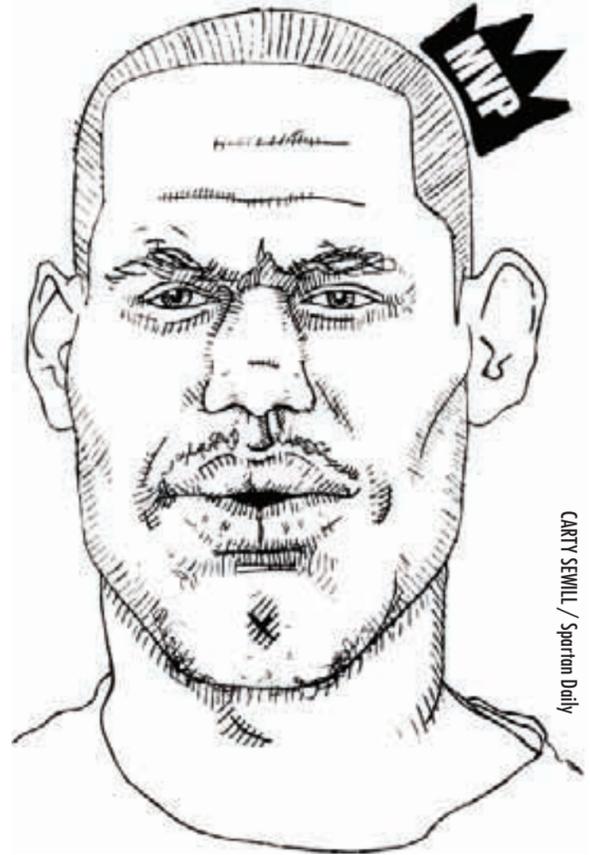
Of course, LeBron becomes a free agent in 2010, which may mix up his winning ways. Wherever he lands, his supporting cast will be at least as good as it is right now, and it's more likely that someone will emerge as a Pippen for LeBron.

I can't imagine how dominant the Cavs would be if they had another great player on their team. If and when LeBron finds his Pippen, I expect LeBron's team to win 70-plus games on a yearly basis.

But to be the greatest of all time, to outdo "his airness," LeBron will need to win at least six championships.

Don't worry, LeBron fans; I predict at least eight for LeBron. After all, he is "the Chosen One."

Joey Akeley is the Spartan Daily multimedia editor. This is the final appearance of "Beyond the Game."



CARTY SEWELL / Spartan Daily

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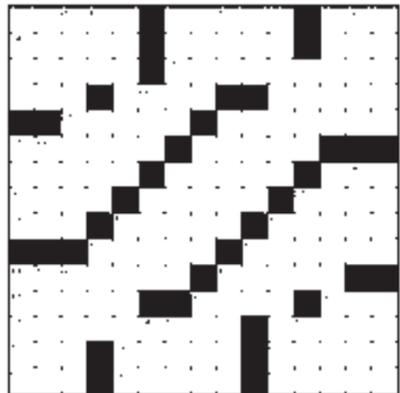
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## Previous Puzzle

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# Spring fever is knocking — don't let it in



ANGELO LANHAM  
Yes, I Have a Point

Dust off your Frisbees, Spartans, the delayed April showers seem to have departed and I can now say without reservation that spring is in the air.

I went to the library, and every student was sitting with a glazed-over expression, leaking an amount of drool proportional to his or her overall mass, while neglected laptops and papers sat, rejected, just out of reach.

Just because I'm one of three dopes who is going to spend the rest of the season moping around and missing the cloudy winter doesn't mean I don't know what spring is all about — namely, spring fever and finals.

My fandom of winter doesn't make me immune to spring fever, either. No, no, I am just as distracted as you sun-lovers. Perhaps more so, as it is my disposition to be perpetually distracted.

Hell, between sentences I've been staring out the window at the clouds on the western horizon and pondering whether some sort of improvised rain dance might bring back the drops.

Drops or no, though, I'm sure any number of my fellow SJSU-goers have taken a look around at this so-called glorious sunshine and the distraction of the new scantily clad dress code and thought that it all seems like

some profound joke to position finals week just around the time the water balloons and super soakers should be coming out.

It's time to procrastinate. And what better time than the present, when you have six tests to study for and three 12-page papers to construct? Yes, the time for procrastination is indeed upon us, and if you haven't started yet, stop putting it off.

I just told you to slack off. And I mean it. I don't want to see any studying. It's unnatural. This is not the time for studying.

The last few months, which

and make the elderly impersonation complete.

Sounds pretty silly, doesn't it? Even if your laziness doesn't involve prune juice, a description of an archetypical spring fever day of yours will look something like that.

Take yesterday. I didn't say, "Today, I am going to drink nine cups of coffee, stare at the wall, shake off the cobwebs, skate to nowhere in particular on a banana board, try to juggle an orange and two apples (didn't work), read my textbook for seven minutes, realize I'm late

— no less than a winner of the Nobel Prize.

With plenty of time to spare, I would shower, groom, and take a leisurely ride to work, arriving fifteen minutes early and waiting by the time clock.

Take a flying guess at which of these two scenarios played out. It's happening everywhere. I went to the library, and every student was sitting with a glazed-over expression, leaking an amount of drool proportional to his or her overall mass, while neglected laptops and papers sat, rejected, just out of reach.

It's a dangerous time, folks, and things you never thought of caring about might seem quite interesting all of a sudden.

Perhaps you're writing a brilliant master's thesis about Aristotle. The next minute, you may well be surfing the net in search of photographs of dogs wearing hats.

The real question is, how the hell are we going to get through this? It doesn't get easier as the years go on. It should. There should be some immunity to this spring fever that develops, just as immunity is built against all other types of fever.

But alas, the word does not deem it so.

Every spring becomes more and more distracting. Until a cure is discovered, we will just have to soldier on, counting the days until the final class and both dreading and cheering the dwindling number.

Good luck, Spartans, good luck.

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

## Cinco de Mayo's real reason for celebration



SAMANTHA RIVERA  
Staff Writer

Not that I'm a historian or anything but I happen to be Mexican and actually know what Cinco de Mayo is all about.

To be fair, I didn't always know. I attended a predominantly Mexican elementary school located in East San Jose. Cinco de Mayo was a big deal there and I never really knew why at that young age. I just knew that when the time came close to Cinco de Mayo, it was time to go to the cafeteria for an hour a day and learn "el baile folklórico," known as folk dancing here in the United States, in order to prepare for the big day.

The girls and guys would pair up and debut their dancing skills in front of the school on Cinco de Mayo.

I loved it because I loved to dance and I loved the traditional Mexican folkloric dancer clothes that we wore. Girls wore big, colorful ruffled skirts and ruffled white blouses. Also, it would be the only day besides Halloween when my mom would let me wear makeup.

The guys were happy because they got to carry wooden machetes, or swords/knives, on their belts. Later on, I came to know why they did. They were supposed to look like Mexican soldiers.

I hate to assume, but I think it's fair to say that there's a significant amount of my fellow Mexican-Americans, or Chicanos, as they're known here in the states, that have no idea about the significance of the holiday.

To them, it's probably about tacos, Coronas and cruising downtown in their cars fully adorned with the Mexican flag.

No, I'm not hating because I was also out there this past weekend "celebrating" Cinco de Mayo and downing a shot in its honor.

But, I knew what I was celebrating. Did they?

To sum up what the holiday is all about, it's a day when Mexico defeated the French in 1862 during the French-Mexican War when the French were trying to conquer Puebla, Mexico.

It was a big deal for Mexicans because the French were a powerful nation and Mexico repelled them and won. It's the classic underdog-comes-out-on-top type of situation.

A lot of people are under the impression that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day. No, that day is actually September 16th. Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo is definitely a great achievement. It is the reason Mexico recognizes today as a national holiday.

Here in the United States, we should aim to really know why we are celebrating today.

While it's a good excuse to go out to Tres Gringos bar or Sabor, it'd be nice to educate ourselves on the history.

Especially, being a Mexican-American, it's important to know where we come from and how Mexico got to where it is today.

Samantha Rivera is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

## DID YOU KNOW...

You can Google in alternate languages such as klingon and pig Latin? Google users can search for "pillow" in pig Latin and the result titles will come out as "illowpay." Check out <http://google.com/intl/xx-elmerfudd> for another example of an alternate Google language.

—WIRED

## Madcow and Swine



Cartoon by BRETT GIFFORD/Spartan Daily

## Growing into relationships we create in college



MINH PHAM  
Staff Writer

"So, are you guys official yet?"

That's usually the follow-up question whenever I say I'm dating someone, and I never know how to respond. It's not like in high school, when the significant other actually asks, "Yo, can we be official?"

We're in college now — grown adults. Such details are reserved for younger folks who are confused about their situation. They have to officially grab at a status for some bizarre sense of security.

Yet the question still arises. As much as I don't want to let a little question like that to mess me up, it does. I'll start to think about my relationships, what

they mean, why it happened and where it's going.

Relationships are confusing. A wise friend of mine told me that she thinks half the people in this world don't know how to be in a relationship. I guess so.

Our society tells us it's more important to start off great with everything — sex, sparks and soul.

I was raised by a couple that tested their love daily by pushing each other to the brink of leaving, just to see if their love is strong enough to make each of them stay.

The older I get, the more I'm able to see the importance of reflection. I never thought I could be so affected by my parent's relationship to the point where I would create the same drama for my life, without ever realizing why.

Damn, that's a lot of sharing.

Another wise friend told me that people can't do relationships for two reasons: the first being that people don't like hearing the butt-naked truth, and second, people hate looking at themselves.

It's scary being in a relationship. It means sharing your world with somebody — a world you've created that holds a lot of those nasty judgments and insecurities that you have about yourself. And you're supposed to let someone see all that?

I think a lot of people live in their stories. They've created this foxhole where they feel safe and instead of actually interacting with people, they'll let the people in their lives be characters that they can control.

But in the real world, you can't control people. And for some, that reality is so harsh. They'll stay in a place of loneliness just to avoid confronting that. That's some butt-naked truth.

In our culture and generation, it's all about the explosions, and then we simmer down and

sort things out. Our society tells us it's more important to start off great with everything — sex, sparks and soul. If it doesn't happen now, it never will.

In other areas, it's about the slow build up, and things get more intense as they play out. It's ok if people don't fall in love — or lust — right away. They'll get to know each other. I don't think either one is right or wrong, it's just how we've learned things.

But I digress.

If relationships are so confusing and hard, and we don't know how to do them, are we supposed to be alone until we figure it out?

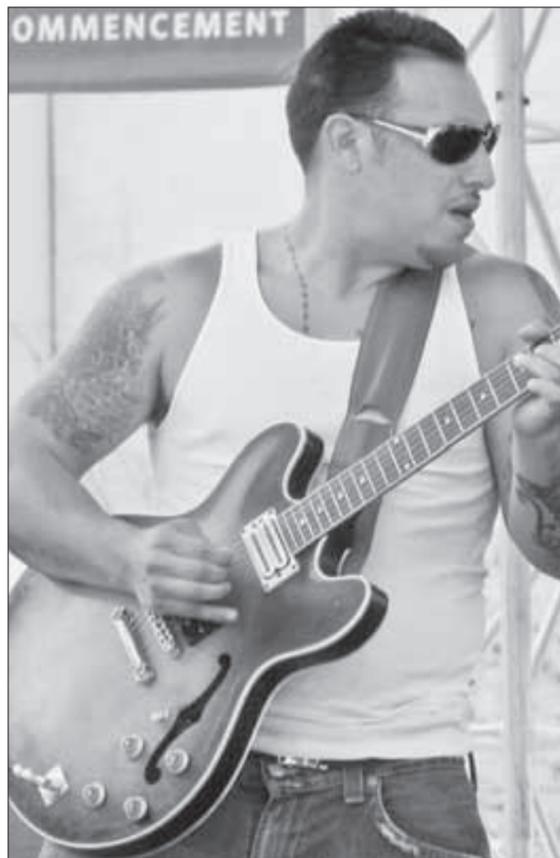
No. Just because we don't know how to dance well, do we stop until we figure out the steps?

No. We'll practice, and although we might get hurt, we'll keep dancing.

Mihn Pham is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

PREVIEW: METRO FOUNTAIN BLUES FESTIVAL

# Local festival hopes to give people the blues



Maxx Cabello Jr. strums his guitar last year. *Spartan Daily Archives*

The bands scheduled to perform include: Lurrie Bell's Chicago Blues Band, The Tommy Castro Band with Chris Cain and The Derek Trucks Band.

"Lurrie Bell, most people say he's the next Buddy Guy," said Ted Gehrke, Blues Festival producer, referring to the multiple Grammy Award-winning blues guitarist. "He's bringing his Chicago guys, his band that he would have at his neighborhood bar in Chicago if he was playing there tomorrow night."

"We have every nationality that there is in the world out there. Everyone you could possibly dream of — every skin color, every religious persuasion, every age."

**TED GEHRKE**  
Blues Festival Producer

In the past, the Metro Fountain Blues Festival attracted headliners such as Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker and Buddy Guy.

As one of the last surviving blues festivals in the Bay Area, the Metro Fountain Blues Festival has been known to attract a diverse crowd.

"Blues' and 'free' cut across every demographic known to man," Gehrke said. "We have every nationality that there is in the world out there. Everyone you could possibly dream

of — every skin color, every religious persuasion, every age. Lots of people bring their babies. ... We have 90-year-old people dancing and lots of students. By far, the youngest demographic of any blues festival anywhere."

Everett said the diversity of the audience is one of the most noticeable aspects of the festival.

"There's so many different people," Everett said. "It pulled a lot of people not just from San Jose. It pulled people from my hometown in Pleasanton down to come see all these blues artists."

Clifton Gold, Associated Students marketing and events coordinator, said there will be jewelry and CD vendors. Metro Silicon Valley will also be present, along with some local radio stations such as KFOX, KKSJ and KJSJ, the SJSU radio station.

The city of San Jose helped to sponsor the festival with a donation of \$17,000, Gehrke said.

The gates, located at Paseo de Cesar Chavez near the Event Center and at San Carlos Gate on Fourth Street, will open from 12:30 to 8 p.m.

This is the first year A.S. will be charging a \$5 admission fee, but the festival will remain free to all students with valid Tower Cards.

Wristbands, distributed at the beer and wine garden, will be required when purchasing alcohol.

Gold said the Blues Festival is a great tradition of SJSU, as well as one of its longest traditions.

"It's a fun time in general so why not go," he said.

**BRETT GIFFORD**  
Staff Writer

Spring is here, and once again SJSU will greet the end of the semester with harmonicas, pianos, steel-stringed guitars and dark shades.

Associated Students will be hosting the 29th annual Metro Fountain Blues Festival on Saturday, May 9.

Ben Everett, a senior business administration major, said he discovered the festival by ac-

cident about two years ago.

"It was actually a really cool event, I was really surprised," Everett said. "I didn't see much advertising about it beforehand, but I just kind of showed up and enjoyed myself."

Picnic blankets and lawn chairs will dot the few spaces on San Carlos Plaza not occupied by the kaleidoscope of people enjoying music, vendors and beer and wine.

The festival will feature six live blues bands, food, art vendors, and a beer and wine garden.

LOCAL MUSIC REVIEW

# Hurray for hip hop

**DAVID ZUGNONI**  
Senior Staff Writer

Let's just put it this way: If you're a hip hop artist and you can keep me interested for two songs, you're probably doing something right.

If you can keep me interested for three songs, you're probably doing everything right.

San Francisco artist Pariah kept me interested through a highly varied seven-song set on his MySpace page, avoiding many of the aspects of hip hop that typically push me away from the genre, such as annoyingly repetitive beats and overbearingly aggressive or egotistical lyrics.

An emcee is only as good as his beats, and Pariah gives himself one hell of a helping hand with music that walks the fine line between catchy and creative.

While every song can get your head bobbing, they each do so in different and, occasionally, unusual ways.

The different techniques — a digitized beat on one song, your simple old-schoolish beat on another, all kinds of synthesized instruments, sound effects, good ol' record scratching and even a Mister Rogers sample thrown in — keep things fresh and help move the listener from song to song.

One song combines a sampled upright bass in a jazz setting with a loosey-goosey East Coast-style beat and eventually some subtle brass.

The next song blends a more tightly knit beat with staccato electric guitar to create more of a West Coast sound.

The next has that digitized club feel found in modern rap.

With the music as diverse as it is, the vocals would have to be less so, with deep-voiced Pariah getting help from guest emcees on only a couple of songs.

His tone and delivery are clearly reminiscent of the Los Angeles-based group Jurassic 5, although he obviously can't layer voices by himself the way those guys do.

So what you have is an upbeat, filling-more-than-the-gaps vocal style on top of beats that are more head bob-friendly than danceable — an interesting juxtaposition that, again, keeps things fresh.

I admit I don't pay much attention to lyrics, a sin in the hip hop world, but what I did decipher wasn't half bad.

His tone and delivery are clearly reminiscent of the Los Angeles-based group Jurassic 5.

Pariah does mention his own name more than once and gloats a bit with lines such as "I go by the name Pariah / Tighter than a snare drum with the bomb attire," but that's just hip hop; this type of stuff isn't unusual.

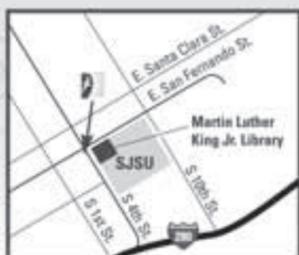
It doesn't detract from the value of the overall product, which provides something a little different while staying within the comfy confines of modern hip hop, earning my recommendation for hip hop lovers and all other average Joes.



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