

Alumna reads parody P.3

Author creates parody of popular Harry Potter franchise for children

Of birds and pickles P.5

Writer ponders the meaning of matching mothers and daughters.

Live music culture P.6

San Jose is a fine city with a fine music scene all its own.

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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009

Volume 132, Issue 54



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| 76 | 76 | 79 | 90 |

THE WIRE

STATE

Officers fatally shoot man they say had knife

SAN JOSE — San Jose police are investigating a domestic disturbance call that turned deadly when officers shot a man they say confronted them with a knife. A police spokesman said after the 27-year-old charged at the officers Sunday, they opened fire. Witnesses said police repeatedly told the man to drop the weapon. The officers have been placed on administrative leave.

— Associated Press

NATIONAL

Suspected Nazi guard deported to Germany

CLEVELAND — Deported by the United States, retired autoworker John Demjanjuk was carried in a wheelchair onto a jet that departed Monday evening for Germany, which wants to try him as an accessory to the murders of Jews and others at a Nazi death camp in World War II. Demjanjuk, 89, arrived in an ambulance at Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport after spending several hours with U.S. immigration officials at a downtown federal building.

— Associated Press

Bank exam results should buoy confidence

WASHINGTON — The government's unprecedented "stress tests" of the nation's 19 largest banks should bolster Americans' battered confidence in U.S. banking system, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday as he defended the rigor of the exams. The much-anticipated results, released Thursday, showed that 10 banks — including Bank of America Corp., Wells Fargo & Co. and Citigroup Inc. — must raise a total of \$75 billion in new capital to absorb potential losses if the recession were to take a turn for the worst. The remaining nine — JPMorgan Chase & Co. and brokerage house Goldman Sachs Group Inc. among them — had enough capital to withstand a deeper recession.

— Associated Press

BUDGET

CSU set to increase tuition by 10 percent

MINH PHAM
Staff Writer

On May 13, the California State University Board of Trustees will meet to consider a 10 percent increase in student fees, which have risen because of a lack of financial support from California's weakening economy, according to its Web site.

The CSU and University of California systems will be re-

ceiving \$268.5 million from the stimulus package passed by Congress in February, which will offset the \$255 million reduction from the California general fund, mitigating the difference down to \$13.5 million.

"These are very, very difficult times in California," said CSU Chancellor Charles Reed in a teleconference with student media on May 7. "This is nothing less than an economic meltdown with unemployment rates

going up 11.2 percent. I have told all presidents at schools to tighten our belts."

The 10 percent increase means undergraduate students would be paying an additional \$306 in student fees. Graduate students could be paying \$378 more in fees, and those pursuing teaching credentials can expect a \$354 increase.

"I'm really sick of these increases," said Michael Lee, a freshman business major. "At

my job, my hours are getting cut because of the economy, but I'm still expected to pay more for school? That doesn't make sense."

The increase in fees should generate \$127 million in revenue — a third of that will be set aside for financial aid, according to the CSU Board of Trustees Web site.

Reed said in the teleconference that about 130,000 California students will receive a

\$619 increase in Pell Grants. For students who don't receive financial aid, Reed advised visiting their school's financial aid office to ask about tax credits allotted to families who make less than \$100,000 a year.

Hy Lam, a senior human resources major, said he feels the student fee increases are reasonable.

See FEES, page 2

SPORTS

Uchida looms large over SJSU judo



Yoshihiro Uchida, most commonly known for his contribution to judo, poses in his office located in downtown San Jose. Uchida has an eighth-degree judo black belt and helped set up the rules and the weight divisions for judo matches. Uchida Hall on the SJSU campus is named after him. SANDRA SANTOS / Spartan Daily

Uchida became the first US Olympic judo coach in 1964

ELIZABETH KANG
Staff Writer

Hard work, perseverance and dedication is an enduring theme in SJSU's judo program — which includes one of the most successful judo teams in the nation, thus far having won 44 out of 48 national collegiate championships.

But this program may not exist today without the devotion and commitment from one man — Yoshihiro Uchida.

Seated behind a large desk in his downtown San Jose office, Uchida's slight stature belies a man who, at 89 years old, could likely pin a much younger man. The eighth-degree judo black belt said that at 5 feet 2 inches tall, he had a hard time convincing his first 1946 SJSU judo class to take him seriously.

Uchida said there were about 28 students in his first class, all displaying a trace of arrogance

and skepticism.

"They folded their arms and said, 'You're going to teach us judo?'" Uchida recalled.

"The police students took judo or boxing as a means of self-defense," he said. "They were all fairly huge guys. The police students at that time had a minimum of five-nine and 165 pounds."

Uchida said he remembers proving himself on that first day of class, when one of the biggest guys on the team picked him up and threatened him, asking, "What are you go-

ing to do now?"

"I just dumped him very hard in front of the whole class and I got up and said, 'This is judo,'" Uchida said, flashing a slight grin.

"Here was the strongest guy on the team and here I was half his weight — he's about six-three — and I was able to dump him, and of course the whole class was shocked."

From then on, Uchida would prove himself as a dedicated

See UCHIDA, page 4

CAMPUS

Advertising major hits red carpet

DAN LU
Staff Writer

When SJSU student Benjamin Hernandez, a junior advertising major, received a phone call declaring him the winner of a national contest, he said he ran down the halls of his house with excitement.

"I was elated and in disbelief to get a call and found out I won," said Hernandez, who recently won the grand prize in Chicken of the Sea's "The Celebrity Apprentice Challenge."

Hernandez and his friend Miguel Martinez, a 25-year-old Fresno City College student, won a trip to New York to watch the live season finale of Donald Trump's "The Celebrity Apprentice."

"The entire trip was amazing and an experience of a lifetime," Hernandez said. "At the show's taping, both Miguel and I were selected to greet the Donald as he entered the studio."

During the show, Hernandez said he was sitting close to the cast, but it did little to prepare him for interviewing the celebrities at an after party red-carpet event later on in the evening, he said.

"After the show, Chicken of the Sea representatives set up red-carpet interviews, where I got to meet all of the stars," he said. "The crash course in correspondence was intense."

Hernandez said he interacted with celebrities, such as country singer Clint Black, "Deal or No Deal" model Claudia Jordan, R & B musician Brian McKnight, winner of "The Celebrity Apprentice," Joan Rivers and of course, Donald Trump. He said the whole experience, including interviewing them, was priceless.

Hernandez said his adven-

See TUNA, page 2

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www.spartandailynews.wordpress.com

NEWS

Staff writer Elizabeth Kang weighs in on the recent road rage shooting in Oakland.

SPORTS BLOG

Video: Learn about SJSU's International House.

VIDEO

Video: Yoshihiro Uchida explains how he began his coaching career with the judo program more than 60 years ago.

PHOTO BLOG

Video: Learn about SJSU's International House.

Check out a new Around Downtown photo.



YOUNG-SUNG KWONG / Spartan Daily

SPARTA GUIDE

12 Today

Small Jazz Band
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13 Tomorrow

Weekly Discussion

Hang out with globally-minded people, discuss international issues and find internship opportunities. 6:15 p.m. in the Pacheco room inside the Student Union. Contact Ryan Wu at GSC.SJSU@gmail.com

14 Thursday

Helium Magazine: Developer's Meeting

All students interested in being apart of an SJSU fashion magazine and fashion show should attend. Go to sjHelium.com for more details. Thursday May 14, 3 to 4 p.m. in room 226 of Dwight Bentel Hall. Contact: Matthew Mountford, 510-861-4607, matt@sjhelium.com

Bible Study

"Purpose Driven Life." A2 Christian Fellowship hosts a presentation and discussion. 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe room inside the Student Union. Contact Justin Foon at jfoon1@yahoo.com

Meditation Group

5 p.m. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Contact Harrison at hhaarrriissoon@gmail.com

16 Saturday

Asian-American Donor Program

Become a marrow stem donor. Free yogurt to people who register to be donors and join the Be The Match Registry, which searches for patients in need. Noon to 4 p.m. at Red Mango Frozen Yogurt at Valley Mall in San Jose. For more information, contact Sally Arce at 510-525-9552 or sdarce@sbcglobal.net

20 Wednesday

Green Vision Cafe Presents Plug-in Cars: A Roadmap

Learn about hybrid and electric cars, how they work and how they compare to their traditional gas-powered cousins. Free coffee and tea will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own mugs. 7 p.m. in room 225 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Library. For more information, contact Annie Stauffer at ib_annie@yahoo.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 thespartadaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

TUNA | VP: 'It was creative, funny and out of the box'

Continued from page 1

ture began a few weeks ago when he was watching an episode of "The Celebrity Apprentice," and he saw an advertisement for the NBC Web site. He said he logged on and noticed a banner advertisement that led to Chicken of the Sea's Web site.

There, he said he found out about the contest, which asked participants to submit a one-page project summary and a supporting visual.

In his winning video, Hernandez's character, Tommy Tuna, also known as Mr. Chicken of the Sea, interacted with unsuspecting people at various locations while offering facts about the seafood company's products and the excitement of the brand, Hernandez said.

"I called Miguel to let him know we won and to pack his

bags," Hernandez said.

Martinez said he was excited when Hernandez said they won the contest.

"He sent me a text during my biology class, and I thought he was joking," Martinez said.

Martinez said he helped Hernandez brainstorm and create the actual concept, including filming the winning video in their hometown, Fresno.

"We knew our video was good, but didn't think it had the potential to win a national contest," Martinez said.

In a news release, John Sawyer, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Chicken of the Sea, said Hernandez's entry immediately caught the company's eye.

"It was creative, funny and out of the box," Sawyer stated in the release. "Most importantly, it creatively communicated our key attributes, including health, nutrition, convenience and the importance of eating seafood

twice a week."

Hernandez submitted his entry into the viral campaign category, which required a 90-second video.

Viral marketing, as explained by Hernandez, is not paid advertising. It is advertising done through social networking or through word of mouth. Blogs, videos and Web sites such as YouTube, MySpace or Facebook ultimately help with the exposure, Hernandez said.

Natalie Haack, a public relations representative of Nuffer, Smith, Tucker, the public relations company that represents Chicken of the Sea, said Hernandez's entry was selected by a panel of sponsor judges based on three factors.

The factors included the ability to successfully complete the marketing challenge, the ability to convey Chicken of the Sea's attributes, overall creativity, originality and style.



Benjamin Hernandez, a junior advertising major (right) and friend Miguel Martinez, 25, (left) enjoy a ride on a New York City tour bus after winning Chicken of the Sea's "The Celebrity Apprentice Challenge."

"Chicken of the Sea received many creative billboard entries, other viral marketing entries and inventive new product ideas," Haack said.

Hernandez and Martinez also had the opportunity to film videos while in New York and share more of their love for Chicken of

the Sea with New Yorkers.

"This brush with success has driven me to continue on in advertising, specifically to keep enjoying the unique work of the major," Hernandez said. "I want to continue to gamble by submitting my work to future contests and events."

CAMPUS IMAGES



Matt Perry practices paddle ball in front of the A.S. House with fellow kinesiology major Mike Grossman on Thursday, April 30.

KIRSTEN AGUILAR / Spartan Daily

Budget deficit could climb to \$15 billion next year, governor says

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday said California faces a \$15.4 billion budget deficit in the coming fiscal year, nearly double the previous estimate.

He warned the shortfall will grow to \$21.3 billion if voters reject the five budget-related measures on the May 19 special election ballot.

The governor outlined the state's dire fiscal condition in a letter to legislative leaders, a week before voters go to the polls. He also said he would release his

annual May budget revision on Thursday, after previously saying he would do so after the special election.

Schwarzenegger said in the letter that the state's economy has worsened significantly since February, when he and legislative leaders reached a compromise to close a then-\$42 billion shortfall through June 2010.

"These changes in the state's economic and revenue pictures have caused a significant new budget problem to emerge," Schwarzenegger wrote.

He said it was imperative that lawmakers start working immediately to address the problem.

FEES | 130,000 California students will receive Pell Grant increases

Continued from page 1

"It sucks that we have to pay more, but look at the state of our economy," Lam said. "I'm OK with an increase if it means it's going to save instructors' jobs. It's all for the greater good. Plus we have a huge state deficit, and I'm down to help with that too."

Employees of the CSU and UC systems will also feel the strain of California's budget with "travel restrictions for employees, the cancellation of all noncritical equipment and supply purchases and a hiring freeze on all positions except those essential to the operation of the university," Reed stated in an announcement to CSU employees on Jan. 9.

In addition, the CSU Board of Trustees will be implementing a salary freeze for all vice president-level positions and above, effective immediately through the 2009-10 budget year, according to the same announcement. Reed's salary will also be frozen.

The 2009-10 budget identifies a \$14.8 billion revenue shortfall in 2008-09 that will grow to \$41.6 billion by the end of 2009-10 if proposed solutions, like the propositions in the special election on May 19, are not adopted by the legislature.

"The quality of education for students will not be the same level of service from the past," Reed said.

"But the alternative is to shut the door and not let anybody in."

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Do urgent MySJSU alerts go unread?

HARVEY RAÑOLA
Staff Writer

When U.S. officials confirmed cases of swine flu in the country, SJSU officials took action by informing its more than 30,000 students through an e-mail that was triggered by MySJSU.

But similar to other automated messages students receive throughout the school year from MySJSU, students still had to take one more step to read it.

After opening an e-mail with "New message at MySJSU" in the subject line, students are given MySJSU log in instructions, but not all students who received the notification e-mail immediately logged in to read the new message.

"There was a swine flu e-mail?" said Melly Sawatdee, a sophomore public relations major.

Sawatdee said she checks MySJSU once a month regardless of the MySJSU e-mail notifications, because she said there isn't enough information in the e-mails to motivate her to log in.

"It's completely useless," she said. "It's like going through two e-mails basically, ... Why can't they just tell me directly through my e-mail?"

Ron Adan, a senior graphic design major, said he checks his MySJSU every time he receives a notification in his e-mail, but said the system can be improved.

"It would be nice if they included a brief description in the subject line," he said.

"A description would help if it's something you don't really care about ... but as it is now, I check it no matter what."

Arwa Abusharifeh, a graduate student in the teaching ESL program, said she logs in to MySJSU if she is anticipating the school's response to an important issue,

but said she does not like having to log in to another service to check her messages.

"The whole e-mail system, the way that it is set up, is inconvenient," she said. "I have to treat it as another e-mail Web site that I am obligated to go and keep checking."

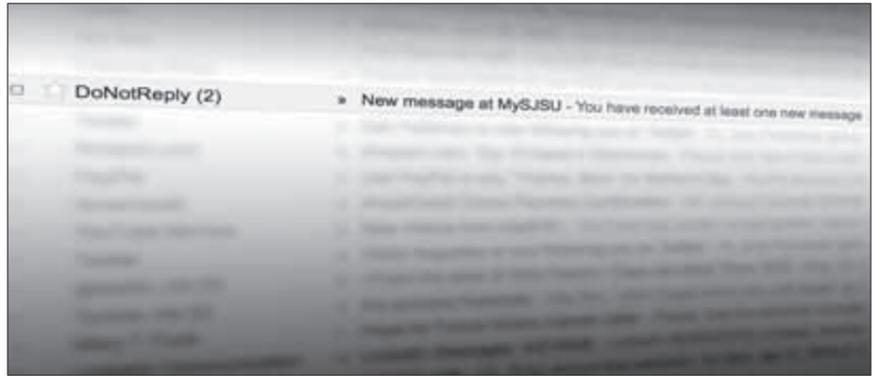
Representatives from the University Help Desk were unavailable for comment.

Not all students found the two-step process to viewing their messages as an inconvenience.

Umer Arif, a junior business and finances major, said his only complaint with MySJSU is the occasional downtime during high traffic periods.

Arif added that students should not complain about the current system because it provides an extra layer of security.

"It's kind of private, so that's good," he said. "I don't think students should be complaining about that."



Students are notified of university messages via e-mail, but have to navigate over to their MySJSU accounts to read them. Illustration by JOE PROUDMAN and HARVEY RAÑOLA / Spartan Daily

Michelle Ballesteros, a senior health sciences major, said she finds MySJSU useful because it notifies her of a variety of school related issues, including tuition payments and the Alert-SJSU system, implemented last summer.

"It's just two clicks away," she said. "What's the problem with that? Of course you're not going

to check MySJSU all the time, so if it's linked to your actual e-mail, ... it's very helpful."

Kevin Truong, a sophomore business major, said he uses his phone to check his messages and doesn't see why there are students who are not happy with the current system.

"It's good that they send mes-

sages, because I don't ever check MySJSU unless they send me a notice that I have a message," he said.

"Honestly, it's not that big of a hassle to sign on to your MySJSU. It's your ID number and your password. The link's right in front of you as soon as you log in, so I don't think it's inconvenient at all."

Horrendous Gangrene and Really Wimpy populate 'Potter' parody

BRETT GIFFORD
Staff Writer

Summer is just around the corner, and for Harry Potter fans, it means a new installment of the popular book franchise's movie series.

On Thursday, about 30 students were treated to an alternative to the "Potterverse" in a reading by the author of "Henry Potty and the Deathly Paper Shortage: An Unauthorized Harry Potter Parody," at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

SJSU alumna and English lecturer Valerie Frankel said she wrote the book as the sequel to "Henry Potty and the Pet Rock," book one of her Harry Potter parody series.

The latest volume is book seven. Like J.K. Rowling, Frankel's series is seven books long — only she said she decided to skip the five books between the first and the seventh.

Cindy Nguyen, a senior electrical engineering major, said she wasn't really a fan of the Harry Potter series, but she bought two copies of "Henry Potty" to share with her sons.

"Usually I just see the mov-

ies, but this is really new," she said. "I'm glad to see more."

The plot follows Henry Potty, with the aid of the disembodied spirit of Professor Bumbling Bore, and his quest to gather the seven Plot Devices of Lord Revolting's soul.

Frankel came up with parody names for several of the characters, places and events depicted in the Harry Potter series, such as Henry's friends, Horrendous Gangrene and Really Wimpy.

"I just looked at it and said, 'How can I tweak this?'" Frankel said.

"It took me a while to really accept that I was going to be that silly and have humor for 8-year-olds in the title, but I did. Many 8-year-olds giggle at just the title."

Frankel read a lengthy note from the beginning of the book about who might be offended by the parody, warning that everybody in the room may be offended.

However, she maintains that unlike other Potter parodies, her Harry Potter parody is intended for 8-year-olds.

"To my surprise, all the others were dirty, even though they're messing with a children's book," Frankel said. "And

I was kind of looking at it, going, 'Who's going to be the number one audience of a book making fun of Harry Potter?' You've got to assume it's going to be children ... So, maybe we should make something that's actually clean."

Frankel said it was difficult to get published at first because most publishing companies were afraid of being sued.

However, no legal actions have been taken against her, she said.

Adrianna Aguilar, a sophomore aerospace engineering major, bought a copy of "Henry Potty" at the reading.

"I actually got it for my cousin, because he's really into all the Harry Potter books, so I thought he might get a twist out of one being funny," Aguilar said.

Cindy Yu, a junior, giggled when she recalled Frankel's description of gay Professor Bumbling Bore, a reference to Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling's announcement at the end of the series that the character Professor Dumbledore was gay.

Yu said she purchased two copies of Frankel's parody for her younger cousins.



Author Valerie Frankel speaks at King Library last Thursday about her Harry Potter parody book, "Henry Potty and the Deathly Paper Shortage." MICHELLE TERRIS / Spartan Daily

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UCHIDA | If you want to do judo at collegiate level, you go to SJSU, coach says

Continued from page 1

leader of SJSU's judo program.

Building the program

"The one thing I would definitely say he's done for this program is perseverance," said David Williams, the beginning and intermediate judo instructor at SJSU. "He's been here so long — there are buildings on campus that aren't as old as Yoshihiro and the program that he started here."

The success of the program still attracts prospective judo students to SJSU.

"Everyone knows that if you want to do judo, you go to San Jose State," said Jose Bencosme, the varsity judo team coach.

Under Uchida's leadership, he said his students quickly excelled in tournaments.

"We did very well, and the students asked if we could go to higher competition," he said. "Well, there wasn't any higher competition."

Uchida said he and former UC Berkeley judo coach Henry Stone petitioned to get judo recognized as a sport by the Amateur Athletic Union, so their teams could compete at higher levels.

"I thought judo at that time



Yoshihiro Uchida has an eighth-degree black belt and is one of the people who helped set up the rules and weight divisions for college judo matches.

was recognized by the AAU as a sport, but it was apparently not," Uchida said. "So we talked with the commissioner of boxing and wrestling, and he said that the only way it would be recognized as a sport is to go into the weight system."

Uchida and Stone developed a weight system that is still used in judo today.

After that, history was made. Uchida became the first U.S. Olympic judo coach in 1964, and two of the four U.S. representatives were Uchida's students.

The judo team continues to thrive today, and although he doesn't compete or physically coach anymore, Uchida is still

dedicated to SJSU judo, showing up to oversee almost every two-hour practice six days a week.

Bencosme is now the head coach of those practices. As a former student of Uchida, he remembered what it was like in 1999 as a judo novice under the tough love leadership style of Uchida.

"As a freshman, he brings the fear of God on to you," Bencosme said. "He lets you know how much your judo's terrible, how much you suck, how much you're good for nothing. But the reason why he's like that — Mr. Uchida likes to be proven wrong."

It seems not much has changed since Bencosme has

become a coach.

"Some kids come to me all hurt, crying, tears in their eyes, saying 'Uchida doesn't like me,'" Bencosme said. "But hey, if he doesn't talk to you — that's when you should be worried. If he's talking to you, acknowledges you, that's a good thing."

Uchida's tough exterior dissolves once he's off the mat, Bencosme said.

"We're best friends," he said. "We'll talk. We'll hang out."

Bencosme described Uchida as "a real genuine guy, real easy to talk to."

Beyond the mat

Even more important than success in judo, Uchida said, is success in life beyond the sport.

"One thing you really have to have is an education," he said. "This is something we stress strongly. Many of them come with the idea that, 'I'll make the Olympic team.' Yes, that's great, but if you don't make it, what are the rest of you going to do? You can't jump off the bridge."

Bencosme said the value of education is something he also stresses in his own coaching.

"The United States judo doesn't pay the bills," he said. "If tomorrow, God forbid, you break a leg or something, and you can't do judo anymore,

what do you have to fall back on? First and foremost, we're here to build citizens."

Judo instructor Williams said he agreed.

"One of the reasons I went to grad school here and I got my master's, because (Uchida) said, 'OK, it's time for you to go back to grad school,'" Williams said. "It may sound like he's gruff and he's mean, but he really has your best interest at heart. He really cares about his students. He wants them to be successful, not just here at the university, but when they get out of here."

Uchida has been successful in other realms of his life as well.

He has been bestowed with many honors, including having an SJSU building, Uchida Hall, named after him and being presented by the emperor of Japan with the "Order of the Sacred Treasure" — a high distinction

in Japan.

Strewn around his office are many awards, memorabilia and achievements Uchida has amassed in his lifetime. A blueprint of a vast complex his company built in Japantown hangs on the wall.

He is commonly known as "the godfather of Japantown," where he is actively involved in the community and Japanese-American politics.

Nowhere near retiring, his multimillion dollar business now keeps him busy.

The company contributes to fundraisers, which help raise money for the judo team.

"With Mr. Uchida on board, the judo team gets a little help here and there," Bencosme said. "I really couldn't tell you what would happen once he leaves, but I think with the foundation that he's set up already, the program will keep going."

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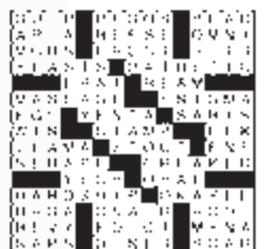
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Need a Roommate?
Need a Job?
Need a Roommate with a Job?

Spartan Daily Classifieds

Previous Puzzle

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Finding purpose in a generation without



ELISHA MALDONADO
...in Love and War

If I am to be sincere, which in the end is my purpose, then I must be truthful and tell you that I really did not want to write you.

Each time I began, I quit, telling myself it was of no use. The youth are deaf, too plugged in to their gadgetry to hear. And if they don't care, why should I? Just let them perish in their indifference, I said as I wrote you off.

But saying I don't care would be a lie.

I care too much to not say anything, to not write to you, to not entreat you to wake and to act.

I hope that you won't mind, and will permit me once more, to refer to Václav Havel, for it was he who worded best my thoughts in his 1993 "Summer Meditations," a memoir written while he was president of the Czech Republic.

Writing as he grappled with the challenges of political change, he "affirms his belief in politics motivated by moral responsibility; in an economy tempered by compassion; and in the central roles of art and culture in the transformation in society."

He wrote: "Criminality has grown rapidly, and the familiar sewage that in times of historical reversal always wells up from the nether regions of the collective psyche, has overflowed into the mass media, especially the gutter press.

"But there are other, more serious and dangerous symptoms. Hatred among nationalities, suspicion, racism, even signs of fascism, politicking, an unrestrained, unheeding struggle for purely particular interests, unadulterated ambition, fanaticism of every conceivable kind, new and unprecedented varieties of robbery, the rise of different mafias, and a prevailing lack of tolerance, understanding, taste, moderation, and reason."

I could not agree more. It doesn't matter that the context in which he was speaking was about a communist, totalitarian state because, well, what we have here in America isn't proving much better. He is reminding us, warning us, of the morally degrading, downward slope we are on.

And the best part is that it's all ours. Bequeathed to us from those up top. The ones making the choices. The ones holding the power. The Big Brothers.

I wrote in an earlier missive that, as collegians, as the youth of this generation, we hold the power to change the face of the world.

Our generation can choose to give our power over to the thinkers (and doers), or we can choose to be thinkers (and doers), and make our mark. To lose your pow-

er is simple: do nothing.

We are losing our power, my dears. Others are noticing.

My professor told me: "You guys don't even know your senators, your representatives, don't know who they are or what they are doing, and they are doing it all in your name. And you guys don't even care. And that perhaps is the worst sin. They say they are going to raise your tuition, and you say 'thank you.' Every generation has to find its mission. You're not evil. You aren't stupid. You are just indifferent."

We — the generation seemingly without a purpose — have a lot going for us. We carry enough passion to realize hope, bring about change and unite behind a cause. You proved it with the last election.

(That the man you chose was not my choice is beside the point. You wanted change, and you got it.)

Democratic government proceeds on the assumption that people are intelligent enough to think (and do) for themselves. So I implore you to come out of your coma, take the buds out of your ears and participate.

Build the kind of world you want to live in. Not for the sake of the children you might one day have, or not, but for yourselves.

This is the final appearance of "... in Love and War." Elisha Maldonado is the Spartan Daily investigations editor.

DID YOU KNOW...

Some streets surrounding SJSU are named after Donner Party survivors? Reed Street was named after James Reed, the party's leader. Margaret Street was named after Reed's wife, Margret, and Virginia Street after Reed's stepdaughter.

—findagrave.com

Don't count on Obama or his administration for a cleaner planet

CORINNE SPECKERT
Special to the Daily

By 2050, our overpopulated planet is expected to continue this trend by reaching 9 billion people, according to a recent article from The New York Times. This predicted increase is the equivalent of adding China's population to our planet twice over.

With an ever-increasing population soaking up our scarce natural resources, one may think, "What's another 2.23 billion people?" A couple billion more people not only ensures a constant depletion of natural resources, but it also guarantees a bigger carbon footprint.

With numerous environmental protection laws, such as the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, both implemented in the 1970s, one would think the U.S. would be on its way to a cleaner country.

The article stated, "Since 1970, temperatures have gone up at nearly three times the average for the 20th century." With overpopulation and glutinous consumerism, our country's current state is a far cry from recovery.

A report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that the global climate is likely to rise between 3.5 and eight degrees if

atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations reach twice the level of 1750, according to The New York Times Web site. The site stated that the climate panel predicts a seven to 23-inch rise in our planet's sea levels by 2100, and that these changes will continue for centuries to come.

Fortunately for us, The White House was recently presented with the Montreal Protocol, a 21-year-old treaty developed to regulate ozone-depleting substances.

The only problem is, the Obama administration declined to sign it, reasoning that immediate action could decrease its amount of negotiating room in future climate and environmental talks, according to The New York Times article.

These ozone-depleting chemicals — that could account for as much as 30 percent of all atmospheric warming by 2040 — are considered supergreenhouse gases, because they can be thousands of times more lethal than carbon dioxide in heating the atmosphere, the article stated.

Don't worry about Obama's refusal to sign this protocol, because there is now more room for negotiating down the line.

Despite the 195 nations that did sign the treaty, our government is confident that securing negotiating room is what's going to restore our planet for future generations, not actual action through the regulation of

these harmful gases.

That's right, everyone, Barack Obama pulled a George W. Bush. He refused to sign a treaty designed to phase out hydrofluorocarbons — a potent group of climate-warming gases — just as Bush refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty developed to bring greenhouse gas emissions down to 1990 levels, in 2005.

With the hype of a new president, expectations of actual "change" and "hope" were on the horizon, and now it appears global warming may be the only thing we see.

With the expected 9 billion mouths to feed and bodies to clothe, America needs to think beyond the "negotiating" powers of today by taking measures to insure a habitable world for future populations.

We need to take a step away from abundant trade and industrialization, and prioritize the conservation of resources while reducing harmful gases if we want our planet to heal.

Environmental protection is not only a matter of implementing bills designed to regulate eco-hazards, but it's also a matter of enforcing them.

If Obama's ideas of "change" continue down this path, not only will our country's money trees fail to replenish, but we'll have a greater environmental debt that may never be balanced.

The reason why a day of birds and pickles leaves us questioning 'why'



ANGELO LANHAM
Yes, I Have A Point

I've found myself asking "why" all the time lately. Perhaps it's some strange neurosis involving the end of the semester and the construction of papers, studying for finals and the like, but every corner I turn has another "why."

I'm not sure I even want a "because" to each one, because I'll only be left with another why.

Pretty philosophical, huh? Mother's Day just passed, you may have noticed. I was nice to my mom, hopefully you were to yours, if you have one. And if you don't, I'm sorry for bringing it up, but I'm not really here to talk about Mother's Day, anyway.

I'm here to talk, at least for the moment, about the mother-daughter pairs who dress alike and go to the mall on Mother's Day.

At a casual glance, they may seem to be sisters, best friends, or some other combination of carbon-based life forms that may be prone to color coordinate with one another and both wear capri pants.

A closer gander, though, will reveal the lines on one participant's face to be deeper than the other's, and this coupled with the fact that it was indeed Mother's Day, sort of gives it away.

Why does this happen?

I should be saying something about how sweet it is that mothers and daughters hang out like best friends, I know, but I can't help but wonder, especially from a personal perspective.

I can't imagine, for example, going out with my dad on Father's Day wearing matching flannels to march off for beer and burgers. Likewise, I probably wouldn't be seen matching my mom's apparel.

Is this some fundamental gender difference? Did this sort of thing happen before the Gilmore Girls? (I know about this because I have a sister, too, but she didn't dress up like my mom, or vice versa.)

Whatever happened to the whole generation gap that's supposed to be so debilitating?

I ended staring outside as the half hour Cheesecake Factory waiting room chugged by like molasses.

Already looking for things to be in pairs, I saw a couple of matching pigeons toddling by. It's not so hard for pigeons to match, so I didn't wonder about that. I did wonder about nonmatching pigeon No. 3, off in the corner, with one foot.

These unfortunate birds more often than not gain their injuries by attempting to land on buildings that are equipped with exhaust outlets adorned with spinning blades.

With half as many feet as they are entitled to, these birds, without healthcare of any kind, adapt very happily to their newfound handicap, and can be seen playing nicely with the other birds.

I didn't wonder about that, either. What I did wonder about was the validity of the expression, "bird brain." If

you were ever in elementary school, chances are you've been called a bird brain by some sticky-faced twit. The expression indicates that you are a person of little, if any, intelligence.

Casually, you might be tempted to validate the theory by the fact that a bird is missing one foot and should have known better than to attempt to touch down on a spinning mass of metal.

But think about it — the bird still has one foot. You don't see any "no-footed" birds around, do you? This would indicate that they learn

Why is this bird sitting alone? Is this some sort of bird-brained exile?

after the first incident that it should not be repeated. A cut-away of a bird's skull will reveal that a bird's brain is, indeed, of minimal size, somewhere between that of a marble and a superball.

And yet, they learn from their mistakes. Why?

Either that, or the ones without feet just end up dead somewhere.

Poor birds. You know the telephone lines that have a pack of wild birds all sitting on one end, aiming for unsuspecting pedestrians?

Yeah, but every once in a while, you see one bird two posts over, and think, "Hey, buddy, there's room over there with all the other birds."

Why is this bird sitting alone? Is this some sort of bird-brained exile?

And what the hell is with pickles? If I'm asking "why" about everything, I may as well revisit one of my longest-running ponderings.

Everyone loves them, but they shouldn't. Besides, even if I tried to eat a pickle, I know for a fact that my hand won't fit in the jar.

This means pickle lovers everywhere must roam the earth, searching for small people to retrieve their pickles. That's a hell of a lot of effort for a quest to consume something so putrid.

If you ever see me eat a McDonald's burger, you'll first see me popping that sucker open to drop the pickles out, because I'd rather do that than end up with a mistaken order that has, say, the allotted pickles, but also no cheese and extra onions.

Why do fast-food kingpins make it so hard and counter-intuitive for their poor employees to ring up individualistic stipulations in regards to additions and omissions of condiments and produce?

Why don't skateboarders and roller bladers get along? They're both on the same mission: roll. How does elastic work, and why does it work so well? Without it, would we all have jumpsuit underwear, or drawstrings? Why do palm trees get to be so tall? Why am I writing this?

Perhaps the point all along has been that there is no point, and that after all I don't really have one either. And that, my young grasshopper, is your first lesson. Don't ask why.

This is the final appearance of "Yes, I Have A Point." Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

LOCAL MUSIC COMMENTARY

Sounds and scenes in San Jose

DAVID ZUGNONI
Senior Staff Writer

Whenever I ask locals about San Jose's music scene, they either chuckle or grimace before answering the question. It's either a complete joke or something a bit painful.

They usually say the scene took a severe hit when The Cactus Club shut its doors in 2002. The Cactus was a place just a few blocks from campus that showcased national and local acts, and also hosted dance nights, and also ... drum-roll ... was an 18-and-over venue. A downtown place where nearly all college students could go, believe it.

Nirvana played there in early 1990, about a year and half before releasing their breakthrough "Nevermind" album, believe that. Beck, Weezer, Alanis Morissette, Alice in Chains, Green Day, No Doubt, Korn and other big acts played there. Smash Mouth, one of the few bands in history from San Jose to get a national audience, played there numerous times.

"The Cactus Club consistently books top-quality acts before they hit the big time," wrote Sarah Quelland in a late 1998 Metro Silicon Valley article celebrating the club's 10th anniversary. "While SoFA clubs ... have come and gone, the Cactus maintains its corner of South First Street, packing in audiences nightly."

In a 1999 Metro article about Smash Mouth's rise to fame, Gina Arnold wrote that the band was helped by 98.5 KOME, a San Jose modern rock station that shut down in 1998.

The Cactus Club and KOME, two of the most popular music forums of the time, have been gone for more than 10 years, and it shows.

The way things look now, it could be a long time before San Jose can boast about a band other than Smash Mouth (a scary thought).

After moving to San Jose, it took me more than a year to find live music I liked.

This semester, I wrote reviews of local acts to make it easier for

others to find stuff they might like. At the very least, I wanted to propose the notion that it was possible to find something good here, even if it wasn't whatever I was writing about.

I originally intended to cover the San Jose scene exclusively, which turned out to be a difficult task. I was picky about what I covered because there is no use in telling readers to avoid a band they never knew existed.

I ended up broadening the reviews to the rest of the Bay Area. The fact is, the San Jose scene doesn't compare to San Francisco's — not even to the Oakland/Berkeley scene.

I guess you can look at this two ways. On one hand, so what if San Jose isn't a musical hub? We should suck it up and be glad San Francisco isn't far away.

On the other, why compare San Jose to San Francisco or anywhere else? San Jose is a fine city with a fine music scene all its own. If you planted San Jose in a state without a real metropolis, let's say Nebraska, people would appreciate it a



The former site of The Cactus Club on 417 S. First St.

CHRISTIAN GARRUCHO / Spartan Daily

lot more.

One of the good things about San Francisco is it has a great local scene and also a steady flow of national acts. By steady, I mean several shows every night. The city has a healthy culture of live music, which helps small and big acts alike.

San Jose has fewer national acts, with HP Pavilion and the SJSU Event Center holding occasional concerts and Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre

busy in the summer. These venues don't do much to perpetuate a live music culture here.

Where's this going? Right Here: There's a band I really like that will be playing at San Jose's The Blank Club and San Francisco's Great American Music Hall on consecutive nights.

I won't be surprised when tickets for the Music Hall show sell out faster, even though it's a bigger venue. It's closer to more of the Bay Area, everyone knows how to

get there and it's loved, while The Blank Club is unknown to many.

But I tell you what, I can't wait to see this band blow the roof off the tiny little Blank Club. I've seen plenty of good shows at the Music Hall, but seeing a band you really like in an environment like The Blank Club's is just awesome.

The scene here in San Jose might not be the biggest, but for me, on that night, it will be just right.

BOOK REVIEW: 'PYGMY'

Author Palahniuk of 'Fight Club' attacks American life in latest novel

BRETT GIFFORD
Staff Writer

"For official record, operative me acting as delegate United States, appeared appropriate traditional American wide-brim, ten-gallons boy of cows head covering, coated reflective sequins of colors blues, white, and red. Foot shod boot associated profession boy of cows."

This is the self-description of a 13-year-old foreign exchange student known only as "Pygmy," while ironically playing the role

of the United State's delegate for his school's model United Nations meeting.

Pygmy doesn't fit in at school. He is small for his age, speaks primitive English, and ... oh yeah, he is part of a terrorist unit intent on killing millions of Americans.

The latest novel to spill from the mind of Chuck Palahniuk, the author of "Fight Club" and "Choke," is "Pygmy," which follows the experiences reported by the book's namesake.

Pygmy is a highly trained agent sent by a totalitarian social-

ist state to blend into the fabric of American culture, and plot to unleash an unspeakable terror upon the unsuspecting "pig dog" Americans.

Young Pygmy observes the strange customs of Americans, such as school dances and church, through a filter of intense xenophobia, as the people he encounters treat him the same way.

Pygmy recalls the events that turned him into a killer, from his abduction from his parents by the totalitarian government of his homeland, to learning that his

parents were killed in an American terrorist attack, to discovering that his parents were still alive.

After a strange turn of events, Pygmy becomes a reluctant hero, garnering praise and admiration from the community and his peers, while at the same time branding him a traitor to his terrorist comrades.

Is Pygmy becoming Americanized? Will he and his comrades succeed in accomplishing "Operation Havoc," the terrorist attack they have been trained for?

"Pygmy" is a biting social satire on the morals and values of American society. Nothing is sacred and nothing is spared by author Chuck Palahniuk.

Throughout the novel, Palahniuk covers intense subjects such as religion, capitalism, hypocrisy, murder and rape through the eyes of an extremely intelligent and equally misguided youth, whose sole purpose in life is to purge the world of the infection of American culture.

Palahniuk exhibits his writing skills and command of satire

by composing the entire novel in Pygmy's broken English. It takes skill to write well in the English language, but it takes mastery of the language to intentionally write in poor English. Palahniuk pulled it off.

The primitive English writing style makes "Pygmy" a little difficult to read at first, but keep going because it's worth it.

It helps if the reader treats "Pygmy" like a Monet painting — it's easier to take in if you take a step back and don't focus on the details.

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