Relief for homeless students on hold

By Joclyn Aguirre

Senior Staff Writer

The 12-bed pilot program, which is part of SJSU Cares' comprehensive housing solution to provide rooms for San Jose State students seeking emergency housing, is postponed until Fall 2021. Despite the delay, SJSU Cares, comprehensive support and referral program that assists students who are facing an unemployment economic crisis, and Student Homeless Alliance members say students facing housing insecurity are still going unheard.

Lana Gomez, a sociology senior and Alliance representative, said that the Student Homeless Alliance, a student-run club that advocates for housing insecure SJSU students, approves the postponement of the program because SJSU Cares said that "there will be no unhoused Spartans," once the program is implemented.

Vice President of Student Affairs Patrick Day said the SJSU Cares is currently working virtually, so if a student reaches out for emergency housing or other housing needs they will directly help that student move onto campus or into the Bill Wilson Center. The center, originally partnered with the university in a challenge to house 100 students by Feb. 11.

The pilot program was intended to create 12 or more beds for emergency housing purposes and was set to be implemented this semester.

It is part of a comprehensive housing solution that the SJSU administration, the SJSU Cares office and Alliance members all collaborated on creating. Housing insecurity could mean a student sleeps on their friend's couch, a family that has been displaced or a person with long-term needs related to job loss, illness, addiction or mental health issues, according to an Oct. 1, 2019 SJSU newsroom post.

Prior to the pandemic, a 2018 California State University basic needs study found that more than 4,300 SJSU students reported being homeless within the past year. Day said that those numbers have likely increased due to the pandemic as far as the administration and SJSU Cares can tell. SJSU Cares and the Alliance members started working together in January so that they can continue to help students in need of housing and food security. The student organization fought to bring a centralized location to campus, so that it would be easier for students to access housing needs, according to a Jan. 28 Spartan Daily article.

Day said that students are mainly concerned about the sustainability of their home situation because they aren't sure if they will be able to pay for rent in upcoming months.

Patrick Day 
vice president of Student Affairs

"I may be all right, for the next two months, but I'm not sure if I will still be able to sustain where I'm living or still pay my rent," he said.

More students are also getting food from the Spartan Food Pantry this year, Day said, which he said is predictable given the rising demand for most SJSU Cares resources.

Gomez noted that international students are using SJSU Cares resources the most because since the pandemic, many of them said their bank accounts were frozen. Gomez said these quarterly seminars like the online workshops and conferences just to learn more about housing insecurity and how to address it and the seminars like the online workshops and conferences just to learn more about housing insecurity and how to address it and the seminars like the online workshops and conferences just to learn more about housing insecurity and how to address it.

"We're fully aware of what's going on," she said. Gomez said SJSU Cares plans to connect with high schools to educate students on their financial toll from the pandemic.

"We also go to a lot of the seminars like the online conferences just to learn more about how homelessness and how COVID-19 is impacting students who experience homelessness to try and gain a better insight," Gomez said.

SJSU Cares is using funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act to help students. The coronavirus relief bill allocated $28.7 million in emergency funding to SJSU, according to an April 25 campuswide email from President Mary Papazian.

Day said as the pandemic continues to affect the campus, it’s important for students to be vocal about what resources they need.

"We very much want to hear from the students, it helps [SJSU Cares] make decisions," Day said.

"Particularly in moments like this that you can’t really plan for...you’re just got to be communicating and talking," Gomez said.

Follow Joclyn on Twitter
@Aguirre.Joclyn

I N T E R V I E W S

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Senior Staff Writer

Patricia Day is vice president of Student Affairs, Alliance representatives and Sparky Harlen, the CEO of the San Jose Bill Wilson Center met Oct. 16 to discuss what resources students have needed most throughout the pandemic.

Gomez said these quarterly advisory board meetings have become easier for students to understand how the sustainability of their personal situation due to financial toll from the pandemic. "SDSU Cares' partnership with Student Homeless Alliance is an important part of how we're moving forward," Day said. "The advisory board, the space that we've created, a number of those things have been done in partnership with the Alliance."

Gomez said SJSU Cares and Alliance members are more informed about the pandemic's effects and the current needs of students because of their communication with SJSU administration.

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**Mansion keeps spooky spirit alive**

By Felix Oliveros

Halloween in 2020 undoubtedly different because of the coronavirus pandemic, but San Jose resident Natalie Zamudio Winchester Mystery House is still keeping its haunting ceremonies alive. To celebrate the spooky season, the mystery house is offering nighttime, self-guided Hallowe’en Flashlight Tours that allow guests to listen to true paranormal experiences while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

I had the opportunity to take the tour this past weekend. At times, I was in a room with nearly everyone in the main house, the flashlight created a haunting and eerie experience.

Guests also take the Hallowe’en tour if they are making the most out of this year’s unusual circumstances.

San Jose resident Natalie Zamudio got married at the Winchester House in 2013 and visits the mansion every year. This year she decided to celebrate Halloween by going on the tour with her family, who were dressed up for the occasion as Day of the Dead skeletons.

“We are just trying to make the best of it. It’s still all work but we are out trying to have fun,” she said.

The mansion requires attendees to pre-purchase tickets online to ensure health and safety checks. Once guests arrive at the mansion, they are surrounded by the doors where they have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms and are kept to maintain their face masks on while in the house.

At the start of the tour, guests are told to stay a certain distance from others outside of their group, who then enter the Winchester Mystery House mint flashlight, before being sent into the darkness of the mansion. Each tour group is sent into the house in about five-minute intervals.

Mansion entirely alone in the darkness, guests are responsible to scare each other by hiding in the mansion and investigating each home.

It allows guests to take their time in the mansion and investigate each corner. It also provides an enjoyable and eerie, while entertaining and eerie, while others have to adapt to offer its guests a safe and unique experience.

Susan Delance, who began working at the Winchester House and is a tour attendant in 2019, recounted her own experiences of allegedly tugging on her hair and having the sound of footsteps inside the mansion. She said that a tour guide did this only once in her career.

The house feels different in the dark, you really do feel more mystery in the house at night,” Delance said. “Even for someone like me who has been working here for a long time, there’s more hesitation making your way around in the dark.”

Although the tour had a constant eerie vibe, the only screams of fright I heard throughout the evening came from members of tour groups using the opportunity to scare each other by hiding in the crevices of the home.

The flash tour can easily become a popular yearly attraction for the Winchester Mystery House, continuing even after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tickets went on sale in late September, with tickets offered from October until November. Scarcely popular and with limited availability, all of the remaining flash tours are sold out.

The tour is informative, entertaining and eerie, while also providing an enjoyable experience for adults and children. Under the extenuating circumstances, the Winchester Mystery House successfully adapted to offer its guests a safe and spooky experience.

The self-guided aspect of the tour enhanced the experience because it allows guests to take their time to explore the mansion and investigate each tiny corner.

**Follow Olivia on Twitter @Olivia009**

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**Gorillaz drop hotly anticipated, genre-bending album**

By Felix Oliveros

Gorillaz’s newest album, “Song Machine, Season One: Strange Timez” sees away from the traditional album format. Featuring new and innovative presentations in the form of videos and songs, the whole listening experience was completely unexpected.

The album, led by songwriter, producer and lead vocalist Damon Albarn, was created with their most popular album “Demon Days” in 2005. Gorillaz is a virtual band, meaning most of their visual content is animated, part is in the form of the band’s unique image.

Two years after the release of “Song Machine, Season One: Strange Timez,” the British electro-pop band released the third and final album, which was accompanied by the lineup consisting of 11 episodes instead of songs.

“Gorillaz are an epic, string-like ensemble that remained consistent throughout this project. Most of the album, no matter how uncomfortable the audience is hidden within its complex production.”

This is evident in the upbeat track “Chall Hills Terrace”, which features a “Swampy” and “Frank Breeze” theme, and a collaboration with rock band Gorillaz.

The album continues its unconventional themes with the unforgettable pairing of Atlanta singer-rapper G4LK and English artist Elton John’s “The Pink Plantation. The self-titled track features a minimal piano loop and simple drum pattern. An auto-tuned 6LACK accompanied by John’s famous voice and the contrast between the two artists while distinct, provided lovely harmony.

Another highlight is “Nickle” which originally the second single released prior to the album. The track stands as one of the most uncomplicated songs on the album with its steady, calm guitar riff and simple refrains that repeats the title throughout the song, complementing the “swampy” in the vocals.

The tail end of the track features a triumphant ascending triumphant bridge leading into a lush piano melody. The final section includes a calm electric guitar that closes out the song.

Every episode on “Song Machine, Season One: Strange Timez” individually shines and embodies a different style that doesn’t fail to keep the listener engaged by its intriguing and captivating. The multiple genres in the album range from pop to hootenanny, from punk rock to hip-hop, alternative rock and plenty other musical facets.

While the album loses some momentum around the song “Severed Head,” it does not take away from the listening experience. The closing track “Far Out” features a mesmerizing rapping from British artist rapper Skepta with beats, “Located at the man in the night’s that’s the only one I fear.”

Gorillaz proved with this album that even though its members are more than 20 years into their careers, their ideas are forward-thinking and fans should expect the unexpected.

Follow Felix on Twitter @Felix_vdG
It feels great to win a game against a really, really good team like that. Now we're gonna sleep, wake up and get ready for New Mexico.

Brent Brennan

Kristi Starkel completed 22 of 29 passes and threw a total of 248 yards with two touchdowns, both to tight end David Dowell, as he said he was just thinking about keeping his feet inbounds on both catches. One of the touchdowns was a spectacular athletic catch made by Dowell, who kept one foot inbounds as an Air Force defender was draped all over him.

It was great to put some more numbers on the board and get my name out there and prove I'm going to be a real threat for the Spartans,” Dowell said during the post-game news conference.

Receiver Bailey Gaither also played an integral part in changing the momentum of the game for the SJU offense in the second half. Starkel threw a 52-yard completion to him, which led to the first score of the game by SJU in the third-quarter.

Starkel said after the game that he was adapting during the game, but soon became comfortable with the Spartans' offensive schemes after transitioning from the defensive line, which held the Falcons to six points after beating the Navy Midshipmen 40-7 in their last game.

It’s difficult to defend, but stopping the fullback was our main focus,” head coach Kyle Harbison said. “I think we did a good job which led to four sacks and two interceptions. It’s a special a win like this is for the team moving forward. Earlier in the year I definitely feel like the team was ready to put up 40 points against a good Air Force team. It was great to see the team’s offensive schemes after transitioning from the defense to the offense, which led them to the first score of the game by SJU in the third-quarter.

Deese said during the post-game news conference.

On the right path, “Brennan said he felt proud of what his team accomplished and how we've been preparing and doing in practice. But the real star of the game was the Spartan defense, which held the Falcons to six points after beating the Navy Midshipmen 40-7 in their last game.

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