BUDGET

Labor rights violations suspected

BY WILLIAM YAP
Staff Writer

Media outlets surrounded San Jose State students concerned about university appeal from the Spartan Bookstore that is alleged to be working in sweatshops.

Approximately 30 people gathered near the Tommie Smith and John Carlos lawn Tuesday morning for the outdoor press conference.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a sweatshop is a shop or factory where employees work under unhealthy conditions, often for long hours.

Members from SJUU United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) demanded President Mary Papazian and the university join the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC), an independent organization that monitors labor conditions in factories worldwide.

“They are people over there who are not being treated properly in how they are being treated,” sociology junior Elizabeth Bigelow said. “That’s [many] rights here in America and that’s why the factories are not in America. They moved overseas because they want to treat them poorly and to dehumanize them.

USAS held the public demonstration because Papazian said many students would not be attending the commencement if there were eligible to graduate actually went to Papazian’s office.

“[This way], if you’re sitting down and you’re taking a physics final, you don’t have to hear the jazz band playing for the Humanities convocation, they are currently considering the combination of two spaces: the Avaya Stadium and the Event Center. According to Papazian, all the graduates should be able to bring up to ten people to their graduation ceremony.

“[This is something] that we can do today that will take care of immediate people and people will feel some relief from the news that they face,” San Jose city council voted 6-5 to maintain the 5 percent rent control cap.

“The idea that landlords could evict people with no reason whatsoever is terrifying to me,” San Jose resident Lauren Shields said. “We were renters for years and I was really experiencing our lives.”

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SJSU plans to change graduation ceremonies starting spring 2018

The commencement and the smaller events will be staggered throughout the same day. Papazian said that all the attendees will have a ticket for the convocation, but as of now they do not plan to charge anyone.

“I came down here, it was more of a surprise, more of a personal, more of a personalized,” Constanza said. “It is really big graduation, in order to like a mass of students, doesn’t feel really important.”

Papazian said she and the administration will speak to the deans and chairs of each college regarding the rental housing shortage. The proposed changes by the city’s Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand will not be released.

“According to Bigelow, former $3,000 ourselves for SJSU to through a budget crisis. “To me it sounds like they’re getting a little CTY, I promise to get out of [creating clothes from sweatshops], I promise that NAACP will write the check for $3,000 ourselves for SJSU to evict people with no reason whatsoever is terrifying to me,” San Jose resident Lauren Shields said. “We were renters for years and I was really experiencing our lives.”

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INSPECTION

Continued from page 1

cuts caused staff members to be laid off and departments to lose funding.

The Spartan Bookstore is run by Barnes & Noble College and works in accordance with the Fair Labor Association (FLA).

However, Bigelow said research from the WRC and USAS suggests the university’s apparel is made in sweatshops from countries in Asia and South America. She described the conditions as 60-hour work weeks with no overtime, below poverty wages and no maternity benefits.

According to The New York Times, the FLA received criticism for claiming its inspections of factories were independent. WRC Executive Director Scott Nova said the association is partly funded by companies.

“It makes no sense ethically that they have the power to choose whether or not they are doing it appropriately,” Bigelow said. “There’s too much affiliation between the FLA and the companies they are regulating.”

However, Jorge Perez-Lopez, the association’s executive director at the time, said companies have no influence in deciding which factories are inspected.

Chief of Staff Jaye Bailey addressed the crowd because Papazian was out of state. She said Papazian learned of the issue after the students brought it up. Bailey added that the president will meet with the students after looking through previous records.

SJSU’s official statement regarding the issue said the university shares students’ concerns over the safety of factory workers and ensuring university apparel is not made under unfair labor practices.

The statement also said Barnes & Noble College incorporates accountability measures to ensure its vendor partners follow strict codes of conduct.

MAINTENANCE

Continued from page 1

don’t want to climb three flights of stairs when they are looking for a table to sit at for lunch.

Residents in university housing also experience issues with a lack of hot water. As students have reported to FDO, some rooms have shower valve failures in which they break in the cold position. This means the shower valve gets stuck with cold water coming out.

“I have had multiple friends tell me that they have had issues with hot water in their dorms,” engineering senior Dominic Moser said. “A few said it takes a while for it to be fixed, which shouldn’t ever happen.”

Maintenance of shower valves get delayed after student reports because of how the valves in the building are linked. FDO has to notify students in the building that water has to be shut down temporarily and direct them to a different place to shower.

The old age of some buildings has led to wear in electrical circuits below ground. Cables under the Health, Art and Music buildings in particular are known to fail from time to time leading to power outages in certain parts of the building, according to FDO.

The most recent case of cables failing in the Music building last month was delayed due to them failing on a school day. Faas said the process of repairing the broken cables generally takes two to three days.

The cables have since been replaced with updated cables.

FDO has also been working on installing security cameras in all parking garages on campus. In February, the University Police Department (UPD) finalized a contract with a security company, V5 Systems, for the installation of 40 security cameras. Faas confirmed that two cameras have officially been installed and the third is on the way.

“It’s especially needed at this time because people are afraid to walk to their cars after a night class,” dance sophomore Emilia Spencer said. “God forbid something happens and there’s footage of it right there.”

The cameras will capture the flow of cars and people that come in and out of parking garages. UPD will monitor footage if students report an incident in a parking garage.

Students who have maintenance requests or questions can submit a service request form on San Jose State’s FDO homepage.
Santana Row celebrates Annual Tree Lighting

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

(1) Santana Row celebrates its Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday evening. The event kicked off at 3 p.m. with an Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt where one of the participants won a $250 Santana Row gift card. Toward the end of the evening, the streets of Santana Row were filled with crowds of people who were all waiting for the Christmas tree to light up. (2) A snow stick walker roams the Santana Row strip smiling at attendees. Her colored face and frosted hair caught the attention of many people at this year’s Tree Lighting Ceremony. (3) Multiple elementary and middle school dance teams showcase their talents on Tuesday. Some of these groups included the Lincoln High School Convention, Willow Glen Middle School, Action Day Primary Plus, Dance Expressions, NorCal Dance Arts, Dance 4U Studio and The Harker School.

WEIRD CLASS

Students explore myths and heroes in history

BY JONAS ELAM

Staff Writer

The historical inaccuracies in movies such as “300,” “Troy” and “Gladiator” make up just a fraction of the discussion in a class on heroic myths. From the Epic of Gilgamesh to Virgil’s “Aeneid,” students in Humanities 119: Myths, Heroes and Global Cultures explore a wide array of myths and heroes, as well as how they helped develop the ancient world.

“My head was a big fan of movies since I was a kid,” history senior Ernst Hernandez said. “I’ve always watched mythological movies and miniseries, but ‘80s myth movies are my favorite.”

Each class begins with an open discussion and questions about the week’s reading. Students can ask anything they did not understand or for more information beyond what the readings contained. A quick quiz follows the discussion to check for understanding.

After the quiz, students receive a lecture about the historical and cultural context of the reading. The rest of the class is a seminar. “The class is great and I love the material,” Hernandez said. “It does get really lengthy because we only meet once a week, but it’s manageable.”

Aspects of the course, such as many of the readings and the combined lecture and seminar style, are similar to that of the humanities honors program. “It’s chronologically limited in that we are only doing the ancient and medieval subject matter to it,” Smay explained that throughout the course, they study philosophy and look at art and literature, but the seminar class is built around myth and heroism. “Even though we look at subject matter such as Socrates, we look at it through a paradigm of heroism that originally comes from myths from the stories,” Smay said.

This lectures and discussions also connect myths to explore how they influence each other and to provide context to make understanding them easier.

“I enjoy the class a lot,” humanities and American studies senior Shelby Ortiz said. “I really enjoy the content and how professor Smay teaches. Though I do wish it was more than once a week.”

Smay covers all of the major mythology from ancient and medieval India, China, Native America and Europe. “It is a lot of reading,” Ortiz said. “Having the class twice a week would break it up a little.”

The class exposes students to a variety of mythological information and backgrounds of new cultures and myths. “My favorite thing we’ve read so far was the Epic of Gilgamesh,” Hernandez said. “I was really unprepared for the Indian myths. It’s not one of my interests.”

Ernst Hernandez

History senior

“I was really unprepared for the Indian myths. It’s not one of my interests.”

Students said despite learning material they aren’t used to or typically interested in, they enjoyed professor Smay’s teaching and the course material.
By Noe Magana

Porcelain pigs with wings, letters from former presidents and holograms are among the items featured in the “Women of Steinbeck” exhibit organized by the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies. The exhibit, located in the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, showcases women who had an impact on Steinbeck's life and work. Among the women are three wives, his sisters, family and other writers.

“They were early pioneers in their creative fields and we don’t always have the opportunity to throw some fame their way,” creative writing graduate student April Andrus said. “It’s somewhat to recognize that women have had literary creative influences for as long as there’s been literature and creativity.”

A line of the visual attractions in the exhibit is a display on the back wall where pictures are projected into an upper glass pane.

“I was enjoying the album pretty substantially until I heard it. ‘How can you see into my eyes like open doors?’”

The main piece of the exhibit is the album itself.

B) The album opens with a short piano intro made beautiful by an heavy, epic rendition of “Never Go Back,” and Lee really sets the tone for the whole album.

C) It still shows off Lee’s powerful vocals, but this time a full orchestra accompanies her instead of Lee’s core band.

D) “He’s the” is the first of the new tracks on the album.

E) The beautiful ballad seems to be a flagship song of sorts for this album.

F) It has been a while since I’ve listened to this album, so I was a little disappointed at first when I found out that the band didn’t ask Paul Muldoy to be featured once again.

G) But at the end of the day, the song was over and I completely agreed with the choice. It just makes singing this song with a friend a little less fun.

H) From “Bring Me to Life,” my favorite song of the album, I couldn’t turn it up loud enough.

I) It really isn’t one of my most favorite songs, though.

J) They did the rework perfectly.

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Z) It really isn’t one of my most favorite songs, though.
Christmas music doesn’t have negative effects on our brain

With the holiday season in full swing, some people are gearing up to celebrate.

One of the first signs of the holidays is the often joyous sound of Christmas music. However, according to reports by Sky News, United Kingdom psychologist Linda Blair says listening to Christmas music can have negative effects on the brain.

Blaire uses retail workers who listen to store’s Christmas playlists on repeat as a prime example.

“People working in the shops at Christmas have to tune out Christmas music because if they don’t, it really does stop you from being able to focus on anything else,” Blaire said.

“You simply spending all of your energy trying not to hear what you’re hearing.”

“However, I agree that repetitive music can be frustrating and annoying. I just want to ignore it, but accusing Christmas music of being bad for your brain is absurd.”

Christmas music is that time of the year where a change of music is needed. It gets some employees, such as myself, excited for the holidays because it sets the mood not just for Christmas but for the customers. However, I agree that repetitive music can be frustrating and annoying. I just want to ignore it, but accusing Christmas music of being bad for your brain is absurd.”

As someone who has worked in retail and is currently a barista at a coffee shop that consistently plays the same playlist, I can say that we workers ignore the music.

“Christmas music is not necessarily bad for my mental health but at times I am not a very happy person,“ business sophomore Naomi Herrera said. “Listening to holiday music on almost every radio station drives me crazy.” business sophomore Naomi Herrera said.

Radio-stations tend to play the top hits, which results in almost all stations playing the same songs around the same time.

If the constant replay of Christmas music is deemed harmful, then the bombardment of repetitive pop and hip-hop songs should be too.

When I turn on the radio to hear, “My b***h is bad and boujee,” for the 6,867,474 time, I roll my eyes and turn to the next station.

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WOMEN’S SOCCER

Wilkes maple leaves SJSU with two conference titles

BY SALVATORE MAXWELL
Staff Writer

During this intense Mountain West Conference regular season, one key player has stood out among the rest — Myia Wilkes.

Wilkes, one of the team’s captains, is a three-time Academic All-Mountain West honoree. She has clocked in over 1,000 minutes playing for San Jose State during four seasons and plays an outside or center back as a defender.

“Honestly, just from the two years I have been with his staff that we have been together, she has been a really great defender and has a really great leader on our team,” said junior center Oumar Barry.

“She took me under her wing really early and I truly don’t think I would be the person or player I am without her.”

Witnessing her natural ability to dominate the field and her leadership skills has been one of head coach Lauren Hanson’s greatest experiences.

“Obviously, she is a phenomenal defender [and] an amazing 1-v-1 defender,” Hanson said. “Her athleticism is fantastic and nobody beats her.”

According to Wilkes, she competed in many other sports such as track and field, volleyball, swimming, cross country, gymnastics and skiing. She ultimately chose soccer and the skills she picked up from the other sports helped her development as a soccer player. Prior to SJSU, one of her biggest experiences with soccer was being an active member of the Canadian National Training Program. She also represented her hometown of Calgary, Alberta, in the 2013 Canada Games.

Wilkes came to SJSU not only to escape the cold, but to follow her dream.

“I chose to come to the states to play soccer because it was my goal since I was 12 years old to have soccer further my education,” Wilkes said.

Set to graduate in spring 2018, Wilkes is a biology senior with a minor in chemistry. Her plans after graduation include potentially getting her master’s degree in Europe and playing soccer there alongside her best friend, forward Darshie Hippopin.

In 2016, Wilkes and the Spartans were in the Mountain West Tournament in San Diego. The semifinal and championship matches both finished with 1-0 draws — forcing SJSU to win via penalty kicks.

Wilkes finished her college career on top once again. As a senior, the Spartans won their first-ever Mountain West Regular Season Championship. The team finished the regular season with six-game winning streak before being eliminated in the semifinal match of the conference tournament in Las Vegas.

“She is one of those players that you can feel comfortable with [knowing] someone is in [the] box to help defend against great attacking players,” Hanson said.

“She is a breath of fresh air because you can really relax a little when it comes to not worrying with getting caught behind with pace and those kinds of things.”

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Spartans fail first D-1 test

BY JOSE F. GOVEA
Staff Writer

Isaiah Wright’s 22 points was too much for San Jose State’s men’s basketball team to overcome. University of San Diego coasted to victory, 81-64, Sunday in the Event Center.

The junior guard made nine out of his 13 field goals. In the second half, and Barry played 23.

He went 8-for-10 in free throws, made one of 13 field goals. USD shot 54.9 percent — making 19.

SJSU head coach Jean Prioleau said. “We were a very good team and could shoot the ball,” Prioleau was referring to SJSU’s two exhibition games and then playing with no energy and no heart,” junior guard Jaycee Hillsman said about Prioleau’s halftime speech in the locker room.

“Out of the whole SJSU team, junior forward Isaiah Nichols warms up in the Event Center Sunday afternoon.

Two exhibition wins over Dominican 95-61 and Notre Dame De Namur 90-40.

Prioleau was referring to SJSU’s two exhibition games and then playing with no energy and no heart,” junior guard Jaycee Hillsman said about Prioleau’s halftime speech in the locker room.

“Quite clearly it’s the difference between those two guys hurt for sure.”

Fisher ended up only playing 17 minutes of the game, more coming from the second half, and Barry played 23.

In the second half, SJSU started off down 22 points.

“[Prioleau] said, ‘What do you want me to say? Because at that point we were playing with no energy and no heart,” junior guard Jaycee Hillsman said about Prioleau’s halftime speech in the locker room.

Hillsman was the second highest scorer for SJSU with 13 total points. He made two assists and made three out of his four free throws.

Out of the whole SJSU team, junior forward Isaiah Nichols was the second highest scorer for SJSU with 13 total points. He made two assists and made three out of his four free throws.

SJSU gave away 17 turnovers by the end of the game. USD managed to score nine out of the 17 turnovers.

SJSU will face Colorado State Thursday at the Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium in Colorado.

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