Former interim president dead at 84

By Mohamed Bafakih
Staff Writer

Former San Jose State Interim President Joseph Crowley died at the age of 84 on Tuesday following a month-long battle with pneumonia.

His daughter, Theresa Crowley, confirmed his death in a Facebook post Tuesday night. He spent his final moments at St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.

Crowley served as interim president from fall 2003 until spring 2004, despite a formal retirement in January 2003.

“The impact he made, through the short amount of time he was here, truly helped create a community,” said Catherine Bouslauchi, SJSU Student Union Executive Director.

She worked alongside Crowley when the Student Union was going through financial difficulties after not receiving a fee increase in 14 years.

Crowley told Bouslauchi the Student Union was important to both him and the students as it was the heart of the campus. A new committee was later implemented to help the Student Union to maintain its budget. During his time at SJSU, Crowley was known to seek transparency, especially with budgeting.

“When you have that [transparency], you have a better understanding,” he said in an interview with the Spartan Daily 14 years ago. “If you’re out there in the units as a faculty member or whatever as a dean, you know what the university is all about because you know where the money is going, how much is going where, and how much went there last year,” Crowley said in that same interview.

Prior to his time at SJSU, the Iowa native spent four years in the U.S. Air Force while attending an overseas program with the University of Maryland. He eventually earned a bachelor’s degree from Fresno State and doctoral degree in political science from the University of Washington.

Crowley was the longest-serving president at the University of Nevada, Reno. From 1974-2005, he returned there as interim president from 2005-06. In 2007, he led Crowley Student Union opened at UNR’s campus.

“This is a great legacy that Joseph Crowley will forever leave on UNR,” current UNR President Marc Johnson said in an official statement. “He will be spoken about in the same breath as some of our most influential figures in the history of Nevada.”

Crowley leaves behind his wife, Joy, four children and seven grandchildren.

Follow Mohamed on Twitter: @moe_fresco

Property damage - Interior design major Cheryl Hoffman looks at freshly spray painted graffiti on the Occupational Therapy building.

Money as power - One of the places that was tagged the most was the Rec Center. In the story, students commented about their concerns over vandalism becoming a growing problem on campus. One tag read “We’re doomed w/ Bush,” referring to President H.W. Bush.

By Mohamed Bafakih

Random act of vandalism - The University Police Department estimated at the time that as much as $15,000 worth of damage was done after vandals spray painted graffiti across campus.

Farewell

BY KAYLEE LAWLER
Staff Writer

While walking to class, diverse students ranging from young to mature can be seen. People may not know the woman walking next to them is a mother of two, or a veteran going to school after service, unless they ask.

According to San Jose State University’s Institutional Effectiveness & Analytics for fall enrollment by age, in 2017, a total of 35,490 students are enrolled at SJSU — 2,294 of whom are over 25 years old. Many have a variety of reasons for not going to college straight out of high school.

According to NBC News, in 2009, out of 20 million students in college, 8.1 million were 25 years old or older.

In recent years, more older students are going back to college. Some parents come back to learn a new line of work or veterans come back to finish their education. Other students return after taking a break to work.

After working as an insurance broker and having two kids, jazz studies senior Melissa Garay decided to go back to school. She returned to study as a jazz vocalist and wants to teach after graduation.

“I don’t want to be 80 years old and look back and think, ‘Oh my god, I didn’t even try to accomplish this goal or dream.’” Garay said.

Garay went back to school at Cabrillo College in Aptos in 2011 and transferred to SJSU in 2015. She is set to graduate in spring 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in jazz studies.

Because she lives in Watsonville with her family, she has to prepare for a long commute while taking care of her kids after classes.

“Typically, I get up at 4:30 in the morning (to) pack everybody’s lunch, get things ready for myself, exercise [and] deep the kids off,” Garay said. “[Then] I come back home [and] get ready make my house, heat and a half commute over here.”

Music education junior
Staff Writer
BY LOVINA PAVEL

Morgan, the additional course will only required to be trained in the Haven and AlcoholEdu, a program that addresses issues of sexual assault and harassment, relationship violence and stalking is set to become an annual requirement starting in 2018. An additional course will also be required. Both are served by Everfi, the company that provides the learning tool.

“What we want to see happen on campus is a decrease in the amount of sexual misconduct,” Laurie Morgan, Associate Director for Campus Wellness said. “And in the short run, people will feel more comfortable and safer to reach out for help. Those that might not be directly impacted feel more equipped to get involved and learn tools for how they might support others impacted.”

Haven and AlcoholEdu, a program that educates new students on the dangers of alcohol abuse, are both requirements for incoming freshmen, transfer and graduate students to complete prior to class registration. Failing to complete these courses prior to class registration leads to a hold on registering for courses.

Title IX requires universities to take precautions to prevent sexual assault on their campuses. To fully comply with Title IX and the Clery Act, the California State University Chancellor’s Office issued a mandate in 2013 that required educational training programs to prevent sexual violence.

Prior to the latest CSU mandates that comply with Title IX, students were only required to be trained in the Haven course upon admission. According to Morgan, the additional course will become available each spring semester for continuing students.

“To be perfectly honest, I can’t even remember what I learned in that Haven course,” business administration senior Edina Atanos said. “Especially now, it’s important to get a refresher every year and that’s coming from someone like me who can’t even remember the course.”

In addition to the annual requirement, the refresher course through Haven will provide new and updated components on various sexual misconduct topics.

Morgan emphasized the new component that this is a skill that young adults have never necessarily been taught.

Other additional components include resources available on campus for victims, policies and how misconduct is handled and community and personal values. The course ends with information on how to recognize and define what is considered abuse or coercion, and how to effectively communicate and report a serious incident.

“Sometimes there’s issues with people not understanding ‘that’s not OK’ when somebody is trying to push [them] past a limit, that’s coercion.”

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TOP: Music education junior Rosa Rezendes fits in practice time before heading home and putting her young kids to bed and taking care of the house. (Bottom) History graduate student Shawn Brose attends class and hopes to finish his last semester at SJSU in spring 2018. He commutes from the Santa Cruz area and student teaches at a local high school.

Students

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SJSU

Credits

Thursday, November 30, 2017

BY LOVINA PAVEL

Staff Writer

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Photo exhibit spotlights Mizrahi Jewish history

BY DAIUKE EGUCHI Staff Writer

Spartans For Israel, in collaboration with the Jewish Student Union, highlighted the underrepresented history of the Jewish experience in the Middle East and North African countries through a photo exhibit.

The event started on Monday at MOSAC Cross Cultural Center as a part of the Sephardic and Mizrahi week. “This is a passive exhibit, so it’s meant for people,” the president of Spartans For Israel, Rebecca Walbu, said. “If they walk by to catch their eyes, maybe they’ll come in, look at them and read it.”

The photos show families, synagogues, rabbis and children in Jewish communities from many countries, including Iran, Syria, Libya and Algeria. Walbu added a personal touch by including photos of her families when they were in Egypt and Iraq. A lot of the images were in black and white or in sepia. “I decided to do the photo exhibit for most of the week because I want to engage more than just Jewish community,” Walbu said. “I feel like a lot of cross-cultural centers [exist], but the issues are the ones no one talks about and bring that to people’s awareness. I thought the [MOSAC] would be the perfect venue for this.”

In 2014, Israel declared Nov. 30, Mizrahi Commemoration Day to remember the history of people from the Middle East and North Africa. Mizrahi are Jewish people descended from local Jewish communities of the Middle East.

Walbu’s high school decided to host a Sephardic and Mizrahi week inspired by the San Jose State Beta Israel Student Association. After graduating from high school, Walbu decided to bring the same event for the Jewish community at San Jose State.

“You think of Jewish history, you think the Holocaust, Hitler, death camps, and anti-Semitism in Europe,” Walbu said. “The underrepresented part is that there was about a million Jews who lived in the Middle East and North African countries, and that goes unnoticed.”

According to The History Place, The Night of Broken Glass or Kristallnacht, is known as a historically famous violent act that targeted Jewish people during the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. However, Walbu wants to tell the audiences that there were many nights in other countries where Jewish people were attacked.

Aside from the photo exhibit, Walbu also showed a personal video taken during the event on Tuesday.

“Photos worth a thousand of words, but videos worth millions,” Walbu said. “Hearing someone’s own personal stories is much more meaningful than just looking at random photos.”

The video shows Walbu’s great-grandmother who grew up in Singapore, talking about her passion to fight for the Jewish social justice.

Psychology junior Eya Alham said that hearing the story through the video from the actual person rather than through the history was interesting.

Throughout the week, Spartans For Israel and the Jewish Student Union will have a panel of speakers, including Walbu’s great-grandmother. They will also set up a table of the photo exhibit on Seventh Street.

Follow Jonas on Twitter @elamitegg

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN IGNACIO

Alan “Kudo” Ignacio is a popular Youtuber and coach. Kudo started gaming as a toddler. His first memories playing video games were of Crazy Taxi on the Sega Dreamcast – a game that his parents made him go to bed after playing.

“I won several competitive titles including CounterStrike: Source, Unreal Tournament 2004 Command and Conquer. In January 2013 he found League of Legends,” Kudo said. After graduating from high school, Kudo decided to start a YouTube channel and focus on creating video essays about eSports. “The videos shows my knowledge about the eSports scene or my feelings about a particular player," Kudo said. His channel is about self-help competitive videos about the eSports industry.

“The videos also cover critical questions about who they are, the coach for San Jose State. Kudo currently has 13,000 subscribers and served as the League of Legends coach for San Jose State.

“I pride myself in doing all the work myself without the need to pay someone or delegate this process to others,” Kudo said. Kudo also served as the League of Legends coach at San Jose State for its first tournament season.

“Coach the SJU League team gave me insight on how coaches and analysts think. “I love his ambition,” Sputan Starluggage officer Josh Cruz said. “He can do a lot to make things happen with eSports at SJU.”

Kudo intends to pursue a career in the eSports industry.

“When I end up I have no idea but my goal is either to be a journalist or an analyst for a professional team,” Kudo said.

Follow Jonas on Twitter @dk_0126

Student eSports analyst gains media attention

BY JONAS ELAM Staff Writer

Alan “Kudo” Ignacio is not just a seasoned gaming student. He is a League of Legends Youtuber, coach and analyst.

Kudo started gaming as a toddler. His first memories playing video games were of Crazy Taxi on the Sega Dreamcast – a game that his parents made him go to bed after playing.

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REVISIÓN DE PELÍCULA

Coco captura los corazones y emociones de todas edades

POR NOE MAGANA
Escritor del Equipo

La fragilidad e inocencia del personaje Coco causó que detrás de las cámaras de cine como lo hacía cuando era niño. Al igual que Cien, Yayo se desespera porque no puede seguir su sueño. La familia está enojada porque no puede seguir su sueño. La familia está enojada y todos se sienten abandonados por la abuela que lo tiene más privado en los Estados Unidos. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar es que diferentes estaciones de noticias representan al asesino blanco. La gente de la cultura Mexicana no se ve de la misma manera en la mayoría de los medios de comunicación. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar que diferencias existen en las noticias representan al asesino blanco. La gente de la cultura Mexicana no se ve de la misma manera en los medios de comunicación. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar es que diferentes estaciones de noticias representan al asesino blanco. La gente de la cultura Mexicana no se ve de la misma manera en los medios de comunicación. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar es que diferentes estaciones de noticias representan al asesino blanco. La gente de la cultura Mexicana no se ve de la misma manera en los medios de comunicación. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar es que diferentes estaciones de noticias representan al asesino blanco. La gente de la cultura Mexicana no se ve de la misma manera en los medios de comunicación. Lo que Ruiz-Grossman intentó explicar es que diferentes estaciones de noticias representan al asesino blanco.
Ending net neutrality spells trouble for almost everyone

Nicole Chung Executive Producer

Elected officials should take responsibility for their words

Lovina Pavel Staff Writer

The Spartan Daily has open positions for our newspaper carrier role. This is a paid job and will only require you to work every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning.

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Thursday, November 30, 2017

L et’s just cut to the chase. On Nov. 30, the Federal Communications Commission announced that they would be voting to change aka eliminate net neutrality on Dec. 14. If you use the internet in any shape or form, you don’t need me to keep on alarm you. Similarly if you work for a company that provides a service on the internet, you should pay attention.

These changes should be interpreted as the FCC eliminating net neutrality, meaning the internet as we know it will no longer be truly equal and free for all. In the digital age, net neutrality acts as a protective rule that keeps the internet an open resource available to all. According to The Independent, net neutrality treats all data equally.

Net neutrality prohibits internet service providers (ISPs) like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T from creating what would essentially be speed lanes on the internet. Essentially, it prevents a few telecommunication companies from monopolizing the internet.

This means that websites and companies that utilize the internet can provide consumers with services at similar qualities and speeds. Conversely, the average internet user — presumably you — can access these websites without facing restrictions.

Without net neutrality, both consumers and companies would automatically face unfair disadvantages. ISPs would have uncontrolled, free reign over whether to pay in order to utilize Meo’s services. For example, if you’re a Meo customer, the company that provides a service on the internet, you’d have to pay Meo’s Messaging, Social, Music, Email and Cloud packages for each respective activity. All of this would be on top of the monthly service bill you would pay to in order to utilize Meo’s services.

If this reality sounds familiar to you, it’s likely because you currently or used to have a cable subscription. These packages are much like television bundles created by television providers like DirecTV: For whatever it’s worth, DirecTV is a subsidiary of AT&T. The same is true for other telecommunication companies that have been pushing for this kind of service in recent years.

Eliminating net neutrality gives one industry, namely the telecommunications industry, an incredibly unfair advantage over everyone else. Without net neutrality, bigger companies could create faster and slower lanes. For example, if you’re a Meo customer like Google and Facebook, this isn’t necessarily a bad thing. After all, they have the means to create faster and slower lanes.

According to The Verge, it’s the smaller companies and startups that would struggle the most. Without the same resources that big companies might have, smaller businesses would automatically be relegated to a slower lane simply because they can’t pay to be on the faster lane. This makes it difficult for a broader audience that would help the nation’s services exposure and grow as a result.

These smaller companies know this. When Trump appointed Aji Raiti to make the announcement in a speech back in October, the startups teamed up and sent him a letter in a united stance against the elimination.

“Without net neutrality, both consumers and companies would be negatively affected.”

Besides the waves of negative consequences that both companies and consumers would face, the elimination of net neutrality is also related to democracy in the digital age.

According to the Pew Research Center, 48 percent of the residents in the United States used an internet connection regularly as of 2015. Eliminating net neutrality would allow big companies who might use the internet for something as simple as connecting with old friends to Pay also shows that a growing majority of Americans are concerned about the elimination and even more oppose the elimination of net neutrality.

The resolution was conducted by monitored Congress and Political back in June. Although more than 800 companies have been in favor of the resolution, it’s important to support net neutrality. More recently, a survey released by the Center for Political Communications at the University of Delaware showed that 81 percent of Americans oppose allowing ISPs to charge websites for faster speeds.

Without net neutrality, truly equal access to information is an issue that transcends party lines. According to The Center for American Politics and 45 percent of Republicans supporting net neutrality.

Yet despite the overwhelming support for net neutrality and for keeping it as it is, most Americans are incredibly worried that they will ignore the voices of the uneducated internet user.

It goes without saying that the voices of the people are important aspects of an open democratic society. To eliminate net neutrality, the American people want to ignore the voices of people who believe in an open and democratic country.

Everyone already believes in democracy and treats itself as “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” But by choosing to ignore the voices of people who believe in net neutrality, the government is essentially telling the world that the goals of a few telecommunications companies is much more important than the basic rights of the American people.

Deliberately choosing to ignore the voices of the American people mean that we as a country no longer pride ourselves on being a democratic society. There is absolutely nothing democratic about ignoring the very voices of the people that make up this country.

Therefore, this problem, you might be asking yourself what you should do. At first glance, it doesn’t seem like you have any power to do anything about it. More recently, The Verge states that you can still protest against the FCC on October 31.

According to The Center for Political Communications, nearly 90 percent of Democrats and 45 percent of Republicans supporting net neutrality.

The most problematic issue of all is that the FCC is not passing these rules on without the support of Congress. The people who voted for the Republican Party claim that the voices of people that you’ve “voted illegally,” Trump tweeted last November.

“The Trump administration needs to quit blaming everything on everybody else (and Obama) and start taking responsibility for the state of the country.”

The laws we’re voting to change aka eliminate are rooted in the reasons behind Trump’s deflection of gun control onto mental health.

“It’s not clear why the Senate leadership would suddenly move to discuss something that indirectly impact minority groups. Political contributions to the political administration has been known to fire back on non-supporters.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, Independent-Vermont, made it a point to deflect the tragedies of gun violence to America onto mental illness. He has also repeatedly made it known that he lost the popular vote only because of “voter fraud.”

“In addition to winning the Electoral College, we also won the(strong) popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally,” Trump tweeted last November.

people voting illegally, and certainly not millions of them. White House officials did not respond to requests for comment.

With a political platform that attacks Muslims, immigrants and both the gay community and transgender and "sharia law" and criminals and colorblind individuals while guns, the president deflected blame onto any easier candidate to blame, instead.

Elected officials have a massive responsibility on not just the state of the country but the entire world. The words they choose to champion is critical to what we can and cannot try to prevent and some of these things are happening in the present.

Ryan did not speak about the multiple proposals to tighten gun laws, barring people on the terrorist watchlists from buying firearms or even more.

After the devastating shooting in Las Vegas, House Speaker Paul Ryan released Trump’s definition of gun control onto mental health.

“It is clear that the people who committed the Las Vegas, House Speaker Paul Ryan released Trump’s definition of gun control onto mental health.”

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“We’ve heard from people who have been involved in these shootings is often underneath this
The flag code is about respect, and we should follow it

Wearing the flag of the United States of America is disrespectful to the flag and everything for which it stands. This does not mean one should not wear the stars and stripes pattern or anything representing the flag, but wearing a flag itself is wrong. The U.S. Flag Code is a set of advised rules for caring for and displaying the American flag signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942. It was written to preserve the integrity of the flag and has been for more than 75 years.

According to the U.S. Flag Code, “The Flag Code addresses the impropriety of using the flag as an article of personal adornment, a design of items of temporary use and an item of clothing. The evident purpose of these suggested restraints is to limit the commercial or common usage of the flag, and, thus, maintain its dignity.”

The U.S. Flag Code is a set of advised rules for caring for and displaying the American flag signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942. It was written to preserve the integrity of the flag and protect its prestige. Wearing a flag like a cape or a shirt is disrespectful because one is putting the symbol of our nation on our bodies. The flag is a symbol of liberty and justice for more than 300 million people and deserves more respect than to be wrapped around a person like a toga.

Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, reported even the colors within the flag represent something worth respecting. According to the U.S. Flag Code, “The Flag Code states, ‘The colors of the flag represent something worth respecting. The white stripes signify purity and innocence. The red stripes represent hardiness and valor. The field of blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. All of these qualities are belittled when one decides to wear the flag instead of waving the flag with dignity or respect.’

Many people who wear the flag don’t realize how disrespectful it is, which is not their fault. The Flag Code is not enforced, and that makes it difficult for people to know about it.”

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Another aspect of the Flag Code many people don’t follow is that if the flag is left up at night, it must be well-lit. This again is as a method of showing respect for the flag. The Flag Code is not legally enforced because to do so would violate the First Amendment, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t follow the code. In 1989, a number of the enforcement clauses in the Flag Code were amended to no longer violate the First Amendment. You have the right to burn the flag, wear it as a cape or do whatever you want to it, but that doesn’t make it right.

My question for people is always, “Why do you have to wear an actual flag?” The difference between a shirt designed like the flag and wearing the flag as a shirt is huge. It’s not illegal to be vulgar or insult people, but it’s still wrong. We don’t do those things because we respect people. We shouldn’t violate the Flag Code because we respect the flag and the country for which it stands.

The Flag Code is simply a set of guidelines for respecting the flag. If you genuinely think it is respectful to treat such a symbol as an article of clothing, so be it, but the federal government’s stance is contrary to yours and has been for more than 75 years.

JONAS ELAM
Staff Writer

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SPARTUNES

KRISTIN LAM: TOOTHBRUSH - DNCE
ISABELLE THAM: FAKING IT - CALVIN HARRIS FT. KEHLANI
NICOLE CHUNG: BAD & BOUJEE - MIGOS
TREVIN SMITH: IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING - THE RASCALS
ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ: LOTUS EATER - MURA MASA
JALENY REYES: THE MORNING - THE WEEKND

SATVIR SAINI: TEARS IN THE RAIN - THE WEEKND
LUKE JOHNSON: MY WAY - FRANK SINATRA
SARAH KLIBES: WICKED GAMES - THE WEEKND
SELINA RAMIREZ: TELL YOUR FRIENDS - THE WEEKND
THOMAS SOARES: SELF ESTEEM - THE OFFSPRING
KYLEE BAIRD: I JUST HAD SEX - THE LONELY ISLAND

WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE EVERY DAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS!!!

It’s never too early to start watching Christmas movies. Here’s a suggestion for every single day until Santa ruins your solar panels with his sleigh:

 Thursday Thoughts

Follow Jonas on Twitter
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Diversity in American politics is a step in the right direction

Voters who have progressive ideals rejoice! After a year of what seemed like American politics regressing to Tea Party ideals, large steps were taken forward following the results of several off-year elections across the nation.

A majority of constituents in Virginia voted for her over 25,000-vote incumbent Robert G. Marshall — who proclaimed himself as the state’s “chief homophobe.”

In another stroke of irony, Marshall was the elected official that championed the “bathroom bill” in Virginia. Officially known as the Physical Privacy Act, the bill would have forced people to use bathrooms that matched the gender on their birth certificates. He later revised the bill to allow people who have had sex-reassignment surgery to use the bathroom that corresponded to their gender identity.

According to the Washington Post, Marshall said the goal of the bill was to protect women from predatory men pretending to be a transgender female in order to access areas they could Andreas in, such as bathrooms and locker rooms. Although the bill was shot down, it was an example of a politician attempting to pass legislation that would have negatively impacted a minority group. These instances are more irritating when the politician pushing the bill does not belong to the group it is affecting.

Being a minority should never be the sole merit to becoming an elected official. In this case, Roem won because her campaign focused on local issues rather than Marshall. It made it clear he would never be able to understand the plight of the LGBTQ community.

Roem can now be a powerful voice for that community because she’s lived similar experiences. It’s in the same vein as me being unable to 100 percent empathize with the struggles of being a female.

Representation in politics is important on all levels. Former First Lady Michelle Obama told Variety how some young black girls told her they admired her because they saw an educated black woman on TV.

Growing up as a little impressionable boy, I didn’t look up to any public figure because there was a lack of notable Asian-Americans in the media. It is important to form a connection with a figure and say, “That person looks successful and looks like me, so maybe I can be successful too.”

Another leap forward was the election of Ravi Bhalla as the first Sikh mayor in New Jersey. Sikhism is a religion from the Punjab region of India.

Followers of the religion wear turbans and are often subjected to racial attacks because of anti-Islam sentiment from Sept. 11. Hate crimes targeting Muslims rose in the U.S. by 67 percent last year, according to the Public Religion Research Institute.

Campaign fliers featuring Bhalla with the words, “Don’t let TERRORISM take over our Town!” were left on cars. Despite this attack, he received 34 percent of the vote and won.

As Bhalla continues to be in the spotlight as a positive public figure, negative microactions of Sikhs will gradually diminish.

Representation is vital in normalizing minority groups. There will come a day where heads won’t turn when a transgender female obtains power.
SJSU finishes with winning record for first time since 2006

By Cinthia Loera
Staff Writer

Women’s volleyball head coach Holle Shepardson leaped as up she as the perseverance her team displayed during their game against University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nov. 4.

She recalled having four starting players out with injuries that game but said that did not stop the rest of the team from stepping up to win the match.

The San Jose State women’s volleyball team finished the regular season with a winning record for the first time in 13 years. The Spartans went 17-12 overall and placed fifth in the Mountain West by going 9-9 in conference play.

“I could not see the joy in their faces in fighting together through the hard times they were facing and just overcoming all the obstacles that their program had been through,” Shepardson said.

The Spartans defeated UNLV 3-1 and went to defeat No. 19 Colorado State 3-2 on Nov. 11. Shepardson said she was extremely proud of the way her players fought and distributed their offense during the match.

“I mean if we played like that consistently I think it’d be hard for anybody to beat us,” she said. “I thought it was cool that we came out and did that against such a good team.”

Shepardson said that five incoming freshmen who have committed to SJSU for the 2018 season. She said they’re all had official visits and have already begun creating bonds with the current players on the team who welcomed them into their family.

Erika Lindqvist, a middle blocker from Angelholm, Sweden and Tabea Schwarz, an outside hitter from Munich, Germany are among the recent players who will be joining the team next season. They’ll be joined by Whitney Barnes, an outside hitter from Turlock, Mykie Nelson, a middle blocker from Fremont and Mamiie Garard, a setter from Noblesville, Indiana.

“It’s gonna be a good class for sure, we’re gonna do our best to build off of what we’ve gained and we’ve grown into a program,” Shepardson said.

She also mentioned how diverse her team was this season, having five players from Brazil, one from Hawaii and another from Estonia. Shepardson said the players did a great job of learning about each other’s cultures and how to respect each other’s differences.

She said the team was very close this season and hopes to continue to keep their program full of so many cultures in the future.

Seniors Avery, Jeravi, Brayn Robinson and Nandyala Gama were among the freshmen Shepardson had recruited during her first semester in coach in 2014. She said although it may be tough without the current seniors next year, the team will try their best to adapt.

Gama and Robinson were selected to the All-Mountain West Conference team Monday. Gama led the team in kills with 1.43 per set this season. She leaves SJSU No. 4 all time in career kills with 2,265. Robinson finished her SJSU career fifth all time in assists with 2,965. She also led the team in blocks with 361. Robinson finished their program had been through,” Shepardson said.

“I think they grew tremendously over the last four years and we loved to be a part of that,” she said.

Beyond Football focuses on exploration beyond football. Unique to San Jose State and the Mountain West, Beyond Football focuses on exploration beyond football. Beyond Football is new to SJSU this SEMESTER.

NEW STANDARD
Beyond Football prepares athletes for the real world

By Jonas Elam
Staff Writer

With a field as competitive as professional football, it’s important for student-athletes to graduate with not only a degree and on-field talent, but a well-rounded ensemble of skills and connections.

Tobruk Blaine is the director of Beyond Football, which is designed to provide football players with the tools needed to graduate with either a job in hand or an opportunity to play at the professional level.

“How long you play, like anything, is uncertain in life,” Blaine said. “We don’t want them to have all their eggs in one basket, so we give them the skills and the knowledge to succeed if something goes wrong.”

Beyond Football is new to SJSU this year. Blaine started the program from scratch five months ago.

Beyond Football focuses on exploration and opportunities off campus, football players have expectations that limit what they can do on campus, such as being a starter or committee member.

“When they’re not in class, they’re typically here [at the stadium or Simpkins Field],” Blaine said. “We have peer mentors, academic advisors and mandatory study hall.”

Limbacker coach Bejoy Filimoeatu is always focused on their academics.

“Football can only take you so far, so if you don’t have that education and take care of yourself that way, you will fail,” Filimoeatu said. “You have to take it seriously. It’ll be your life forever.”

Blaine said the players don’t have time to sit out and experience many opportunities so it is her job to bring the opportunities to them.

She also encourages community service and believes there is a lot of power in giving back. Exploring and working in the community allows players to develop their weaknesses.

“Say your weaknesses in leadership or communication,” Blaine said. “We will train you to cultivate those skills through different activities.”

SJSU’s head football coach Brent Brennan also supports Beyond Football.

“Beyond Football gives our graduating players a chance to get jobs, which is what we want for all of them,” Brennan said.

“My goal is for every player that comes through this program to have a shot at the NFL and have a job offer.”

Both Blaine and the coaches support players’ dreams to play professionally, but want them to know that it is okay if that doesn’t work out and that they have other opportunities.

Blaine is there to connect what players do on the field to what they can do outside of football. She said a lot of the skills learned as a student-athlete are what employers look for in a candidate.

“What football has given me is the NFL and determination required in daily life,” Filimoeatu said. “He added that it makes him ready for a rigorous non-sports job with getting up early and sticking to a structured daily schedule.

Blaine encourages players to connect with a number of companies to help introduce players to potential skills they can offer other options. She has plans to do tours at Adobe, Apple and Facebook.

She wants people to realize that an athlete striving for a position in the NFL is not much different than a student striving for a highly competitive job in any other industry, so they’re try to prepare players for either.