



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

James McKay invites students who pass his table for the Disabled Students Association to stop and talk about his club on Monday.

## Ambition drives student in the face of disability

Matthew Gerring  
Staff Writer

James McKay has a passion for sticking up for other people, a passion so strong that it used to get him in trouble.

"It was an issue," said McKay's brother Robert. "It's grade school, kids get picked on a lot. Even if he wasn't good friends with these kids, he would sit there and jump in. He got knocked around a bit when he was a kid."

McKay said he still likes to stick up for his fellow students, but in a different way.

He was a senator and vice president in student government at West Valley College, and he's starting a club called the Disabled Students Association.

"I really want to help disabled students any way I can, and I want to advocate for them and represent them," he said. "I want disabled students to feel proud of themselves for what they achieve, and know that if they need help it's there."

McKay said he also has a disability: Tourette's Syndrome.

"I hit myself on campus and I make noises that I can't help," he said.

According to a paper published in 1993 in the Archives of Psychiatric Nursing, Tourette's Syndrome is a neuropsychiatric disorder characterized by a

changing repertoire of motor and phonic tics that typically begin in childhood and exhibit a fluctuating course.

"People look at me and I get mixed and confused stares on campus," McKay said. "People don't know and I say 'Hey, I have Tourettes, it's OK.'"

McKay said he wants to help disabled students navigate the challenges of an already difficult college education compounded by dealing with a disability.

"They have to do academia, they have to achieve everything a normal student has to achieve, but on top of having a disability," he said.

Oliver Deeley, treasurer of the Disabled Students Association, said he signed up for the position at the Disability Resource Center orientation at the beginning of this semester after he heard McKay give a speech about the new club.

"I thought he was almost like a professional because he knew what to say. He knew how to approach the audience," Deeley said. "He was on the ball."

The club has had one official meeting, where about three other students came, but Deeley said he's confident that McKay can grow and improve the club.

"I'm pretty confident in his abilities," Deeley said. "He has blown me away. His skills exceeded anything

see **STUDENT** page 2

## CSU's Reed favors tax increase extension

McClatchy Tribune

SACRAMENTO – The leaders of two of California's three college systems on Monday urged passage of Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to extend taxes, saying they're needed to avoid even more devastating impacts than they already envision from \$1.4 billion in higher education cuts Brown is proposing.

Before a hearing at the Capitol, California State University Chancellor Charles Reed said Brown told him and University of California President Mark Yudof that "if this doesn't pass, we'll come back and cut more."

"So, sure, we need to support an increase in revenue," Reed said. "You have to pay for what you get. Everybody wants more and more government but they don't want to pay for it. But they have to pay for it."

Yudof said that "intellectually, it makes a great deal of sense" and that he's "sympathetic" to it. But he needs to see the particulars of a ballot measure that has yet to be worked out among legislators who are considering Brown's budget.

It would be "tragic" if a tax extension does not get on the ballot, said Jack Scott, the chancellor for California Community Colleges.

"For us to take another \$400 million in cuts would devastate community colleges," Scott said. "It would mean more and more Californians are denied higher education."

Legislators are considering a budget that includes \$12.5 billion in cuts – including \$500 million each from the UC and CSU systems and \$400 million from community colleges – and \$12 billion in revenues. Brown needs a two-thirds vote from both legislative houses to put the revenues up to a vote. He has said the cuts would double if Republicans block an extension of taxes on purchases, autos and income from making it to the ballot.

Reed and Yudof both pledged to avoid tuition increases for students this year, but said all bets are off if the tax extension fails.

"I'm not planning on pushing that button again," said Yudof, referring to 40 percent fee hikes UC have imposed over the past two years. "It just has too much impact on students despite the substantial amount of student aid available."

Reed said he doesn't intend to raise tuition beyond last November's 10 percent hike – "except if in June the revenue enhancements fail and the whole bottom falls out of everything, we'll have to come back and reset that."

The governing boards at UC and CSU have imposed double-digit increases in student fees in each of the last two years. At UC, the combined effect has been to raise undergraduate fees for in-state students from \$6,202 in the 2008-09 academic year to \$10,092 this fall.

## Students express dismay at possible cuts

Staff Report

The CSU system will reduce enrollment to its 23 colleges next fall, Chancellor Charles Reed said Monday night.

Reed's announcement came after a joint appearance in Sacramento in which UC President Mark Yudof and Reed said that neither intended to raise student fees at their institutions in the face of severe budget cuts.

Both decisions were reactions to cope with the California state budget deficit, according to an article from McClatchy Tribune Information Services.

Stephanie Martin, a senior business marketing major, said she thinks the cuts to enrollment aren't fair for students.

"They already said that they would have open enrollment and now they are going back on their word," she said.

Geng Li, a senior animation/illustration major, said it will become more and more difficult for students to graduate from college.

"A cut in enrollment means people will graduate later and be introduced to the work force

see **CUTS** page 2

### WORLD NEWS

## Pledge for reform in Egypt met with distrust

Kim Murphy  
Jeffrey Fleishman  
McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO — Hopes for a road map on how to bring political reform to Egypt faded Monday, with anti-government activists casting doubt on the legitimacy of talks and thousands of protesters entering their third week as a noisy occupation force in the heart of the nation's capital.

Many activists showed little confidence the government would follow through with a pledge announced by Vice President Omar

Suleiman to clamp down on corruption, widen press freedoms, lift emergency law when conditions warrant and form a committee to amend the constitution.

Leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood opposition group announced they will not continue any dialogue unless the demands lodged by Tahrir Square protesters for an end to Egypt's repressive regime are met.

"We support the demands of the people. At the top of these demands is the stepping down of President Mubarak ... before the end of this week, not September," said Issam al-Aryan, a member of the brotherhood's executive bureau.

Opposition leader Ayman Nour, who was jailed for four years after running against Mubarak for president in 2005, said the government is deceiving Egyptians.

He said government officials' talks were an attempt to placate demonstrators without inviting significant members of the opposition, including Nobel Peace laureate Mohammed Elbaradei, or taking genuine steps at constitutional reform or removing Mubarak from power.

The Muslim Brotherhood was not allowed to enter the talks until its leaders agreed the group would not run in the presidential elections, he said.

### WEATHER



High: 64°  
Low: 38°

### SPORTS, PAGE 3

Spartans fall on beam, lose to No. 2 Stanford

Gymnastics team hampered by performance on beam.

### OPINION, PAGE 5

Prison creates more murderers

U.S. corrections system needs rehabilitation itself.

### A&E, PAGE 6

Drink of the Week: Affogato

Italian drink is a delectable concoction.



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**STUDENT**  
From Page 1

I would have ever imagined."

McKay doesn't talk about his disability in terms of how different it makes him from other students, but in terms of his duty to help other disabled students because of what he is still capable of in spite of it.

He said this is why he decided to join student government at West Valley College.

"I used to feel that I needed to get involved be-

cause I was able to," he said.

"A lot of other disabled students like myself don't have the time or aren't in the condition to represent or do student government."

Hugh Leonard, West Valley College Inter Club Council president, said McKay was very effective during the time they worked together in student government.

"He was able to pass a lot of good positive legislation," Leonard said. "In fact he helped with the raising of a \$1 million bond for our new campus center."

McKay said he enjoys

politics and intends to join the SJSU student government once his new club can run itself, but said he doesn't want to pursue politics later in life.

"I only do politics because that's something that's necessary in this world," he said. "There are more politics in special education than in regular classes."

However, McKay has an energy and enthusiasm for politics that goes beyond acquiring skills for something else.

"I'm not the kind of person that's going to sit by and let someone else decide my fate and the fate of others without my say," he said. "So that's basically why I took the bull by the horns and decided to ride it."

McKay's colleagues agree.

"James is very much a take charge kind of guy," Leonard said. "He was always talking to students, trying to gauge how they felt and what they were feeling towards their classes, towards their daily life, toward many aspects of being a student."

McKay said he wants to be a special education teacher and plans on getting his teaching credential from SJSU.

McKay's father, John, said that this too is inspired by McKay's sense of responsibility to the world.

"He admired special education teachers, and he wants to pay back society for all the help special education teachers have given him over the years," John said.

Robert said McKay's drive and ambition comes from their parents.

"They gave my brother this sense of honor — you commit to something,



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

**James McKay (right) tells Jennifer Lowery (left), a health science junior, about the Disabled Students Association on Monday.**

you finish it," he said.

"You go and make sure your word is kept no matter what. It's good to see him acting on that now. How well those lessons we learned when we were younger are setting in."

John said his son's decision to get involved in advocacy and student government was his son's alone.

"We never expected him to get interested in student government," he said. "That was a total surprise to me and my wife. He wasn't in it in high school. That was a pleasant surprise to us."

Robert said he sees a bright future for his brother.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he bought out Donald Trump in ten years," Robert said. "He wants to be perfect at everything. He will be perfect at everything. God help us all if he ever really gets his act together, 'cause he'll be running the show."

Aside from being active in student life and maintaining a 3.1 GPA, McKay said he has a part-time job at Rite Aid where he has been working for three years and recently earned his first belt in Shotokan karate.

"Surprisingly, he's gotten through very well with all the stuff he's piled on to his plate," Robert said. "The kid's a rock star. The only thing he doesn't do is go to frat parties. If he just did that one little thing, he'd be the most popular guy on campus."

Leonard said "everyone" knew McKay on campus at West Valley College.

"James was a popular student," he said.

"Everyone knew James on campus because he was

always doing something, he was always around, he was always engaged with many events and activities on campus."

While McKay sees having a disability as a serious challenge for college students, he said he sees benefits as well.

"I find having Tourette's gives me an interesting insight into the academic world to see people and why they do what they do," McKay said.

He said the challenges he faces are made easier by the people around him.

"People are very accepting," he said. "With extraordinary circumstances, you can do extraordinary things, and you can find exceptional people wherever you go."

**CAMPUS VOICES**

By: Alex Wara

**What do you like to do when the weather is warm?**

Sophia Zohdi



Junior English & German Literature

I like to go to Santa Cruz.

Alex Yip



Senior Animation Illustration

I like to get a nice burrito from Super Taqueria.

Suki Shen



Senior Graphic Design

I like to go shopping.

Howard Lee



Senior Graphic Design

I like to chill outside.

Gerard Oliverio



Senior Justice Studies

I like to ride my bike, go running — any outdoor activity.

Susan Huynh



Senior Nutrition

I like to eat lunch outside, read a book and do homework.

**CUTS**

From Page 1

later as well," he said.

The California Legislative Analyst's Office has projected that the deficit for the 2011-12 California state budget will be \$19 billion.

No immediate details were available for the cuts to the individual universities, according to McClatchy Tribune.

The CSU system's cuts will come from reducing 10,000 students from enrolling, or about 2 percent of the CSU system's total enrollment, according to McClatchy Tribune.

Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU, said, "We'll really know by March what the decision will be. There may also be a special election to vote on what we're going to do about this situation."

Alex Wara, Donovan Farnham and Ron Gleason contributed to this story.

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■ GYMNASTICS

# Spartans fall on beam, lose to No. 2 Stanford

Melissa Sabile  
Sports Editor

The SJSU women's gymnastics team scored its second best team total of the season of 193.825, but it wasn't enough to beat the No. 2 ranked Stanford Cardinal.

"When you're competing against the No. 2 team in the country, obviously it's going to be a tough meet, but we held our own," said head coach Wayne Wright. "We started off doing well. We did well on vault, bars and floor, got to beam where we had a little rough spot, but overall I'm pretty happy with the score."

The Spartans started out on bars, where they scored their second-highest team score for the event this season with a 48.70. Senior Shanice Howard started off the event, earning a 9.675. Senior Lily Swann followed, scoring a 9.725 for the Spartans.

Freshman Cassandra Harrison was next on bars, but fell on her release move and was only able to score an 8.800. Sophomore Alyssa Telles-Nolan picked the team back up by earning a 9.700 and senior Katie Jo Merritt posted a 9.750. Junior Thomasina Wallace scored a 9.850, tying for third place.

The team then rotated to vault, where it, once again, recorded its second-highest team score of 48.650. Wallace and Swann both scored a 9.775 on their vaults. Harrison came close with a 9.750 and Merritt earned a 9.725. Juniors Aubrey Lee and Katie Valteau both scored a 9.625 for the Spartans.

"I think we all realized we had a great opportunity here," Lee said. "We had a lot of great things happen, despite the bobbles. But we still did good."

After vault was the floor exercise, where the Spartans had yet another second highest team score of 49.000. Lee started out on floor followed by junior Casey McCord, both girls earning a 9.725. Freshman Julia Greer competed next, earning a 9.700 for the Spartans. Swann scored a 9.800. Wallace and Valteau each received a 9.875, tying for third place.

"Floor was really good today," Valteau said. "We stepped it up. Aubrey went first and we went up from there. I felt like I had a really good routine and my score reflected that."

Wright said he was happy with Lee's performance on floor exercise.

"She did well on floor today, which was her highest event score," he said. "Her form was great and each week she continues to get better and better."

**"Beam has always been a problem that we need to work on. We didn't hit it like we know we can, so we need to go back into the gym and regroup."**

Wayne Wright  
Head Coach

Lee said she is confident and enjoys performing on floor.

"I love doing my routine because it's fun and upbeat," she said. "I try to get the crowd involved."

The Spartans' final rotation was on balance beam, where the team experienced some difficulties staying on. Wallace competed first and fell, earning only a 9.125 for the team. Lee competed next, scoring a 9.600, followed by Greer who posted a 9.575. Swann went next and received a 9.500. Merritt's routine was solid and earned her a 9.675. Sophomore Holly Partridge also fell off the beam and was only able to score an 8.800. The team's final beam score was 47.475.

"Beam has always been a

problem that we need to work on," Wright said. "We didn't hit it like we know we can, so we need to go back into the gym and regroup. When we do hit beam, we'll be a totally different team in terms of the score and what we're capable of doing."

Valteau said despite the falls on balance beam, the team improved from last week.

"We started off really strong," Merritt said. "We were on a roll to get a really high score. We had a couple of falls on beam and it hurt us. It really was that make-it-or-break-it between that 194 that we needed and the 193 that we got."

Wright said Merritt performed well for her team and was happy about her scores.

"Katie Jo had a good meet today," he said. "She's consistent. She did a good job in keeping her composure and doing what we needed her to do."

Merritt said the key to her consistency is her level of confidence.

"In my head I know I can do it," she said. "I have that confidence. I have a different kind of confidence in every event that I do."

The Spartans will face Boise State and Seattle Pacific University on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Spartan Gym in Yoshihiro Uchida Hall.

"Boise is, I think, our biggest rival," Merritt said. "They went 196 last week. It's our house and we don't want them to win in our house."

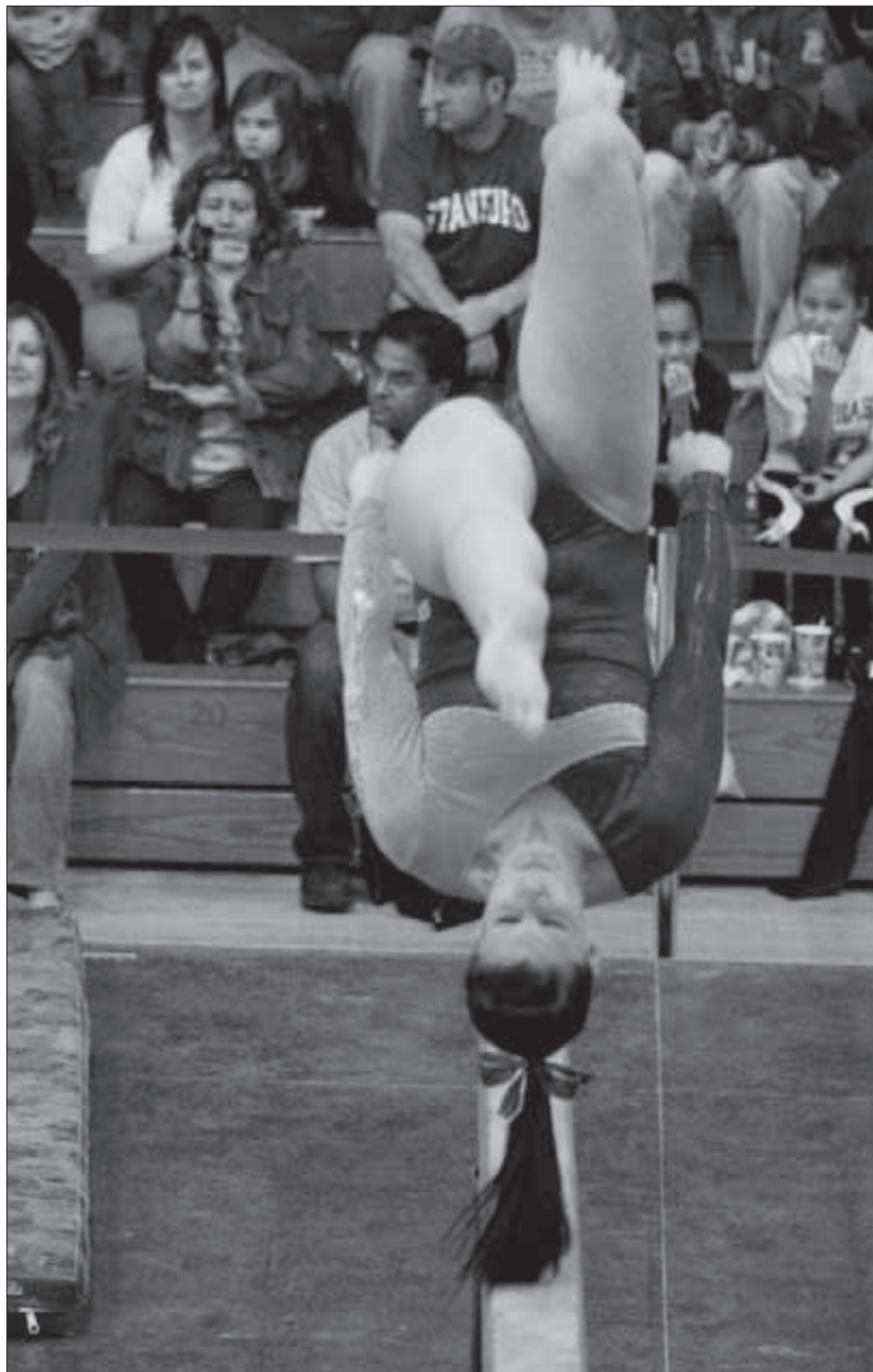


Photo: Donovan Farnham / Spartan Daily

Sophomore Holly Partridge flips over the balance beam during the Spartans' meet against Stanford University on Saturday.



Photo: Donovan Farnham / Spartan Daily

Senior Shanice Howard jumps to catch the high bar at the start of her routine. Howard scored a 9.675 for the Spartans during the meet against No. 2 Stanford.

## SEASON LEADERS

Thomasina Wallace  
9.900 Vault

Katie Jo Merritt  
9.800 Bars

Shanice Howard  
9.750 Beam

Thomasina Wallace  
9.925 Floor



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COMMENTARY

# Social media: The public face of political dissent

Donovan Farnham  
Senior Staff Writer

The following is a part of Daily 2.0, a Spartan Daily tech column.

The biggest possible understatement right now is that the situation in Egypt is going to change, and quickly.

The Egyptian protests and ongoing unrest have raised questions about what democracy really means in the Middle East and what the region's future is going to be.

But the secondary point of the Egyptian revolution is how access to the Internet has already changed and will continue to change the way public dissent is expressed and whether Internet access and the ability to use it as a voice is a correct political discussion.

If you haven't been following the constant updates from news organizations, posts to social networking sites were the main source of reporting for the area until Western journalists were able to fly into the region.

Then, what was thought to be near-impossible and unthinkable happened: The Internet was shut off.

The Internet being turned off doesn't seem like much on paper, but when you look at how the Internet facilitated the public dissent of Egypt's 30-year "president," Hosni Mubarak, his government was able to stop mass dissent in the country on a whim.

A few days later the government reportedly hacked phone services to send out mass pro-Mubarak text messages to the rioting Egyptian population and defend his government's reputation.

At first glance, making a link between the Internet, social networks and mass political upheaval may seem to be overstating the case, but there are photos of protestors that go as far to hold signs to thank Facebook for being a place to voice their dissent.

Egypt is another example of the way social networks have changed the way the world communicates.

Now, instead of news being relegated to known media outlets, we now have the citizens talking directly to the masses where these headless leviathans of revolt can



Photo: McClatchy Tribune

Recent protests in Egypt have been empowered largely by the instantaneous communication offered by the Internet.

crop up like they did in Iran in 2009 and now in Egypt.

The bigger issue for the United States is that the federal government has debated whether to give the president the option to kill the Internet at the flick of a switch, much like what happened in Egypt.

This raises the question of what President Obama implied about the Internet in the State of the Union and has been debated about in the blogosphere.

It is a question of whether having access to the Internet is now a right.

If it is a right then that will turn the political aspect of the Internet on its head much like the Internet did for so many other fields of study.

If Internet access is a right, the arguments regarding Internet neutrality would become exponentially more complicated because it would turn into an argument about

classes of citizenship in a democracy where everyone is supposed to be equal.

There's the issue of whether having the ability to stay connected to the Internet could become an issue of infringing on someone's right to information, and issues such as being able to access the Internet by an iPhone on AT&T's network comes into question.

If the federal government were to pass the kill-switch bill, then what would keep them from trying to stamp out rabble-rousers such as those in Egypt?

What would be the line to have the government stop the tea party from speaking out against a democratic majority, or college students' comments about how their

drunken roommate is smarter than George W. Bush?

These are all questions about the Internet that have been brought to the forefront because of what's happening in Egypt and it seems fitting that these changes to our 2.0 world would start in the place that is one of the cradles of civilization.

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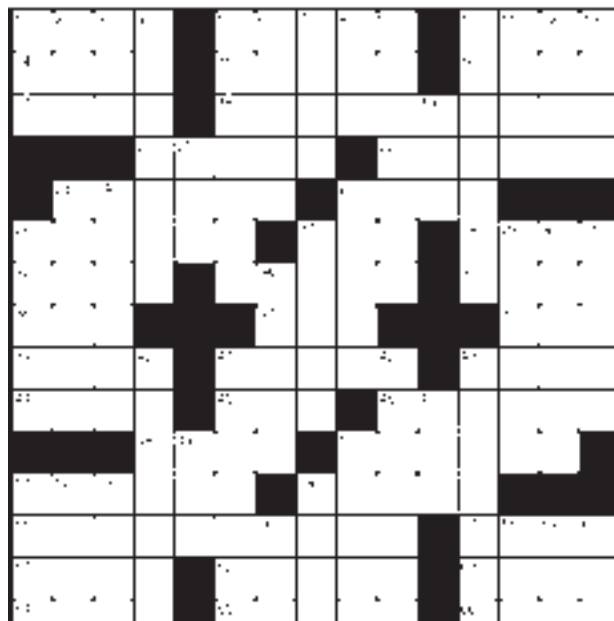
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32 Eric Cartwright  
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35 Squash address  
36 We pull  
37 Checkers side  
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41 Out  
43 California Woods  
44 Homfield government  
45 Much neighbor  
46 Like  
48 Vaccines  
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51 50's seller  
54 Nubody's face  
55 Mountaint's ad  
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57 Genies  
58 Wheel's  
62 Get on the bear  
63 Third-quarter hole  
64 Voyage  
65 Fourm wear  
66 "Naked Mole" artist

**DOWN**  
1 Oscar Dimona  
2 Ames inst  
3 Yule's perch  
4 Reduces  
5 Filled with ice  
6 Warnings  
7 Cause  
8 NASA  
9 Lab glassware  
10 Whisks harrow  
11 Drop  
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13 Pocket  
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26 Moon position  
27 Buy a round

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GOURAMI	POLLARS	
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GPPE	SNARL	GNA
NERD	MORAY	EON



# Prison creates more murderers

Fyodor Dostoevsky once said, "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

Edward Schaefer, a 44-year old man who was in prison for hitting a little girl while drunk on his motorcycle, was stabbed to death on July 26, 2010, in San Quentin.

Upon finding this out, I was largely apathetic.

"I guess that's why he's in prison," I figured and went about my business.

However, the U.S. prison system remains so far out of sight and out of mind in my normal day-to-day life. This seemed a prime opportunity to investigate how common violence occurs within the U.S. prison system.

A 2006 study by the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons reported that violence still poses a large problem for inmates.

The study showed that gang violence, rape and officer brutality crimes often go unreported by both prisoners and corrections



Francisco Rendon  
Staff Writer

officers who fear assault if they report the incidents.

More than two-thirds of inmates who leave the penal system are reincarcerated within three years of their release, according to a 15-state study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

So it shouldn't be surprising that my initial reaction was to not care what happens to Frank Souza, who took Schaefer's life.

Souza had finished three prison terms prior to the murder conviction, which he was serving when he killed Schaefer.

He was scheduled to be in prison for 70 years for killing a homeless man in San Jose.

A witness reported after the incident he was shaking and almost smirking, "like he had done a good deed."

I have never met Souza personally, but it seems as though there were certain issues that were not resolved.

This is a signal that our justice system is failing to rehabilitate, and some individuals are becoming more dangerous as time passes.

A study from the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates five percent of prisoners reported sexual victimization.

Considering that 12 percent of prisoners at the federal and state level are incarcerated for sexual crimes, this means that either half of U.S. inmates convicted of sexual crimes continue to perpetuate their offense in prison, or our system is encouraging more individuals to commit more kinds of crimes.

Souza is trying to avoid the death penalty by challenging that he was "lying in wait" before killing Schaefer with a seven-inch shard of metal on the prison yard.

His legal representatives are claiming that over the last 30 years the law has become vague and convoluted and are hoping to rule it unconstitutional.

I cannot blame him, as prison life may be something he has become familiar with over time, and he may well want to hang onto it.

It is a shame though that Edward Schaefer had to lose his life, while serving the punishment a jury of his peers prescribed to him.

It is a shame that Frank Souza never got the help he needed, and spent his whole life in and out of the prison system.

It is a shame that these men and 1,613,740 like them live in a world totally disconnected from mine.

And their world is getting worse.

# New health care plan can't come soon enough

Rod Schenker  
Contributer

President Obama's controversial health care law was ruled unconstitutional on Monday, in whole, by a federal district judge in Florida.

Judge Roger Vinson found with the plaintiffs - including 26 state attorney generals - that requiring individuals to purchase health insurance went beyond Congress' power to regulate activity under the interstate commerce clause.

The conventional wisdom is that Congress can regulate activity, but not inactivity.

I think "regulating inactivity" is an oxymoron. The question is whether Congress can compel individuals into a commercial transaction. The Supreme Court is likely to make the final call later this year - meanwhile the administration has stated confidently that implementation of the law will proceed as planned.

A few days before this ruling, Obama stated just as confidently in his State of the Union address that America's future depends on innovation and competitiveness.

I agree. So legal issues aside, I am left wondering, what does the president's health care legislation do for innovation and competitiveness?

Thomas Jefferson wrote "Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

The Affordable Health-care Act is more than 2,000 pages of directions from Washington.

It dictates in fine detail the terms of medical finance and delivery to insurers, providers, individuals and state Medicaid programs while bringing them under closer management by the federal bureaucracies it expands for that purpose.

It was passed with the help and endorsement of the biggest insurance companies who have little competition and prefer to keep it that way.

Does anyone really think

higher quality and lower costs will result?

I'm with Jefferson - and history - on this one.

If you disagree, please contact me to place your bet.

Modern medicine evolved in a market where medical researchers, device makers, and drug companies stood a good chance of being repaid for their risky investments in innovation.

Yes, the profit motive was important, but not as important as the loss motive.

What do I mean? Some people argue that it's wasteful to allow corporate profits in medical insurance, for instance, because a government agency could do the same work without taking profits out of the system, thus lowering costs.

So why has this never, ever worked in practice? Because bureaucracies have no loss motive.

It's that simple. Their funding is secured by politics and brute force, not by earning the transactions of free and consenting adults.

Thus bureaucrats don't get paid to be efficient.

Their jobs are unaffected by failed policies.

They have nothing to discipline their organizational behavior or culture to the needs of those they serve. They have no reasons to embrace innovation or competition.

So Obama's health care law is at odds with his call for renewing America by those means.

In a world struggling for freedom, his solution for health care has more in common with the kind of dictatorial, cronyistic, bureaucratic regimes whose stagnation is suffocating people in places like Egypt and Tunisia.

So what gives? My best guess gives me no comfort: I think you can only pick and choose where innovation and competition are virtues if you're agnostic about their cause.

It's freedom that spurs people to innovate and compete, and freedom that rewards them for doing so.

Foreign policy is not the only place America would benefit from a more principled commitment to it.

# A fire fueled by our money tree

Apathy and disillusionment are two common feelings toward violence in the Middle East by Americans, though we spend billions attempting to keep nations at bay.

The United States' aid of \$3 billion annually to ally with Israel proves our wholehearted alliance with the country.

Our role as a western country in the Middle East is intervening, as the west has done for hundreds of years, and this causes problems.

The No. 2 recipient at \$2 billion, Egypt, is in political crisis, partly because of the fact that western countries prefer to keep prolonging the generally timid and relatively peaceful state of things and the people upset at what they see as corruption.

Other recipients of U.S. aid are dotted throughout the Middle East.

It's the birthplace of the three Abrahamic religions.

It's the site called the Holy Land. It's the land of two people, both mired in tension.

Why is the region called both Israel and Palestine so tense?

It might be wise to take a look at the region's history for context.

Conflicts throughout Africa and the Middle East military and trade settlements date back first to the Crusades in 1095, where Europeans romanticized the seizure of the birthplace of Jesus Christ, who was born a Jew.

The Crusades evolved from war in the name in religion to conflict on behalf of taking the wealth of the invaded in seven progressions.

In this was also fermented in the minds of Europeans that those who were not Christians, the infidels, were outsiders who should be shamed upon.

Regardless of this hate, they traded with the Middle Easterners for what was called Far East goods, such as Indian spices and Chinese textiles.

Several hundred years later, the Europeans continued this destructive pathway of competitive gaining.

They cut out the middle man and traded with the Far East themselves, trying to get the most of their efforts.

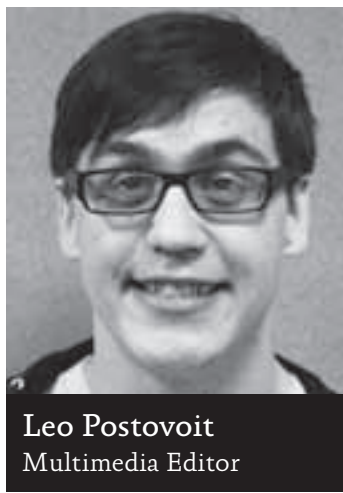
By the 16th century major Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch and English settlements appeared in lands all over Africa and Asia, often to the locals' anger.

Some of these settlements' conflicts were dotted through Arab countries, and the locals experienced many horrible events.

From slavery to forced resource extraction to simple cultural conflicts, the West and Middle East were at odds.

The main idea of settlement throughout was to establish more beneficial trade routes for Europeans, cutting out the Middle East as a middleman.

This, rightly so, made the Middle East upset. Conflicts occurred in dif-



Leo Postovoit  
Multimedia Editor

ferent iterations over the next 300 years in several waves of alliances and empires.

The Arab land called Palestine came into target by a Zionist movement, made up of mostly Eastern European radical Jews.

West and Middle East tensions persisted, and at the same time Palestine saw immigration by Zionists.

It slowly shifted into a Jewish homeland and in 1948, it became solidified when the United Nations set the Plan for Palestine and partitioned the land into two states.

The alliance by European nations and the United States occurred for several reasons.

Perhaps the greatest is oppositional defiance, that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

The tension will never break until we stop playing cop and stop giving reasons for the Middle East to be mad at the West.

The desire for peace might be shared by both Palestine and Israel but this will require the removal of a conflict mentality and the adoption of shared governance.

Until the leadership stops thinking about taking for themselves and their nations and trying to give to all of the people in the region, peace will never be possible.

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# Drink of the week

By: Leonard Lai



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

**Bijan Bakery & Cafe's "affogato" is a delightful mixture of gelato and espresso, topped with a swirl of whipped cream.**

## MUSIC REVIEW

# The Decemberists take detour in new album

Salman Haqqi  
Executive Editor

The Decemberists' 2009 rock opera, *The Hazards Of Love* — a complex, flowery tragedy that polarized fans — pushed frontman Colin Meloy's verbose storytelling to its peak.

It caused many to hail it as a conceptual masterpiece and others to disown it as bloated tripe. Despite the differing opinions, everyone wondered where Portland's antiquated yarn-spinners would go next.

Getting more grandiose would be impossible and returning to a lighter album of whimsically twisted tales would be backpedaling.

Change seemed to be the most logical option, and while 2011's *The King Is Dead*, a stripped-down, country-tinged meditation on loss and nature, isn't exactly a reinvention, it's more streamlined than any of the band's previous releases.

The album strangles indie with 12-string guitars, vocal harmonies and an abundance of toe-tapping harmonica bits. The Decemberists themselves claimed their primary influence was R.E.M., and while R.E.M.'s guitarist Peter Buck takes credit for three tracks, the record more or less mourns folk rock.

They represent the kind of charm and emotion embedded in works associated more to the likes of Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen. From the opening harmonica bluster of "Don't Carry It All" to the record's pastoral recording location to the

album cover of looming black pines, *The King Is Dead* is thematically nestled in the backwoods.

Gone are the band's tavern orchestra instrumentation and elaborate tales. Jenny Conlee's accordion, while still present, is turned down in

cup," Meloy sings.

Unlike his previous stories such as "The Bagman's Gambit," "The Bachelor And The Bride" and "O! Valencia," we never discover what leads these characters to their ominous fates, giving the album a sense of rustic melancholy.

"Don't Carry It All" is a righteous folk jam and "Calamity Song" along with "Rise To Me" pit '90s alternative against country dripping with more Bob Dylan than George Strait.

The album, though, is by no means a weeper. Because of the lack of literal details, the songs don't have the heart-wrenching dramatic weight of *The Hazards Of Love*, which for me bordered on fantasy melodrama. *The King Is Dead* has sunny spots speckled throughout. "June Hymn" chronicles the changing of seasons with some of Meloy's most gorgeously vivid imagery to date.

Lucid phrases such as "A barany of ivy in the trees, expanding out its empire by degrees/And all the branches burst a' bloom into bloom/Heaven sent this cardinal, maroon to decorate our living room" mark his maturity as a wordsmith, using lush visuals instead of his usual narrative crutch to evoke a mood rather than a linear storyline.

At its heart, *The King Is Dead* is a middle-of-the-road record, a pleasant, introspective stroll through the cottonwoods whose creaky comfort gets The Decemberists out of their comfort zone but you into yours.

**"The album strangles indie with 12-string guitars, vocal harmonies and an abundance of toe-tapping harmonica bits."**

favor of Chris Funk's slinky slide guitar, and Meloy's once vulturous narratives are turned inward for lyrically vague, but effective self-examinations.

Confessions such as "Calamity Song," "Rox In The Box" and "Down By The Water" feature unnamed narrators dealing with guilty consciences amid tumultuous country environments. "The season rubs me wrong/The summer swells anon/so knock me down, tear me up/but I would bear it all just to fill my

On one occasion through my meandering in downtown San Jose, I paused my journey when I happened upon a place with which I wasn't so familiar.

Resting between First and Market streets near The Fairmont was the little shop Bijan Bakery & Cafe.

Upon entering, I was impressed with all the items that were on display such as princess cake, chiffon cake and an assortment of other attractive and well-decorated pastries.

The thing that caught my eye, though, was a sign resting on top of the store's counter advertising for something called "affogato," priced at \$5.50.

Maybe it was because its shape looked like a sundae or because affogato is really fun to say, but I knew I needed to get this drink.

The drink is made up of a scoop of ice cream or gelato with a shot of espresso dumped over it, topped off with a whipped cream swirl.

Affogato is Italian for "drowned" and

after tasting it, I can definitely tell you that it really does drown you in pleasure with its rich and sweet taste.

Imagine the drink to be like a root beer float, but with espresso, and hopefully you'll get a better idea of what it looks like.

My drink had vanilla bean gelato, but Bijan can substitute it with any one of its other flavors.

I recommend mixing the drink before you consume it, blending it into a thick, creamy state with the hot espresso mixing with the cold gelato.

The sweet flavor of the vanilla, contrasted with the bitterness of the espresso, is pure heaven.

My friend had treated me to the drink and afterward for the rest of the day, the espresso had us both wired and fully functioning as we completed our day with an energetic smile.

Bijan is a bog, one that I will happily drown myself in anytime I wish for an affogato.

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