

WORLD NEWS



Illustration: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

Over the past few days, Libya has erupted in protests and Libyan authorities have responded with severe force.

Libyan leader clings to power as troops gun down protesters

McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO — Moammar Gadhafi was clinging to power Monday as his troops and mercenaries gunned down civilians and anti-government protesters in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, prompting international condemnation, and defections and cries of genocide from some members of his own government and military.

U.S. officials confirmed multiple reports from residents of aircraft strafing protesters on the outskirts of Tripoli. Mercenaries were firing indiscriminately into crowds, funeral processions and civilians' homes, and people were running out of food, potable water and medicine, residents said.

"The situation is serious and horrible," said a doctor reached by telephone at the city's main trauma center. He spoke on the condition

of anonymity for fear of retribution should Gadhafi remain in power.

Libyan diplomats at the United Nations mission in New York and at other embassies worldwide broke with Gadhafi's regime Monday. Ibrahim Dabbashi, Libya's deputy U.N. representative, called on Gadhafi to resign and urged the world to speak out. The regime is committing "a real genocide against the Libyan people. Colonel Gadhafi is shooting his own people," Dabbashi said in an interview on the Al-Jazeera network.

The turmoil raged on the sixth day of an uprising against Gadhafi that has claimed hundreds of lives and left the second largest city, Benghazi, and other population centers on the country's eastern wing in the hands of troops who defected to the opposition and armed civilians.

The insurrection against Gadhafi, the Middle East's longest ruling dictator, is the most dramatic of the uprisings inspired across the

region by the largely peaceful revolts that ousted the former presidents of Egypt and Tunisia, rooted in pent-up popular anger over corruption, poverty, abuses and a lack of political rights.

The uprising began with the arrest of a prominent lawyer in Benghazi and spread along the eastern side of the Gulf of Sidra, reaching the regime's stronghold of Tripoli on Sunday evening.

Events in Libya, one of the Middle East's main oil producers, pushed petroleum prices higher, complicating President Barack Obama's efforts to keep the delicate U.S. economic recovery on track and adjust a U.S. approach to the region that has long favored its dictators and kings over the political and human rights of ordinary people.

There were rising calls for the U.N. Security Council to address the

see LIBYA page 2

Film portrays America's untold history

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

Amid the thousands of books in the King Library, a group of students gathered to watch a movie about a best-selling book.

The movie "The People Speak," was inspired by Howard Zinn's book, "The People's History of the United States" and was screened yesterday by the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center.

The idea to show the film came out of a concept by three students to do a play focusing on stories in San Jose that are not well known in the community, said Yan Yin Choy, a junior environmental studies major.

"We thought that screening 'The People Speak' would be a good way to start the dialogue on this because it is a bunch of different performances that are based on Howard Zinn's books," Choy said.

Choy, along with senior history major Latu Tapaoutai and Amalia Renteria, a senior public relations major, are the students working on the people's history of San Jose.

"The People Speak' is developing a consciousness not just based on history and remembering the facts but more of how do we as students use our privileges to create changes in our communities," Tapaoutai said.

The three have been meeting for several months and it is a long process, Tapaoutai said.

The film includes a variety of actors including Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman, along with musicians Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, who performed pieces throughout the film.

Actors were filmed at a live performance of dramatic readings taken from historical documents.

"I notice that San Jose State is very diverse in terms of ethnicities and in cultures and religions," said Cathy Bui, a junior environmental studies major. "I really hope that students gain a lot of knowledge and wisdom from attending events like these."

The film portrays the people in history who are mentioned in school textbooks and those who are not so well-known in history but have their own accounts to tell.

The struggles of Native Americans, slaves, union

"I notice that San Jose State is very diverse in terms of ethnicities and in cultures and religions."

Cathy Bui
Junior
Environmental
Studies

workers and women are portrayed in the film with accounts from people who witnessed things that history books did not cover.

The story of Rose Chernin, who was a neighborhood organizer during the time when union

see FILM page 2

Gallery tackles notions of choice through art

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

The second floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library has been adorned with an art gallery highlighting the theme of "choice," presented by the South Bay Area Women's Caucus for Art.

In a pamphlet in the front of the gallery, Mariana Barnes, Ph.D., the caucus exhibition director, asked "What have been our choices in the past? What are our choices today?"

According to its website, the caucus was established in 1989 as a local chapter of the National Women's Caucus of Art and states that its mission is "to

achieve equity for women in visual arts by exhibition opportunities and education for our members and the community at large."

The exhibit "Can we empower others to fashion lives with more choices?" has been on display since Feb. 6 and will close on Feb. 26.

Candice McGee, King Library's events coordinator, said the South Bay Women's Caucus has presented a gallery to SJSU three times now.

"They contact us and we go over perspectives on what they want to present," she said. "Basically every year they pick a new theme."

The current gallery features an array of different styles of

art pieces ranging from paintings and drawings to sculptures and quilts.

Alex Lipstein, a junior industrial systems engineering major, said he saw a similarity between himself and an art piece called "Should I stay or should I go" by Claudia Prillwitz.

"It's about leaving home and should I go for change and I, being from Connecticut, it kind of corresponds with me," he said. "It's all about risk and reward."

In an excerpt next to her art piece, Prillwitz stated how choice is not simple and how we must step outside our norms to make tough calls.

"The choice was not simple," she said. "But only by stepping

out of that comfort zone was when life started to show its true colors."

Sylvia Chavarria, a graduate student with a Master's degree in social work, said the quilt called "Mud Flap Girl" by Bonnie Smith was a piece that particularly caught her eye.

"I really like that quilt about how far women have come in the past 50 years and the choices we make for ourselves," she said. "I think it's important that we are aware of the choices we are making."

The art piece is a large quilt featuring a repeating pattern of the mud flap girl seen on trucks.

In Smith's excerpt, she stated

see GALLERY page 2

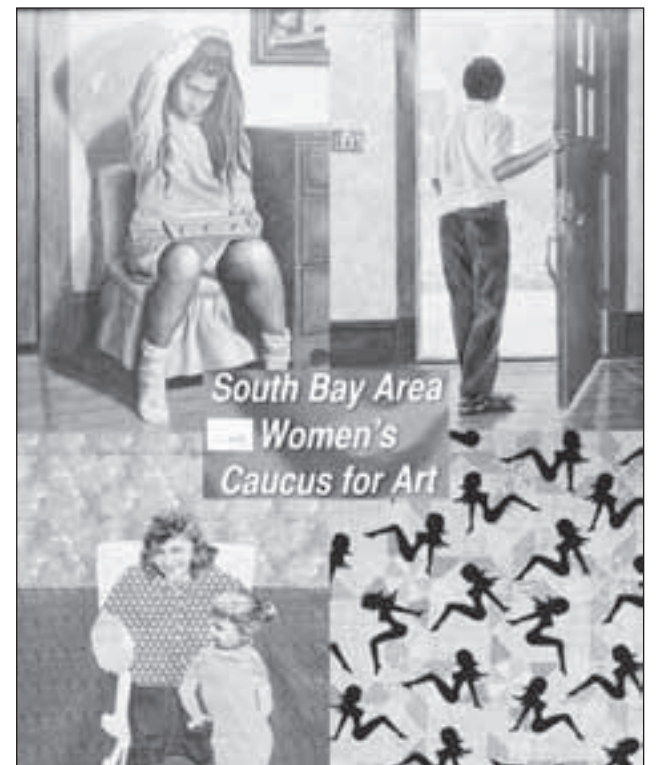
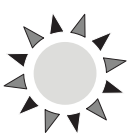


Photo Illustration: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

The South Bay Area Women's Caucus for Art exhibit opened Feb. 6 and will be running until Feb. 26.

WEATHER



High: 60°
Low: 38°

TECH, PAGE 4

Marvel vs. Capcom 3 delivers one-two punch
Superhero-based video game will satisfy gamers.



OPINION, PAGE 6

Rivalries should never include criminal behavior

Sports need fans, not fanatics.

A&E, PAGE 6

Academy Award nominations recognize cinematic talent

A look at the field for this year's Oscars.

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FILM
From Page 1

workers were striking, shared her experience of standing in picket lines and dealing with the police re-enacted.

Labor activist Cesar Chavez was also seen in the film, with images shown of him rallying farm workers.

"I found that the part about the Native Americans and the Trail of Tears reminded me of the reality of what our country is really

built on," said Brian Cramer, a senior political science major.

After the movie, students were invited to gather in a circle to discuss the movie and what they felt the struggles are today for people.

"I thought the conversation was very intriguing and thought-provoking," Cramer said.

Students discussed what they enjoyed about the movie and what they thought was left out along with discussing what can be fixed in their communities.



Photo: Michelle Terris/ Spartan Daily

Graduate student Zach Pallin and Yan Yin Choy, a junior environmental studies major, watch a screening of "The People Speak" at the King Library on Monday.

San Jose church embraces spiritual core in 'Soul Sanctuary'

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

Rich cultural tradition, religion and the struggle to adapt to a changing environment are explored in Michael Cheers' Ph.D. film "Soul Sanctuary."

The film will be screened at 7 p.m. today in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

Cheers, an assistant professor of photojournalism, directed, produced, edited and shot the film himself, with assistance from SJSU students as sound and lighting technicians.

The subject of the film is Antioch Baptist Church, on East Julian Street in Downtown San Jose.

According to the website, the church was founded 117 years ago in 1893, and has traditionally been an African-American church throughout its existence, Cheers said.

However, the neighborhood surrounding the church is now primarily Asian and Hispanic, and he said the film is largely about the struggle to hold onto a proud African-American heritage while still maintaining social relevance amid shifting dynamics.

"Antioch Baptist Church is one of the pillars of the black community," he said. "I just felt that the story needed to be told. (Attendees) will come away with a sense of that church and that community that is only six blocks away from SJSU, a very rich and important part of SJ history."

The film was honored Jan. 8 with a first-place commendation at the CreaTiVe film awards in the Non-Profit: Arts and Culture Film category.

Bob Rucker, interim director of the school of journalism and mass communications, will be the master of ceremonies for the event, and said this was the second screening of the film at SJSU.

"This is an extraordinary faculty effort," he said. "This thing is definitely worth seeing."

The premiere screening was May 15 last year, and the audience was largely composed of African-Americans, Rucker said, though there were different ethnic groups represented.

There was a significantly smaller number of people on campus during that screening because it was summer, and he said he hopes this event would integrate the SJSU community and the Antioch Baptist Church community.

When discussing a date for a second showing of the film, Rucker said black history month seemed like a natural time.

"I hope the campus community will be as touched as the people who attended

the premiere," he said. "This is about more than a celebration of black history month, this is about (many) years of people struggling to survive with the sole mission of trying to help somebody in need."

One thing Rucker said individuals could expect if they attended was an insight into African-American culture.

"(Attendees will be) learning about another culture in a free and open environment," he said. "In African-American communities, especially religious ones, we are very comfortable saying amen."

"There will be a lot of amens coming from that screening."



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Michael Cheers

The Reverend Fannie Davis, minister in charge of Antioch Baptist Church, anoints a young man during altar call at one of the church's Sunday services.

LIBYA
From Page 1

Libyan government's assault on civilians. A senior U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to speak for the record, wouldn't rule out an emergency Security Council meeting, but said there were no plans yet for one.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement Monday evening that "now is the time to stop this unacceptable bloodshed" and that the U.S. is "working urgently with friends and partners around the world to convey this message to the Libyan government."

Internet and landline telephone service was cut, electricity was erratic and cell phone circuits were constantly overloaded. Protesters vowed to hold out until Gadhafi left, while other residents cowered in their homes.

At the trauma center, doctors donated their own blood to try to keep up with the demand. Two to three new casualties, all gunshot victims, were arriving every half-hour, the anonymous doctor said, and dozens of dead had been brought in since

Sunday. One Tripoli man who gave only his first name, Massey, said in an interview via Skype that the violence in Tripoli broke open late Sunday night moments after Gadhafi's son, Saif al Islam Gadhafi, delivered a rambling speech warning of the potential for civil war.

Gadhafi security forces and mercenaries "began shooting at the crowds indiscriminately" in Green Square, where protesters from Tripoli and other Libyan cities had flocked, holding hands and demanding Gadhafi's departure.

"Many people began falling down."

Monday morning, Massey found about 70 corpses at a nearby park. He said witnesses are describing killings largely as being carried out by African mercenaries, including in the working-class neighborhood of Ghout Shaal and along heavily populated Republic Street, which leads to Bab Elezizya, Gadhafi's compound.

As of 1 a.m. Tuesday local time, he said. "There is gunfire going on nonstop. It's basically a war zone." He said protesters were largely unarmed.

One Tripoli woman, who spoke with McClatchy Newspapers

from her home by cell phone, said, "I can hear some shots and some airplanes. Everybody is in the house and cannot go outside. We are frightened and closing our doors. I'm trying to stay calm for the children."

"We are expecting a disaster tonight," said another woman who said her employer was evacuating its foreign staff but that the local staff had nowhere to go. "I don't know if I'm going to be alive tomorrow."

In Benghazi, thousands celebrated in the streets and many predicted that the violence in Tripoli would eventually force Gadhafi out.

Some rode around in cars waving the flag of Libya's former monarchy, which Gadhafi and a group of other mid-level officers overthrew in 1969.

Others met to form committees to run the city in the absence of a government, said Muftah, a Libyan who previously studied journalism in South Carolina and spoke by phone with McClatchy Newspapers on the condition his last name be withheld. "They are not going to go peacefully," he said of Gadhafi and his sons. "They are going to take a lot of people with them. They are going to make a bloodbath."

GALLERY
From Page 1

the meaning of her quilt and poses a question to her viewers.

"Watching debacles of love, money and power unfold in the news over the last year involving women made me rethink how far we as women have come in the last 50 years," she said. "Do we make good choices?"

Chavarria said she likes the theme of the exhibit and how the artists incorporated a feminist feel to it.

"I really like the theme of choice," she said. "There's a lot of feminist twists on it."



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A8. Fried Squid 炸花枝饭	\$6.15
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SOFTBALL

SJSU takes two wins in home-opening series



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Freshman Cheryl Freitas slides into home plate, scoring the third run during the second game of the series against Santa Clara.

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

Returning from playing its first 10 games away from home, the SJSU softball team swept its home-opening series by defeating Santa Clara 2-1 and 8-0 on Sunday.

The doubleheader showcased the Spartans' (8-4) hitting and pitching skills.

"I was really happy with our pitching, hitting and defense this weekend," said head coach Peter Turner. "All three elements worked well."

Game 1 of the series had junior pitcher Jennifer Ames on the mound for the Spartans.

Ames, who was named the Western Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week after the game, allowed just one run on three hits in a complete game for the Spartans.

"Everyone is stepping up," she said. "My team definitely helped me when I had a few miscues."

In the first inning, sophomore infielder BranDee Garcia doubled to left center putting a runner in scoring position for the Spartans.

"I think that I just had a good hitting day," BranDee Garcia said. "I stayed behind the ball even though the pitching was a little slower than usual. I just had to try and stay behind the ball."

Freshman infielder Jessica Garcia then came up to the plate and drove in a run by doubling into left center.

SJSU finished the inning with one run, three hits and one runner left on base.

The game then became a pitchers' duel with no runs scored by either team until the top of the seventh with Santa Clara up to bat.

Santa Clara freshman pinch hitter Rochelle Rivera was walked to put a runner on base.

Two batters later, senior Amanda Edmonson doubled to center field, driving in Riviera and bringing the score to 1-1.

The Spartans started off the bottom of the

seventh inning with sophomore pinch hitter Cheryl Freitas, who grounded out to Santa Clara's shortstop bringing freshman outfielder Britney Helm to the plate.

Helm singled down the infield line to reach base and then stole second putting the Spartans in position to score. A wild pitch from Santa Clara then advanced Helm to third.

BranDee Garcia came up to bat and singled to second base driving in Helm for the Spartans to take Game 1 of the series 2-1.

Game 2 of the doubleheader was taken by the Spartans 8-0 with the five inning rule having to be applied.

In NCAA softball, when a team leads by at least eight runs after five innings, the game is called to an end.

The Spartans scored one run in the bottom of the first with two hits and two runners left on base.

When the Spartans came up to bat during the third inning with the score 2-0, the inning looked like batting practice for the Spartans.

"In the second game we just needed a wake up," Ames said. "It was an offensive explosion."

The Spartans scored five runs to close out the third inning, leaving the score at 7-0.

Leaving three on base in the bottom of the fourth inning, Santa Clara could not rally back during the top of the fifth, as Spartans pitcher Elyssa Fox threw five shutout innings.

SJSU then went into the fifth inning scoring one run and won the game.

The Spartans recorded 19 hits combined from the two games with 11 hits coming in the second game.

Turner shared his plan for preparing the team for the next game against Oregon.

"Play without fear," he said. "We are playing a top-10 team. We did not do well against ASU because we played with fear, we cannot do that against Oregon. There is no reason that we cannot compete with them."

The Spartans will leave for a three-tournament road trip and will return to SJSU Field on March 16 to face New Mexico State.

BASKETBALL

Spartans shoot for wins to ensure spot in WAC Tournament

Joey Akeley
Copy Editor

The Western Athletic Conference Tournament will be held in Las Vegas for the first time since 1999.

New Mexico State has won the tournament two of the last four years and Utah State has made the finals four times in the last five years, winning once.

SJSU has never won the WAC Tournament and its last appearance in the NCAA Tournament occurred in 1996 when the Spartans were a member of the Big West.

The winner of the WAC Tournament receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Below is the current format of the single-elimination tournament:

WAC Tournament Format

WAC Tournament will be March 9-12 in the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

The last place team does not qualify for the tournament.

First round:

Game 1: No. 5 seed vs. No. 8 seed

Game 2: No. 6 seed vs. No. 7 seed

Second Round:

Game 3: Winner of Game 1 vs. No. 4 seed

Game 4: Winner of Game 2 vs. No. 3 seed

Semifinals:

Game 5: Winner of Game 3 vs. No. 2 seed

Game 6: Winner of Game 4 vs. No. 1 seed

Finals:

Game 7: Winner of Game 5 vs. Winner of Game 6

Current WAC standings/tournament prospects

1. Utah State (25-3, 12-1) - The Western Athletic Conference's leader is the obvious pick to win the WAC Tournament. Seniors Tyler Newbold and Tai Wesley have the experience to win close games on the biggest stages of college basketball.

2. New Mexico State (14-13, 8-4) - The Aggies are arguably the most athletic team in the WAC and have played their best basketball in the last month. Forward Troy Gilenwater is a matchup problem for every team in the conference. Expect the Aggies to play in the championship.

3. Nevada (7-5, 11-15) - For the first since 2008, Nevada will not be hosting the WAC Tournament. With a 2-12 record away from Reno, don't expect Nevada to be able to make a run in Las Vegas.

4. Boise State (15-11, 7-6) - The Broncos have the league's second-best point differential. Guard La'Shard Anderson and the Broncos have the potential of making the finals of the WAC Tournament, but will likely bow out in the semis.

5. Idaho (15-11, 7-6) - The Vandals are the league's best 3-point shooting team and are an underrated defensive team. The Vandals are the only team in the WAC to beat Utah State, and they won because of their lockdown defense, not their 3-point shooting. Idaho has the ability to shock the world and win the WAC Tournament and should at least make the semis.

6. Hawaii (15-10, 5-7) - The Rainbow Warriors have won six of their last eight games and could be a tough out in the second round.

7. Fresno State (13-14, 5-8) - This Bulldogs team lacks the talent to make a deep run in the conference tournament.

8. San Jose State (13-12, 3-9) - With seniors Adrian Oliver and Justin Graham, the Spartans have the best guard play in the WAC. Oliver leads the conference in scoring and Graham ranks fourth. But the lack of size could keep SJSU from making the semis.

9. Louisiana Tech (12-16, 2-10) - The Bulldogs have lost three games in a row. Any hope of making the WAC Tournament rides on beating SJSU at the Event Center on Feb. 26.

Spartans' remaining games

To make the WAC Tournament, the Spartans will more than likely have to win at least one of their remaining four games.

Wednesday's home game against New Mexico State is the toughest game remaining

on the schedule. New Mexico State defeated the Spartans 78-53 in Las Cruces, N. M., and the Aggies ended the Spartans' season a year ago in the WAC Tournament.

Saturday's home game against Louisiana Tech is the biggest game left on SJSU's schedule. Without Adrian

Oliver, the Spartans defeated the Bulldogs 79-74 in Ruston, La., a month ago. The Spartans should be able to handle the Bulldogs with a healthy Oliver, but a Bulldogs win would make the Spartans final two games (vs. Hawaii, at Boise State) crucial toward making the conference tournament.

GAME REVIEW



Photo courtesy: Capcom website

After a decade-long wait, Marvel vs. Capcom fans can now sink their teeth into the latest iteration of the series. The game is available now for Playstation 3 and Xbox 360. (From left to right) Chun-Li, Crimson Viper and Ryu are just 3 characters in a cast of 36 featured in the retail release.

Marvel vs. Capcom 3 delivers one-two punch

Nate Morotti
Staff Writer

When I was younger I spent many days and allowances at the video arcade at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk playing a vast assortment of classic arcade games.

From "Space Invaders" to "Dance Dance Revolution," I played them all, but none of the games had quite the zeal of the Marvel vs. Capcom series of fighting games, which is why I jumped at the chance to play the latest iteration in the hallmark series "Marvel vs. Capcom 3: Fate of Two Worlds."

The concept of the fighting game is simple. You pick one of many different characters that all have their own catalog of combos and special attacks and then you use that character to fight either the computer or a second player.

The Marvel vs. Capcom series always retains the core mechanics that make the genre enjoyable, but it also brings its own flavor to the table in the form of a star-studded cast of characters from varying backgrounds.

The characters of the games make up a cast of both veterans to the series such as Ryu and Chun-Li of Street Fighter fame, and

Marvel characters such as the ultra-patriotic Captain America and bestial Wolverine.

Marvel vs. Capcom 3 also introduces several newcomers to the scene such as Nathan Spencer from 2009's "Bionic Commando."

The game allows players to make teams of three made up of superheroes and villains from the Marvel Comics universe and Japanese game publisher Capcom's wide array of personalities.

At first glance the game seems almost exactly the same as its predecessor, "Marvel vs. Capcom 2: New Age of Heroes," but with a smaller pool of characters for players to pick from.

This notion is washed away as soon as gameplay is started. Marvel vs. Capcom 3 features a simplified control system, consisting of three main buttons that do light, medium, or heavy attacks, with a fourth button used solely for knocking your opponent into the air.

This is a significant departure from the control setup of previous titles which had a

four-button system, two for high attacks and two for low, and depended heavily on maintaining an encyclopedic knowledge of joystick motions.

As a casual player of fighting games, I greatly appreciated the new system, finding it easier to pick up and play with friends instead of spending countless hours learning the subtleties of different combos.

The graphics of the game are beautiful to behold. Keeping in line with Capcom's 2009 title "Street Fighter 4," Marvel vs. Capcom 3 is rendered in an interesting cel-shaded style, making the characters and backgrounds look like they are painted in classic comic book styles, abandoning the popular high-definition look of other games for a cartoonish style befitting the high speed, over-the-top combat that has become a benchmark for the series.

Playability of the game put aside, the significantly reduced cast of characters to choose from was troubling.

"The only negative comment about its online play I can make is that I have never lost so many matches in such a little amount of time."

With the actual buying of a physical copy of a game becoming less and less appealing to a generation of gamers who have grown used to being able to pull almost anything off of the Internet for free, the video game industry has resorted to the increasingly popular concept of downloadable content.

With the game just in its first week of release, Capcom has already released two characters available for purchase on Xbox Live. This reduces the actual experience of the game, because it is essentially being released in chunks.

Another aspect of the game is the ability to play online with other players around the world via the Internet. Marvel vs. Capcom 3 is actually one of the best experiences that I have had with an online game. The match-making system is easy to use and matches did not lag.

The only negative comment about its online play I can make is that I have never lost so many matches in such a little amount of time.

Marvel vs. Capcom 3 is an enjoyable fighting game for both hardcore and casual players that does the series proud, although the game still falls victim to some of the inconvenient conventions of modern gaming.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

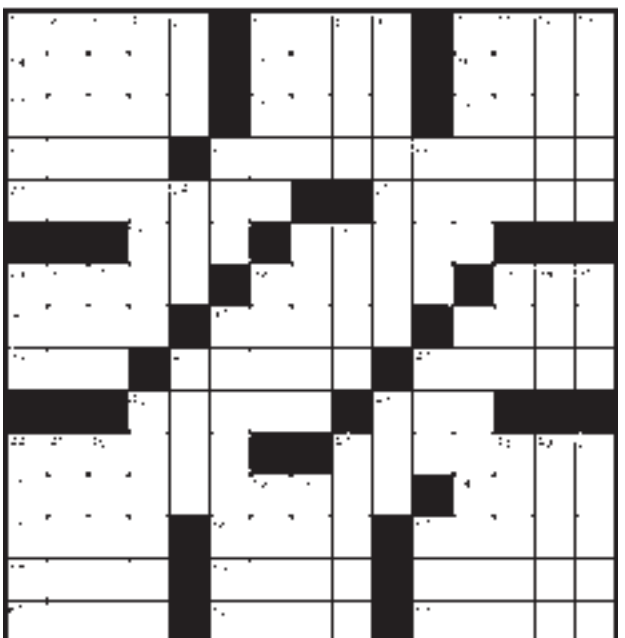
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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Rivalries should never include criminal behavior

Rivalries in sports fuel the passion that ignites the competitive fury that lives in fans across the world.

But it can make an overzealous fan do things that border on insanity.

On Feb. 16, Auburn University discovered two 132-year-old trees used by fans as a popular gathering spot after big wins were deliberately poisoned by a fan of the school's rival from the University of Alabama.

The two trees marked a location dubbed Toomer's Corner and is vital in a yearly tradition where fans roll the trees with tissue, according to the Associated Press. It was recently celebrated as the gathering spot for thousands of fans who congregated at the storied locale following Auburn winning the National Championship of college football.

Not only did the Crimson Tide fan go to great lengths to inject the soil surrounding the trees with a powerful herbicide, he went on a national radio show to boast about his supposed monumental achievement, according to the Associated Press.

He explained in vivid detail how he went to the site of the trees following a football game between Auburn and Alabama this year. He explained that he filled the soil surrounding the trees with tebuthiuron in hopes it would advance the death of the trees, according to the Associated Press.

He signed off from the radio show with a rendition



Kyle Szymanski
Senior Staff Writer

of the popular chant used by Crimson Tide fans to prove their allegiance to University of Alabama athletics.

According to officials, the trees are not likely to survive the poisoning, and the fan, Harvey Updyke Jr., 62, has been charged with first-degree criminal mischief, according to the Associated Press.

It was at this point that I learned that rivalries in sports, once thought of as a glorious representation of the passion sports can induce, can have unfortunate consequences that could reverberate around the competitive landscape of sports.

Combine this bizarre incident with the fact that the caller reportedly has two kids — one named Crimson after one of school's colors and another named Bear after former legendary Alabama head coach Bear Bryant — it is not hard to see that the rivalry meant more to this man than just a playful hatred between two opposing schools.

Although this incident is just a single event highlighting the potential for rivalries to spiral into criminal mischief, its coverage by national media outlets could cast a bad light on what is ordinarily good-natured fun.

As rivalries continue in the United States and abroad, it is imperative that sports fans take note of this bizarre incident, learn from it and move on.

The true essence of sports exists in the ability of an event to bring together crowds of people joined by the camaraderie of watching and rooting for two entities engaged in playful battle.

That camaraderie between the fans of Alabama and Auburn, shared shortly after the two schools began playing in 1893, was severed with the poisoning.

It's not that the eventual death of two trees signals the end of humanity, but it lays the groundwork for incidents of this nature to continue.

As is the case in a world filled with people who savor the ability to one-up one another, it is vital that fans resist the temptation to turn healthy competition into something criminal.

It's important that rivalries continue for the good of sports and fans, but it is crucial that they remain free of despicable behavior that turns fun into anger and sadness.

The sports world doesn't need proud traditions to turn into repeated ugly displays of humanity.

The battle of equal rights for same-sex couples

Originally I thought that young people shouldn't get married, that they should wait until they are older, but this past weekend I attended the wedding of a young couple.

When they shared their first dance I realized that I could not care less about how old someone is because it was evident that this couple was happy and in love.

The wedding made me reflect on the people who do not have the right to marry.

Somewhere between the bouquet toss and the cutting of the wedding cake, I realized that it doesn't matter how old you are, the thing that matters is how much you love the other person.

However, in California and in many other states it does matter who you love and who you want to marry.

If a man loves a man and a woman loves a woman then they do not have the right to marry.

In 2008, a California court of law stated that a law banning same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

Immediately that same year groups against same-sex marriage put a ballot measure up for vote in California.

In 2008, California passed Proposition 8, which stated that men and women of the same gender could not marry.

According to the California Secretary of State's website, Proposition 8 passed by a narrow margin of 52.3 percent to 47.7 percent.

It's ironic that that same election year voters overwhelmingly voted yes on Proposition 2, which would ensure that farm animals had more room to move around in confined areas.



Alex Wara
Staff Writer

Yes, Californians said "Chickens have more rights than gay people" that election night.

For years gay couples have been less than equal to those who can marry.

The arguments vary as to why people disagree with why same-sex couples should marry.

A major argument comes from religious groups or people of religious backgrounds.

They argue that same-sex couples defy the sanctity of marriage.

The Church of Latter Day Saints was a major organization that backed the Yes on 8 side, giving a large amount of money to fund the campaign.

I personally have been involved in this battle for equality from my work with organizations that support same-sex marriages.

No one really knows how much someone can hate another person until you try to talk to someone about same-sex marriage.

That person looks you in the eye and says that another person does not deserve the same rights as them.

It has been three years since the passage of Proposition 8, and the emotions that gay couples felt when they watched as voters said they are not equal still lingers.

Today the court case is stuck in courts, hanging around until it has to be sent to the Supreme Court. It will be sent there. It has to be sent there to gain equality.

Currently, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Iowa, New Hampshire and Washington D.C. allow same-sex marriage.

Our country has been fighting for equality for decades, and we aren't far enough to say we have made it.

"Yes, Californians said 'Chickens have more rights than gay people' that election night."

In my times of need, sports is always there

If you are a sports fan you have probably heard this a million times from your girlfriend, sister or mom: "What's the point? It's just a game!"

Any sports fan can tell you it is not in fact "just a game," but few can really articulate why we enjoy the thrill of watching athletes duke it out on the field, the rink or the court.

I had trouble describing to people why I enjoyed it so much until last summer during the NBA playoffs.

My all-time favorite team is the Los Angeles Lakers — yeah, I hear your boos and your "Beat LA!" chants but please bear with me — and last season's playoff was particularly eventful.

It had fantastic finishes by Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol and even Ron Artest, but that's not what made last season's run memorable for me.

At the time, I was going through

hell in my life. Finals were looming, school work was piling up and I was busy and stressed out most of the time.

Things got worse when I received news that a very close loved one and friend of mine had fallen down a flight of stairs, fractured her skull and had gone into a coma while in France.

She was in the coma for two weeks and I was overcome with a deep feeling of helplessness because she was so far away.

What kept me going and helped me cope, however, was watching the Lakers during this difficult period of my life. It gave me life when I felt so bereft of it.

Through their struggles and victories I lived through them. Watching them play and beat the opposing teams helped me get my mind off what was going on.

By the time the Lakers made it to the Finals she had passed away and I again went into a depressed stu-

por, finding it hard to fathom what had happened.

The Lakers continued to battle though and played against the team I hated most in the NBA, the Boston Celtics. It gave me reason to find hope once again.

The quintessential moment that finally lifted me was Game Seven of the Finals.

It all came down to this, the way it should have been. Boston and LA, in a duel to the death at Staples Center for all the marbles.

It was a thrilling game, with both sides playing tough, physical defense and fighting and clawing for each point and rebound. I stood the entire time I watched the game.

The game came down to the fi-



Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

nal seconds and, when the win was finally sealed by my beloved Lakers, I literally collapsed to the floor with tremendous relief.

It was an amazing game but even more so was how much it represented everything that had gone on in my life the last few weeks.

The struggle, the carnage and fight of the game was like a physical manifestation of my own struggles that I had faced during that summer. To see the Lakers win it all at the end showed to me that despite all that had gone wrong, I still had plenty of reason to cheer for the future.

I would be lying if I said I didn't cry a little.

I like sports because in times

of struggle there's nothing better than to see my favorite team play and get my mind off of whatever it is that's ailing me.

As sports fans we attach ourselves to our teams and live vicariously through them and each win gives us something to be happy about.

Some of you may say "What happens when they lose?" Well, it sucks, but as sports fans we remember the victories more and the losses less.

Ask any San Francisco Giants fan this and they'll probably tell you they don't even think of the last 50-something years of struggle now that they finally have a championship.

In the end, watching sports is one of my favorite pleasures in life, and in many ways the Lakers saved my life last summer from the darkness I was going through. Because of that I will always enjoy sports and it will never be just a game to me.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

'The Kebab Shack' tantalizes tastebuds with Mediterranean cuisine

Shirene Niksadat
Staff Writer

With a plethora of pizza parlors, burger joints and taquerias scattered around downtown, finding something to satisfy your hunger can be a repetitive experience.

It can be a little frustrating when you're looking for something new and different to challenge your taste buds within walking distance of campus.

Fortunately for Downtown San Jose and especially SJSU students, a new restaurant has just opened up in our neck of the woods aimed at satisfying those exact needs.

Touting a fast-casual Mediterranean and Middle Eastern grill style, The Kebab Shack off of South Third Street promises "fresh, never frozen" meats and vegetables handcrafted to perfection using family recipes passed down through generations.

Offering a whole host of dishes to delight, The Kebab Shack specializes in everything from classic kebabs and pita wraps to gyros and falafels. All of the dishes are accompanied with their special tzatziki sauce, a yogurt-based topping consisting of cilantro, garlic and other "special" ingredients, making it unique to their restaurant.

The Kebab Shack also offers a wide range of vegetarian options including hummus and falafel pitas, ash vegetable soup and Bolani, a dish characterized as a turnover filled with potato and spring onion.

Junior advertising major Russel Soffiotto was a first-time visitor and was impressed with the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern style dining.

"I was afraid it would be like the Pita Pit," he added.

Soffiotto, who had the traditional beef and lamb gyro, said the meat had nice flavoring and a good texture.

"It's definitely a healthy alternative to that La Vic's burrito I had last week," said senior business major Marbeya Barragan as she finished her falafel pita. "I don't feel as guilty."

Barragan, whose meal was accompanied by a light tomato-and-cucumber salad, said she would definitely return to The Kebab Shack.

Run by local couple Miriam and Tony Raoufi, the restaurant gives off a modern, lounge-type vibe.

With comfortable couches, bar stool seating and a pool table in the second dining room, the restaurant seems to cater to a more relaxed, chill atmosphere aimed at making the guests feel comfortable and at home.

In addition to the modern lighting throughout the building and spacious window seating, The Kebab Shack also has iPod charging stations at all of the bar stool wall fixtures.

Sandwiched between Hydration and Iguanas, The Kebab Shack follows suit with their neighbors by offering late hours of operation, catering to the night crowd that frequents Downtown San Jose. Thursday through Sunday, they are open from 11 am to 3 am.

Owner Raoufi said that in addition to serving up appetizing chow, The Kebab Shack has plans to convert the front area to a hookah patio complete with heat lamps and waiters all in the near future.

With plans for rich, dark red canopies to enclose the casual smoking area, the restaurant is gearing up to offer something no other



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Above: The Kebab Shack serves tzatziki kebabs and falafels. Below: Students enjoy their meal at the newly opened restaurant.

hookah spot in Downtown can say they have — delicious eats and hookah all in one space.

Junior psychology major Jennifer Quan said she thoroughly enjoyed her ground beef kabob.

"The meat was perfectly crispy and really spicy," she said. "The tzatziki and chutney sauce were an added blend of flavors."

The Kebab Shack offers an exotic alternative to the usual humdrum food options, whether they're in the mood for a quick snack, an afternoon meal or a late-night craving.

The Kebab Shack is open for business and will host its grand opening in upcoming weeks, boasting deals on top of a student discount.



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Academy Award nominations recognize cinematic talent

Ron Gleeson
Staff Writer

The 83rd Annual Academy Awards ceremony is this Sunday, Feb. 27, and while most eyes will be focused on the attire of those at the event in Los Angeles, many will be wondering who will be taking home the foot-tall golden statues known as Oscars.

One category that separates the Oscars from any other mainstream film-related awards ceremony is the Best Picture category. In other awards shows such as the Golden Globes or the Screen Actors Guild Awards, there are five films nominated in the Best Picture category.

The Academy Awards, however, doubled the quantity of films included in the nominated list from five to 10.

This year's nominees for best picture at the Oscars are "127 Hours," "Black Swan," "The Fighter," "Inception," "The Kids Are All Right," "The King's Speech," "The Social Network," "Toy Story 3," "True Grit" and "Winter's Bone."

Many of the same films included on this list were also on the lists for Best Picture at the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards, which were both held earlier this year.

"The Social Network," a film about the origins and post-creation lawsuits of Facebook, directed by David Fincher and written by Aaron Sorkin, was the first winner of Best Picture in 2011 when it won at the Golden Globes.

"The King's Speech," the story of young King George VI's ascent to Britain's throne, also took home Best Picture honors, but at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Will one of these films take away bragging rights as the Oscar's Best Picture of 2010 or will another film even the score?

Most of the other categories at the Academy Awards are similar to the other awards shows by including only five nominees.

Many of the same faces populate the categories of Best Performance by an Actor or Actress in a Leading Role.

Colin Firth won Best Actor for his performance in "The King's Speech" at both the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The same trend is evident in the Best Actress category, with Natalie Portman taking the honor for her role as a ballet dancer who loses her mind delving too far into her role on-stage in "Black Swan."

All of the nominees in each category are deserving of bringing home some hardware. In the Best Actor category, other nominees include Javier Bardem for "Biutiful," Jeff Bridges, who won in this category last year for his role in "Crazy Heart," is nominated for "True Grit," Jesse Eisenberg for "The Social Network" and James Franco for "127 Hours."

In the Best Actress category, the nominees that hope to hoist the award instead of the favored Portman are Annette Bening for "The Kids Are All Right," Nicole Kidman for "Rabbit Hole," Jennifer Lawrence for "Winter's Bone" and Michelle Williams for "Blue Valentine."

The question is, will Firth and Portman sweep the major awards shows in the Best Actor and Actress categories, or will another be recognized for his or her work?

All in all, "The King's Speech" leads all other films at the Academy Awards with a total of 12 nominations. "True Grit" falls just short with 10, and "Inception" and "The Social Network" have eight nominations.

"The Social Network" won four Golden Globe Awards, which was enough for most at this year's ceremony. "The King's Speech" countered "The Social Network's" achievement by receiving the most awards at this year's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

It is all a surprise who the winner will be until the cream-colored envelope is opened. And the Oscar goes to ...

Other Nominations

Cinematography

Matthew Libatique — Black Swan
Wally Pfister — Inception
Danny Cohen — The King's Speech
Jeff Cronenweth — The Social Network
Roger Deakins — True Grit

Costume Design

Coleen Atwood — Alice in Wonderland
Antonella Cannarozzi — I Am Love
Jenny Beavean — The King's Speech
Sandy Powell — The Tempest
Mary Zophres — True Grit

Directing

Darren Aronofsky — Black Swan
David Russell — The Fighter
Tom Hopper — The King's Speech
David Fincher — The Social Network
Joel Coen and Ethan Coen — True Grit

Animated Feature Film

How to Train Your Dragon
The Illusionist
Toy Story 3

* View a complete list of the nominations for the Academy Awards at www.oscar.go.com.



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