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■ FEATURE

Stylist gives back with nonprofit salon



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Jennifer Erickson styles a customer's hair at her salon Lipstick and Bullets on Saturday.

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

Most of the things inside Lipstick and Bullets, a new salon in Downtown San Jose, were donated. Salon owner Jennifer Erickson said she received everything from other hair stylists she knew who wanted to give back. "They believed in the cause," Erickson said.

"It was their way to indirectly help the community."

see **SALON** page 3

Professor honored for innovations in staffing technology

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

Louis Freund, director of the graduate program in Human Factors and Ergonomics at SJSU, won an award for his contribution to health care information technology at a banquet last Tuesday.

The organization giving the award, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, honored 50 people during the organization's 50th anniversary at its annual conference and exhibition, held this year in Orlando.

Freund received his award for work he did in the '70s. "My work was mostly in the area of nursing workload modeling," he said.

As Vice President of Medicus Systems, he designed and specified computer systems to determine staffing requirements for nursing departments based on patient needs.

Freund's work came before innovations such as the personal computer, the graphical user interface, and computers inexpensive enough to be on every desk in a hospital.

Freund said he and his team would load four crates of computer equipment into an airplane and take them to hospitals across North America to demonstrate them.

Once implemented, hospital workers would fill in Scantron sheets similar to those used for multiple-choice exams, feed them into a computer, and get back printed reports describing how many nurses were needed that day.

"We designed one of the first computer systems for nurses to calculate nurse staffing requirements," he said. "It was very new in those days."

Freund also helped develop professional organizations around health information systems, facilitating communication and education among people working in the field.

The nomination process started

last November, and the award winners were announced in January.

"I was quite surprised," Freund said of the award.

The society is a nonprofit organization founded in 1961. According to the organization's website, its mission is "to lead healthcare transformation through the effective use of health information technology."

Health care IT has been mentioned frequently during the ongoing health care policy debate in the United States as a potential solution to rising health care costs.

"While there are disagreements in Congress on health issues, health IT is one area where both parties stand together," said Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a keynote speech at the society's conference on Wednesday.

Several recent federal laws have provided funding and incentives for health care IT, including the HITECH (or Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) act passed in February 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the Affordable Care Act, passed in March 2010.

Together, the two laws provide a total of \$42 billion in grants and incentives for health care IT projects, according to the Health and Human Services website and the website for the Affordable Care Act.

Sebelius said the investments are accelerating advancements in health care IT.

"In the last two years, the share of primary care providers using a basic electronic health record has gone from under 20 percent to nearly 30 percent," Sebelius said.

Freund said technology had come a long way since his days in health care IT.

"There are many things being sold on the floor (of the exhibition) that we dreamed about in those days," he said.

■ US NEWS

Budget fight threatens government shutdown

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The White House signaled Monday it would be open to a proposal to avert a government shutdown for two weeks, but congressional negotiators have not yet come up with a way to prevent a possible disruption in services later in the year.

Congress and the White House may act in time to avoid a shutdown this week, but deep divisions between Republicans and Democrats continued to cast doubt over whether the two sides will be able to compromise on a more durable proposal.

The House is expected to vote Tuesday on a stopgap measure proposed by Republicans that would cut \$4 billion over two weeks by eliminating programs President

Barack Obama has already targeted for termination, among others. Senate Democrats have indicated they would be open to the proposal and the administration said it may go along.

Yet the White House also said that a longer term deal is essential to reduce "uncertainty" of continued stopgap measures that could negatively affect the economy.

"If we keep returning to this every couple of weeks," said White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, "that is a concern."

Carney declined to pinpoint a time frame that would be acceptable to the president, saying only that the "focus has to be on the impact on the economy."

see **BUDGET** page 2

■ WORLD NEWS

U.S. mobilizes ships, Libya fight rages

McClatchy Tribune

BENGHAZI, Libya — Moamar Gadhafi came under intensified international pressure Monday to halt attacks on anti-regime protesters, with the Pentagon dispatching ships and aircraft to the Mediterranean Sea and the Treasury Department freezing a record \$30 billion in assets tied to the embattled dictator and his family.

Forces loyal to Gadhafi launched counterattacks on cities held by rebels in Libya, but apparently failed to dislodge them from the key western city of Zawiyah, 50 miles from the capital, Tripoli. There were reports that Gadhafi's government had launched new airstrikes against its opponents.

As new violence flared, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham

Clinton demanded that the Libyan leader leave. "It is time for Gadhafi to go — now, without further violence or delay," she said at a meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva.

But Gadhafi, in an interview with three Western news organizations, laughingly dismissed the idea of ceding power, increasing the likelihood of a long, bloody battle for oil-rich Libya's future.

"How can one believe this statement when he (Gadhafi) says there is absolutely no demonstrations whatsoever?" U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in an interview with McClatchy Newspapers in Washington. "He has declared war on his own people and so he lost totally his legitimacy."

The U.N. has "reports and information (that) suggest quite

credible figures of killings in the thousands" of protesters by Gadhafi militiamen and African mercenaries since the insurrection erupted nearly two weeks ago, said Ban, who discussed the crisis earlier in the day with President Barack Obama.

Pentagon spokesmen didn't detail the purpose of the U.S. ship and aircraft movements, but the moves didn't appear to signal direct U.S. military intervention in Libya. Among the ships being sent, reports said, is the USS Kearsarge, which carries nearly 2,000 Marines and dozens of helicopters.

"We have planners working and various contingency plans and I think it's safe to say as part

see **LIBYA** page 2

BUDGET
From Page 1

Lawmakers returned to Washington after a week at home in their districts as Americans begin to focus on the size and scope of the cuts approved last month by the Republican-led House.

The GOP bill, which Obama had vowed to veto, would cut more than \$60 billion over the remaining seven months of the fiscal year, in one of the largest one-time reductions of its kind.

It would take billions of dollars from the Head Start preschool program, college grants, health, infrastructure and other domestic federal programs, and would result in the loss of thousands of federally funded jobs. But Republican leaders are confident of public backing.

With "tea party"-movement activists calling for steeper reductions, GOP House leaders said their temporary stopgap proposal also is drawing support — even though it no longer includes top Republican priorities, such as defunding Obama's health care law.

"The feedback we've gotten has been very, very positive," said Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill., a party leader.

Congress must approve a spending plan by the end of the week to avoid a shutdown. Tuesday's expected House vote comes as economists dispute the economic toll of the larger cuts.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics' economy.com, said the House-passed bill would eliminate up to 700,000 jobs over the next two years and shave 0.5 percentage points from gross domestic product growth for 2011. His assessment reflected similar warnings last week from Goldman Sachs.

But Republicans are circulating the findings of John Taylor, an economics professor at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, who said the cuts would increase growth and employment as the reductions encourage private sector investment.

Asked about the potential for government job losses, Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., the House majority leader, said Washington should not retain workers if it lacks

funds. "Why is the government hiring people it can't afford to pay?" Cantor said Monday.

In the Democratic-led Senate, leaders have not yet indicated they will support the GOP's stopgap proposal, and Democrats continued preparing their own spending cuts plan.

Some House Democrats, including Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the minority leader, said cuts in the stopgap measure go too far, particularly in cutting education expenditures.

But Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who both face difficult re-election campaigns in 2011 and 2012, next year, each proposed new reductions on Monday, by freezing congressional pay or reducing lawmakers' office expenses.

A new poll by The Hill, a Washington newspaper, indicated Democrats and Republicans would share blame for a government shutdown, an outcome both parties want to avoid. The poll indicated Democrats would be blamed slightly more than Republicans.

LIBYA
From Page 1

of that we're repositioning forces to be able to provide for that flexibility once decisions are made," said Marine Col. David Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman.

In Geneva, Clinton suggested the mission was primarily humanitarian.

"We do believe that there will be the need for support for humanitarian intervention. We also know that there will probably, unfortunately, be the need for rescue missions" because of the large numbers of people fleeing Libya and neighboring Tunisia, she said. "But there is not any pending military action involving U.S. naval vessels."

In Benghazi, liberated from Gadhafi's control, residents strongly oppose outside military intervention in what they consider a purely Libyan revolution.

"No foreign intervention. We don't want to be like Iraq," said Ahmed Sukaya Pobaee, a lieutenant in the new anti-Gadhafi army.

The State Department said it's dispatching aid teams to Libya's refugee-choked borders with Egypt and Tunisia.

The U.N. is stockpiling medicines and foods to rush into Libya on the eastern border with Egypt, Ban said, but the Gadhafi regime is refusing to allow the organization into Tripoli to do the same there. "To Tripoli, we have a very serious problem with access because they are showing hostility to the U.N. staff," he said.

There are also an estimated 100,000 foreigners, mostly Egyptians and Tunisians, trying to leave the country through its borders with Egypt and Tunisia, and a looming humanitarian crisis inside Libya, Ban said.

Gadhafi, facing an uprising that threatens to end his 42 years of control over Libya, was launching counterattacks at several locations controlled by the rebels, residents reached by phone said. The main flashpoints appeared to be the cities of Zawiyah and Misurata, Libya's third-largest city, to the east of Tripoli.

■ WORLD NEWS

North battles south in disputed Sudan region

McClatchy Tribune

NAIROBI, Kenya — Fighting between southern Sudan security forces and members of an Arab tribe from the north claimed at least 10 lives Sunday and Monday in the latest threat to Sudan's peaceful partition this summer.

The battle took place in the hotly contested Abyei region, which both southern and northern Sudan claim, and was the second major confrontation there. Fighting in January killed at least 41 people.

Abyei straddles the border between Sudan's Arab-ruled Muslim north and the mostly non-Muslim south, which voted in January to form a separate country in July. On which side Abyei will fall is undecided.

The latest fighting began on Sunday, when a local Arab militia attacked a southern police post outside the village of Todach, killing seven southern policemen and three militiamen, according to both sides.

The police were reinforced overnight and the battle intensified on Monday, said Deng Arop Kuol, the top civil official in the area. The number of casualties on the second day of fighting was not known.

The new round of skirmishes could refocus international attention on the most dangerous part of Sudan's shaky transition as it begins to split after 50 years of an again-off again war. The conflict ended in a 2005 peace deal establishing southern self-rule for the six years leading up to the independence referendum.

The conflict over control of Abyei has sparked bloody battles throughout Sudan's history. Situated where the desert of the north turns into the marshes of the south, the 4,000-square-mile area was transferred to Sudan's northern administration under British colonial rule, even though it is the homeland of the Ngok Dinka, a southern tribe.

When civil war broke out along ethnic lines soon after independence, Ngok Dinka fought with their southern kin against the northern government in Khartoum. In the 2005 agreement, Abyei was promised its own referendum on which side to join. That vote was supposed to be taken simultaneously with the southern independence referendum last month, but was never held.

A group of nomadic cattle-herding Arabs, the Misseriya, who rely on a river at the southern edge of Abyei for grazing during the driest months of the year, refused to allow a referendum unless they were given equal voting rights alongside full-time residents like the Ngok Dinka.

"This is Misseriya land," said Sadig Babo Nimir, a member of the tribe's ruling family, by phone from Khartoum. "The Ngok Dinka are just guests in this place."

Negotiations to maintain the peace have had little effect on the conflict. Neither a joint military force of northern and southern units nor a local base of United Nations peacekeeping soldiers intervened to stop the fighting on the past two days.

■ BUSINESS NEWS

Facebook reconsiders privacy policy for minors

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Facebook said it was "actively considering" whether to again allow third-party applications to request mobile phone numbers and home addresses from users younger than 18.

The ability of applications to request that information from users of the social networking site has been controversial since Facebook first allowed it briefly in January. Facebook disabled the feature for all users a few days later, after criticism from some users and privacy experts.

Facebook has said some users might want to share their cell phone number with an application to get text message alerts on special deals, or allow an Internet shopping site to have access to their home addresses to make the checkout

process faster.

In a letter to lawmakers released Monday, Facebook said it was working to "re-enable" the feature, but with changes.

It could, for example, continue to disable the feature for minors. Facebook also could revise the permission screen to let users see more clearly what information they are making available when they approve requests for personal information from third parties.

"We have not yet decided when or in what manner we will redeploy the permission for mobile numbers and addresses," Marne Levine, Facebook's vice president for global public policy, wrote to Reps. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., and Joe L. Barton, R-Texas.

The two lawmakers are key congressional players on privacy issues and jumped into the dispute about Facebook's new feature early last month.

They wrote to Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg asking 11 detailed questions and expressing concerns that it would violate the privacy of users.

On Monday, the congressmen released the seven-page response they received last week from Facebook.

Levine stressed that Facebook users still must give permission to applications seeking personal data.

More recent user feedback about the new feature, she wrote, led Facebook executives to determine that it could be re-enabled with clearer and more visible statements on the permission screen.

With children involved, Markey said, it was crucial for Facebook to get the policy right. He urged the company not to allow applications to have access to contact information for minors.

CAMPUS VOICES

By: Donovan Farnham & Leonard Lai

Where do you go to relax on campus?

Johnny Gonzales



Sophomore Music

"I like sitting on the floor in the hallway upstairs in the Music building. People get angry at us, but we still do it."

Casey Straka



Junior Animation Illustration

"I like hanging out in the dorms. There's nowhere else where I can relax."

Dave Boschew



Junior Bio Systems Physiology

"Usually, I grab a bench by Tower Hall. If it's sunny out there, it's shady and near class. I used to work in a mall, so when I can get sun, I get sun."

James McCabe



Sophomore Business Accounting

"I like being in the library. It's a nice quiet place where I can focus and study."

Pattie Schleicher



Junior Animation Illustration

"In the dorms, I have really chill roommates. We all tend to get along really well."

Jonathan Sanchez



Senior Biology

"I like relaxing in my car. There's no other place where I'd rather be."

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Benjamin Henderson
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March 2011
IN SPARTAN DAILY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY ...



On March 1, 1994
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- (Above) Sharky, the San Jose Sharks mascot, cuddles up with senior music major Jennifer Kambeitz in front of the Student Union.
- Gay students, faculty and staff members established a fund for a scholarship honoring professor and activist Wiggys Sivertsen.
- Accounting students volunteered their time to offer free tax assistance to people making less than \$50,000 a year.
- SJSU's cumulative GPA was 2.72.

Republicans fight Democrat's cuts to NASCAR sponsorships

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Minnesota Democrat who's out to get rid of the Pentagon's sponsorships for NASCAR teams said she won't back away from her efforts and, despite GOP resistance, will broaden her fight to repeal tax breaks for track owners, too.

Rep. Betty McCollum said her work could save American taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. But Defense Department officials and lawmakers from NASCAR country said the sponsorships help military recruitment and that the tax breaks could save jobs in the struggling economy.

In an interview, McCollum said it doesn't make sense to keep the benefits for NASCAR teams and track owners when other cuts are being made to community health care, programs for homeless veterans and Head Start.

"I started to look what is in this large defense budget to see what's not related to security that we could redirect to critical supplies or mission support," she said. "Or in the case of racetrack owners, what are some of the special tax perks that some of the special interests are getting?"

She plans to file legislation to prohibit Pentagon sponsorships of dragsters, Indy cars, stock cars and motorcycle racing, affecting just about every level of motorsports.

"We should take a critical eye and a critical look and say, 'Is this an appropriate role for the government?'" McCollum said.

McCollum filed an amendment this month to prohibit the Defense Department from spending money to sponsor NASCAR teams, saying it's a poor use of money given the other cuts the House was making. The amendment came as the House, led by Republicans, spent days wrestling with \$60 billion in cuts to the current fiscal year's budget.

In the days before the vote, her office logged angry calls from across NASCAR

country. "There were some people that were very upset," McCollum said.

She also received a threatening and racist fax, which received widespread media attention and is being investigated by the U.S. Capitol Police. But her chief of staff said the office also received a lot of calls from tea party supporters who backed McCollum's amendment.

Her amendment failed, 281-148.

Meanwhile, racetrack owners received tax breaks worth \$45 million in 2010 and 2011, aimed at helping them make improvements to their facilities. A two-year extension of the program was included in the tax cuts compromise that President Barack Obama forged with Congress in December.

McCollum said she'll file legislation to repeal the tax benefit. "It's an earmark," she said.

North Carolina Republican Rep. Patrick McHenry disagrees. His Charlotte-area district is home to half the NASCAR teams. His Twitter avatar recently was the No. 3 logo in memory of legendary driver Dale Earnhardt, who was killed in a crash at the Daytona 500 in 2001.

McHenry spoke against McCollum's amendment about a week ago on the House floor and said in an interview that her goal didn't seem to be about saving money. He pointed out that her two goals — killing the raceway tax breaks and banning driver sponsorships — are aimed at the same sport.

"She may believe that none of her constituents watch NASCAR, but they do," McHenry said. "This shows that she is on the warpath against NASCAR. This is more about her disdain for NASCAR than it really is about saving taxpayers' money."

McCollum insisted, though, that she has nothing against NASCAR.

"This isn't about NASCAR," McCollum said. "I've watched the Indy 500, the Daytona 500. I have friends who are avid fans. ... This is about making tough choices."



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Jennifer Erickson plans to open her salon to musical and cultural acts in town.

Salon operates alongside school for cosmetologists

SALON
From Page 1

"The cause" wasn't just opening the salon — Erickson also runs a non-profit called Career Style that pays people to train for a cosmetology license.

"I wanted to give other people the success story I've had in my life through cosmetology," Erickson said.

She started cosmetology school in high school through the Central County Occupational Center in San Jose, and started working at 19 when she had her first son.

She's a single mother of two boys — Nathan, 11, and Clark, 1. "They're my inspiration," she said.

"I was able to have a career and be a young mother and create stability for myself at a young age," she said.

Erickson said becoming a cosmetologist is usually a six-year process — two for cosmetology school, two years of assisting and two years of building clientele. She said her program pays minimum wage while stylists are learning and shortens the process to two years.

After two years, Erickson said the student stylist's pay automatically goes to double the minimum wage.

Erickson said the salon is now supporting the nonprofit, and vice versa. She said the salon rents its space from the nonprofit, and her employees teach students in her program.

The salon opened in December. She said the name of the salon means "tough, independent women, but boys are welcome too."

"I can see myself staying here as long as the salon is here," said Kimberly Zambetti, one of Erickson's employees and last month's winner of

stylist of the month.

She said she's not just planning to work for Erickson — she wants to help run Erickson's business.

"She's very supportive. She doesn't only care about her business, she cares about my career," Zambetti said.

Zambetti said Erickson taught her Internet marketing, including how to use Craigslist to advertise. She said she has some regulars, but she's "still building."

"I'm trying to step away from the chair and keep the salon going," Erickson said. She said she has about two customers per day, usually just her regulars.

Taylor Tumah, a customer of Erickson's for three years, said she started seeing Erickson after another stylist "fried her hair."

She said she went to Planet Beauty at Valley Fair Mall for clip-in hair extensions, but the other employees talked her into seeing Erickson.

"The ladies who work there said 'No, we have this amazing hair stylist,'" Tumah said. "Jen was really cool — she's a really cool lady."

Tumah said she followed Erickson to her new salon, and now drives from where she lives in Santa Cruz to see her.

"My boyfriend came with me last time, and there's a TV there," Tumah said. "He can come and hang out and not be so bored."

Aside from the nonprofit, Erickson sells hair products, including her own line of hair extensions called X-Tensions for which she's seeking a patent.

She also opens her salon to artists, photographers, musicians, DJs, and poets who want to show their work in her salon or hold events.

Lipstick and Bullets Salon is located at 412 E. Santa Clara St. and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Comment on stories online at:

www.spartandaily.com

BASEBALL

Spartan baseball team swings into national rankings



Above: Senior Nick Borg slaps hands with freshman D.J. Slanton during the game against St. Mary's on Feb. 20.
Right: Sophomore Tim Quiery slides into home during the Spartans' 6-5 win in 17 innings against Albany on Feb. 23.

Joey Akeley
Copy Editor

For just the second time since 2002, the SJSU baseball team crashed the rankings of the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper NCAA Division-I Poll.

On Monday, the Spartans (6-1) were voted into the last spot of the poll, the 30th spot, after taking two out of three games from then-No. 2 UCLA over the weekend.

SJSU was most recently ranked in 2009 after a 9-0 start to the season, grabbing the 25th spot.

The last time the Spartans made the NCAA Tournament was in 2002, where they bowed out in the first round.

Two years prior, the Spartans won the Waco Regional and the Houston Regional to advance to the College World Series, which divides the eight teams remaining into two groups of four, with the winner of each group playing one final series. The Spartans most successful season ended with losses to Clemson and Louisiana-Lafayette in the College World Series.

The last time the Spartans de-

feated a team ranked in the top-2 in the nation was Rice University in 2003. Overall, SJSU was 1-5 against Rice that year.

Against UCLA, junior starting pitcher Roberto Padilla tossed a complete game, securing the Spartans' 5-3 victory in the first game of the series on Saturday.

The Spartans also took the first game of the doubleheader on Sunday, beating the Bruins 8-3. Senior starting pitcher Blake McFarland earned the win by allowing two runs in five innings of work.

But the Spartans lost 12-2 in the series finale, giving up 22 hits to the potent Bruins lineup. The blowout defeat likely cost the Spartans several spots in the rankings.

UCLA (5-2) dropped to No. 8 in the poll.

The only other Western Athletic Conference team to appear in the poll was Fresno State (6-0), ranked No. 21.

SJSU remained unranked in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Poll and the USA Today/ESPN College Baseball Coaches' Poll, although the Spartans received votes in each.

Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

RUGBY

SJSU club rugby team fights weather and beats Fresno

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

The Spartan club rugby team powered through hail, wind, and scheduling conflicts to its 11th straight victory, defeating Fresno State on Saturday by a score of 40-21.

Through early parts of the first half it seemed as though Fresno State may keep the game close.

But the Spartans pulled away as the game went on, with an attack that could not be subdued, despite numerous drops.

After the half, SJSU held the Bulldogs scoreless until the final two minutes, ensuring another win to keep the streak alive.

Despite the victory, outside center Chris Gumbrecht said he felt the team could have performed better.

"I was disappointed," Gumbrecht said. "We're not going to be able to get away with a performance like that for the rest of the season."

Assistant coach Phil Troste said he didn't feel the weather affected the team too much because although it was cold, it was dry, and thus did not alter the terrain too much.

He said he felt the dropped balls hurt the team, but that could not be attributed to the field conditions.

"When we dropped the ball, it was our fault and not because of the weather," Troste said.

Fresno State was able to score several times on "fluke" occasions, he said, and the Spartans were able to prevent the Bulldogs from mounting a consistent offense because of solid tackling, which was enough for the victory.

The weather hovered under 50 degrees throughout the game, which was moved to Morgan Hill and pushed back to a 3 p.m. start time from the originally scheduled start time of noon. Chilling winds blew the whole time and hail balls came continuously for much of the first half.

Troste said there is strong

leadership on the team this season, and the players have been consistently competing at a high level.

"This team is showing a tremendous amount of heart, focus and concentration," he

"Everyone is a rugby fan, they just don't know it yet."

Rashad Colver
Team Captain

said. "This is the best team SJSU has had in 25 years."

Captain Rashad Colver said he hopes the team would receive more support from the SJSU community as it continues through the season.

"We're really turning around Spartan rugby for the better," Colver said. "The guys

are into it, all we need are the fans into it. ... Everyone is a rugby fan, they just don't know it yet."

Head coach Rick Humm said the team started off out of synch after going two weeks without a game.

"(This game) showed us we have things to work on for the big game next week," he said.

Colver said the team ultimately made this game unnecessarily difficult, and that the real test of its abilities would come next week.

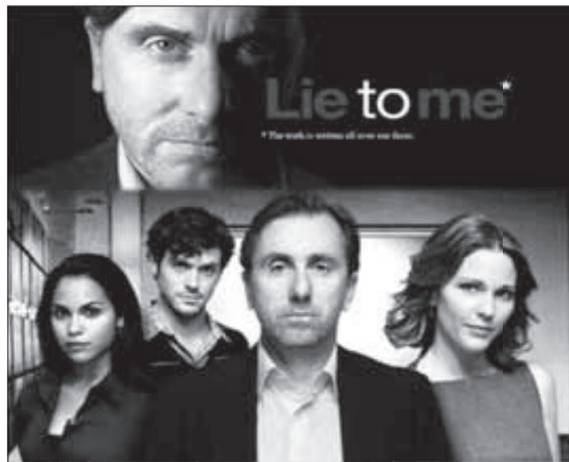
SJSU has had numerous tests of mettle this season, such as a game-winning score on the final play of the game against UC Santa Cruz on Feb. 5.

The Spartans will face off against Cal Maritime on Saturday, with which they are currently tied for first place in the Northern California Rugby Union.

The venue of the game is to be determined.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily



Psi Chi Honors Society welcomes Dr. Rosenberg as she discusses the psychology behind *Lie to Me* and facial expressions.

When:
Wed., March 2 at 5pm
Where:
Duncan Hall 135

This event is free and open to all SJSU students and faculty.



Dr. Erika Rosenberg is a scientific expert for the hit TV drama *Lie to Me*. She is an emotions researcher, educator, health psychologist, and a world-renowned expert in facial expression measurement using the Facial Action Coding System (FACS).

www.enikarosenberg.com

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TECH COMMENTARY

I'll take 'Doesn't live up to the hype' for \$800, Alex

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

After watching the competition between Watson, IBM's Jeopardy-playing supercomputer, and its human opponents, I came away feeling a lot better about the prospect of human survival in the face of artificial intelligence.

The contest took place on Feb. 14, 15 and 16, and pitted Watson against the two highest-scoring players in Jeopardy history, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter.

Watson won, handily, and Ken Jennings wrote as part of his answer on Final Jeopardy, "I for one welcome our new computer overlords."

New computer overlords indeed. Whenever I hear about a new AI project, the first thing that comes to my mind is always, "Why? Haven't these idiots seen 'Terminator'?"

For instance, just recently a group of researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology created robots that can lie to each other, and presumably to humans.

The researchers responsible suggested that these robots could be useful in calming humans in a search-and-rescue operation, or that robots in a "battlefield situation" would benefit from being able to mislead an "enemy."

You can almost hear the barely suppressed evil scientist cackle behind that quote.

Watson, on the other hand, is not meant to be a "social robot" at all — IBM researchers have said Watson's main purpose is to answer questions posed to it in natural language, and haven't hinted at any other possible interactions with humans the machine might have.

I expected to be much more impressed by Watson than I was, mainly because it can't understand speech, only questions that have been translated into text and fed to its software.

This is a major drawback, since so much of human communication has nothing to do with the words being used at all.

By extension, Watson cannot understand tone, nuance, euphemism or body language, which any complete definition of "natural language" must include.

My cell phone, on the other hand, can take spoken commands and is capable of "fuzzy logic," so I can say "directions to Valley Fair" and get directions and a map to the closest match it can find to my destination.

At the moment, Watson is only a theoretical advancement — while it's technically capable of a greater understanding compared to existing natural language processing systems, its usefulness to the average person has yet to be demonstrated.

"We are barreling toward a vastly strange and alien future, one where the pace of innovation is continuously accelerating."

We have systems much less advanced that already provide more practical benefit, given that they don't need two server rooms and 1.5 terabytes of memory to operate.

After the Jeopardy episode aired, one blogger pointed out that a static, offline copy of Wikipedia paired with a Google Search Appliance could probably have done as well as Watson, and that a more useful competition would have been to give several teams the challenge of building the best Jeopardy-playing robot.

Of course, that isn't IBM's aim. It is trying to build an all-purpose machine intelligence capable of parsing, understanding and responding to natural language, not just playing Jeopardy.

The problem with this is that we don't actually understand how things like the brain, human intelligence and natural language work.

We have theories, and with these theories we can create approximations of those things to produce specific results, but we can't really build a machine that "understands"

these things.

Watson is not capable of "understanding" abstract concepts or more esoteric thinking. Watson cannot generate novelty or formulate an answer based on information it does not already have. Watson cannot "figure out" answers that require mental work or imagination. It is essentially an iteration on "Ask Jeeves" with a vastly improved relevancy engine.

This is a great advance, to be sure, but Ken Jennings' remark about "our new computer overlords" is probably premature. Even with two server rooms and that alternately cute and creepy avatar, Watson does not have the capacity to become SkyNet.

But rest assured, somebody's working on it. We are barreling toward a vastly strange and alien future, one where the pace of innovation is continuously accelerating.

Watson was only a look into the mature stage of technologies that have been percolating in university laboratories for decades. We won't see the real impact of all this until something like Watson powers Google and three identical Ken Jennings compete on Jeopardy, with the challenge being to the audience to figure out which is the real one.

That day is coming sooner than you think.

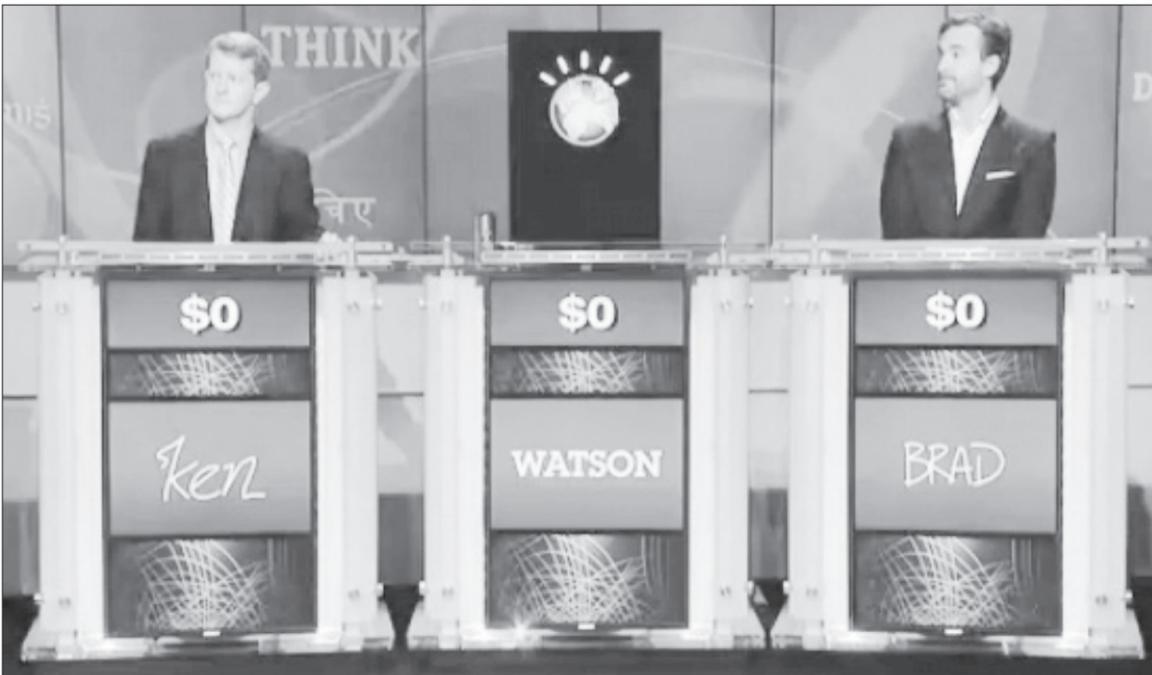


Photo courtesy: IBM

Watson, a supercomputer built by IBM, competed against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, the highest money-winning players in the game's history.

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Teach us to make the future

It's symptomatic of the atmosphere at SJSU that I was even handed a slip of paper asking me to give my opinion about "PowerPoint classes."

I'm actually not sure whether my editor meant "classes about PowerPoint" or "classes using PowerPoint as the primary instruction tool," but I've been asked to state whether I love them or hate them.

I hate both. The second case is easier to explain, and prolific blogger and entrepreneurship guru Seth Godin said it better than I can: "Sir, I'm going to be in debt for ten years because of this degree. Perhaps you could assign this as homework and we could have an actual conversation in class."

This education is supposed to be free. I'm not paying thousands of dollars a semester to watch your PowerPoint presentation.

If you teach this way, you should be fired immediately, or you should give me credit for watching your stupid presentations at home, at my own pace, instead of being forced to show up at a specific time every day.

The first case is difficult to explain, and more importantly, it's more than just PowerPoint.

I hate every class at SJSU that either uses or teaches with a specific, proprietary tool that the instructor claims will determine whether we get a job after college.

More than that, I hate classes whose primary function is to give us specific skills that "employers are looking for."

The refrain is identical and constant across all departments and disciplines — "Knowing how to do 'X' will guarantee you a job. You need to have portfolio pieces using 'X.' Having 'X' on your computer is a requirement of class."

I have had at least four classes that have a specific piece of non-free software as a requirement. That there are free alter-



Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

natives available for all these things has been mentioned in only one of them.

One of my professors even told me I was "weird" for asking if I could use the free alternatives to the required software.

On a micro level, this is incredibly stupid because of how fast software changes. On a macro level, this is incredibly stupid because of how fast the world is changing.

Worse, on the big picture level, this is incredibly stupid because a university education should engage us in the business of changing the world, not learning how to mimic the ways in which it has already been changed by others.

If college was only about gaining specific job skills, I wouldn't be here.

I've already had plenty of jobs outside of the service industry, which is more than you can say for many degree-holding adults.

The reason I'm here is because the university is supposed to be the place where new ideas come from, where we look at the world and figure out how it might work better.

Instead, SJSU is often preparing students to fit into the world, and I don't know if you've been paying much attention, but the whole thing is kind of going to hell in a hand-basket.

We engage in a ridiculous, atavistic pursuit here at the

Spartan Daily. We have an enormous staff and infrastructure dedicated to maintaining the print version of this newspaper.

Whole forests have been slashed and burned in its deadly wake.

It is frightening in scope and in the amount of time the vagaries of print production require of students.

People are here until 2 a.m. on Monday and act like this is normal, even laudable.

Meanwhile, we have survey after survey that make it hard to ignore where the news business is going, and I'll give you a hint — it isn't toward producing more print newspapers.

Most of our target demographic gets their news online, yet we have only one web editor, an outsourced tech infrastructure operating from New York instead of right here in the epicenter of emerging technology, nobody in charge of social media, and a whole parade of "multimedia journalism" courses that teach us technology that was cutting edge perhaps 10 years ago.

There is no excuse for this, or any other program that's getting students up to speed with what was happening a decade ago in whatever profession they're trying to go in to.

We have fresh minds and this incessant focus on "job training" for jobs that our best and brightest can't even figure out how to retain in this country is grinding them into dust.

Don't teach me the "industry standard" or the "standard" at all.

The "standard" is 10 percent unemployment, declining real wages, and a reduced standard of living compared to my parents' generation. Teaching me PowerPoint (or Photoshop, or Sound Slides, or Protocols) isn't going to do anything meaningful about that.

Give us the skills we need to create the future, not the skills we need to be slaves to the past.

Small markets can succeed in basketball

On Thursday, the NBA trade deadline came and went with a flurry of trades, including one on Feb. 22 which brought an end to the long talked about "Melo-drama" between the Denver Nuggets and Carmelo Anthony.

Ever since LeBron James and Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami this offseason, Anthony's demands for a trade to the New York Knicks have been in the forefront of NBA headlines.

With the trade questions arising about lack of parity in the league and as more superstar players join up on the same teams, the idea that players have taken control of the league is on the rise.

I, for one, was one at the front of the pitchfork-and-torch brigade when LeBron signed with the Miami Heat.

I disagree with the way he handled the entire situation, but you can read about that in one of my past columns.

Ultimately, he left Cleveland because of the myriad of horrible roster decisions the team made while he was there, but he didn't affect any other players' living situations. This can be seen as both a positive and a negative since Cleveland received nothing in return for losing its star player.

In the Anthony trade, 13 men were moved to new teams when only one of them asked for it to happen.

Through the years the NBA has had several star players who have forced their way out of situations they no longer wanted to be in: Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Charles Barkley, Gary Payton, Jason Kidd, Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and so on.

I could keep listing names for days — no, not literally.

This is a player-controlled league only if you're a superstar, so let's throw that argument away right now. The other argument is about the league becoming too top-heavy.

The NBA has always been top-heavy, with six or seven teams having a real shot at winning the NBA title — the trouble with that is that now they all seem to be big-market teams.

The problem people have with all the star players joining up on big-market teams is that



Marlon Maloney
One-Man Peanut Gallery

it doesn't fit into the public's view of how a league should be run, which is the exceedingly popular and parity-driven NFL.

Cities such as Indianapolis, Green Bay, New Orleans, and Baltimore have as equal a chance to win as teams from New York and Boston because of revenue sharing.

The NFL pools all the revenue gained from every team in the league and splits it among them evenly, creating a level playing field for each team to

build a winning franchise.

It's funny that when we speak of socialism in the real world we become petrified, but when it applies to the sports world, we demand it.

On the night of the Anthony trade NBA analyst Kenny Smith said, "If (a small-market team) builds the right pieces around the right guy, he will stay."

Obviously, top-heavy leagues are successful. How else do you explain MLB, NBA and the English Premier League (widely considered the best soccer league in the world)?

Each league offers the same teams dominating the rest of their respective leagues every year, while a small-market team, or two, eventually breaks in for surprise success from time to time.

What if the Washington Generals actually beat the Globetrotters for once?

Maybe the small-market teams enjoy playing the role of the underdog. Their fans certainly seem to keep coming back for more.

Is it fair to have big-market teams continue to dominate because of the cities they reside in? No.

But it can't be considered fair for players to be stuck on the teams that draft them for their entire career just because they're the teams' lone superstar.

They want to win just like everyone else, and the big-market teams have more pressure on them to make it happen.

Once upon a time, Indianapolis, San Antonio, Oklahoma City and Pittsburgh were unknowns — but well-run franchises breed success.

This is a special appearance of the "One-Man Peanut Gallery." Marlon Maloney is a Spartan Daily Copy Editor.

Bay Area team's quarterback dilemma

Alex Smith has failed time and time again for the San Francisco 49ers.

Since being the No. 1 overall pick in the 2005 draft, the 49ers have failed to reach the playoffs under Smith's guidance and have undergone a flurry of coaching and personnel changes.

Meanwhile, San Francisco fans watched with bitter hindsight as Aaron Rodgers (the quarterback the 49ers passed on in the 2005 draft) hoisted a Super Bowl trophy in early February after having the daunting task of replacing the legendary Brett Favre in Green Bay.

After the dust of another turbulent and underachieving 49er season settled in 2010, it came to few people's surprise that the organization was finally ready to move in a new direction and cut its losses with its former poster-boy Smith.

General manager Trent Baalke even made a statement saying that "next year's quarterback wasn't on this year's roster," all but signaling a farewell to Smith.

Then the 49ers hired Jim Harbaugh from Stanford in the offseason and discovered that the highly acclaimed coach, who has a reputation for mentoring quarterbacks to greatness, actually wants Smith back next season to compete for the job.

"I've been studying Alex Smith and watching him," Harbaugh said in an interview with KNBR radio. "I believe that Alex Smith can be a winning quarterback in the National Football League."

Are we really going down this road again?

To the casual observer, Smith has had more than enough opportunities to prove himself in



Lyell Marks
Staff Writer

the NFL and hasn't taken advantage of them.

After six seasons in the league, he has totaled 51 touchdowns and 53 interceptions while Rodgers has thrown 87 touchdowns, 32 interceptions and sports a Super Bowl ring to complement his statistics.

So what exactly does Harbaugh see that is causing him

to veto his new employer's doctrine of change?

It's something that a great college coach named Urban Meyer saw while coaching Smith at the University of Utah during the improbable season that resulted in a BCS bowl win for the Utes' against a heavily favored Pittsburgh team.

"He's as smart a football player — maybe the smartest football player — as I have ever been around," Meyer was quoted as saying during an interview with the Sporting News Magazine in September 2010. "He can be anything he wants, and would be the best out there at it."

Maybe Meyer said these things because Smith graduated in two years from Utah with an economics degree during a time where fewer and fewer collegiate athletes are gradu-

ating at all. He did this while maintaining a 3.74 GPA as a starting college quarterback who led Utah to a 21-1 record.

Or maybe Meyer and Harbaugh see what I see. Maybe he sees that Smith has been faced with an unkind amount of adversity, unrealistic expectations and has truly been the scapegoat for a dysfunctional franchise.

These burdens have undoubtedly made Smith question his confidence, but they have only bolstered his character, resolve and drive to be better than his past.

Those who easily cast-off Smith must be forgetting the words of author and comedian Truman Capote: "Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor."

Or if a writer doesn't satisfy your palette for sports comparison, you should recall

when Michael Jordan enlightened us by saying, "I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeeded."

The greatest player in NBA history was told at one point in his life that he wasn't good enough to play varsity basketball in high school. Imagine if he would have listened.

The virtue of adversity is fortitude if you ask philosopher Francis Bacon. If you ask me, Alex Smith has been through hell and kept going, never letting failure breed complacency. Through it all, he has forged a resiliency and determination that is the trademark of athletic greatness.

The first thing the San Francisco has done right in a long time was hiring Jim Harbaugh. The 49ers' next move should be to listen to him and bring back Smith.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Downtown eateries serve affordable vegetarian dishes

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

The moment you step off the SJSU campus, you are bombarded with food options.

There are burger joints, taquerias, pizza parlors and sandwich shops that provide a variety of options.

However, if you're looking for a vegetarian meal option, it takes some searching.

This past weekend I ventured out to find some Downtown San Jose spots that specialized in vegetarian cuisine.

Having always been a carnivore, I was hesitant of the thought of going a few meals without meat — it seemed like a foreign idea to me.

The first place that came to mind was a vegan restaurant a few blocks from campus. I figured if I was going to partake in this journey, I should jump head first into a diet that is the complete opposite of mine.

Located on South First Street, Good Karma Vegan House had a welcoming atmosphere and a friendly vibe.

The woman behind the counter instantly welcomed me with a smile. The walls were covered with art and photography, which added character to the small restaurant.

When ordering, a customer walks up to the glass case where the food is already prepared and chooses what he or she wants.

I decided to try the mashed potatoes, stuffed bell pepper, Jamaican jerk tofu and brown rice.

The mashed potatoes were creamy and were some of the best mashed potatoes I have ever tasted.

The tofu was spiced well with every bite leaving me wanting more. I hardly got to dig into the bell pepper because I was so full from the rest of the meal.

From what I tasted, it had a unique spiciness that made me wish I had saved room for it. Overall, the restaurant left me

with a good first impression of vegan food.

The restaurant seemed like a good place to grab a bite to eat if you're in a hurry or want to share a meal with friends.

I knew the next task for me was to find a place that served vegetarian pho in downtown.

After participating in South First Fridays art walk, I remembered Pho 69 located on South First Street.

With help from the Yelp website, I was able to figure out that Pho 69 used vegetarian broth in the pho recipe instead of chicken or beef broth that some restaurants use.

The restaurant was definitely the cleanest pho place I have ever visited. The large room was enough to seat lots of people on a busy night.

The friendly staff offered suggestions and I could tell that the employees at the restaurant really cared about good service.

Instantly I ordered the vegetarian pho before I could order the filet mignon pho, which was calling my name.

It takes a little longer to get your food, but the open kitchen provides entertainment for you to watch as the chef prepares the meal with fresh ingredients.

The added touch of self-serve orange and cucumber water gave a little extra flavor, which is always a good thing.

Pho 69 struck me as a pho place to go on a date. It offers a nice ambiance and it's not a too expensive place to eat in downtown.

The pho was good with fresh ingredients — it really hit the spot on the rainy day.

Even though the pho was a little more expensive than most in San Jose, this is definitely a place to try, especially with a grilled mesquite eggplant sandwich on the menu.

On this food venture, I knew there was no way that I could pass up going to Tofoo Com Chay, a vegetarian restaurant located on Santa Clara Street.

Within walking distance to campus, this small restaurant can get packed quickly.

With about four tables inside and a

“Each place I visited allowed me to spend less than \$10, which is a steal for any restaurant downtown.”



Photo: Alex Wara / Spartan Daily

Vietnamese restaurant Pho 69, located on First Street, offers vegetarian broth in a variety of dishes.

few outside, the restaurant can get a little cramped.

Despite the small venue the food is worth the wait. When you walk in, you are met with a variety of ordering options.

I chose to try the vegetarian roti drumsticks and Thai basil tofu.

The drumsticks could easily be mistaken for a chicken drumstick.

The texture was a little off for me but after I devoured the first one, the next three tasted delicious and I wanted to go back for more. The Thai basil tofu was made so well that I finished the whole bowl with no to-go box needed.

Tofoo Com Chay left me wanting to try more of the food on the menu.

My suggestion to potential visitors is to get the food to go or go early enough to snag a seat at the restaurant.

These three restaurants are not the only vegetarian places in San Jose, but they are a good starting point for anyone looking for good meals when meat is not cutting it.

Each place I visited allowed me to spend less than \$10, which is a steal for any restaurant downtown.



Photo: Alex Wara / Spartan Daily

Darren Nguyen, chef and owner of Pho 69, prepares authentic vegetarian meals.

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