

WEATHER



High: 60°
Low: 43°

Spartans end regular season on two-game slide

Men's basketball team ends season on bittersweet note.



Westboro Baptist Church a no-show at Gunderson High

Controversial church fails to appear at high school performance of gay-themed play.



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

SPARTAN DAILY

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Students chill at Snow Day

Event promotes alcohol awareness and campus life

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

For one Thursday afternoon at SJSU, students were treated to free food, gifts and 16 tons of snow in front of the Aquatic Center.

Snow Day was coordinated by the Associated Students and was brought to the students to promote wellness and healthy living on campus.

"A lot of students don't really have a healthy life," said Alina Plingu, a senior international business major and the A.S. director of community and environmental affairs. "They tend to eat a lot of junk food, do not exercise, they tend to abuse alcohol consumption."

"Everything over here is trying to teach them how to eat healthy, how to stay healthy and to exercise."

Plingu and Jacqueline Peterson, a sophomore business marketing major and A.S. programming board member, were the head coordinators of this year's Snow Day event.

Peterson said the idea came from many of the students' interest in snow-related sports.

"We were just brainstorming things we could get the students involved in and what would attract them," she said. "A lot of students like going snowboarding and skiing so we figured we would bring the snow to them."

The event also featured

booths giving out free food such as hot cocoa and cookies, as well as free T-shirts.

Sophomore business major Matt Martinez came out to the event with his friends and said he enjoyed the atmosphere.

"I think it's pretty cool," he said. "You get free hot cocoa and cookies. It's a good way to relieve stress."

Freshman history major Madeline Martinez said she enjoyed the amount of snow that was brought over to SJSU.

"It's interesting and exciting," she said. "I think it's a great way for students to interact and just hang out."

Several booths at the event were dedicated to teaching the students about healthy living and wellness, especially when it comes to alcohol.

Andrea Ruffo, a senior health science major who was running one of the booths, said students need to become more aware of how much alcohol they consume when they drink alcoholic energy drinks such as Four Loko.

"It's five drinks (per can) so its binge drinking," she said about the amount of alcohol in Four Loko. "We just want to (put) out the message here that if you choose to drink, stay under the limit and if you feel that you had enough then don't drive so you can avoid a DUI."

Students at the booth handed out several fliers



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Mubarak Ismail (left) and Sultan Al Yami (right), Studies in American Language majors, build a snowman during Snow Day on Thursday.

on the dangers of excessive drinking and gave tips on how to drink more responsibly, such as pacing yourself, keeping track of how much you consume and numbers to call in an emergency or if you need a ride home.

Kyber Jensen, a senior industrial design major, said he wasn't even aware of how dangerous alcoholic energy drinks were until recently.

"I think the student body

is definitely not always aware of the energy drink and alcohol (issue), and I just learned about this personally so I think it's good for them to have up," he said.

Jensen said he was impressed with the amount of care and interest the Associated Students took in creating the Snow Day event.

"What it says about them is that they are interested in campus life and trying to keep

things cool," he said. "It helps students interact, I think, and it's really nice."

A.S. Communications Director Ryan Ross said events such as Snow Day are meant to help students unwind at the end of the week.

"Throughout the week, students have midterms and things like that to get through," said Ross, a senior advertising and political science double major. "This here

might be just an event to take their mind off of school for a while, while remaining at school."

Ross also said A.S. comes up with events like this to help stimulate college campus life.

"The Associated Students put on different types of events every year to give students an experience that is past just the curriculum they would usually get," he said.

Film illuminates poverty, education in Nicaragua

Lyell Marks
Staff Writer

The U.S. premiere of "Dreaming Nicaragua" was shown at Camera 12 on Saturday as a part of the 21st annual Cinequest Film Festival and was followed by a panel discussion at Gordon Biersch.

SJSU linguistics Professor Rosemary Henze was the moderator for the discussion and asked the panelists a series of questions concerning Nicaraguan education and poverty issues depicted in the film.

Among the panelists were SJSU alumni Mayra Cerda and Fabio Coelho, Congressman Mike Honda and Kevin Marinacci, founder of the Fabetto Children's Foundation.

All four of the panelists have spent time in Nicaragua and have firsthand accounts of the social and political landscape.

"In Nicaragua you see high levels of corruption and low levels of education that promote poverty," Coelho said. "These situations do not empower people to take a stand."

The film portrays Nicaragua's conditions using four children who combat their grim circumstances with admirable gratitude, conjuring dreams and maintaining hope despite unyielding hardships.

The Nicaraguan children and adults in the film constantly reinforce the value of education and its role in helping lift the youth from an unfortunate fate.

"Growing up in Nicaragua, I remember the lack of education and how far the schools and health centers were," Cerda said. "When we got to school we had to wait outside because there were not enough chairs. If you were one of the last ones there you had to sit on the floor."

Cerda was born and raised in Nicaragua before leaving for the U.S. and spoke of how "Dreaming Nicaragua" paints a realistic portrait of how many barriers to education exist in her homeland.

"We had to walk three or four miles to get to school," she said. "One morning it was very rainy and we had to cross a bridge to get to school, but the bridge was flooded. This kind man actually carried

see **FILM** page 2

Budding scientists and engineers get crafty with eggs, mousetraps at MESA Day Competition

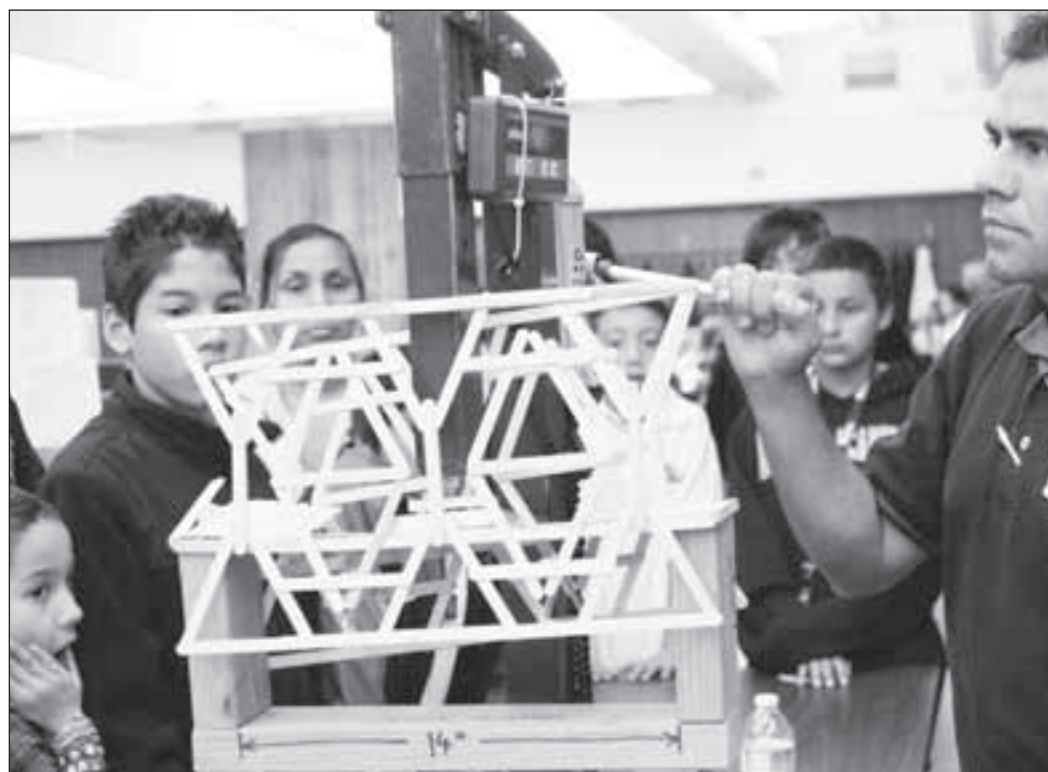


Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

Students watch as the bridges they created are destroyed during Saturday's Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Day in the Student Union.

see **Full story on MESA Day** online at spartandaily.com

Counselor: Avoid test stress with preparation

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

It's the middle of the semester and students with midterms on their minds can find help from SJSU Counseling Services.

Five students gathered at a workshop on Thursday in Clark Hall to discuss test taking tips.

"It's really just to make students more successful," said Deanna Peck, coordinator for educational programs.

Undeclared freshman Adrian Sandoval said he attended the workshop to improve his test taking skills in his math class.

"When I actually take tests I get nervous," he said. "I want to be able to learn how to

prepare for them and how to calm down for them."

Peck led students in a game similar to the TV game show Jeopardy. Each category represented a kind of test such as multiple choice, essay exams and true or false.

"When I am taking tests, I get stressed," said sophomore sociology major Glaris Carrillo. "I know the material, but once I get to the test I get confused and lost."

The workshop concluded with Peck sharing reasons why all the different tests tips are related.

Peck also gives one-on-one counseling sessions on test taking tips and said a lot of students come back with positive results.

"People especially love the create-your-own-test tip," she said.

TEST TAKING TIPS

True or False:

- Watch out for qualifiers (always, never, etc.)
- Read directions

Essay exams:

- Create an outline before starting to write
- Print neatly (skip lines and leave margins)

Test Anxiety:

- Practice deep breathing
- Focus, do not let others distract you before the test

General Tips:

- Create your own test when studying
- Create a study schedule



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Deanna Peck goes over different tools to help with test taking on Thursday.

Free food, racial diversity draws students to share nuances of mixed heritage

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

"So ... what are you?" Although an often-asked question facing persons of mixed ethnic heritage, it often characterizes society's attempt to label them, and these persons' struggle to fit into one culture.

This question, as well as other issues concerning mixed-heritage people, such as ethnicity boxes on tests, were discussed and analyzed in discussion groups Thursday in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

The event was part of SJSU's Diversity Dialogue Series, sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity, said Program Developer Marina Corrales.

"(These events) are about sharing our experiences and background," she said. "We use diversity as an educational tool for faculty, students and staff."

Corrales said she was satisfied with the attendance, which was about 60 people.

She said the fact that there was free food and support from the university, specifically Shawn Spano's Communication 105-P class, helped the event maintain a strong level of attendance.

Nachos and a plethora of Subway sandwiches, many of which remained after the event, were available for free to all in attendance.

Spano, a communi-

cations studies professor, said the experience helped reinforce what his students were learning in their 105-P class, which is titled "Communication, Self and Society."

"People did not approach this as a win-lose (argument)," he said. "The core purpose of (these events) is to give people another opportunity to discuss these difficult, sensitive issues."

The event began with an introduction from Spano, who defined "mixed-heritage" as "people who self-identify as belonging to two or more races."

Participants then viewed a brief video featuring interviews and a speech from Kip Fulbeck, an art professor at UC Santa Barbara.

The video included a feature on Fulbeck's book depicting persons of mixed Asian-American descent, and a discussion of the phrase "Hapa," a term used for persons mixed with Asian or Pacific Islander heritage.

Students from Spano's Communication, Self and Society class then formed and led small discussion groups for attendees.

Junior communications major Mitch Eastlick, a student in the class, facilitated one of the discussion groups.

He said he learned a lot from participants' opinions about diversity in society.

"I felt we were able to learn something," Eastlick said. "I had never heard about 'Hapa' be-

fore." Being of European-American descent, Eastlick said he realized that he felt the country was closer to full ethnic integration than many of the mixed-heritage participants did.

"When you heard (participants) speak (about acceptance), we're not as close as we think we are," he said.

"The core purpose of (these events) is to give people another opportunity to discuss these difficult, sensitive issues."

Shawn Spano
Communications studies professor

The event helped solidify the concept of perspective, people's backgrounds and world view in communication, which Eastlick said is a main theme in his class.

Tony Quetives, a sophomore behavioral sciences major, said he enjoyed the event and was surprised at the turnout and high amount of participation.

"We all talked," he said. "A lot of us had a lot to say. It helped that people were open.

FILM

From Page 1

my brother and me from point A to point B so that we could get to school. Things like that you saw in the film were very similar to what I went through."

Cerda was able to pursue an education and finish her degree at SJSU, but as the film reveals, many Nicaraguan families are not as fortunate.

The poverty illustrated in "Dreaming Nicaragua" is compounded by a lack of education and birth control that breeds families too large to be sustained by the country's economic circumstances.

"About 65 percent of people earn less than two dollars a day in Nicaragua," Marinacci said. "30 percent earn around one dollar per day."

These financial barriers contribute to families

breaking apart, either by abandonment or preadolescent death from a lack of health care.

"We have to identify a pathway out of poverty for the kids in Nicaragua," Honda said. "We need to find a way to stabilize the families so the kids can go to school."

One Nicaraguan woman interviewed in the film said she outlived 17 of her 25 children, never being able to find stability within the family to provide proper health for such a burden.

"Nicaragua is the second poorest nation in the Western hemisphere only to Haiti," Marinacci said. "Most kids drop out of school around the fourth or fifth grade because they are forced to work so they can survive."

Marinacci said he felt drawn to service after he graduated from Georgetown University and traveled to Nicaragua, a venture

that eventually resulted in Marinacci organizing the Fabretto Children's Foundation.

The Fabretto Foundation is named after the Rev. Rafael Maria Fabretto, a missionary who created the "La Familia Padre Fabretto" in 1948, which is a series of homes in Nicaragua for abused or orphaned children, according to the organization's website fabretto.org.

At the time of Rev. Fabretto's death at the age of 70 in 1990, Marinacci said he was working in Nicaragua as a young volunteer after arriving in 1989, and was asked to stay on for another year to help the organization.

"I called my parents and asked them if I could stay for another year in Nicaragua," Marinacci said. "That was twenty years ago."

He stayed on board for more than 20-plus years and is the executive di-

rector of La Familia Padre Fabretto to this day.

"If you don't have the time, sponsor a child," Cerda said. "Being with these people makes you feel empowered that you can actually do something. I want you to leave this panel feeling the need to do something."

While the film "Dreaming Nicaragua" revealed the persistent poverty that immerses nearly half of the nation's citizens, it also shone light upon the hope and optimism maintained by these people despite their surroundings.

"I remember a young girl when I visited Nicaragua who was probably 14 or 15," Cerda said. "She was so beautiful. She was so grateful for what Fabretto had done for her and her family that she sang a song for us. That was the most emotional I have

been while working with them."

The unwavering gratitude of the children is something the film illuminates, showing how the simple promise of a meal or a new toy brings them a great deal of happiness.

For a glimpse of these children who embody the hopes and dreams of Nica-

ragua's future, tickets are still available for Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Both screenings of "Dreaming Nicaragua" will be shown at Camera 12 as a part of Cinequest Film Festival 21. General admission is \$10 while students with a valid Tower ID card get in for \$5.

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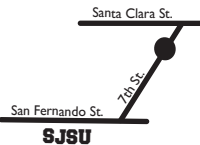
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Spartans fall, build on positives from season

Whitney Ellard
Staff Writer

SJSU's women's basketball team season ended with a 75-49 home loss Saturday night against the Utah State Aggies.

The school recognized seniors Marnesha Hall and Sayja Sumler and presented them with framed jerseys at their final SJSU contest.

The Spartans (2-27, 2-14 WAC) sustained an 11-game losing streak with the loss against the Aggies (16-12, 10-5 WAC), who will continue on to the women's WAC tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada beginning March 9.

The Spartans lost to the Aggies back in January 72-57, and the Aggies now have an all-time advantage over SJSU 9-4. The women's basketball team has not defeated the Aggies since 2007.

The Spartans endured seven minutes of unsuccessful scoring attempts in the first half and trailed behind Utah State 46-14 at the break.

"We just didn't play well," said Spartans head coach Pam DeCosta. "We didn't fight."

Senior forward Marnesha Hall led the team with 14 points followed by junior forward Brittany Johnson with 10.

Freshman guard AJ Newton led the team in steals with four. The Aggies shot 73 percent at the free throw line.

In the second half, the Aggies continued to increase their lead over the Spartans with a 44-point advantage towards the end of the game.

"I felt like we fought back in the second half but the deficit in the first half was too much," said Johnson.

The Aggies dominated the court with 26 defensive rebounds over the Spartans' 13.

"Utah State is very unique in the defense

that they play and they make you play in that frazzled state and we just could never get our composure," DeCosta said.

Hall thought the Aggies defense was a challenge for her team.

"We planned on coming out tougher than that but they threw something at us that we weren't used to," she said.

Although injuries may have impaired the Spartans' season, DeCosta was proud they never gave up.

"It was tough, we were injured the whole year," she said. "I'm proud of them. They could've easily quit."

She also acknowledged Hall, who was injured all year and still playing although at 50 percent.

"She kept fighting so I have the utmost respect for her 'cause should could have easily checked out," DeCosta said.

Senior guard Sayja Sumler played under DeCosta's coaching for four years.

"She was our first recruit," DeCosta said. "She has laid the foundation for this program."

The Spartans led with 12 offensive rebounds over Utah State. Both teams had four blocks and 12 steals.

Hall said it was hard playing for the Spartans for the last time.

"I enjoyed playing with this group of girls," she said. "I wouldn't trade them for the world."

Hall plans on finishing school in December and hopes to get the opportunity to play overseas and coach in the near future.

"I'm not going to stop playing ball," she said. "This wasn't my last game."

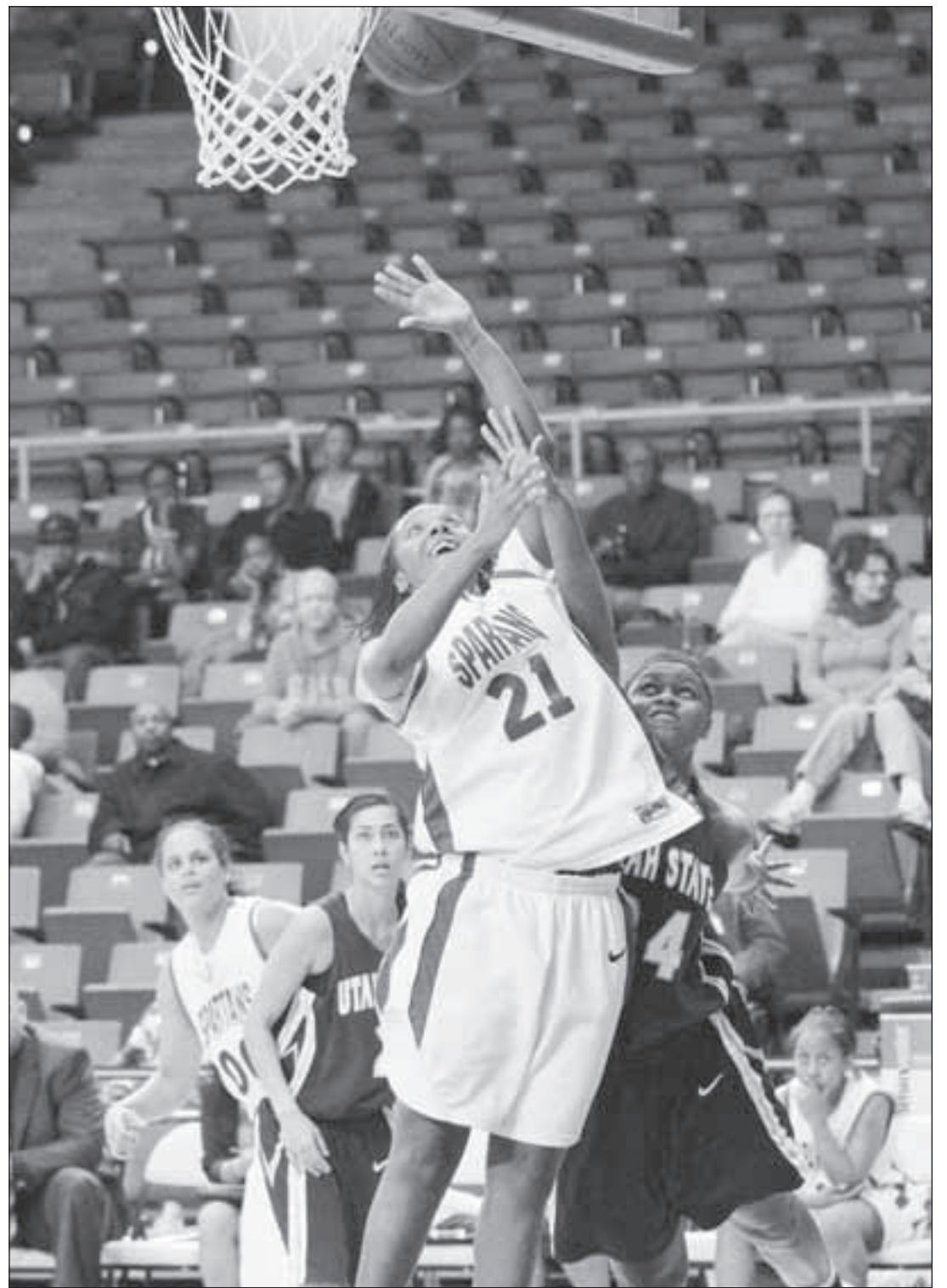


Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Senior forward Marnesha Hall vies with her opponent beneath the basket during the Spartans' loss to Utah State on Saturday.

STAFF REPORT

SJSU tennis splits weekend double-header

Leo Postovoit
Multimedia Editor

The Spartans tennis team broke even on their Saturday doubleheader, winning against UC Davis and losing to Southern Utah University.

Senior Anna Guzman had an overall undefeated day, stopping the Aggies' Melissa Kobayakawa 6-4, 6-4 and nearly shutting out the Thunderbirds' Afton Staheli 6-0, 6-1, bringing her day's singles set record to a respectable 4 for 4.

Olivia Marshall, Sandra Florea, Emily Prescott and Chau Truong all lost in straight sets against the Aggies, but turned it around against the Thunderbirds.

Truong came back after a 6-4, 3-6, 7-2 loss to UC Davis's Dabra Zamudio to win 6-4, 6-3 over SUU's Alex Ivanova.

After the split, San Jose State moved to 3-2 on the year with their next match at the Spartan Courts when they face off against Sonoma State on Thursday. SJSU defeated the Seawolves in their last meeting in February.

The Spartans hope to add another early victory to keep them above a .500 winning average. SJSU has not finished above .500 since the 2007-2008 season.

The SUU matches were originally scheduled for Sunday morning, but were moved to Saturday afternoon because of possible rain.

STAFF REPORT

Spartans drop series with Broncos

Alex Spicer
Sports Editor

The No. 30-ranked Spartans lost two out of three to Santa Clara last weekend, winning the opener 4-2 before dropping the next two.

The first and third games were played at Municipal Stadium on Friday and Sunday, with the Saturday game being held at Santa Clara's Stephen Schott Stadium.

SJSU (8-3) rode senior starting pitcher Blake McFarland in its lone victory of the series with the Broncos (6-5), with the starter going seven full innings with one unearned run before giving way to the bullpen.

The Spartans scored all four of their runs in the first inning, sparked by senior infielder Craig Hertler's triple in the first at bat of the game.

The team did not fare as well in its final two games of the series, which saw the Spartans lose 3-2 and 6-3.

Senior infielder Danny Stienstra hit five for 11 in the three-game series, including two RBIs.

The Spartans return to the diamond on Tuesday, March 8 on the road to face the University of the Pacific.



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Senior infielder Nick Borg reacts during the Spartans' 6-3 loss to Santa Clara on Sunday.



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SPARTAN DAILY

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

Spartans end regular season with two-game slide

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

On a night that honored two of SJSU's best guards in the history of the school, Adrian Oliver and Justin Graham, the Spartans lost a closely fought game, 77-71, to the visiting Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

The Spartans (15-14, 5-11 WAC) held the lead at the end of the first half and for most of the second half, but late in the game momentum swung in favor of Hawaii (18-10, 8-7 WAC).

"Basketball is a game of swings and a game of momentum, and they just happened to get the momentum there at the end of the game," said Oliver, who led the Spartans with 18 points. "It was too late for us to make another run."

The Spartans shot well from behind the arc going 8-13, but had trouble scoring closer to the basket, shooting just 37.3 percent from the field overall and shot 11-34 in the second half.

"It was a disappointing way to lose but I wouldn't judge our performance as poor at all," said Spartan head coach George Nessman. "Hawaii is the hottest team in the WAC right now and we absolutely had a great chance to win the game and we just didn't close it."

The Spartans gave up the lead late in the game when Hawaii senior forward Bill Amis hit a jumper with 2:01 left and the Rainbow Warriors never lost the lead again.

Hawaii was held to a 40 percent field goal percentage in the first half but ended up shooting 56 percent on 14-25 shooting in the second.

Graham, who had 15 points and five assists on the night, said losing to Hawaii was tough to swallow.

Both teams were on four-game win streaks heading into the contest.

"It's tough, you know," he said. "Hawaii was on a big run coming in, but only one streak can continue to go on. It's a little humbling, we're not invincible obviously."

About 2,800 fans packed the Event Center to see Oliver and Graham play their last home game as Spartans, and for the two players it was an emotional night.

"It's bittersweet, I wish I could play here forever, I wish I could go to school forever but I can't," said Graham, who is graduating as the school's career assists and steals leader. "I've loved all my years here, being on the court and off."

Oliver, who is graduating as a holder of 10 of the school's basketball records, said it was bittersweet for him as well.

"To have my family walk out there with me it means a lot," he said of the pre-game senior night ceremony. "It's sad to see this place go, but like all other things you have to adapt and keep going higher and higher."

Oliver said he and Graham have developed a camaraderie over their seasons on the team, despite coming from opposing high schools when they were younger.

"He's like my new brother," Oliver said. "I would have never thought that I would be on the same team as Justin in college but the way things



Senior guard Justin Graham (Right) looks to pass to junior forward Wil Carter (Left) in the post during the Spartans' home loss to Hawaii on Thursday.

work out, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Oliver also spoke fondly of Coach Nessman.

"Coach Nessman quite possibly could be the best coach I've ever had because he lets you be yourself as long as you produce," he said.

Graham said he has a lot of hope for the future of the basketball program.

"I've seen a lot of growth in this program," he said. "We went from winning a couple games a year to double digit wins most of my last two or three years and I hope it's something that they continue to do, and I hope they continue to grow and get better each year."

The Spartans traveled to Boise State on Saturday after the game and lost 66-51, de-

spite 30 points from Oliver.

The Spartans will attend the Western Athletic Conference tournament as the eight seed in Las Vegas March 9 - 12.



Senior guards Justin Graham (Left) and Adrian Oliver (Right).

SEASON STATISTICS

Senior guard Adrian Oliver

Points per game	24.3
Assists per game	2.6
Rebounds per game	5.5
Games played	27
Average minutes per game	34.7
Field goal percentage	.440

Senior guard Justin Graham

Points per game	14.8
Assists per game	4.5
Rebounds per game	4.2
Games played	28
Average minutes per game	37.0
Field goal percentage	.429

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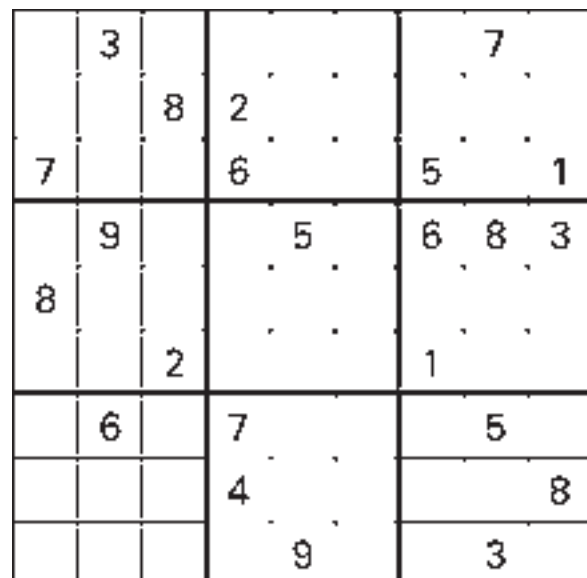
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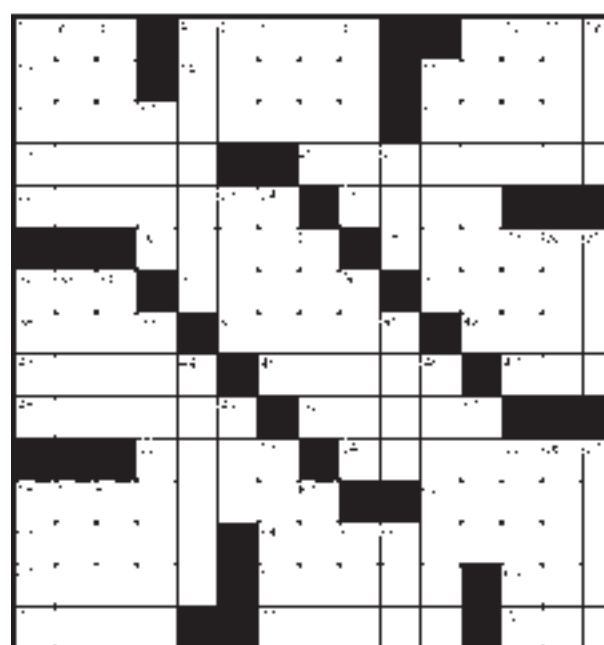
- Green point
- Sales pitch
- Summary
- Toga dancer
- Country's Truck
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- Host of party
- Light inverse to
- Attendant
- "Fire and Ice" singer
- Spanner or pin
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- Whit-faced
- Rock concert souvenir
- Floor models
- Summa cum
- Lacks on
- Sludgy patron
- Tuna
- Without
- Kind of wave
- Change suit
- Posh
- Basical parts
- Hay unit
- Snogee
- Campuses
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- Florida Crested
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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DOWN

- Blush
- Dodge
- Busher city
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- Kung
- chicken
- Traveler's
- Just serves by
- Pets cargo
- Abund
- Lawbones
- for keeps
- Resort near Venice
- Forest ruminant
- Fun-loving
- Zephan
- Bea-dance
- bus c
- Manian
- Pay by mail
- The 11 over
- sculptor
- Kwan leat
- Hunch
- Ed Wood star
- Woolen caps
- Havise
- Village in France
- Car for four or more
- Beach hazards
- All-night party
- Terror-stricken
- Dinoshes
- by English
- leave label-gasted
- Pass regulator
- Down the road
- A Prison
- Death cap
- City in Iowa
- Whatever - wants
- Good farm soil
- Vegetation guide
- Freight weight
- Weed wacker



Let Planned Parenthood stand on its own two feet

When news spread that the House's version of the 2011 budget included halting Planned Parenthood's federal funding, it provoked a firestorm from pro-choice advocates saying that it was an assault on a woman's right to choose by conservative lawmakers.

This might be the case for many GOP House members, but I think it's also a matter of economics that is guiding the decision.

Funding should be cut for Planned Parenthood in the final budget, although not completely eliminated. The cuts should be made because Planned Parenthood really is a low-priority item in the federal budget.

The writing has been on the wall for years. Budget cuts have been inevitable, especially with

a ballooning federal deficit that a GOP-dominated House has vowed to reduce.

Funding for social programs like education and Planned Parenthood are usually among a budget cut's first casualties.

Planned Parenthood should not be relying on government funding as much as it has been for years.

The 2008 federal grants allocated to Planned Parenthood were \$349 million, and the cuts that are proposed this year would wipe away a similar amount through September.

Like any crutch that has been relied upon for too long, having the funding yanked away will undoubtedly cause severe hindrances.

What the organization should be doing is weaning itself off of government money



Jack Barnwell
Online Editor

and increasing its search for more private funding. It already operates as a nonprofit, so it's surely qualified for tax exempt status.

Another cruel reality is that yanking the federal crutch away will force Planned Parenthood to re-evaluate some

programs. One of its premises is advancing global health and it provides funding to several international programs.

It is a big line item that could do with some cutting or seek funding from international sources and governments.

Other changes must be made if Planned Parenthood wants to continue receiving federal funding, especially with regulation.

Lawmakers and advocates on both sides of the fence argue that the reason behind the cuts is abortion.

They should be getting their heads out of the ground and realize that it's a moot point.

Current federal law prohibits Planned Parenthood from using government-provided money for abortions — a service reportedly that is only

three or four percent of the organization's services.

It is other services that will be affected by the House's version of the budget, including contraceptives and STD and pregnancy testing.

Yes, those are vital services, but there should regulations that conform to federal and state laws.

If the organization says it serves low-income women and families, then it should place a boundary at a certain income bracket.

Federal funding should be earmarked to specific services and it would not hurt for a regional government auditor to routinely check in on local Planned Parenthood operations.

Of course, removing Planned Parenthood's funding

immediately would be in bad sport, much like yanking the crutches from someone who doesn't have the strength to walk unaided.

Ultimately, the federal government needs to draw the line and begin a staggered reduction in funding Planned Parenthood.

A firm date and a number of how much the government will reduce its funding per year can give the organization the chance to become more financially independent.

The government can continue funding if it so chooses, but at a fraction of what it is currently.

This, I think, will give Planned Parenthood time to rely less on the crutch and move toward walking on its own two feet.

Stop your stalking

It begins innocently.

My sister once accidentally left her ATM card in the machine at the bank in our small town. As she was walking away, an older man called out to her and gave her the card.

And then it turns threatening.

The man contacted my sister on Facebook and sent her inappropriate comments. My dad threatened to contact the police.

My sister blocked him on Facebook.

Even though this was more than a year ago and she moved more than six hours away from home where the incident occurred, my sister is convinced that this man sent her flowers for her birthday this year.

"The 2009 Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, 'Stalking Victimization in the United States,' estimated that 3.4 million people were stalked during a 12-month period," according to the National Center for Victims of Crime website.

Stalking is scary, to say the least. You live in fear and confusion. You have little or no control.

"Persons ages 18 to 24 experienced the highest rates of stalking victimization," according to the National Center for Victims of Crime website. "Research also shows that stalking is a significant problem on college campuses and these studies find higher rates of stalking victimization among college-aged women than that of the general population."

Sometimes people develop stalking behaviors without noticing.

It starts as an innocent crush on a friend and turns into something less innocent as obsession takes over.



Amber Simons
Simons Says

ing is and what to do if you are being stalked, because stalking is more than following someone around.

"Stalking is repeated following and/or harassment of another person with the intent to threaten or place in fear the person being harassed," according to the SJSU Women's Resource Center website.

"Stalking is prolonged criminal behavior that endangers the person being stalked, their family, their friends, and the community, and also poses the threat of other types of violence. Behavior requires repetition to qualify under most state statutes as stalking (usually 2 or more incidents)," according to the website.

If you feel like you're being stalked, tell people. Let your friends, professors, boss, police, someone, anyone know.

Report it. Don't keep your fear a secret.

"Though stalking behavior is often prolonged and ongoing, the majority of stalking incidents (over 83 percent) were not re-

ported to police or campus law enforcement," according to the National Center for Victims of Crime website.

ported to police or campus law enforcement," according to the National Center for Victims of Crime website.

Although stalking can seem innocent, it is not. A person can be harmed physically and emotionally by a stalker.

No one should be forced to live under someone else's control and obsession.

Stalking behavior can include:

- Non-consensual communication including: in-person communication, telephone calls, voice messages, text messages, e-mail messages, social networking site postings, instant messages, postings of pictures or information on websites, written letters, gifts, or any other communications that are undesired and/or place another person in fear.
- Following, pursuing, waiting, or showing up uninvited at a workplace, place of residence, classroom, or other locations frequented by a victim.
- Surveillance and other types of observation, whether by physical proximity or electronic means, trespassing, vandalism.
- Non-consensual touching, direct physical and/or verbal threats against a victim or a victim's loved ones, gathering of information about a victim from family, friends, co-workers, and/or classmates.
- Manipulative and controlling behaviors such as threats to harm oneself, or threats to harm someone close to the victim, defamation or slander against the victim.

*From the National Center for Victims of Crime website.

This is a special appearance of "Simons Says." Amber Simons is the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor.

Message to the Westboro Baptist Church: Shut Up!

When we were little, I'm sure many of us at one point or another were told the old saying: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it at all."

Well, I think the people of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church were never told that during their lifetimes.

In fact, I'm pretty sure every single one of them were dropped on their heads when they were little.

If you don't know who the people of the Westboro Baptist Church are, they are the lunatics who protest at military funerals with "tasteful" signs like "God hates America," "God hates fags" and of course "Thank God for 9/11."

Yeah, those people.

Last weekend in a big Supreme Court ruling, the judges ruled 8-1 in favor of allowing the "churchgoers" to continue protesting at military fu-



Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

nerals because it's still freedom of speech despite how obscene it is.

Now in the Supreme Court's defense, this is true. The Westboro Baptist Church is within its right to be as ridiculous and hateful as it wants to be, and since the people aren't being violent, physically at least, they aren't breaking any rules technically.

The church is going too far however, and as much as we need to protect our freedom of speech, something needs to be done about hateful rhetoric — especially when it comes to burying our honorable soldiers with dignity.

These people have no conscience whatsoever and it's absolutely sickening the hurtful slander they throw at those who have lost their loved ones.

These people also protested at the funeral of the 9-year-old girl who died in the Tuscon shooting in January, just because she was Catholic.

The problem is the line needs to be drawn where free speech starts to fall into inappropriate behavior, because the protests these people hold would make even the KKK blush.

Right or left, against the war or not, homophobic or not, hateful speech at somber events such as funerals is not a proper exercise of free speech.

All they are doing is encouraging violence toward them. If you lost someone dear to you and saw some lowlifes like these people heckling you while you carried the casket, wouldn't you want to fight back?

It's dangerous and at some point these people will push the wrong buttons of someone.

While they are exercising their First Amendment rights, the people they are antagonizing might end up exercising their Second Amendment rights on them.



Editorial Cartoon: MCT

In the end, the Supreme Court technically made the right choice here ruling in favor of the church, but what it should show is that some change needs to be made in some practices of that right.

I don't care what side of the political spectrum you are on, hate speech

at a funeral is wrong and immoral — especially at the funerals of our fallen soldiers.

These people are not Christians.

In my view, they are some of the lowest forms of human beings in this country and their rhetoric needs to end now.

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Photo Courtesy: Allmoviephotos.com

John Slattery (Left) as Richardson grabs Matt Damon (Right) as David Norris.

MOVIE REVIEW

Sci-fi thriller turns romantic in 'The Adjustment Bureau'

★★★★☆
Nic Aguon
Staff Writer

What if everything that occurred in your life was predetermined or planned?

In "The Adjustment Bureau," David Norris is forced to make choices that would change his life drastically.

The movie begins with simply the title of the movie and no credits — I thought this to be a clever idea from the filmmakers.

This romantic science fiction tale bears similarity to "Inception," but not because of its plot.

Matt Damon plays David Norris, a brave political candidate who is trying to get elected as a senator of New York. Norris is a charismatic individual who's scrutinized as being too young and rowdy to be taken seriously.

Damon's uncanny humor and awkwardness serves well in the film, picking spots to ease up the audience from the intense thrill ride.

The story is simultaneously sophisticated and suspenseful. The combination of both themes work seamlessly throughout the movie to build a story that is galvanizing and fanciful.

Damon's performance kept me guessing as to what was going to happen next.

The film spans across the gritty streets of downtown New York, where Norris meets the girl of his dreams in the most awkward of places — the men's bathroom.

Despite the romantic encounter, the Adjustment Bureau, the antagonists of the movie, stop Norris dead in his tracks and warn him to keep their identity a secret.

When Norris is confronted by the bureau, he at first perceives them as merely a dream. Consequently, the bureau claims they are purely "case officers" that oversee the lives of not just Norris, but everyone.

Norris is tested throughout the film, being told by the Adjustment Bureau that he and his love interest Elise Sellas, played by Emily Blunt, were never meant to be.

The film does a good job of formulating a plot that is thrilling and suspenseful, utilizing special effects to show off the power the bureau wields.

The movie is highly entertaining as well as unpredictable.

The film has viewers thinking throughout the entire 99 minutes, and rewards those who pay attention to what is going on.

Overall, the film could have used a bit more backstory to provide some clarity for the audience. Matt Damon's performance is solid, keeping viewers laughing and on the edge of their seats.

I thought the story was genuine, as it had its high and low points. The movie does a good job of making the audience feel sympathetic for Norris as he goes through a rollercoaster of emotions and impulsive decisions.

The one aspect that drives this movie is the chemistry between Damon and Blunt. Their on-screen chemistry is outstanding.

However, with all its high points, "The Adjustment Bureau" is a love story that needs a bit more attention to detail for viewers to truly understand the purpose of the bureau. The plotline was a bit convoluted but Damon put on a good performance.

The movie fights to be a multi-themed film, which in the end does a good job of intertwining romance, action and suspense.

It may be early in the year, but I believe this film is excellent and worth the money.

Take a breather from all that schoolwork and see this film with someone. It might just get you thinking.

ALBUM REVIEW

Noah and the Whale wastes its 'Last Night on Earth'

★★★★☆

Leo Postovoi
Staff Writer

The new Noah and the Whale album *Last Night on Earth* strays far from the roots that they planted. The whole album is lead singer Charlie Fink's cluttered memory of the past.

For me, it's not cluttered. I remember how Peaceful's *The World Lays Me Down* became part of my music routine, working as one of the newest and best examples of the nu-folk genre to rise out of southern England.

This third Noah and the Whale album belabors the memories of Fink's former existence in the opening track "Life is Life" — "And now he's someone else / Took apart his old life / Left it on the shelf."

Though at one point Noah and the Whale was a happy band with Peaceful's "Five Years Time," they changed with the shifting tide. Fink broke up with former backup singer Laura Marling, which brought a strangely dark — almost macabre — tone to the album that followed.

I really wish they hadn't forgotten this quality playing back across the pond because it's not as pleasing as it once was.

The biggest problem isn't that they've changed, it's that they have changed into a weakened and diluted version of themselves and added a few synthesizers. Though some lyrical quality was kept, the album generally feels less on point and like a blow softened by the passage of time.

Last Night on Earth isn't as strong as 2009's *First Days of Spring*, which felt as if Fink locked himself in a cabin like Bon Iver's Justin Vernon famously did after a rough breakup. If you're going to sing about the messy remorse and lingering feelings of a faded romance, do it all the way.

There's nothing wrong with writing about breakups and romantic strife — it's par for the course in the indie genre. Just about every one of Kevin Barnes' tracks for the band Of Montreal, Conor Oberst's tracks for Bright Eyes, Vernon for Bon Iver and Matt Berninger for the National deal with this in a far better executed manner.

But this time the job wasn't on point. The song "Tonight's the Kind of Night" almost feels cheesy.

It is as if he's worked through his trouble and listened to a whole lot of ABBA (the "S.O.S." era),

the National's Boxer and Frightened Rabbit's Midnight Organ Fight, and simply been sucked of all life.

Last Night on Earth's first single "L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N." continues the same lack of energy and the same song of reminiscence. Fink sings, likely of Marling and his band's former glory. "What you don't have now will come back again / You've got heart and you're going your own way" — it's as if he wants it all to come back.

Noah and the Whale's first album was layered in vocal richness, but it's all changed since then. Post breakup, Fink spilled his guts on *First Days of Spring*. It was a genuine album, focused on being without Marling, his vocal backup and provider of emotional support. But for take three, it seems they have lost the sensitivity and supplemented it with fancy keyboards.

Whereas bands like Hellogoodbye merge happy times and synth, and Shout Out Louds blends their dark moments and electronics, Noah and the Whale fail to do either and leave nearly every track feeling like it had one instrument too many.

Noah and the Whale did some good songwriting in the album. The closing track, "Old Joy," is by far the simplest song and is definitively the key track on the album. Featuring a saddened choir singing about the passing days, it highlights that Fink can still play the nu-folk that he helped father. Functioning perhaps as a eulogy in the passing of what was Noah and the Whale, the track reminds me of the brilliant choral effects used by Jenny Lewis in her albums *Acid Tongue* and *Rabbit Fur Coat*, both also recorded in Los Angeles.

I'm happy to report though that their former sound is now popularly played by their English friends and recent Grammy winner Mumford and Sons. Whereas they were once considered an understudy of Noah and the Whale, they are far lyrically and tonally richer than Noah and the Whale ever developed.

Sorry Fink, I don't like the way this album has come out. The strange inclusion of synth is sloppily executed, and the vibe is generally mixed. If you're going to be sad, go all the way. The album's identity crisis is clear: it doesn't know what it wants to be, like a failed aspiring actress trying to find her way stuck somewhere in Los Angeles. Quit acting and do what you really do — get back to folk music.

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