Students muggle practice magic on SJSU Quidditch pitch

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MULTIMEDIA

Student puts their best feet forward for shoeless kids

Students and participants in the Gears Chen Community Action Center’s Alternative Spring Break program walk barefoot around the campus for the national “One Day Without Shoes” event Tuesday. The event began at noon at the fountain in front of the Event Center Participants walked around the campus barefoot for over an hour challenging students and bystanders to take off their shoes and chant “Take them off.” Students walked around the university and many onlookers who did not join the walk participated by taking off their shoes where they stood.

April 5 is considered “One Day Without Shoes” day where individuals are asked to go about their day barefoot to raise awareness for children in Third World countries who do not have the luxury of owning a pair of shoes.

One Day Without Shoes’ challenges people to spend a day

without their shoes.

Photo from James/Fujimoto Daily

Students put their feet together in celebration at the end of their march around campus on Tuesday.

Whitney Ellard

Sparta Daily

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A powerful system of tornadoes, hailstorms and lightning pounded the South, killing at least six people in Georgia, and leaving a wake of uprooted trees, downed power lines and damaged homes.

A police officer directs traffic on South Tryon St. and Remount Rd. in Charlotte, North Carolina, after traffic signals were toppled in the morning storm on Tuesday.

Policies were found dead after he was electrocuted outside of his home by a toppled power line, officials said. In Mississippi, a 20-year-old man was killed when his car struck a tree that had been knocked down across a major road.

The National Weather Service is investigating about two dozen reports of tornadoes throughout the region and received more than 300 reports of wind damage, said Tom Bradshaw, a meteorologist with the agency.

"This is a typical severe spring weather outbreak," Bradshaw said. "What’s fortunate is that we haven’t had any very strong tornado outbreaks." Bradshaw believes there are multiple benefits for students.

"It provides access to an automobile when we know many starving students cannot afford the cost of insurance, gas, parking and not to mention the car itself," he said.

Eight killed, power disrupted as storm system wreaks havoc across American South

McClatchy Tribune

As for the city, the program can help reduce greenhouse gases. The proposal states "it can also enable families with multiple cars to consider reducing the number they own, or to forego car ownership entirely and also decrease parking demand in neighborhoods.

The city is looking to decrease the percentage of solo-driving residents from 98 percent to 40 percent by 2040.

The program also aims to increase alternative transportation from a percent to 20 percent and bicycling and walking from 5 percent to 17 percent respectively to 15 percent, according to the proposal.

The program is still in search of a car-sharing operator. In terms of cost, the proposal states the car-share program will not cost the city or the university, and that the partnership is to allow the creation of the service in San Jose.

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McClatchy Tribune

A powerful system of tornadoes, hailstorms and lightning pounded the South, killing at least six people in Georgia, and leaving a wake of uprooted trees, downed power lines and damaged homes.

The storms swept quickly through northeastern Texas and Oklahoma and rolled into the South on Monday and early Tuesday, hitting Georgia and the Carolinas.

The system was expected to pass through Florida and into the Atlantic Ocean by Tuesday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

At least six people were killed in Georgia, including a 3-year-old child and his father who died after a tree fell into their home in Butts County. In rural Dodge County, a 45-year-old man was found dead after he was electrocuted outside of his home by a toppled power line, officials said. In Mississippi, a 20-year-old man was killed when his car struck a tree that had been knocked down across a major road.

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**FOOD**

*From Page 1*

In attending reception people how to be more energy efficient.

"A lot of people can learn how to save money on their energy bills and be more environmentally friendly," said Ed Pereira, a senior environmental studies major.

The goal of becoming more energy efficient is part of the San Jose Green Vision Goal to reduce energy use, he said.

Pereira said he was at the fair to help more students become more environmentally friendly. The organization was giving away energy-efficient light bulbs as well as information to teach people about ways to save money on energy.

Lacey Benson, a junior environmental studies major, was representing the Master Composters of Santa Clara County.

She participated in a six-week course to become a composting expert. "We are here to teach people about the soil and the benefits that come from it," Benson said.

Benson also said she was helping reach out to students, letting them know what to do with their food scraps.

Whole Foods, a grocery store well known for selling organic foods, provided free strawberries at the fair to students to eat.

When it comes to eating locally, White said students can make a small change that can make a huge difference.

"If it’s something simple that you can do," she said, "a lot of things are hard to incorporate into your life to become more sustainable. Eating locally is pretty easy."
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municate by being honest and
together so that we make a change.

“Jen said she thought the open forum went well, but she would like to see more detailed explanation of the candidates’ plans. “I kind of got an idea of what the candidates wanted to do,” she said. The one that said I have a plan for creating community or I have a plan to reduce spending, I want to see an actual plan. I want to see an ac-
tual something, not a blank page.

The candidates were also asked how they would in-
sure student interest in the A.S.

To date, the best turnout for A.S. took place three election cycles ago when 3,000 students turned out to vote for board can-
didates, said Chris Danis, chief election officer for the A.S.

Matriculated students at SJSU pay an activity fee, which totals $6.5 million and is part of the $56 mil-
lion annual budget that is handled by the A.S. Board of Directors. According to the A.S. SJSU Voter Information Guide.

Marina Troian, who is running for director of com-
munications, said integrat-
ing social media such as
Facebook and Twitter into
the communication process be-	ween the A.S. and the students is vital.

“It is a waste of their money if the students are not aware of what is going on,” she said.

Kolodziejak also raised
the possibility of institut-
ing a one-unit internship for a director of career services position. San Francisco State currently has a similar opportunity for its students.

He also said he would continue to foster a strong
connection with the students at SJSU through publi-
c relations and marketing positions that were hired last semester.

Matthew Sampson, who is running for controller, said emphasis should be placed on community
students, who may not pay at-
tention to the banners and announcements that are dis-
played around campus.

“The banners are there,” he said. “It’s a matter of how
you get people to recognize the banners. You have to
build that sense that this is the student’s campus.”

John Sepass, a junior business
management major who is running for director of
business affairs, inter-
national student Tammy Sharma, who is running for
director of intercultural af-
fairs and Calista Wensup, who is the current vice
president and is running for re-election unopposed, all addressed a question posed by the audience about how the candidates would over-
come obstacles if they are appointed to their respec-
tive positions.

Sepass said it is impor-
tant for all candidates to un-
derstand that it is important
for elected officials to have
a plan when attempt-
ing to implement policy or ideas.

You have to say ‘I’d do thing,
do not go my way, what can
I do?’” he said. “Maybe you
are in a different direction or
down another path.”

Sharma said the ability to
overcome obstacles in the
job begins with the can-
didate having motivation.

He said he is motivated by his passion to represent the diversity on campus.

“If your goal is to climb a mountain, you have to
know where your goal is, but if your goals are only fo-
cused on that, you are going to
get lost in the trees along the
day,” he said. “I hope that you are not only looking at the ground, you will not know where you are going.”

Daniels said she was im-
pressed by the performance of
the candidates.

“I think tonight turned out as expected,” he said. “I didn’t expect a lot of stu-
dents because I feel like a lot
of students don’t really care about the elections or know
a lot about the elections. I am happy all my candidates showed up, were well versed
and they are all excited about the position.”

Amalia Renteria, a senior public relations major, said regardless of what the can-
didates said, she hopes they
can perform once elected.

“I just wish the people that do get elected would be able to represent the students,” she said. “I know they are candidates and they are wearing their business suits, but when they go talk to the boards and the presi-
dent they will be able to rep-
resent the students.”

A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejak talks about the A.S. election process.

SHOES

From Page 1

without shoes to help raise

A.S. From Page 1

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Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Spartan Daily

4 NEWS

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SJSU finds success during spring break

Ron Gleeson
Staff Writer

While students were allowed of their academic duties over spring break, SJU baseball worked hard on the diamond and continued its winning ways, including a two-game sweep of Brown University.

The Spartans (19-27) followed a 9-4 victory on March 29 with another Wednesday victory defeating the Bears (21-13). Although SJSU put 12 runs on the scoreboard in the second game of the series, the story of the game was not the Spartans' performance at the plate, but the clinic freshman starting pitcher Johnny Melero displayed on the mound.

Melero, who made his first collegiate start, breezed through the Bears' lineup on easy, throwing four perfect innings. His perfect game was broken up in the fifth inning by an error, and his no-hitter after a miscommunicated play by a teammate also was broken up on the mound.

"Melero had three pitches he used at his disposal," Piraro said. "He had a curve ball he used to put hitters away as well as a curve ball to get a strike. To add to that, he had an idea that slowed down the hitters' bats and a fastball that took their bats away."

Brown, on the other hand, was not so fortunate with the performance by their pitchers. The Spartans started slow offensively, but were given base runners throughout the game in the form of both walks and base hits by pitch.

A slow start for the Bears was broken through for the first run of the game in the third inning after Bears' pitcher Chris Hubbard loaded the bases by surrendering three walks to the first four Spartan batters in the inning.

With the bases loaded, senior first baseman Danny Stienstra capitalized by sending a blowout into shallow center field, scoring senior shortstop Nick Borg. Stienstra, who finished 5-for-5 with three runs and the sole RBI, said his success came from the hard work of batters that come ahead of him in the batting order.

"The guys ahead of me were doing a great job of getting to the breaking point and making the opposing pitcher throw more strikes," he said. "Guys were getting on in front of me, and I was lucky enough to see some good pitches." Brown's pitching woes continued following the base hit. Hubbard allowed another walk to third baseman Caleb Natov with the bases loaded, bringing a run home for SJSU.

The following play would add fielding to the list of Brown's troubles. A slow chopper off the bat of Spartans' sophomore left fielder Tim Querry resulted in an error by the Bears' second baseman, scoring two runs and capping SJSU's scoring in the third inning with four runs.

The Spartans scored two more in the sixth inning fueled by base hits on half by the Bears.

The first run came off a base hit by Querry and the second from a walk drawn by Borg with the bases loaded. The bases loaded after the two batters in front of him were walked. Brown finally made noise on the score board in the seventh inning after an error by Natov.

The Spartans, however, exploded in the third half of the inning by putting another spot on the board, a rally that was started by a clean-up hitter putting the bases loaded. A double by Stienstra and two consecutive walks loaded the bases for Spartans' sophomore right fielder Nick Schul, who delivered with a two-RBI double to right field.

With runners on second and third, the Spartans put the game all but out of reach when junior catcher Anthony Bonsa singled to drive in both base runners, stretching the lead to nine.

SJSU would score one last time in its half of the eighth inning — another bases loaded rally with this time to Brown, earning him his game-high third RBI of the afternoon.

Piraro talked about approaching "panhandling" to his team, which he said meant taking whatever your opponent will give you, whether it be walks or anything else beneficial to the team.

"You have to have good eyes as a hitter to take a walk," he said. "You have to know where the strike zone is, and that's exactly what our guys did out there today."

Although Piraro mentioned "panhandling" to his team to produce runs by walking, which transpired in Wednesday's game, he said it is not the team's foremost goal.

"We will always take what the other team goes you," he said. "But we also want to be self-sufficient. We want to be able to generate our own runs. But, if someone wants to put a dollar in our cup we'll take it.

The runs produced later in the game by stringing together walks and base hits were refreshing, Piraro said.

"We are an average to above-average offensive ball club," he said. "We don't have a guy that's going to hit a home run, we don't have a guy that's going to steal home. We do not have anyone that's capable of the plate. At the bat line in the game showed the players recognized that and all they did was try to put the ball in play."

SJSU played three games against UC Santa Barbara this week, including a 13-7 loss to the Gauchos, and only one more out-of-conference game remains before the team begins play against Western Athletic Conference schools.

Piraro said this is the most important part of their schedule, and both players and Piraro are confident in their ability, but there is always room for improvement.

"We have a lot of momentum, mainly because the teams we've played so far have been good teams," Stienstra said. "We just need to stay consistent to beat the teams coming up within our conference."

Piraro said there are some questions to be answered before he can feel comfortable, mainly dealing with lingering injuries and improving their level of play offensively.

"There is a lot of improvement to be made," he said. "We are a good baseball team, but we in no way are capable of the plate. We shouldn't be putting our selves on the shoulder just yet. If we are, shame on me."
Student muggles practice magic on SJSU Quidditch pitch

Eric Austin
Staff Writer

Quidditch, the fictional sport played by wizards in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter book series, may very well be the fastest growing college club sport in America and at SJSU.

For those die-hard Harry Potter fans that have conjured up thoughts of flying around on broomsticks at break-neck speeds, it should be made clear that this is Muggle Quidditch, which differs from J.K. Rowling’s creation in one important aspect — the most flying any player does lasts for only a few seconds.

The rest of the game remains as close to its magical counterpart as possible. Chasers still try to throw the Quaffle through one of three goals, Beaters still throw Bludgers at players to knock them out of the play and Seekers still try to catch the Snitch to end the game.

In Muggle Quidditch, however, the Snitch is not a magical golden orb, but a person dressed in gold and adorned with wings.

Maybe the best way to explain how Muggle Quidditch works to those not familiar with Harry Potter is to compare it to more familiar sports.

“It’s like a mixture of dodge ball and water polo, but on the ground with brooms in between your legs,” said Erica Schroeder, a senior environmental studies major and SJSU Quidditch team member.

Muggle Quidditch got its start back in 2005 at Middlebury College in Vermont as an intramural league and has expanded exponentially since then.

According to the International Quidditch Association there are now over 400 colleges and 300 high schools with Quidditch teams, half of those being involved in competitive play.

Riding the wave of popularity, the SJSU Muggle Quidditch club, otherwise known as the Original Wizarding League of Spartans (O.W.L.S.) was founded in the spring of 2010 by senior English major Emily Knight.

“My friend at Occidental came home on Thanksgiving break and she was playing Quidditch,” she said. “I thought that was the coolest idea ever and that we had to have that here so I got it started.”

Knight has seen her team grow since then, she said.

“On a good day we have about 20 or 30 people out to practice,” she said. “We have something going on every week.”

Every year the official rules for the game are modified and released by the International Quidditch Association and teams try to play as close to the rules as possible, Knight said.

“We try to keep by those rules, although our field is a little smaller and we are not as strict about fouls as we play a little bit gentler then they typically do,” she said.

The SJSU Muggle Quidditch team is not just an intramural team either as they have recently participated in two tournaments, one of them being the Western Regionals Cup at UCLA last weekend, which featured over nine Quidditch teams from as far away as Utah.

Jason Orozco, a freshman software engineering major who joined the team last semester, said the Quidditch club is welcoming to anyone wishing to join.

“What most people can get out of Quidditch is that it’s different from other sports you play on campus,” he said. “Everyone is out here just having a good time.”
Yellowcard returns with mature sound after break from mainstream

Ron Gleeson | Staff Writer

Yellowcard returns with mature sound after break from mainstream

Nicholas Sparks’ newest book, “Safe Haven,” is a breath of fresh air in Sparks’ long lineage of romantic novels, as it adds a thriller element that his stories don’t normally bring to the table. As Sparks entices readers once again with the release of a 10-track album, When You’re Through Thinking, Say Yes.

The new album fills the void the band left behind during its three year break. However, more than just filling the void, it truly satisfies the itch that many fans couldn’t reach listening to music without the love and sound of Yellowcard. The perfect harmony between guitar, violin and vocals, simply put, Yellowcard is back without disappointment.

The opening track “The Sound of You and Me,” immediately refreshes the memory of how good the band can be. The track is about the band’s formation and the things flowing through each band member’s mind. Finishing with an emotion-filled riff to the exit, following a slow capella bridge by vocalist and guitar- ist Ryan Key. “The Sound of You and Me” is easily my favorite track on the new album.

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For You and Your Denial,” the second track on the album, was previously released on the band’s website as a preview for the album. The track did not necessarily appeal to me right away, but when it was accompanied by the rest of the new songs on the album it quickly grew on me. The song begins with a long, upbeat solo by violinist Sean MacIntyre which eventually calms down to introduce an explosion of sound containing a respectable Yellowcard harmonies.

The chorus will stick to your brain like glue, as do many of the tracks on the album — another Yellowcard cornerstone. The album contains two ballads “Hang You Up” and “Sing For Me,” which are nestled in between the heavy guitar riffs and attitude drumming of Longtime Fanatics. These tracks serve for nice breaks for the uplifting songs that surround, and give the band the opportunity to show other sides of its talents. The album concludes with “Be the Young,” an anthemic track in which Key voices that youth is forever lasting, and that “we will forever be the young.”

That said, any long-time Yellow- card fan will find the album to be one of the best pieces of work that the band has ever come out with. They have taken their signature sound and raised it to a new high and I wish they never go on hiatus again because this album could be a sign of more great music to come from the band.

‘Safe Haven’ adds suspense to a traditional Sparks novel

Melissa Sabile | Sports Editor

Nicholas Sparks’ newest book, “Safe Haven,” is a breath of fresh air in Sparks’ long line of romantic novels, as it adds a thriller element that his stories don’t normally bring to the table.

The story focuses on a young woman named Katie, who randomly shows up in the small town of Southport, North Carolina. Deemed a bit sketchy by the residents of Southport, Katie is in hopes that her past won’t catch up with her. As her haunting past suddenly becomes a present, the reader can sympathize with her and some may even be able to relate to the lifestyle she ran away from.

Sparks plays with the reader’s own feeling of safety and reading the book left me feeling anxious and stressed and, at times, I felt like I was in Katie’s shoes.

Yes, “Safe Haven” follows Sparks’ continuing themes of romance, fate and faith that the reader will always get a peek into the music world, a thriling twist to Katie’s newly found safe haven in Southport. As her haunting past suddenly becomes a present reality, Katie finds herself fighting not only for her own life and that of Alex and his children, but also for the feeling of security she never thought she’d find again.

I enjoyed this novel because it brings a level of suspense to the story that makes the reader want to root for Katie in her journey after learning about past, the reader can sympathize with her and some may even be able to relate to the lifestyle she ran away from.

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We live in a country that proclaims its premise of liberty, but is unclear whether the major players in any area are really free in their agency.

Are modern-day conflicts the same as those of yesteryear? Are we doomed to repeat the outcome of the past?

No, and it is not just an occum on a global scale. If we could prevent war, oppression or disease we should, using the perceptions of dramaturgical analysis, the actors seem to be interchangeable.

It's believed their lives for mundane scenes, such as a movie or play, and you believe that people are fungible, or replaceable, characters acting out our lives on a stage, your views would change if you knew with sociologist Erving Goffman who first wrote about dramaturgical analysis in his 1959 work “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.”

Goffman, in accordance with his University of Chicago sociologist George Herbert Mead, developed the idea of pragmatism, where the universe is nothing but social phenomena in which we share reaction to.

In his 1913 book “The Idealist Manifesto” as your guideline, you could say because plus proletarian equals equals equals.

This sociological paradigm, called the social conflict theory, one of the more popular as all of the social sciences states simply that political strife tends to be explained by class-versus-class issues.

Despite what the 1950's politician Joseph McCarthy hopes, Marxist socialism is a credible ideology in the Western world.

From free education in many European colleges to subsidized farms in the Midwest and the disowned tax of Amtrak, social programs are goods paid for by the people.

Marxist socialism is used to explain why people are upset, but people's dissatisfaction tends to come in many forms.

For example, why is it that when the north of the country of Tanzania fired its president, several of the other countries surrounding it suddenly became authoritarian?

If you look at game theory, mathematical equations can be used to explain and predict the actions that the actors do.

The formula is an actual quantitative diagram showing how the choices we make affect the decisions of others, creating a chain reaction of effects.

The problem with views like this is that they seem to establish a directional pattern of status where our lives are only the findings documented in social scientists' ideas and aren't cultural, historical or individual — and they lie the problem.

The fact is that social scientists essentially determiners and then studies patterns in people. But it seems if you take the approach Goffman stresses, we are nothing and gray blobs falling in line. These ideas are simply too rigid.

Though some sociologists argue this, other social scientists find it too rigid.

A historian might argue that a politician who uses the written records showing how countries could have prevented could have taken a different path. An anthropologist might argue to leave something alone because of its cultural significance, and our intervention might be a problem.

Or even simpler the psychologist might argue that people are who we are and are the result of the person's perspective. To use Goffman's historical example are the people on the stage in the mind of an individual.

The key is to never take a single idea and let it be a fallacy. Many of us are affected by many social, psychological and cultural factors we know about.

As just as archaeologists usually exclusively measure between 5 and 10 and the most only know a tiny fraction about the complex social system that is our life.

The effects that come out of living in a society that has so many forces at play means that explaining it is not impossible just extremely difficult.

"Take Another Look" is a weekly column appearing on Wednesdays. Leo Postovoit is a Spartan Daily Multimedia Editor.
General speaking, this sort of behavior would not be condoned as a sporting event in the United States. Yet, following a baseball game last Thursday, San Francisco Giants fan Bryan Swan was assaulted outside Dodger Stadium by a group of two Dodgers fans. The 42-year-old paramedic and father of two remains in critical condition, and continues to show signs of brain damage. 

A similar event occurred in April 2009, when a man was stabbed multiple times following an argument in the parking lot after a game at the same venue. I can’t imagine American sports needing additional security to make sure opposing fans avoid confrontation while attending an event, but the circumstances surrounding these precipations may be necessary.

It disturbs me to think of America’s natural for a change in how we live. In our day-to-day lives. we live in our day-to-day lives. the majority will never be enough. The American political sys- tem, whether or not we live in a source of violence — especi- ally toward another fan. 

The vast majority of sports fans would fall in that same category, yet for those few who have succeeded in bringing emotions and ac- tions, it creates unfortunate scenarios such as the one that took place on Thursday. Being English, I know what it’s like to have to deal with the effects of hooliganism in this country.

Following severe soccer hooliganism dur- ing the 70s and 80s that preceded it, in 1986, the Football Association’s natu- nalism — a sport that promotes warmer weather, good times and relaxation epitomizes warm weather, good times and relaxation.
allucent thoughts of suicide is create a sense of normalcy about the topic. “People have had these thoughts at least once in their life,” he said. “If we can talk about it, we can get some help about it. We need to let them know that people care about them and what’s happening in their lives and that we want to hear their feelings.”

Irina Granados, a junior health science major, said she knows many people who have tried to commit suicide, but ad-

mits that she has never tried to reach out to them. “I normally have a hard time talking about it,” she said. "But now I know the procedure of approach-

ing someone in need, I will never cease to lend my helping hand.”

SJSU Counseling Services offers both individual and couples personal counseling, which are limited to six ses-

sions per semester. Counseling Services also offers other workshops such as the one on suicide prevention.

Fujimoto said he believes everybody needs counseling, whether it is from a friend or from a professional.

Some of the best counseling occurs across coffee tables be-

tween friends, he said. “We all do it in some form,” he said. “Seeking it out and having the opportunity to talk

about things, process ideas and exploring options is extremely benefi cial.”

Sparta Guide is provided to students and faculty, free of charge the deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DIRM 209. Entries can be emailed to spartandaily@csu.sjsu.edu titled “sparta
guide.” Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaran-
teed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received. Wednesday, April 6 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Umunhum Room, Student Union

Tunnel of Oppression Contact: Dr. Battan @ 408-924-0563 Thursday, April 7 7 p.m., Engineering 186 “Our Summer in Tehran” film screening and discussion with fi lmmaker Justine Shapiro Friday, April 8 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Clark Hall statues garden

Growing Roots of Wellness herb gardening workshop Contact: Yan Yin Choy @ 408-327-1149 Monday, April 11 6:30 – 8 p.m., Pacifi ca Room, Student Union

Growth Roots of Wellness planning meeting Contact: Yan Yin Choy @ 408-327-1149 Wednesday, April 13 7 p.m., University Theatre

Center for Literary Arts presents author Tony Barnstone Friday, April 15 9 p.m., Event Center 49th Annual Honors Convocation Contact: Jessica Larsen @ 408-924-2403 Saturday, May 14 6 p.m. – 12 a.m., Fourth Street Summit Center

A Wish Come True gala by Delta Sigma Pi – Theta Chi chapter Contact: Arleen Canter @ 500-720-4460 Wednesday, April 6, 2011

SPRINT 2011

EVENT CENTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS

7:30 PM | $16/GENERAL ADMISSION

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

MARTIN LAWRENCE

8:00 PM | $25/ALL-AGES, $15/STUDENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

STAR MAGIC 18

7:30 PM | $14/ALL-AGES, $10/STUDENT

There’s Still Time to Sign Up for Your Housing Space!

Sparta Guide

Japanese nuclear plant workers trace origin of irritated water

Toyo — Workers used a milky bathwater dye Monday as they franti-
cely tried to trace the path of radia-
tive water seeping into the ocean from Japan’s tsunami-damaged nuclear plant.

An 8-inch-long crack in a mainte-
nance pit discovered over the weekend was the latest confirmation that radio-

activity continues to spill into the en-

vironment.

The leak is a symptom of the prima-
dy difficulty at the Fukushima Daiichi
complex. Radioactive water is pooling around the plant and preventing work-

ers from powering up cooling systems needed to stabilize dangerously vul-

nerable fuel rods.

The plant operators also deliberate-

ly dumped 10,000 tons of tainted water — measuring about 500 times above the legal limit for radioactivity — into the ocean Monday to make space at a storage site for water that is even more highly radioactive.

Engineers have turned to a host of impractical methods to tame the nucle-

ar plant after it was crippled by a magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami on March 11.

Efforts over the weekend to plug the leak with a special polymer, sawdust and even shredded newspapers failed to halt the fl ow at a cracked concrete mainte-
nance pit near the shoreline. The water in that leak contains radioactive iodine at rates 10,000 times the legal limit.

Suspecting they might be targeting the wrong channel to the pit, workers tried to con-

firm the leak’s pathway by pumping water from the 10,000 tons of water Monday, clear-

ing space in a waste-storage facility.

Radioactive water has pooled throughout the plant because the op-

erators have been forced to rely on male-

shifts of pumping water into the reactors — and allowing it to gush out

anywhere it can — to bring down tem-

peratures and pressure in the cores.

The make-shift system makes it dif-

cult to contain the radiation leaks, but it is aimed a preventing fuel rods from going into a full meltdown that would release even more radioactivity into the environment.

“We must keep putting water into the reactors to cool to prevent further fuel damage, even though we know that there is a side effect, which is the leakage,” Nishiyama said. “We want to get rid of the stagnant water and de-

contaminate the place so that we can return to our primary task to restore the sustainable cooling capacity as quickly as possible.”

To that end, the plant’s operator, To-

yo Electric Power Co., said it jettisoned the 10,000 tons of water Monday, clear-

ing space in a waste-storage facility.

An additional 1,500 tons will be dumped from a trench under the plant’s units 5 and 6. That water is threaten-

ing an interface with the groundwater at those units, whose reactors are under control.